

Learn with Us: National Hispanic Heritage Month



Teaching Guide for Kids:

- History
- Historical Figures/Heroes
- Book Recommendations
- Film/TV Series Recommendations



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A letter from **diversi**TINY

Dear Caregiver or Educator,

Welcome to diversiTINY - where big change starts with the small! We created this website brand for readers to teach their kids about Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI).

diversiTINY was created and rebranded by two Digital Media and Design students from the University of Connecticut. It started as an unfinished site which was originally called Creation Station. We, the team, wanted to make this site to provide positive resources for elementary students to learn about DEI. There are several topics included, such as LGBTQ+, Black History Month, Women's History Month and more!

The main topic of this guide: ***Hispanic Heritage Month.***

This guide features its history, such as how it started, important heroes, book/film recommendations, as well other resources.

We hope you and your diversiTINY friend enjoy this guide.

Sincerely,

The diversiTINY Team!



Let's grow BIG!

Since Hispanic Heritage Month is coming up, it's time to learn about the history and culture. This guide is an excellent opportunity for readers to understand about a friend or classmate's culture in our diverse world.

What is National Hispanic Heritage Month?

National Hispanic Heritage Month is the celebration of history, cultures, and contributions of the Hispanic American community. It is celebrated from September 15th to October 15th.

The countries are:



Argentina



Bolivia



Chile



Colombia



Costa Rica



Cuba



Dominican Republic



Ecuador



El Salvador



Equatorial Guinea



Guatemala



Honduras



Mexico



Nicaragua



Panama



Paraguay



Peru



Puerto Rico



Spain



Uruguay

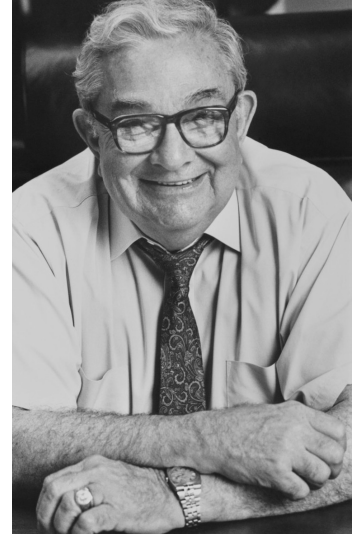


Venezuela

How did it start?

This celebration started out as a week instead of the month. In June 1968, Hispanic Heritage Week was first introduced by California Congressman, George E. Brown. He wanted to have people recognize the achievements and contributions of the Latinx community.

A few months later, Congress decided to pass this celebration marking the date on September. also under President Lyndon Johnson. In 1988, President Ronald Reagan expanded this celebration into the entire month. Now, National Hispanic Heritage Month is celebrated from September 15th to October 15th.



Rep. George Edward Brown,
D-California, 1998.
Laura Patterson/CQ Roll Call/
Getty Images

Why is the date important?

National Hispanic Heritage Month occurs on September 15th because of the Independence Day from five countries in Central America -- Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. These five countries declared their independence from Spain on September 15, 1821. He included Mexico, which declared its independence from Spain on the 16th. Also, Chile celebrates Independence Day on September 18th as well.



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What's the Difference?

You may have seen these terms before; **Hispanic** and **Latino/a/x**. You may think they are all similar. Well, there is a difference between each term. Let's find out what they are.

Hispanic: People who come/descend from Spanish-speaking countries, including Spain

Notice how there are a few countries in South America that aren't highlighted because they speak a different language.

For example, Brazil isn't highlighted because their language is Portuguese.

Equatorial Guinea is included because their language includes Spanish as well.



Latino: People who come/descend from a Latin America country, including Mexico and countries in Central America, South America, and the Caribbean

Notice how Spain isn't included because it's not in Latin America or the continents above. It's in Europe.

Not all Latin American countries speak Spanish. There are other languages such as Portuguese, French, and English.



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Latino refers to males / masculine

Latina(s) refers to females / feminine

Latino(s) refers to males or both males and females

Latinx refers to gender neutral, where you identify as male, female, or nonbinary

Historical Figures/Heroes

Sonia Sotomayor

- Born on June 25, 1954 in Bronx, NY
- Associate Justice of the US Supreme Court, also the first and only Latina to serve as well
- As a child, she enjoyed reading Nancy Drew and other detective stories. Also, a television series about a lawyer inspired her to pursue law in college
- Throughout her education, she became an inspirational leader
- In 1995, she ended a Major League Baseball strike when going against the owners in a labor dispute. She was known as "the judge who saved baseball"
- In 2009, President Obama nominated her for the Supreme Court



Cesar Chavez

- Born on March 31, 1927 in Yuma, AZ
- American civil rights activist and labor leader
- Growing up, he worked as a migrant worker on farms and served in the US Navy
- In 1952, he joined a group that helped Hispanic people in California to encourage them on voting
- In 1962, he found a labor union, The National Farm Workers Association, but renamed United Farm Workers of America (UFW)
- Led protests to call out workers' problems such as calling a strike for grape pickers and having people stop buying grapes, which resulted to improved wages and benefits for workers



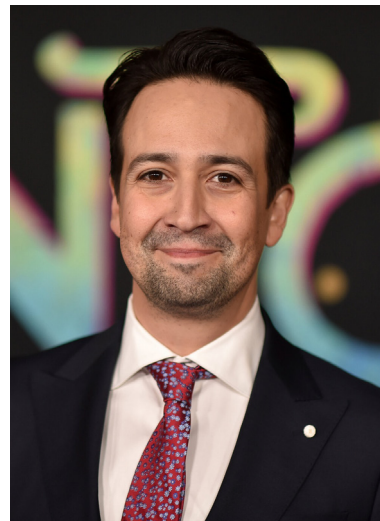
Evelyn Cisneros

- Born on November 18, 1958 in Long Beach, CA
- American ballet dancer, also the first hispanic ballerina
- She was raised from a family who were migrant workers
- As a child, she was labeled as an outcast due to being shy and her skin color
- Her mother encouraged her to try ballet. Sometimes, she would fake an illness, so she wouldn't have to go. While trying out, she discovered that dance was a meaning of expression. She was also inspired by her ballet teacher.
- At age 15, she got accepted to the School of American Ballet in NYC
- She retired performing, but continues as a dance director and hopes to continue teaching shy students as well



Lin Manuel Miranda

- Born on January 16, 1980 in New York, NY
- American actor, singer, songwriter, playwright
- He grew in a music-oriented family, such as taking piano lessons and parents loving Broadway music
- He performed in various productions in school and majored in theatre studies at Wesleyan University in CT
- He created popular musicals, such as *Hamilton* and *In the Heights*
- He wrote all the songs for the Oscar-winning animated movie, *Encanto*
- Miranda's current project is the live-action film, *The Little Mermaid*



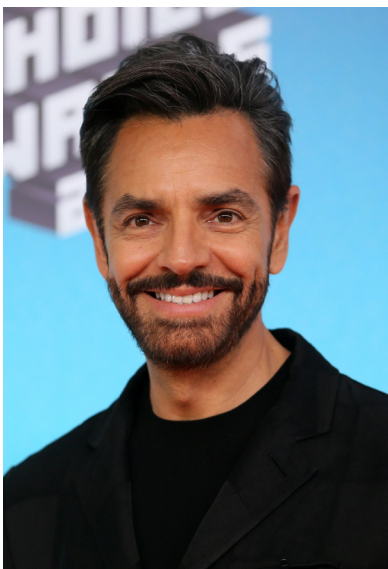
Selena

- Born on April 16, 1971 in Lake Jackson, TX
- American singer-songwriter
- When she was six, her father recognized her musical talent. She and her siblings began to form a family band.
- One of her songs, *Como La Flor*, became a big hit which was #6 on the US Billboard Hot Latin Tracks in 1992
- Became the first Latin artist to debut a #1 album
- Known as "Queen of Tejano music"
- She loved fashion and owned a boutique and salon called *Selena Etc.*
- In 1995, she was murdered by fan club president, Yolanda Saldivar



Eugenio Derbez

- Born on September 2, 1961 in Villa Milpa Alta, MX
- Mexican actor, comedian, and filmmaker
- He created the most popular Spanish TV shows of all time, including *La Familia P. Luche*
- Began to start his acting career in the US
- In 2013, he co-wrote, directed, and starred in *Instructions Not Included*, which became the most successful Spanish-language film in US history
- In 2014, he was recognized by Variety as the #1 most influential Latin American male in the world
- Helped with various organizations for people and animals; in 2017, he was chosen by the Hispanic Network to be part of a campaign to fight against human trafficking
- Derbez is currently running his own film company and previously appeared in the Oscar-winning film, *CODA*



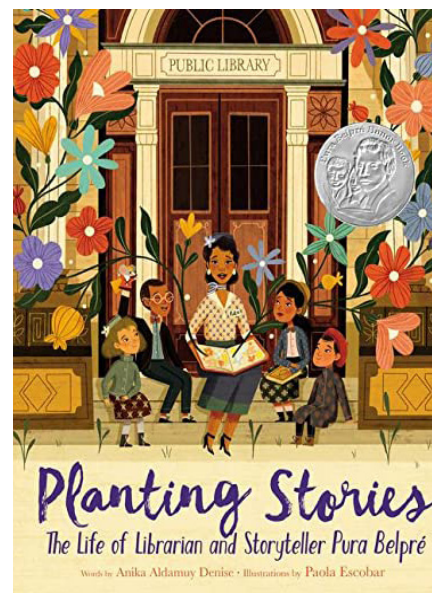
Book Recommendations

Planting Stories: The Life of Librarian and Storyteller Pura Belpré

By Anika Aldamuy Denise

When she came to the US in 1921, Pura carried folktales from her homeland, Puerto Rico. Working at the library, she turned her popular retellings into books across the land

Ages 4 and up



Dreamers

By Yuyi Morales

This book tells an immigration story of a mother and child who discover new things -- some that are wonderful and welcome and some that are unfamiliar and scary.

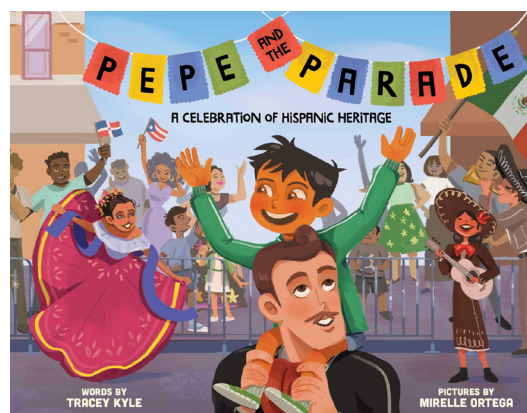
Ages 4 and up

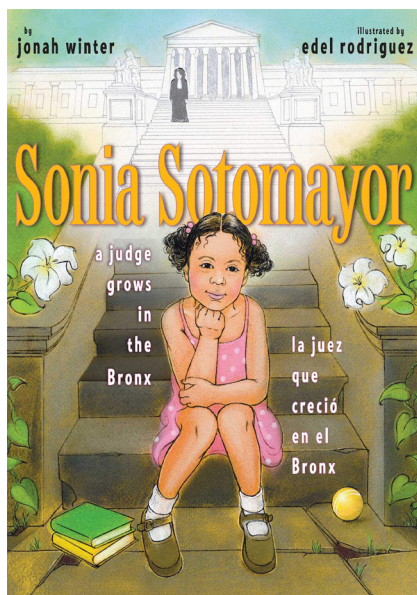
Pepe and the Parade: A Celebration of Hispanic Heritage

By Tracey Kyle

It's Hispanic Heritage Month! Pepe and his Papi are ready to celebrate at the festival and parade. Pepe is excited to enjoy different foods, music, and meeting all new people in this celebration.

Ages 4 and up





Sonia Sotomayor: A Judge Grows in the Bronx

By Jonah Winter

Sonia was chosen in the Supreme Court in 2009 and is the Court's first Latina Justice. This story centers Sonia's childhood in the Bronx and how she became the person she wanted to be.

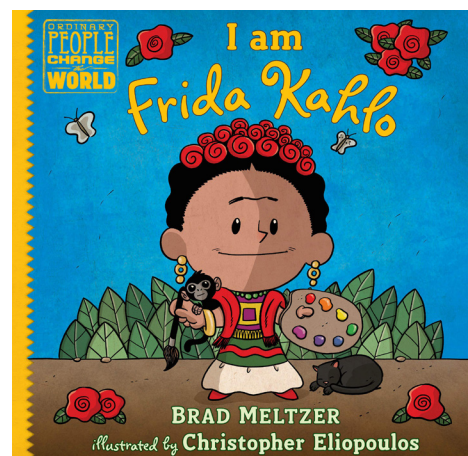
Ages 4 and up

I Am Frida Kahlo

By Brad Meltzer

Young readers will learn about Frida's childhood, struggles, and her journey to art

Ages 5 and up

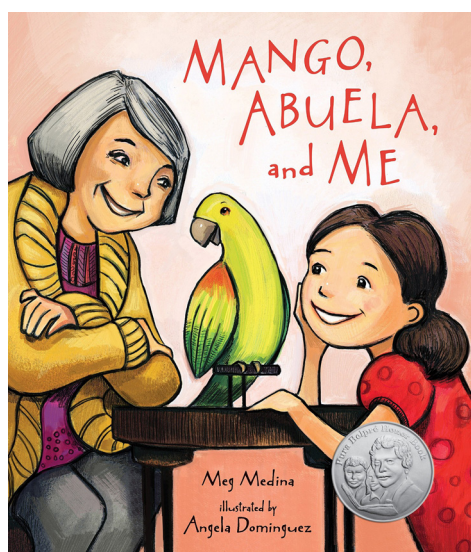


Mango, Abuela, and Me

By Meg Medina

When Abuela comes to live with her granddaughter, Mia and her family, they have trouble communicating. Mia and Abuela both realized that they each need to learn each other's language to start a conversation.

Ages 5 and up

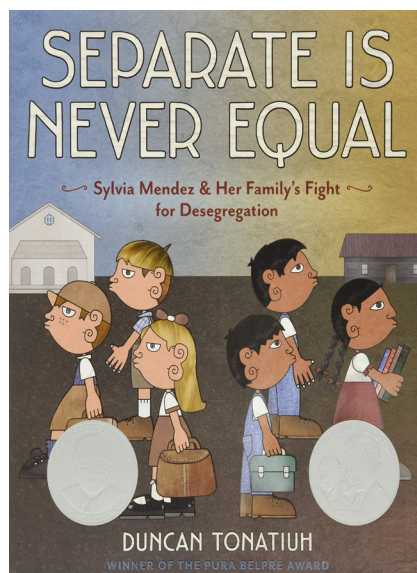
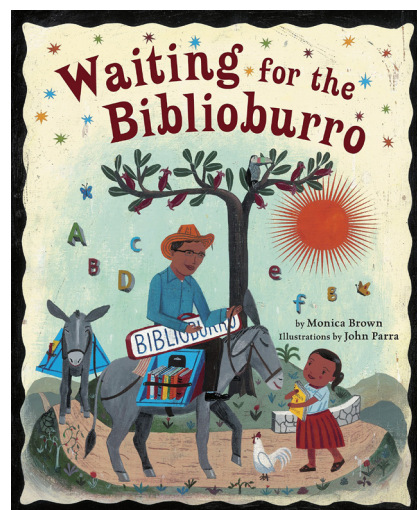


Waiting for the Biblioburro

By Monica Brown

A young Colombian girl named Ana loves reading, but she doesn't have access to new books. Luckily, librarian Luis Sorianno arrives in her village with plenty of books on the back of two donkeys, Alfa and Beto.

Ages 5 and up



Separate is Never Equal: Sylvia Mendez and Her Family's Fight for Desegregation

By Duncan Tonatiuh

A young girl named Sylvia begins to register at her new school and gets turned away. She and her sisters were told to go to a Mexican school instead. She was confused because she's a US citizen and wondering why does she and other Mexican children need to attend a separate school.

Ages 6 and up

Miles Morales: Shock Waves

By Justin A. Reynolds

Miles is a normal kid who happens to go to school while swinging through Brooklyn as Spider-Man. After an earthquake strikes his mother's homeland in Puerto Rico, Miles sets up a fundraiser for the island. But when a new student's father goes missing, Miles makes connections between him missing and a giant corporation sponsoring the fundraiser. Who is behind the disappearance, and how does that relate to Spider-Man?

Ages 7 and up

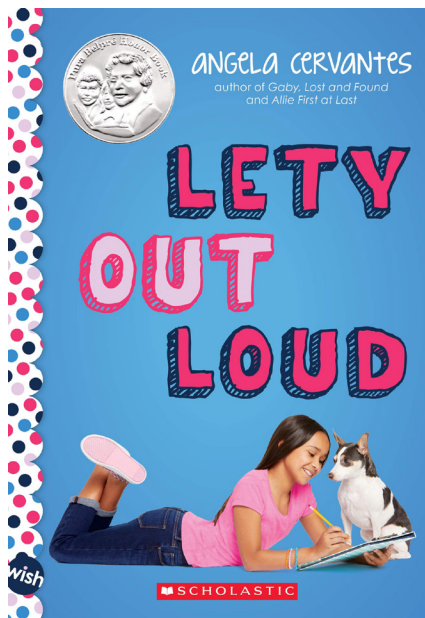


Be Bold! Be Brave! 11 Latinas Who Made US History

By Naibe Reynoso

Some of the greatest discoveries, advances, and inventions in America can be attributed to Latinas. This book will introduce these incredible Latinas with a fun rhyming pattern.

Ages 8 and up



Lety Out Loud

By Angela Cervantes

Lety sometimes has trouble speaking her mind. Her first language is Spanish and likes to take her time putting words together. When the shelter needs a volunteer to write animal profiles, she decides to join. But, her classmate Hunter also wants to write profiles so they have to work as a team. Can Lety find her voice before it's too late?

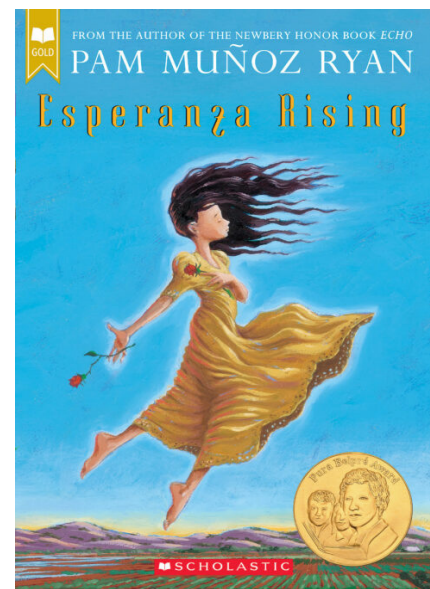
Ages 8 and up

Esperanza Rising

By Pam Muñoz Ryan

Esperanza loves the life she lives on her family's Mexican ranch. After going to California with her mother, she has to reconcile her new life in a labor camp during America's Great Depression. When her mother gets sick and labor expects better work conditions, Esperanza must decide what to do for herself and future.

Ages 9 and up



Film/Series Recommendations

Coco

Directed by Adrian Molina and Lee Unkrich
Pixar Animation Studios

Miguel wants to be a musician, just like his idol, Ernesto de la Cruz. Unfortunately, music is banned in his family. During an accidental trip to the Land of the Dead on Día de los Muertos, he meets the skeleton spirits of his ancestors. Miguel needs to get his blessing before he is trapped there forever.



Encanto

Directed by Steven Clay Hunter
Walt Disney Animation Studios

The Madrigals are an extraordinary family who live hidden in the mountains of Colombia in a magical place called the Encanto. Each family member has a magical gift such as shapeshifting and talking to animals, except for Mirabel. However, she might be their last hope once the Encanto is in danger.

Selena

Directed by Gregory Nava
Warner Bros. Pictures

This film follows the rise of Selena Quintanilla, a Mexican-American singer who became a legend. Her father discovered her talent and began forming a band with her. Over the years, she won a Grammy and gained a successful audience. But tragedy strikes when she connects with the president of her fan club.



Dora and The Lost City of Gold

Directed by James Bobin

Comedy/Action

Paramount Pictures/Nickelodeon Studios

Dora is grown up and facing for her most dangerous adventure yet -- high school. Accompanied by a group of teens and Boots the monkey, Dora has to save her parents while trying to solve a mystery behind a lost Incan civilization.



Under the Same Moon

Directed by Patricia Riggen

Drama

Searchlight Pictures/The Weinstein Company

Single mother Rosario leaves her young son in the care of his grandmother and illegally crosses the border into the US so she can provide a better life for her family. When his grandmother passed away, the boy begins a difficult journey to make it to the US.

In the Heights

Directed by John M. Chu

Musical/Drama

Warner Bros. Pictures

Located in Washington Heights, NY, the scent of warm coffee hangs in the air just outside of the 181st St. subway stop, where big dreams rallies a tight-knit community. Meanwhile, a magnetic bodega owner named Usnavi hopes, imagines and sings about a better life.



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**“The Latina in me is an ember
that blazes forever.”**

– Sonia Sotomayor

Thank you for learning with us.

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big change starts with the small

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