

Children's Book List

Hispanic stories

Albert, Richard, and Sylvia Long. (1994). *Alejandro's gift*. San Francisco: Simon and Schuster. Alejandro is an elderly man who lives alone in the desert. He plants a vegetable garden and befriends the small animals that drink water from his garden. After Alejandro finds out that many animals that are thirsty, he builds a water hole for all animals.

Anzaldua, Gloria, and Christina Gonzales. (1995). *Prietita and the ghost woman/Prietita y La Llorona*. [Bilingual]. San Francisco: Simon and Schuster. Prietita meets La Llorona when she is lost in the woods. La Llorona is not the scary woman of legend, but rather a compassionate woman who helps her on her path.

Blanco, Alberto, Patricia Revah, and Barbara Paschke. (1992). *The desert mermaid/La sirena del desierto*. [Bilingual]. San Francisco: Children's Book Press. After overhearing songs of her kin, a mermaid leaves her Sonora Desert oasis on a quest to find them. With the help of a magic horse, she finds her kinfolk in the sea. This original folktale has colorful, tapestry-like illustrations.

Griego, Jose, Rudolfo Anaya, and Jaime Valdez. (1980). *Cuentos: Tales From the Hispanic Southwest*. [Bilingual]. Santa Fe: Museum of New Mexico Press. This anthology includes 23 delightful folk tales, or *cuentos*, from Hispanic villages of New Mexico and southern Colorado. These tales are full of magic; most are based on Christian morality.

Hayes, Joe. (2000). *Little Gold Star/Estrellita de Oro: A Cinderella Cuento*. [Bilingual]. Illustrated by Gloria Osuna Perez and Lucia Angela Perez. El Paso: Cinco Puntos Press. The Cinderella story, brought to the New World by Spanish settlers centuries ago, evolved into the story of Little Gold Star.

Hayes, Joe, and Lucy Jelinek. (1992). *Everyone knows Gato Pinto: More tales from Spanish New Mexico*. Santa Fe: Mariposa Publishing. Ten charming cuentos, or folk tales, convey the traditions of Northern New Mexico in unique interpretations of classic stories. A good book to read aloud to students.

Hayes, Joe, and Antonio Castro Lopez. (1982). *The day it snowed tortillas/El dia que neveo tortillas*. [Bilingual]. Illustrated by Antonio Castro. Santa Fe: Mariposa Publishing. This updated, bilingual version contains the original stories, with modern touches but still full of magic and fun. Most of these stories have been told in New Mexico villages since Spanish colonization.

Krumgold, Joseph, and Jean Charlot. (1953). *And now Miguel*. New York: Harper-Collins. A humorous and moving story of a family of New Mexican sheepherders, in which young Miguel longs to accompany men and sheep to summer pasture.

LaFarge, Oliver, and Karl Larsson. (1982). *The mother ditch*. [Bilingual]. Santa Fe: Sunstone. When the mother ditch goes dry, it brings a crisis to the Romero family, who need water to irrigate their fruits and vegetables in the Cerrito region of New Mexico.

Mora, Pat, and Francisco X. Mora. (1994). *Listen to the desert/Oye al desierto*. [Bilingual]. New York: Clarion. This rhythmic, bilingual chant repeats each simple line, twice in English and twice in Spanish. This is an excellent book for introducing the desert and a second language.

Paulsen, Gary, and Ruth Wright Paulsen. (1995). *The tortilla factory*. Orlando: Harcourt Brace and Company. This easy picture book tells how corn is harvested, ground into flour for tortillas, and shipped to the Tortilla Factory.

Sáenz, Benjamin Alire, and Geronimo Garcia. (1999). *Grandma Fina and her wonderful umbrellas/La Abuelita y sus sombrillas maravillosas*. [Bilingual]. El Paso: Cinco Puntos Press. Everyone loves Grandma Fina, but they all secretly think that her ragged umbrella needs to be replaced. They each decide to get her a special umbrella for her birthday. What will Grandma Fina do with nine new umbrellas when she already has her wonderful yellow umbrella?

Soto, Gary, and Ed Martinez. (1993). *Too many tamales*. New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons. Maria tries on Mom's diamond ring, then forgets about it until she's playing with her cousins. While they are making tamales, Maria realizes that it's gone. Maria is sure it's in a tamale, so the four cousins consume all 24 in hopes of finding it.

Stevens, Jan Romero, and Jeanne Arnold. (1993). *Carlos and the squash plant/Carlos y la planta de calabaza*. [Bilingual]. Flagstaff: Northland. Carlos experiences an extraordinary consequence when he refuses to take a bath. The story takes place in Northern New Mexico.

Stevens, Jan Romero, and Jeanne Arnold. (1995). *Carlos and the corn field/Carlos y la milpa de maiz*. [Bilingual]. Flagstaff: Northland. Inspired by Hispanic American folk artists and muralists. A young boy learns a universal lesson about responsibility in this sequel to *Carlos and the Squash Plant*. Includes a recipe for blue corn pancakes.

Zubizarreta, Rosalma, Harriet Rohmer, and David Schechter. (1999). *The woman who outshone the sun/La mujer que brillaba aún más que el sol*. [Bilingual]. Illustrated by Fernando Olivera. San Francisco: Children's Book Press. Villagers fear Lucia Zenteno because her long, black hair outshines the sun. They banish Lucia, but their precious river follows her. The villagers need to find Lucia and gain her forgiveness. From a poem by Alejandro Cruz Martinez.

Native American Stories

Aliki. *Corn is maize: The gift of Indians*. (1976). New York: Harper-Collins. An engaging description of how corn was found by Indians thousands of years ago and how corn is grown and used today. This story blends social studies, science, and history with accurate diagrams and cheerful illustrations.

Baylor, Byrd. (1972). *When clay sings*. Illustrated by Tom Bahti. New York: Simon and Schuster. Pieces of broken pots scattered across the Southwest deserts represent a piece of someone's life to native people living there. In this book, children imagine the lives that took place in the desert they think of as their own. The book shares pottery designs, each with a story to tell.

Baylor, Byrd, and Lucy Jelinek. (1976). *And it is still this way*. El Paso: Cinco Puntos Press. This collection of traditional tales from the Indians of Arizona is arranged into categories: Why animals are the way they are, Why our world is like it is, Great troubles and great heroes, People can turn into anything, Brother Coyote, and There is magic all around us.

Baylor, Byrd, and Peter Parnall. (1981). *Desert voices*. New York: Simon and Schuster. Rich colors used sparingly, careful detail, and striking page design focus attention on animals while conveying a larger sense of their being. Each animal is described with thorough detail.

Clark, Ann Nolan, and Hoke Denetsosie. (1990). *Little herder in autumn*. [Bilingual]. New York: Ancient City Press. This bilingual story describes herding, weaving, and jewelry making of the Navajo tribe through the eyes of a young Navajo girl.

Green, Timothy. (1998). *The mystery of Coyote Canyon*. New York: Simon and Schuster. This chapter book describes the trials and tribulations of the Navajos during Kit Carson's military campaign.

Keegan, Martha. (1992). *Pueblo girls: Growing up in two worlds*. Hong Kong: Cobblehill Books. In this beautifully illustrated book, photographs depict the home, school, and cultural life of two young Native American girls growing up in the San Ildefonso Pueblo.

Morgan, William, and Jenny Lind. (1990). *Navajo Coyote tales*. New York: Ancient City Press. These 6 delightful stories were adapted to English by anthropologist William Morgan. The Bureau of Indian Affairs originally published this book, and the more recent print is in English only.

Naranjo, Tito E. (1999). *A day with a Pueblo*. Illustrated by Giorgio Bacchin. Minneapolis: Runestone Press. This book features background information, illustrations, and photographs of Pueblo people and follows an elder through a day at Taos Pueblo.

Naranjo, Tito E. (1993). *Native Americans of the Southwest: A journey of discovery — Book, rock and excavation tool*. Philadelphia: Running Press. This book contains stories, games, ceremonies, and tribal teachings; the kit includes a replica of an Anasazi bowl, buried in soft rock and ready to be unearthed and reconstructed. Includes an excavation tool and instructions.

Powell, Mary, and Deborah Reade. (2001). *Wolf tales: Native American children's stories*. New York: Simon and Schuster. This book describes the long friendship

between Native Americans and the wolf, along with the animal's similar life characteristics in comparison to humans.

Reed, Evelyn Dahl, and Glen Strock. (1988). *Coyote tales*. Santa Fe: Sunstone. Each chapter features a story from a New Mexico Indian tribe about Coyote. This book is an excellent introduction to Native American culture.

Whitethorne, Baje. *Sunpainters: Eclipse of the Navajo sun*. (1993). New York: Simon and Schuster. A contemporary Navajo boy learns from his grandfather about the children of Mother Earth who restore color to the world every time the sun dies. Illustrations by the Navajo author-artist feature fanciful figures and the sumptuous colors of the landscape.

Cowboy and Ranching Stories

Brett, Jan. (1995). *Armadillo rodeo*. New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons. A mischievous armadillo named Bo wanders away from his family and meets Harmony Jean, a young cowgirl. They become friends and realize they have more in common than their curiosity.

Demarest, Chris. (2001). *Cowboy ABC*. New York: Dorling Kindersley Publishing. This tribute to the cowboy rhymes through the alphabet the cowboy way: "A is for Appaloosa, B is for Buckaroo."

Gibbons, Gail. (1998). *Cowboys and cowgirls*. Phoenix: Little and Brown Children's Books. This book presents a simple but not simplistic description of the life, environment, and culture of the cow tenders of the Old West and of contemporary cattle country.

Lenski, Lois. (2001). *Cowboy small*. New York: Bantam Doubleday Dell. Cowboy Small and his horse, Cactus, live the good life and round up cattle for branding.

Meltzer, Milton. (1999). *Hold your horses: A feedbag full of facts and fables*. New York: Harper-Collins. This history of the horse, from the nomads of the Biblical desert to cowboys and Indians of the American West, and from ancient to modern times in warfare, transportation, and amusement.

Savage, Jeff. (1995). *Cowboys and cow towns of the Wild, Wild West*. New York: Enslow Publishing. This book explains the history behind the cowboy way of life and portrays the adventures of young James McCauley.

Walsh, John. (2001). *Adventures of the brave cowboy*. New York: MJF Books. In these children's stories, first published more than 40 years ago, we follow the brave cowboy through his adventures as he attacks an enemy castle, greets aliens from outer space, stars in the circus, hunts lions, wins a chariot race, and flies his magic carpet.

Other Water Related Stories

Cherry, Lynne. (2002). *A river ran wild*. New York: Voyager Books, Harcourt, Inc. This is an environmental history of the Nashua River, from its discovery by Indians through the polluting years of the Industrial Revolution to the ambitious clean up that revitalized it.

Cole, Joanna and Bruce Degen. (1996). *The Magic School Bus wet all over: A book about the water cycle*. New York: Scholastic, Inc. Students on the Magic School Bus go through the water cycle and learn about evaporation, condensation, and rain as they travel to the ocean, then back to the sky and through a reservoir to pipes back to their school.

McKinney, Barbara Shaw. (1998). *A drop around the world*. Illustrated by Michael S. Maydak. Nevada City: Dawn Publications,. The water cycle is explained by following a rain drop around the world. In the sky, on land, underground, and in the sea, in liquid, solid and vapor forms, the drop supports life everywhere. Teacher's guide at www.dawnpub.com.

Melmed, Laura Krauss. (1992). *The rainbabies*. Illustrated by Jim LaMarche. New York: Lathrop, Lee & Shepherd Books. In the magic of a moonshower, a childless couple find a dozen tiny babies in the grass. The children have numerous adventures.

Mosel, Arlene. (1968). *Tikki Tikki Tembo*. Illustrated by Blair Lent. New York: Henry Holt and Company. A Chinese folktale about a boy who falls into a well and his younger brother, who attempts to get help.

Sources for Bibliography

Barnes & Noble Booksellers

<http://www.bn.com>

Borders Books

<http://www.borders.com>

Branigan Library

<http://library.lascruces.org>

Cinco Puntos Press

<http://www.cincopuntos.com>

Clear Light Publishers

<http://www.clearlightbooks.com>

Dawn Publications

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