Cuentos de las Americas: Celebrating Latino Cultures and Día with Recent Outstanding Latino Children’s Books

A Program of El día de los niños/El día de los libros (Children’s Day/Book Day)

Presented By

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Book Fiesta!

A Children's Day/Book Day Celebration • Una celebración de El día de los niños/El día de los libros

A BILINGUAL Picture Book by Pat Mora
Illustrated by Rafael López
What is Día?

🌟 El día de los niños/El día de los libros (Children's Day/Book Day) is a celebration of children, families, and reading that culminates every year on April 30th. (ALSC Día Website)

🌟 The celebration highlights the importance of literacy for children of all linguistic and cultural backgrounds. (ALSC Día Website)

🌟 Día is a daily commitment to link all children to books, languages, and cultures. It celebrates individuality and cultural diversity and emphasizes culturally pluralistic library programs and collections. (Pat Mora Website)

🌟 “The celebration was founded in 1996 by author Pat Mora who was . . . assisted by REFORMA, the National Association to Promote Library & Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish Speaking.” Día is now housed at ALA (www.ala.org/dia). (Pat Mora Website)
This is the day of the children, los niños, the children.
This is the day of the children
the children and their books.

El día de los niños: El día de los libros,
the day of children and their books,
ta-lán, ta-lán, tan-tán, ta-lán,
los niños and their books.

Celebrate with piñatas
and musica de colores,
add the papel picado
and baskets and baskets of books,

Silly and sad, scary and glad,
baskets of delicious books.
Read to a favorite person, read to lizards and cats, read to the moon humming a tune as you read from your baskets of books.

El día de los niños: El día de los libros, the day of children and their books, ta-lán, ta-lán, tan-tán, ta-lán, the children and their books.

This is a song that keeps growing, in Chinese or Navajo too, so add your verse and sing along, on this day of children and books.
Día Song (cont).

El día de los niños: El día de los libros, the day of children and their books, ta-lán, ta-lán, tan-tán, ta-lán, los niños and their books.

Song source: http://www.patmora.com/dia/dia_song.htm
“As a child I would go looking for my face in my coloring books, in my storybooks but I never found my round, Chicana face, my long dark hair. So I would go to that blank page in the back or the front of these books and draw my own big face right in where it belonged. . . . Our face is important. It is a mark of who we are and where we come from.”

~ Maya Gonzalez, Latina Book Illustrator
Who is the Latino Child?
According to the U.S. definition of the term, all of these children are “Latino.”

- Immigrant Children
- Children Living in a Latin American Country
- Children Living in Puerto Rico
- Children of Latin American Immigrants Born in America – 2nd, 3rd, etc. generation
Latinos in the United States

On July 1, 2002, Latinos became the largest ethnic minority in the United States with 38.8 million residents identifying as Latino (U.S. Census Bureau, 2003).

As of July 2008, 46.9 million U.S. residents identify as Latino with an expected increase to 132.8 million by 2050 (U.S. Census Bureau, 2009).

In July 2007, the U.S. Census Bureau estimate of Latinos by 2050 was 102.6 million and by July 2008, that estimate had jumped to 132.8 million.

By 2020, 1 in 4 children will be of Latino heritage.

Nearly 13.7 million Latino children ages birth to 14 reside in the United States (U.S. Census Bureau, 2009).
Identifying Latino Youth

REMEMBER: All Latinos do not look the same or speak Spanish. Because of their varied historical backgrounds, some Latinos may appear White, African, or Asian.
Values of the Latino Community:

- Latino cultural values vary slightly among subcultures.

- It is important to survey and interact with your local Latino community to determine which subcultures are represented and to learn unique cultural traits that should be considered when ordering materials and developing library programs for Latino youth.

- One size does not fit all!
Youth Literature about Latinos

Current Conditions:

- The number of Latinos in the U.S. is increasing each year but the children’s and YA books about or by them are not.

- Of the 5,000+ children’s/YA books published in 2008, an estimated 1.6% contained Latino themes/topics, while almost 1% were created by Latino authors/illustrators (Cooperative Children’s Book Center, 2009).
A history of cultural stereotypes, inaccuracies, and omissions has plagued youth literature about the Latino people for decades, resulting in negative images of the culture.

Research suggests these negative images can lead Latino youth to undervalue their cultural heritage and develop feelings of unworthiness while prompting non-Latino youth and educators to construct social barriers and formulate cultural bias.
Established in 1993 by the national Consortium of Latin American Studies Programs (CLASP), the Américas Award is given annually in recognition of U.S. picturebooks, YA novels, poetry collections, folktales, and nonfiction books published the previous year, in English or Spanish, that authentically depict the lives and experiences of people in Latin America and the Caribbean or of Latinos living in the United States.

The criteria for selecting award winners and commended titles include:

1. distinctive literary quality;
2. cultural contextualization;
3. exceptional integration of text, illustration and design;
4. potential for classroom use.
The Pura Belpré Award was first presented in 1996 by the American Library Association and the National Association to Promote Library and Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish-Speaking (REFORMA) in honor of Puerto Rican storyteller, author, and librarian Pura Belpré.

This annual award is given to a Latino writer and illustrator of a U.S. children’s book whose work accurately represents and celebrates the Latino culture. Formerly a biennial award, the Belpré became an annual award beginning with the 2008 publishing year.
Tomás Rivera Mexican-American Children’s Book Award

Created in 1995 by the College of Education at Texas State University–San Marcos, the Tomás Rivera Mexican-American Children’s Book Award is given annually to the author or illustrator of the finest children’s book that notably and authentically reflects the daily lives and experiences of Mexican Americans in the U.S.

According to the guidelines, the nominated books must:
- Be designed for children;
- Authentically and accurately represent Mexican Americans;
- Have been initially published during the calendar year of the award;
- Contain illustrations and text that embody the highest quality and standards.
Recommended Children’s & YA Books

Please consult your handouts for bibliographies of recommended books and other resources.
There are many online and print resources listing recommended youth books about Latinos. Please see your handout for recommendations.
Ideas for Latino Youth Programs

Resources and links to sample library programs for Latino youth. Please see your handout for a complete listing.

1. Rose Treviño’s *Read Me a Rhyme in Spanish and English: Léame una rima en español e ingles* contains ideas for bilingual storytime programs as well as rhymes for children of all ages.

2. The *El dia de los Niños/El dia de los libros* (Day of the Child/Day of the Book) Toolkit is a 100 page online document describing booktalks, authors visits, storytelling, and other programming ideas that can be used to celebrate *El dia de los Niños/El dia de los libros* on April 30th. The comprehensive document is available at: [http://www.texasdia.org/toolkit.html](http://www.texasdia.org/toolkit.html).

To supplement this book, Naidoo suggests Menard’s *The Latino Holiday Book: From Cinco de Mayo to Dia de los Muertos--the Celebrations and Traditions of Hispanic-Americans* (2004, 2nd ed.)
Ideas for Latino Youth Programs (Cont.)

4. The Texas State Library and Archives Commission has a useful online manual of bilingual story hour programs for Latino children and their families. The manual is entitled *Dígame un cuento / Tell Me A Story: Bilingual Library Programs for Children and Families* and is available at:


It includes programs for toddlers, preschoolers, elementary age children, young adults, and families.
Latino Outreach Programs

¡Colorín Colorado! – Supported by the American Federation of Teachers, the National Institute for Literacy, and the U.S. Department of Education, this reading program provides information on the importance of reading in the lives of English Language Learner (ELL) children. Activities and links are available on children’s literature about Latinos, helping Latino families, how the library can help Latino families, etc. Librarians could consider creating programs using the activities, the free 92 page booklet, and video clips available at: [http://www.colorincolorado.org/homepage.php](http://www.colorincolorado.org/homepage.php).
Latino Outreach Programs

Lee y serás (Read & You Will Be) – Created by Scholastic in partnership with the Latino Community Foundation, a National Latino Advisory Committee, Univision, and Verizon Communications, this program provides support for Latino parents with training about early literacy, offers educators resources that will create print-rich learning environments for Latino children, and supplies information to public agencies to support Latino literacy in the community. More information about the program is available at:
http://www.leeyseras.net/site/main.html or http://www.scholastic.com/aboutscholastic/communityleeyseras.htm
Ideas for Día Storytimes & Programs

Illus. © 2009 Rafael López, Book Fiesta (HarperCollins)
Mexican Lotería

Illus. © 2006 Artemio Rodríguez
– King of Things (Cinco Puntos Press)
Day of the Dead & Counting in Spanish
Here is a brief version of a sample program for young children that I created using Latino children’s books:

**Books:**
1. *Uno, Dos, Tres: One, Two, Three* (1996) by Pat Mora;

**Songs:**
1. “Diez deditos/Ten Little Fingers” in *Diez Deditos/Ten Little Fingers and Other Play Rhymes and Action Songs from Latin America* (1997) by José-Luis Orozco and on the audio recording of the same title;
Sample Lesson (cont.).

**Craft:** Use the skeleton puppet or mask patterns included on Yuyi Morales’ website at: [http://www.srcalavera.com/chupirul.html](http://www.srcalavera.com/chupirul.html).

**Activity:**

1. Read books, encouraging children to interact with you and to count the various objects in Spanish.
2. Sing the *Diez Deditos* song.
3. Have children create masks of Señor Calavera from *Just a Minute*.
4. After making the masks, children can have a parade where they sing and dance to the Counting Backwards in Spanish song.

**If you’d rather focus on *Dia de los Muertos* rather than counting, then you could read poems or other books about the holiday and have all the children share memories about special family members/friends who have passed away. José-Luis Orozco has a song about the holiday as well.**
Rebozos

Author Carmen Tafolla at San Pedro Park Library, September 2008 (San Antonio, TX)
La Cucaracha
Martina/ Martina the Cockroach
Tamales y Cerditos/
Three Little Pig Variations
National Conference
Celebrating Día & Latino Children’s Literature
National Latino Children’s Literature Conference

Theme: Connecting Cultures & Celebrating Cuentos

Location & Time: Held every April on the last Friday and Saturday before Día. Alternates. Hosted by Univ. of Alabama’s School of Lib & Info Studies on April 23-24, 2010.

To Sponsor: Contact Dr. Jamie Campbell Naidoo - jcnaidoo@slis.ua.edu
Latino Children’s Literature Conference

FREE Community Día program at local public library with award-winning Latino/a authors!
2nd Annual Celebration of Latino Children's Literature
April 24-25, 2009

Presented by The University of South Carolina and The University of Alabama

Artwork © Maya Christina Gonzalez
FREE Community Día program at a local school with award-winning Latino/a authors!

Keynotes by Award-winning Latina authors.
3rd Annual Celebration of Latino Children’s Literature ~ April 2010 ~ Tuscaloosa, AL
Celebrating Día with Young Adult Poetry/Spoken Word Performances
A 17 year-old Spoken Word Artist born in South Florida to Colombian parents, Diego is the son of the sculptor and painter Nelson Mosquera and the writer and librarian Freda Mosquera.

In 2008, he was a featured speaker at the Día celebration at the Broward County Library’s Conference of Children’s Literature.

Diego’s performances have been praised in articles at several newspapers and he’s received numerous awards. He has been featured in radio and TV programs, among them Halo TV. Checkout one of Diego’s performances on HBO’s Brave New Voices: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fRsDMwnNRIA.

For more information about Diego’s Spoken Word performances contact Freda Mosquera at: mosquerafreda@aol.com.
Questions or Comments?

See handouts for further information related to locating quality Latino children’s books and planning Día celebrations.

Also see the handout of our recommended books for children and young adults.

Contact: jcnaidoo@slis.ua.edu

Image © Maya Christina Gonzalez, 2008
Pura Belpré Celebración
Sunday – July 12, 2009
Hilton Chicago Hotel
Continental Ballroom A/B
1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

Featuring 2009 Belpré Award Winners

AUTHOR WINNER: Margarita Engle for The Surrender Tree: Poems of Cuba's Struggle for Freedom. (Henry Holt)


2009 Belpré Honor Awards

Francisco Jiménez - Author of Reaching Out. (Houghton Mifflin Company)

Lucía González and Lulu Delacre - Author and Illustrator of The Storyteller's Candle/ La Velita de los Cuentos. (Children's Book Press)

Rudy Gutierrez - Illustrator of Papá and Me, written by Arthur Dorros. (Rayo, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers)

Amy Córdova - Illustrator of What Can You Do With a Rebozo?, written by Carmen Tafolla. (Tricycle Press, an imprint of Ten Speed Press)

This exciting, FREE event includes entertainment as well as book signings with award-winning authors and illustrators!

Special Performance by Students of Our Lady of Guadalupe Ballet Folklórico