



# The Booklist Project



Focus: Culturally-Responsive Author Study  
Booklist

Diane Gonzales Bertrand

Developed by: Jaime Garvey

Fall, 2011

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TESL 507  
Booklist Project



## Diane Gonzales Bertrand

"I just want to write. I never set out to make any political statements. I just wanted to write stories about people like myself, and I just happen to be Mexican-American." – Diane Gonzales Bertrand

Diane Gonzales Bertrand is a Mexican American author, born in San Antonio and the youngest of seven children. She currently is married with two children, and teaches creative writing at St. Mary's University in San Antonio, Texas. Throughout high school, Bertrand first began participating in poetry readings. She continued with this during her years at the University of Texas San Antonio, even winning the Battle of Flowers Oratorical Contest with a speech she wrote about José Antonio Navarro. After graduating with a Bachelor's degree in English, she began her career as a teacher. It was there that she began to focus more on writing, and wanted to learn how to teach writing. In 1989, she enrolled at Our Lady of the Lake University in the graduate English program. To help pay for her tuition, Diane began writing essays and received assistance from the American Association of University Women and the San Antonio Women's Club, and also won a National Hispanic Scholarship Award. It was here during graduate school that Diane wrote her first novels. The characters in her stories were Mexican-Americans. Bertrand states, "When I couldn't find any romances with Mexican-

American characters, I decided to write my own. Mexican-American people, the young women especially, need to see us reflected in a positive way in books. My lead characters are always educated, they are creative in solving their problems, and they always have a sense of humor." ( [www.childrenslit.com](http://www.childrenslit.com))

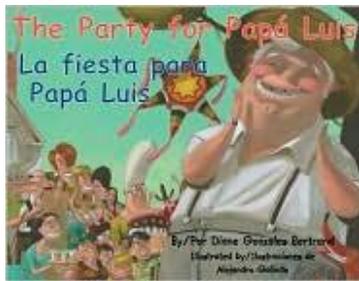
[http://www.childrenslit.com/childrenslit/mai\\_bertrand\\_diane.html](http://www.childrenslit.com/childrenslit/mai_bertrand_diane.html) - Meet the Author

[http://www.cynthialeitichsmith.com/lit\\_resources/authors/interviews/DianeGonzalesBertrand.html](http://www.cynthialeitichsmith.com/lit_resources/authors/interviews/DianeGonzalesBertrand.html) - Interview with the author

<http://www.latinoteca.com/arte-publico-press/> -resources on Latino culture and arts

## Booklist

**Diane Gonzales Bertrand's stories focus on Mexican-American traditions, especially the importance of family. The following books all have a strong underlying theme of the importance of family.**



1.

Bertrand, D.G. (2010) The Party for Papa Luis. Houston, TX: Arte Publico Press

- ISBN-13: 9781558855328

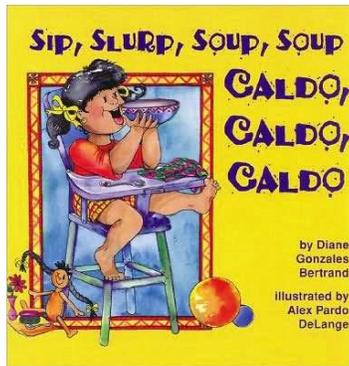
The Party for Papa Luis is story about a family gathering and a birthday party for the family patriarch, Papa Luis. Family members gather to surprise Papa Luis with a birthday celebration. Everyone in the family contributes to the celebration, with nieces filling a piñata to Aunt Marta baking a cake. This story is great for ELL's because it is told in both English and Spanish, it is repetitive, and the sentences build from one page to the next.

Formats available: Hardcover

Interest Level: K-2

Grade Level: 4.0

WIDA Level: Developing/Late Developing



2.

Bertrand, D.G. (2008) Sip, Slurp, Soup, Soup Caldo, Caldo, Caldo.  
Houston, TX: Arte Publico Press  
ISBN-13: 9781558852419

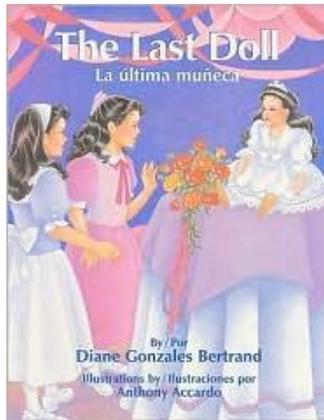
Slurp, Slurp, Soup, Soup Caldo Caldo Caldo tells the story of Sunday mornings when Mama takes out her big soup pot and begins to make her beef and vegetable soup. The family knows that when Mama pulls out her pot it is going to be a day filled with sipping, slurping, and caldo, which means “broth” in Spanish. This story is told in both English and Spanish and ELL’s will like the detailed pictures.

Formats: Paperback, audio, cd  
Interest Level: K-3  
Grade Level: 3.1  
WIDA Level: Expanding

Activity Plan: Mixed Friendship Soup  
[www.scholastic.com/teachers/lesson-plan/activity-plan-mixed-ages-friendship-soup-0](http://www.scholastic.com/teachers/lesson-plan/activity-plan-mixed-ages-friendship-soup-0)

Audio Reading  
[www.delsolbooks.com/sipslurpsoupsoup.htm](http://www.delsolbooks.com/sipslurpsoupsoup.htm)

Reading Strategies and Follow-up Activities  
[www.latinoteca.com/arte-publico-press/educational-resources/teacher-guides/pinatabooks-for-children/Sip,%20Slurp,%20Soup,%20Soup%20by%20Diane%20Gonzales%20Bertrand](http://www.latinoteca.com/arte-publico-press/educational-resources/teacher-guides/pinatabooks-for-children/Sip,%20Slurp,%20Soup,%20Soup%20by%20Diane%20Gonzales%20Bertrand)



3.

Bertrand, D.G. (2009) The Last Doll. Houston,TX: Arte Publico Press  
ISBN-13: 9781558852914

The Last Doll or “La última muñeca” is a story about the tradition of the “quinceañera” or “sweet fifteen” celebration in the Hispanic culture. The story begins in a toy store, where a lonely doll named, Sarita sits waiting for somebody to take her home. With all of the fancy toys around her, she believes no one will ever want to take a plain old doll home. Then one day, a man with a mustache walks in and decides that this beautiful doll would be the perfect gift, or final doll, for his niece Theresa on her quinceañera. This story is told in both English and Spanish. ELL’s of Latino descent will make strong connections with the celebration of the “quinceañera.”

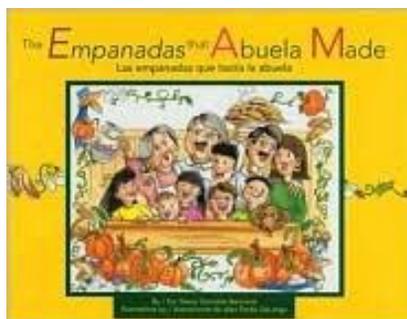
Formats: Hardcover, softcover

Interest Level: 1-4

Grade Level: 4.2

WIDA Level: Bridging

<http://www.learnnc.org/lp/editions/chngmexico/218> - Quinceañera tradition information



4.

Bertrand, D.G. (2003) The Empanadas That Abuela Made. Houston,TX: Arte Publico Press

ISBN-13: 9781558852914

The Empanadas that Abuela Made, tells the story of the Latino culture's tradition of baking empanadas. The story about family and tradition is told in the style of a folk song, much like the other book by Bertrand, The Party for Papa Luis. The entire family gets in on the fun of baking empanadas with grandmother, even the dog! This story is told in both English and Spanish. It is repetitive, and just like, The Party for Papa Luis, the sentences build on each other from one page to the next.

Formats available: Hardcover, audio

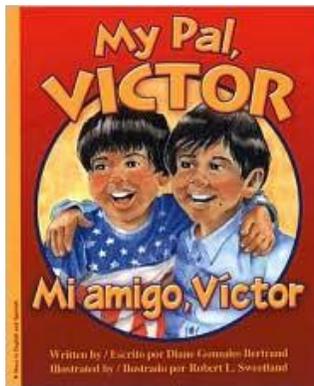
Interest Level: K-2

Grade Level:3

WIDA Level: Developing/Late Developing

<http://www.delsolbooks.com/theempanadasthatabelamade.htm> (Summary and audio of story being read by a student)

Lesson Plan: [csss.dpsk12.org/lang\\_literacy.../ECE\\_3\\_family\\_lessons.pdf](http://csss.dpsk12.org/lang_literacy.../ECE_3_family_lessons.pdf) (see Lesson 11)



5.

Bertrand, D.G. (2007) My Pal Victor. Houston, TX: Arte Publico Press

ISBN-13: 9781932748727

My Pal Victor, Mi Amigo Victor, is a tale about two friends, who despite their differences and one of the friend's disabilities, spend the summer together having fun and building a friendship. This story is told in both English and Spanish. All children, not only ELL's will be able to relate to this story of friendship. The author notes that at the time she wrote this story, there were not a lot of stories out there with a main character that was Latino with disabilities.

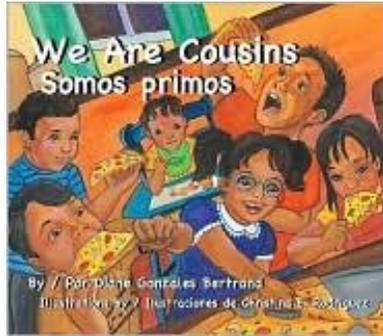
Formats Available: Hardcover, paperback

Grade Level: K-2

Lexile: 670L

WIDA Level: Late Developing/Expanding (due to difficult jokes and humor)

Media Kit for the Book: [www.deltapublishing.com/media/VictorMedia.pdf](http://www.deltapublishing.com/media/VictorMedia.pdf)



6.

Bertrand, D.G. (2007) We Are Cousins, Somos Primos. Houston, TX: Arte Publico Press

ISBN-13: 9781558854864

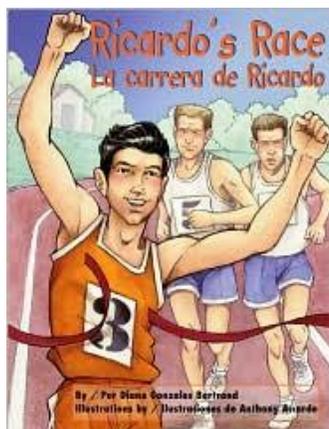
We Are Cousins, Somos Primos, tells of the importance of family. Cousins can be friends, and sometimes cousins can fight, but the most important thing is that cousins are family. The story talks about all of the fun things cousins can do together, and how important spending time with family is. This book is appropriate for ELLs because it is told in both English and Spanish and is written in simple sentences. This book is more appropriate for students at the beginning level.

Formats available: Hardcover

Interest Level: K-2

Grade Level: 2.0

WIDA Level: Beginning



7.

Bertrand, D.G. (2007) Ricardo's Race, La carrera de Ricardo. Houston, TX: Arte Publico Press

ISBN-13: 9781558854819

Ricardo's Race is a biographical children's book about Mexican athlete and scholar Ricardo Romo. The inspiring story follows Ricardo Romo through his years as a high school and college athlete, then on to his successes as a teacher, professor, and college president. ELLs will be able to relate to this story because it is written in both English and Spanish, and it tells the story of survival and success of another person who grew up speaking Spanish and had learn English just like they are doing.

Formats available: Hardcover, audio  
Grade Level: 4.9  
WIDA Level: Expanding

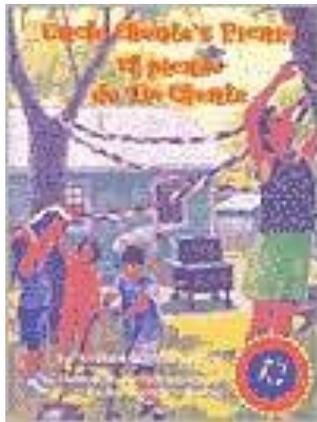
Audio Reading

[www.delsolbooks.com/ricardosrace.htm](http://www.delsolbooks.com/ricardosrace.htm)

Biographical Information on Ricardo Romo:

<http://www.learningaboutlearning.org/Speakers.aspx?id=9>

<http://utsa.edu/president/romobio.html>



8.

Bertrand, D.G. (2001) Uncle Chente's Picnic, El Picnic de Tío Chente. Location:  
Arte Publico Press  
ISBN-13: 9781558853379

Uncle Chente's Picnic is about the Cardena's Family and the fourth of July picnic they have planned for Uncle Chente's visit. The family plans a picnic outside, however a thunderstorm moves the family picnic inside. The story focuses on the family and the fun they have spending time with their uncle despite the rain outside. This story is told in both English and Spanish. It also has Spanish words and traditional food dishes inserted throughout the text that ELLs will be able to read and relate to.

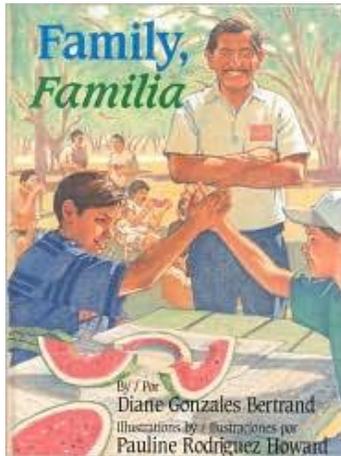
Formats available: Hardcover, paperback, audio  
Interest Level: K-2  
Grade Level: 3.7  
WIDA Level: Expanding (due to dialogue)

Audio Reading

[www.delsolbooks.com/unclechentespicnic.htm](http://www.delsolbooks.com/unclechentespicnic.htm)

Lesson Ideas: See #5, We're Having at Picnic at:

<http://www.pbs.org/teachers/thismonth/patriotism/index1.html>



9.

Bertrand, D.G. (1999) Family, Familia. Location:  
Arte Publico Press

ISBN-13: 9781558852693

Family, Familia, is a story about a boy named Daniel who is reluctant to attend his family's reunion. He has heard many stories about his relatives, but is not anxious to join them at the family reunion. However, once he gets there, his outlook changes when he makes a new friend and has fun taking part in his Mexican family traditions including a mariachi band, a piñata, and plentiful food. This story is told in both English and Spanish. ELLs of Mexican descent will be able to relate to all of the Mexican traditions seen throughout the story.

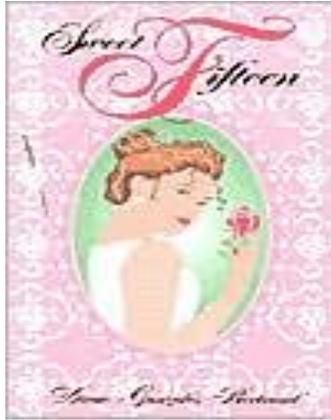
Formats Available: Paperback, hardcover, audio

Grade Level: 3.5

WIDA Level: Late expanding/Bridging

Audio Reading

[www.delsolbooks.com/family.htm](http://www.delsolbooks.com/family.htm)



10.

Bertrand, D.G. (1995). Sweet Fifteen. Location:  
Arte Publico Press

- ISBN-13: 9781558851337

Sweet 15 is a story about a young girl named Stefanie Bonilla who is about to celebrate her quinceañera, or sweet 15, but is also grieving the death of her beloved father. Her seamstress, Rita, actually gets the chance to help her when she spends a week with her Uncle Brian. Rita gives her a job in her shop and ends up falling in love with her Uncle Brian. The story focuses on traditions and values such as respect for one's elders, compassion, friendship and love. This story would be appropriate for ELLs because it focuses on Mexican-American themes and traditions, including the "quinceañera," which many little girls of Latino descent will relate to.

Formats available: paperback  
Interest Level: Young Adult, Grade 8  
Grade Level: 5.4  
WIDA Level: Bridging/Reaching  
[See #3 On This Booklist--*The Last Doll* ]

REACH. INSPIRE. CONNECT.



# The Booklist Project

A Project of the  
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