



# The Booklist Project



Focus: Culturally-Responsive Author Study Booklist

Monica Brown

Developed by: Isabela Cirello

Fall, 2011

# AUTHOR STUDY:

# Monica Brown

Isabela Cirello

TESL 507

Fall 2011



Monica1.jpg. Retrieved October 1, 2011,  
from:

<http://www.monicabrown.net/about/images/headshots/monica1.jpg>

# The Author:

- Monica Brown writes about Latino culture and is inspired by her Peruvian heritage.
- Her books are in English and some are bilingual (English/Spanish); but all tell stories that can be related to Latino background children and that also use Spanish words.
- Monica Brown teaches English at Northern Arizona University and specializes in U.S. Latino Literature and Multicultural Literature.

- She is the award winner of prizes like:
  - ✓ Américas Award for Children's Literature
  - ✓ Pura Belpré Honor
  - ✓ Rockefeller Fellowship on Chicano Cultural Literacies.
- Her books have vibrant colors and beautiful illustrations.
- Monica Brown books are relevant to ELL's because they discuss themes related to the Latino world and situations – such as the migration of monarchy butterflies, and soccer – that many ELL's can relate with.
- There are plenty of downloadable resources available for teachers on her website [www.monicabrown.net](http://www.monicabrown.net) (see “For Teachers”)

# Book List:

## 1. Marisol McDonald doesn't match Marisol McDonald no combina

*This is a story that talks about differences. Marisol is a red hair girl and love things that may seem not to make sense to many people. It is a great story for middle schoolers and ELL students because they are always trying to be accepted and fit in.*

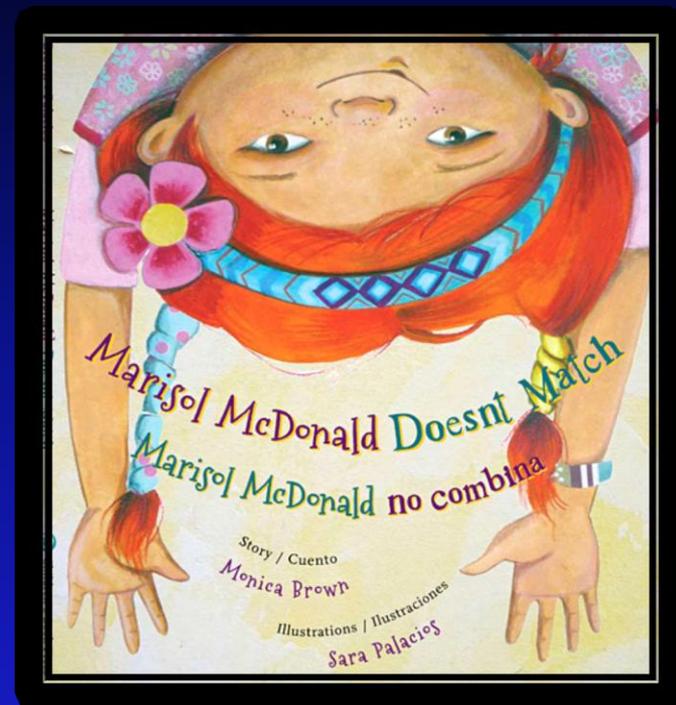
ISBN: 978-0892392353

GRADES: 5 – 8

WIDA LEVEL: Developing and up

Website: <http://www.monicabrown.net/books/marisol.html>

Resources for teachers: <http://www.monicabrown.net/files/MarisolActivityKit.pdf>



## 2. Pelé king of soccer/El rey del fútbol

*This is a story about a Brazilian legend: Pele. He was a poor child, who even with all the odds against him, became a living legend of soccer. This book discusses themes like pursuing dreams and working toward your goals what would be a very Good theme to work with ELLs.*

ISBN: 978-0061227790

GRADES: 4 – 8

WIDA LEVEL: High Developing and Expanding

Website: <http://www.monicabrown.net/books/pele.html>

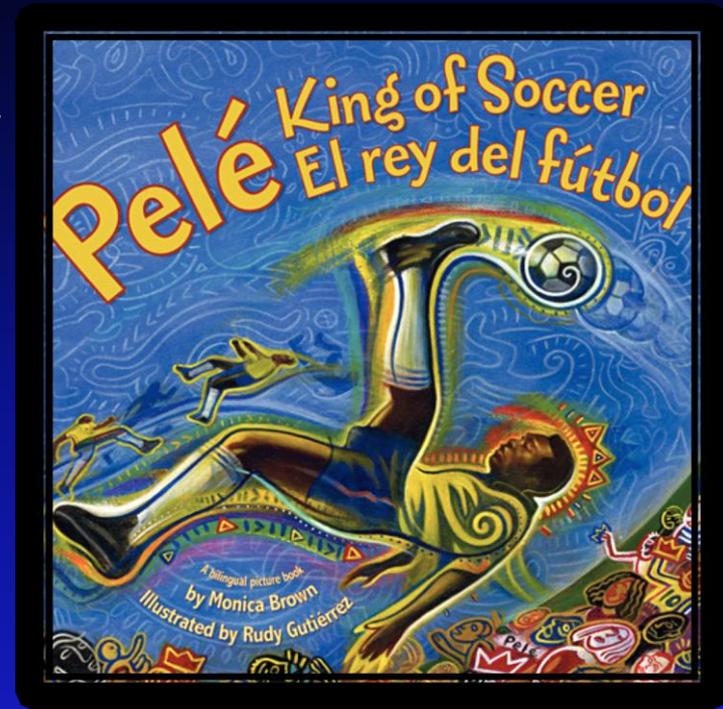
Resources for teachers:

[http://www.monicabrown.net/files/Pele\\_Curriculum\\_Guide.pdf](http://www.monicabrown.net/files/Pele_Curriculum_Guide.pdf)

Book trailer in English: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ixf\\_dZjI9Mo](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ixf_dZjI9Mo)

Book trailer in Spanish:

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=mfu\\_in\\_order&playnext=1&v=jKaHP6MCUYU&list=TLIVy1nVIUYRs](http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=mfu_in_order&playnext=1&v=jKaHP6MCUYU&list=TLIVy1nVIUYRs)



### 3. My name is Gabito: The life of Gabriel García Márquez Me llamo Gabito: la vida de Gabriel García Márquez

*This book features the life of young Gabriel Garcia Marquez in Colombia. It is a great book if you want to discuss Colombia or even South America; or if you want to introduce your ELL students to great Latino novelists such as Gabriel Garcia Marquez or any other wonderful writer born in South America.*

ISBN: 978-0873589086

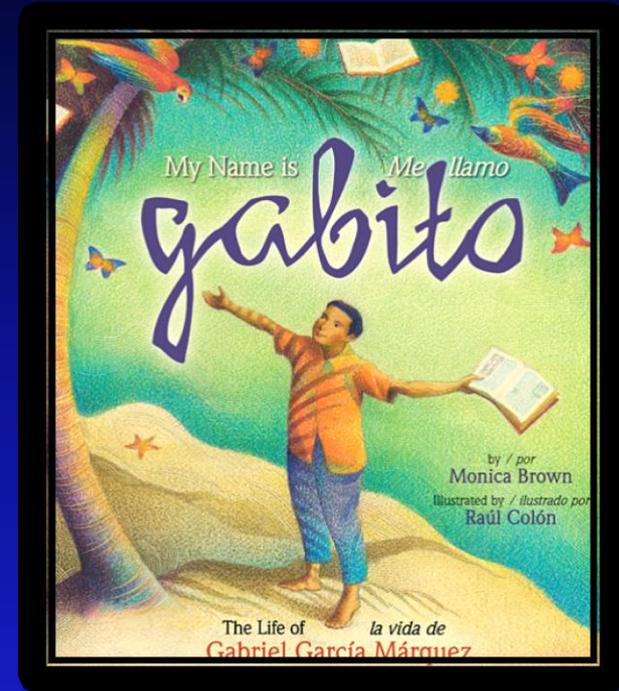
GRADES: 4 – 8

WIDA LEVEL: Expanding and up

Website: <http://www.monicabrown.net/books/gabito.html>

Other resources for complementary reading:

<http://www.themodernword.com/gabo/>



## 4. My name is Gabriela: The life of Gabriela Mistral Me llamo Gabriela: La vida de Gabriela Mistral

This is the story of the first Latin American woman to win a Nobel prize in the world. Gabriela was a teacher and poet who taught people in many countries to fight for their dreams and also that words can be very powerful.

It can be used with ELL once it talks about a Latino poet and it is also a beautiful complement to the book “Gabito” and if your unit theme is related to Latino Authors.

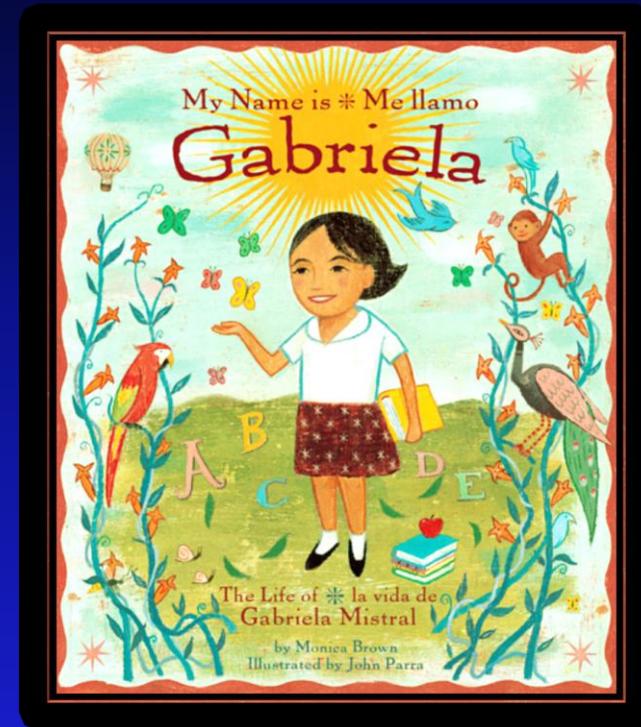
ISBN: 978-0873588591

GRADES: 4 – 8

WIDA LEVEL: *Developing and up*

Website: <http://www.monicabrown.net/books/gabriela.html>

Resources for teachers: <http://www.monicabrown.net/files/gabriela-tools.pdf>



## 5. My name is Celia: The life of Celia Cruz Me llamo Celia: la vida de Celia Cruz

It is a story about the life of Celia Cruz; also known as “Queen of Salsa”. She is a Cuban singer that lived in New York City and Miami.

This book can be used with ELLs once it is to Latino immigrants in the United States or famous Latino singers.

ISBN: 978-0873588720

GRADES: 4 – 8

WIDA LEVEL: *High Developing and up*

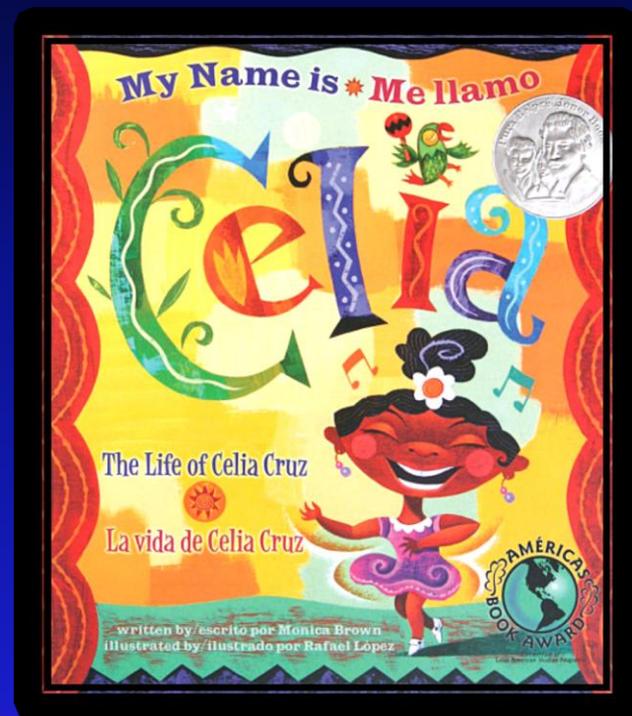
Website: <http://www.monicabrown.net/books/celia.html>

Resources for teachers:

[http://www.monicabrown.net/files/Tools\\_for\\_Teachers\\_CELIA.doc](http://www.monicabrown.net/files/Tools_for_Teachers_CELIA.doc)

Other resources: <http://www.celiacruz.com/>

<http://americanhistory.si.edu/celiacruz/>



## 6. Side by Side: The story of Dolores Huerta and Cesar Chavez

### Lado a Lado: La historia de Dolores Huerta y Cesar Chavez

*It is the story of two civil rights activists: Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta. Together, they made people aware of the subhuman living and working conditions of migrant workers. They went around US telling true stories of the migrants' poverty.*

*This is another delightful book written by Monica Brown that can be used with ELL students to discuss delicate topics such as the situation of immigrants and workers throughout the American history, and also discuss about civil rights activists in the US.*

ISBN: 978-0061227813

GRADES: 4 – 8

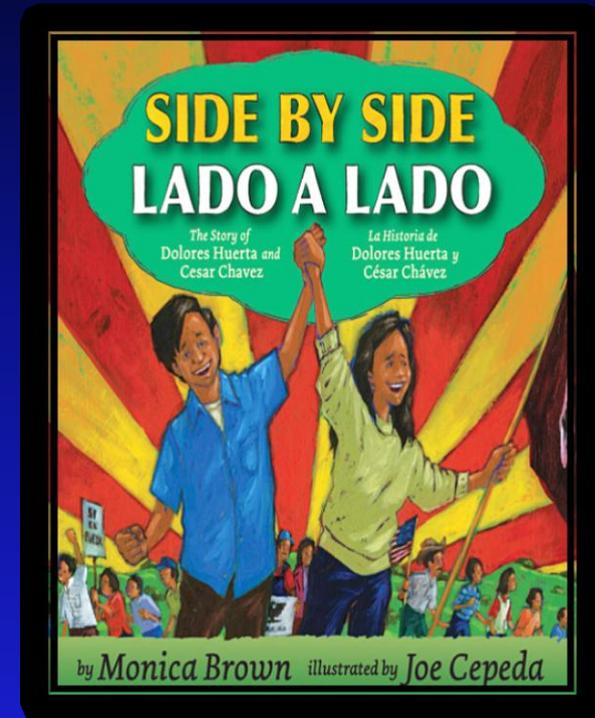
WIDA LEVEL: High Developing and Expanding

Website: <http://www.monicabrown.net/books/huerta.html>

Resources for teachers: [http://www.monicabrown.net/files/Side by Side Curriculum Guide.pdf](http://www.monicabrown.net/files/Side%20by%20Side%20Curriculum%20Guide.pdf)

Other resources: <http://www.doloreshuerta.org/>

<http://www.chavezfoundation.org/>



# 7. Butterflies on Carmen Street

## Mariposas en la Calle Carmen

This book talks about a student learning about the monarch butterflies. She not only gains knowledge from her classroom teacher – Ms Rodriguez – but also from her grandfather’s memoirs of Mexico.

It is a great book to use in a unit about insects and nature; and moreover permits a great discussion among ELL students of what they know (funds of knowledge) that were acquired from and during conversation among family members.

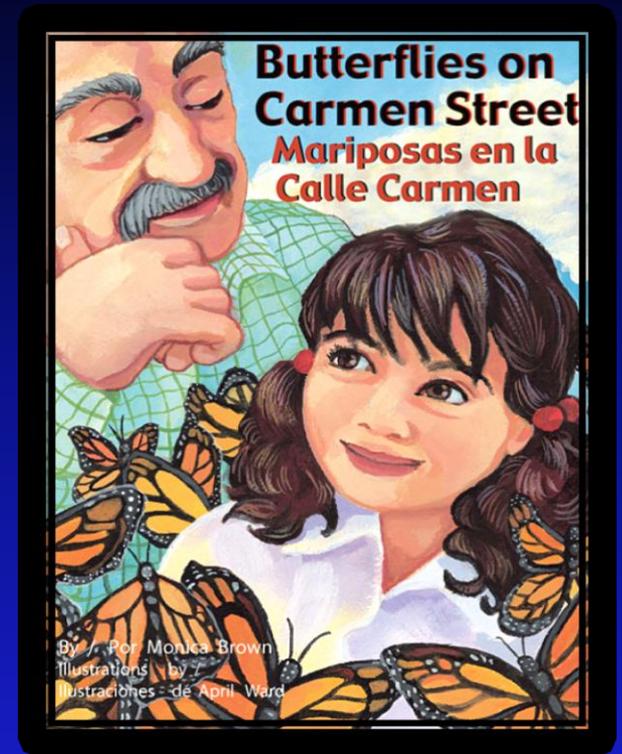
ISBN: 978-1558854840

*GRADES: 4 – 6*

*WIDA LEVEL: Expanding and up*

*Website: <http://www.monicaabrown.net/books/carmen.html>*

*Resources for teachers: <http://www.latinoteca.com/arte-publico-press/pinata-books>*



## 8. Chavela and the Magic Bubble

*This is a story of Chavela, a little girl that loves bubble gum. Once, while inside a store she found a magical bubble gum that took her on a journey to Mexico and the “sappotila” tree: a native rain forest tree used as base for natural chewing gums.*

*Chavela brings topics like the rain forest and sustainable practices to discussion. You can also discuss what Latin American countries have been doing to preserve their most valuable gift: the rain forest, with your ELL students once many of your students may know valuable information about the rain forest if they came from South America.*

ISBN: 978-0547241975

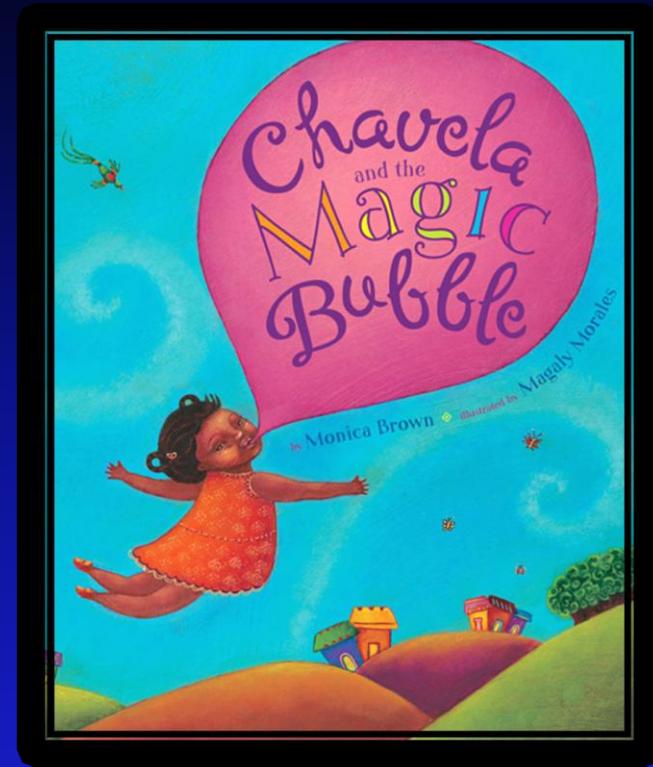
GRADES: 4 -6

WIDA LEVEL: Expanding and up

Website: <http://www.monicabrown.net/books/chavela.html>

Resources for teachers: <http://www.monicabrown.net/files/Chavela-Discussion-Guide.pdf>

Other resources: <http://kids.mongabay.com/>



## 9. Waiting for the Biblioburro

*This is an amazing story about the encounter of a little girl Ana with the world of literature. She is always thirsty for new experiences and new worlds which she can only meet through literature and The Biblioburro – a traveling library. This book can be used as a tool to discuss the importance of literature in people’s lives; as well as the diverse ways that books are delivered to children across the world and you can also use this book with your ELL students to discuss the variety and kinds of libraries existing in other countries.*

ISBN: 978-1582463537

GRADES: 4 – 8

WIDA LEVEL: Developing and up

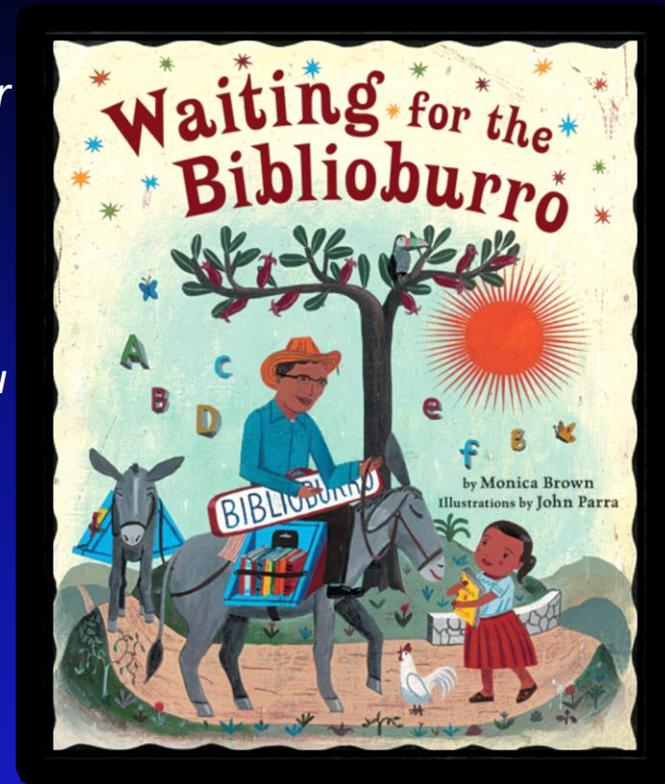
Website: <http://www.monicaabrown.net/books/biblioburro.html>

Resources for teachers: <http://www.monicaabrown.net/files/WaitingfortheBiblioburroguide.pdf>

Book trailer: [http://www.youtube.com/embed/f\\_iXkTSsfZ4](http://www.youtube.com/embed/f_iXkTSsfZ4)

Other resources: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wuTswmx9TQU>

<http://www.nytimes.com/2008/10/20/world/americas/20burro.html?pagewanted=all>



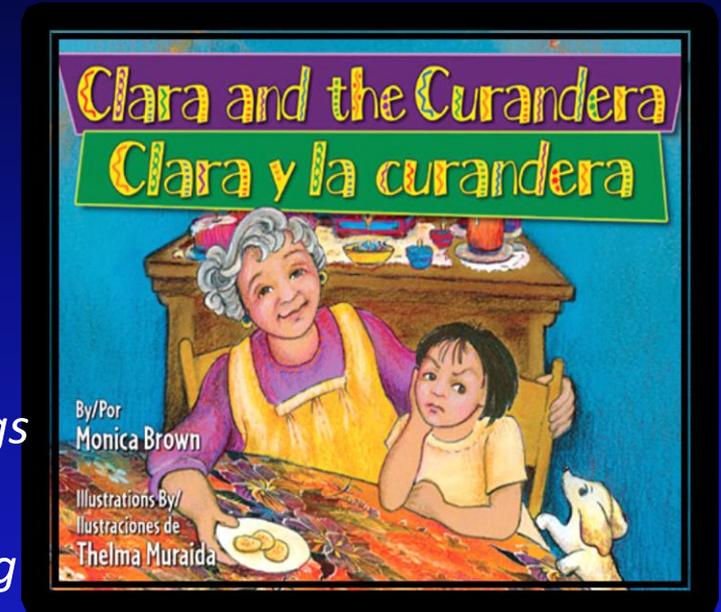


# 11. Clara and the Curandera

## Clara y la curandera

*This is a great book that discuss themes like sharing and helping others. Clara is a girl who feels unhappy about all the things that she has to do in her everyday life. At the end, Clara learns that share and help other can brings joy to her life.*

*This book can be used as a tool to discuss feelings and how we can implement meaningful actions in our lives, school, and communities; developing in our ELL students a sense of personal and social responsibility.*



ISBN: 978-1558857001

GRADES: 4 – 6

WIDA LEVEL: Developing and up

Website: <http://www.monicabrown.net/books/clara.html>

# More Helpful Information

- For more information about Monica Brown, please visit her website: [www.monicabrown.net](http://www.monicabrown.net)
- You also can find other media related info about the author such as radio broadcasts, interviews, articles, and book trailers at <http://www.monicabrown.net/media/index.html>
- Book related resources for teacher: <http://www.monicabrown.net/teachers/index.html>
- Blog about Monica Brown and her publications: <http://www.losbloguitos.com/search/label/Monica%20Brown>
- Author's Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Monica-Brown-Childrens-Author/166407566748190>
- Almost all Monica Brown books are available at Ocean State Libraries across Rhode Island, with exception of “Clara and the Curandera”.

# References

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# The Booklist Project

A Project of the  
M.Ed. In TESL Program,



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Feinstein School of Education and Human Development  
Rhode Island College

For Further Information, Contact:

Nancy Cloud, Ed.D., Director

[ncloud@ric.edu](mailto:ncloud@ric.edu)

Rhode Island College

600 Mt. Pleasant Avenue

Providence, RI 02908