



The Booklist Project

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Focus: Mexican Culture PK-3/4

Developed by: Ingrid Izzi

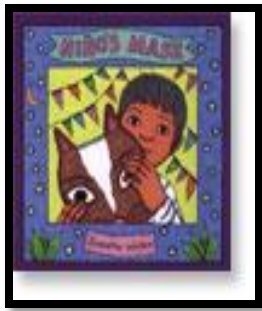
FALL 2012

Booklist Project October 31, 2012



Mexican Culture PK-3/4

For this project I chose to create a cultural booklist for Mexican children. The books chosen are an assortment of stories that deal with customs, traditions, art, families, folklore, food, and animals. This collection would appeal to preschool children up to third and fourth grade. Each selection is either bilingual (English and Spanish) or written in English with Spanish words throughout the text. There is a strong sense of Mexican symbols and art work in most of the books. Adults and children will learn something new about Mexican culture.



Winter, J. (2003). *Nino's mask*. New York, NY: Dial Books for Young Readers. [ISBN 0-8037-2807-7].

Age/Grade Level: Ages 4-up/Grades PK-3

Genre: Fiction

Summary: This story is about a young boy named Nino, who longs to be part of the Fiesta of the Tigre, but his parents tell him he is too young. Nino wants to fend off the Tigre and be the hero who saves the village's corn crop. He sets out to make his own mask and surprises his family and the townspeople. This book is beautifully illustrated depicting details of Mexican Folk Art, contains Spanish words throughout the story and captures the customs and traditions of this Mexican festival. For these reasons it would be a relevant story for ELLs.

WIDA Proficiency Levels: Developing

Reading Level: 2.7

Book Formats Available: Hardcover, Bilingual edition

Book Awards: BRLA (Border Regional Library Association) 2003 Southwest Book Award
Parents Choice Awards

Resources for Teachers:

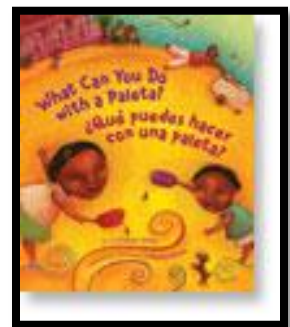
1. Lesson plan: students will learn about masks and the purpose of masks in different countries and ceremonies. Core activity is making a mask. [pdf] - Art and Culture Center of Hollywood artandculturecenter.org/files/11-12/BH-Masks-of-the-Past-ES.pdf
2. Tona Animal Masks - Candice Teaches Art - this activity focuses on Mexican mask making using the story, *Nino's Mask* for reading and discussion sites.google.com/site/candiceteachesart/...lessons/tona-animal-masks
3. Creative dramatic activity that involves making a paper-mache mask, acting and writing a reflection [maskhttp://users.manchester.edu/Student/alschwendeman/ProfWeb/SchwendemanAL340TradeBooks.pdf](http://users.manchester.edu/Student/alschwendeman/ProfWeb/SchwendemanAL340TradeBooks.pdf)

Tafolla, Carmen. (2009). *What can you do with a paleta? / ¿Qué puedes hacer con una paleta?* Berkeley, California: Tricycle Press. [ISBN 978-1-58246-289-9].

Age/Grade Level: Ages 4-up/Grades PK-3

Genre: Fiction

Summary: A young girl discovers many creative uses for the frozen paletas that are delivered by the paleta man. This book is written in English and Spanish and it captures the smells, sounds and tastes in a Mexican village. This book would appeal to Spanish speaking students because it is available in a dual-language version. If you live in a Latino neighborhood the paleta wagon is a daily event that people young and old anticipate. Some students may make text-to-self connections and have had experiences purchasing and eating paletas or other frozen treats from a cart in their barrio.



WIDA Proficiency Levels: High/Developing

Reading Level Grade: 2.9

Book Formats Available: Hardcover, Paperback, English, Spanish and Bilingual versions

Book Awards: Rivera Award, 2009

Americas Award for Children's and Young Adult Literature, 2010

2010 Kids' Reading List: 3 to 5 years – Recommendation American Library Association

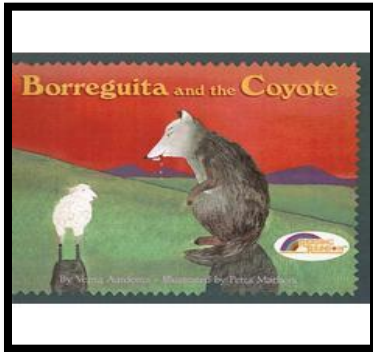
Resources for Teachers:

1. Reading of What Can You Do with a Paleta - YouTube The story is read by Carmen Tafolla
www.youtube.com/watch?v=F_Bs5JSArtg
-

Aardema, V. (1991). *Borreguita and the coyote*. New York, NY: Alfred P. Knopf, Inc. [ISBN 067980921X].

Age/Grade Level: Ages 3-6 /Grades K-3

Genre: Folktale



Summary: This is a clever Mexican folktale of how a little lamb, Borreguita, outsmarts a hungry coyote. This story contains a few Spanish words with a brief glossary and pronunciation guide at the front of the book. The illustrator includes some Mexican scenes and symbols that are appealing. Borreguita is charming and wise and will capture the hearts of young children. Our Spanish speaking students will most likely be familiar with the Spanish words and may recognize the cultural symbols, or know of Ayutla, Mexico where the tale originated. They may have background knowledge of this popular folktale as well.

WIDA Proficiency Levels: High/ Developing

Reading Level: DRA: 34, Guided Reading O, Lexile 560

Book Formats Available: Hardcover, Paperback, Bilingual, Spanish, English, eBook, Braille: Spanish, Braille: English

Book Awards: Reading Rainbow Books

Resources for Teachers:

1. Guided Reading lesson:
www.warsaw.k12.in.us/.../858-borreguita-and-the-coyote-level-o
 2. Discussion guide, extensions, Reading Rainbow activities
www.webenglishteacher.com/childlit-a.html
-

Ehlert, L. (1997). *Cuckoo/Cucú*. San Diego, California: Harcourt Brace & Company. [ISBN 0-15-200274-X].



Age/Grade Level: Ages 3-6 /Grades PK-2

Genre: Folktale

Summary: A traditional Mayan tale in which a selfish and conceited cuckoo bird is asked to save the seed crop from a field fire. Her task is dangerous, but with no one else around to assist she decides she must be the one to act. Her unselfish act will cost her her beauty, but in the end Cuckoo wins the admiration of her feathered friends. The collage type illustrations with their bright colors and simple lines were inspired by Mexican crafts and folk art.

Our Mexican students may be familiar with this form of art from their culture and they will enjoy the bilingual format throughout the story.

WIDA Proficiency Levels: Developing

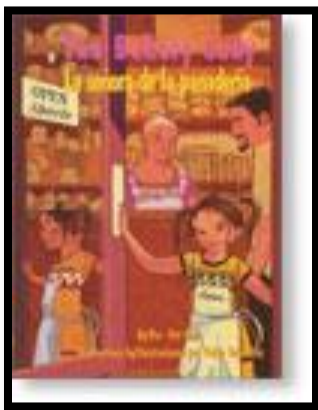
Reading Level: 3.2, DRA 28, Guided Reading M, Lexile 210

Book Formats Available: Hardcover, English, Spanish, Bilingual: English/Spanish, Braille: English, Oversize

Book Awards: Great Lakes' Great Books Award, 2001, Nominated for an award
Americas Award for Children's and Young Adult Literature, 1997, Nominated for an award
Booklist Editors' Choice

Resources for Teachers:

1. Cuckoo inspired art activities
<http://rainydaymum.co.uk/cuckoo-by-lois-ehlert>
2. Lesson plan
www.scholastic.com/teachers/lesson-plan/cuckoo-lesson-plan



Mora, P. (2001). *The bakery lady/La señora de la panadería*. Houston, Texas: Piñata Books. [ISBN 1-55885-343-X].

Age/Grade Level: Ages 4-8 /Grades PK-5

Genre: Realistic Fiction

Summary: Monica lives above her grandparents' bakery and wants to become a baker like her Abuelo. She loves her grandparents dearly and helps out at the bakery each morning before school. Her Abuela tells of a traditional Mexican holiday (The Three Kings) and her desire as a young girl to find the small doll baked in the yeast bread. Monica too hopes to find the baby doll this year. Her wishes come true and tradition has the winner host a party for family and friends. Monica wants to bake lemon cookies by herself, but she soon realizes she may need help from her loving family.

English language learners who celebrate this Mexican holiday would enjoy this bilingual edition, rich in Mexican tradition and celebrations. Bilingual students could read the story in Spanish thus increasing comprehension and making

connections to the English text. The story also focuses on the value of extended families which many of our students can relate to.

WIDA Proficiency Levels: High/Developing

Reading Level: 3.2

Book Formats Available: Hardcover, English, Spanish, Bilingual, eBook

Book Awards: Latino Literary Hall of Fame, Second Place,
Children's Picture Book Category, 2002

Resources for Teachers:

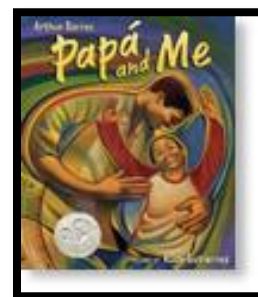
1. Curriculum Activities
www.patmora.com/ideas.htm

Dorros, A. (2008). *Papa and me*. New York: Rayo [ISBN 978-0-06-058157-2].

Age/Grade Level: Age 3-6/Grade PK-K

Genre: Fiction

Summary: Beautiful illustrations by Rudy Gutierrez capture the special bond between father and son. Dorros writes the story codeswitching between English and Spanish as the two spend a day together. This book will appeal to ELLs because of the Spanish words throughout the story and the close relationship between father and son.



WIDA Proficiency Levels: High/Developing

Reading Level: 1.7, Lexile 250

Book Formats Available: Hardcover, Bilingual, English

Book Awards: American Library Association Notable Books for Children, 2009
Georgia Children's Picture Storybook Award, 2009, Nominated for an award
Pura Belpre Award, 2009, Nominated for an award

Resources for Teachers:

1. <http://www.arthurdorros.com>
 2. <http://www.rudygutierrez.net/>
-

Winter, J. (1996). *Josefina*. San Diego, California: Harcourt Brace & Company. [ISBN 0-15-201091-2].

Age/Grade Level: Age 3-6/Grade PK-2

Genre: Fiction

Summary: This book is about a famous Mexican folk artist, Josefina Aguilar, who creates painted clay figures in the village of Ocotlan, Mexico. The book allows you to count along in English and Spanish. Our Mexican students may relate to the pictures in the story that depict everyday life in Mexico. The book offers a view of family life, Mexican traditions and Mexican folk art along with some Spanish words.

WIDA Proficiency Levels: Developing

Reading Level: 3.2

Book Formats Available: Hardcover, English

Book Awards: Americas Award for Children's and Young Adult Literature, 1996, Nominated for an award

Resources for Teachers:

1. Articles for children about the author
www.patriciamnewman.com/winter.html
2. First grade lesson in Art class
www.davisart.com/Portal/SchoolArts/articles/8_07_Ibanez...



Geslin, C. (2004). *Elena's serenade*. New York, NY: Atheneum Books for Young Readers. [ISBN 0-689-84908-7].



Age/Grade Level: Age 4-9/Grade PK-4

Genre: Fiction

Summary: In Mexico, a young girl is determined she wants to be a glassblower like her father. He tells her she is too small, and it's a job for men. Despite his remarks, she begins her journey to Monterrey where the famous glassblowers live. She makes some new friends and gains some confidence along the way. This is a charming story written in English with Spanish words woven throughout the story. A Spanish- English glossary and pronunciation key is provided at the front of the book. Our Mexican children may be familiar with

Monterrey glassblowers making vases from broken Coca-Cola bottles. Connections to the story as well as the Spanish phrases would appeal to our Spanish speaking students.

WIDA Proficiency Levels: High/Developing

Reading Level: 3.4, Lexile 780

Book Formats Available: Hardcover, Paperback, Kindle, Bilingual, English, Spanish, Danish, Swedish, Chinese, and Japanese

Book Awards: Three Starred Reviews

Parents' Choice Award

Americas Award for Children and Young Adult Literature, 2005, Nominated for an award

Comstock Book Award

Volunteer State Book Award, 2007, Nominated for an award

Resources for Teachers:

1. 3rd Grade Weekly Lesson Plan Templates - Robertson County
...www.rcstn.net/ell/3rd_grade_weekly_lesson_plan_temmplate...
 2. 3rd Grade's A Charm: Getting Artsy (making plastic sculptures from cups)
-

Price, M. (2010). *Grandma's chocolate/El chocolate de abuelita*. Houston, Texas: Piñata Books. [ISBN 978-1-55885-587-8].



Age/Grade Level: Age 4-8/Grade PK-3

Genre: Fiction

Summary: Grandma comes to visit from Mexico and she shares gifts and stories with her Granddaughter. This is a dual language book that our ELLs will enjoy. It is rich in history and customs of the Aztec and Mayan people. Connections can be made for children who have relatives that come to visit from faraway and for making homemade hot chocolate.

WIDA Proficiency Levels: Expanding

Reading Level: 3.5

Book Formats Available: Hardcover, Paperback

Resources for Teachers:

1. Lesson on the cacao tree and the cultivation of cacao
www.maraprice.com/uploads/3/1/2/7/3127632/chocolate_edu...
 3. whp.uoregon.edu/curricula2011/DFrankel/ui.doc
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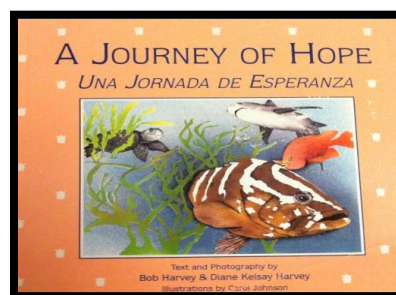
Harvey, B. & Harvey D. (1991). *A journey of hope/Una jornada de esperanza*. Wilsonville, Oregon: Beautiful America Publishing Company. [ISBN 0-89802-618-0].

Age/Grade Level: Ages 4-10/Grades PK-4

Genre: Non-Fiction

Summary: Told in both English and Spanish this book chronicles the perilous journey of a newly hatched sea turtle (Olive Ridley) that must travel across Escobilla Beach to the sea. This book includes beautiful photographs and illustrations. Our Mexican students may have heard about Escobilla Beach and about the Olive Ridley turtles that are endangered. They may have witnessed the baby hatchlings themselves. This turtle's journey would capture the hearts of all readers. The dual language format in the book lends itself to support our English language learners.

WIDA Proficiency Levels: Expanding



Reading Level: 4.2 (score was determined by using the Flesh-Kincaid system)

Book Formats Available: Paperback, Bilingual edition

Resources for Teachers:

1. Oaxaca Sees Ridley Turtles Flock to "The Escobilla" Beach | Mexico ...
mexicotoday.org/article/oaxaca-sees-ridley-turtles-floc...
2. Endangered Sea Turtles Return To Mexico's Beaches : NPR
www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=11388...
3. <http://www.lessonplanet.com/turtles>

Website References

www.amazon.com

<https://catalog.oslri.net>

www.permabound.com

www.readabilityscore.com

www.scholastic.com

www.worldcat.org

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The Booklist Project

A Project of the
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Feinstein School of Education and Human
Development
Rhode Island College

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