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, and Antonio Castro Lopez. (1982). *The day it snowed tortillas/El dia que nevo 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.

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.


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.


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, 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.


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.


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


**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.”


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](http://www.dawnpub.com).


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