

Latino Authors, Characters and Settings A List for Chelsea High School

These books will be found in the fiction section of CHS Library unless a different call number has been listed. Some are short stories, some are biographies, some are poetry.

- Alegria, Malin. *Estrella's quinceañera*. Estrella's mother and aunt are planning a gaudy, traditional quinceañera for her, even though it is the last thing she wants.
- Allende, Isabel. *City of the beasts*. When fifteen-year-old Alexander Cold accompanies his individualistic grandmother on an expedition to find a humanoid Beast in the Amazon, he experiences ancient wonders and a supernatural world as he tries to avert disaster for the Indians.
- Allende, Isabel. *Daughter of fortune : a novel*. Eliza Sommers, left alone and pregnant in Chile when her lover Joaquin runs off to California during the Gold Rush, decides to follow him only to become entranced with her new life of freedom and independence.
- Allende, Isabel. *The infinite plan : a novel* Story of Gregory Reeves's search for love and his struggle to come to terms with childhood poverty and neglect.
- Allende, Isabel. *Kingdom of the Golden Dragon*. Sixteen-year-old Alexander Cold accompanies his grandmother, a writer for a geography magazine, to the remote Forbidden Kingdom in the Himalayas to help locate a sacred statue of a golden dragon before it is stolen by a greedy outsider.
- Allende, Isabel. *Of love and shadows*. A woman reporter in a Latin American country and a photographer are sent on a routine assignment. The two uncover a hideous crime, the revelation of which could challenge the terrorism of the military regime.
- Allende, Isabel. *Paula*. The autobiography of Isabel Allende written for her daughter, Paula, who has slipped into a coma. **(B ALL)**
- Allende, Isabel. *Portrait in sepia : a novel*. Aurora del Valle, raised in the privileged class of Chile by her grandmother, is tormented by nightmares and half-memories of events set in San Francisco's Chinatown. Disillusioned in her marriage, Aurora sets out to rediscover the missing years of her early childhood.
- Allende, Isabel. *Zorro : a novel*. Diego de la Vega, the son of an aristocratic Spanish landowner and a Shoshone mother, returns to California from school in Spain to reclaim the hacienda on which he was raised and to seek justice for the weak and helpless.
- Alvarez, Julia. *Before we were free*. In the early 1960s in the Dominican Republic, twelve-year-old Anita learns that her family is involved in the underground movement to end the bloody rule of the dictator, General Trujillo.
- Alvarez, Julia. *Finding miracles*. Fifteen-year-old Milly Kaufman is an average American teenager until Pablo, a new student at her school, inspires her to search for her birth family in his native country.
- Alvarez, Julia. *How the Garcia girls lost their accents*. The story of the Garcia families adjustment to life in the United States.
- Alvarez, Julia. *In the time of the butterflies*. A fictionalized account of four sisters in the Dominican Republic under the dictatorship of General Trujillo.
- Alvarez, Julia. *Once upon a quinceañera : coming of age in the USA*. Traces the experiences of a Queens teen preparing for her quinceañera, in an account that documents the history of the celebration's traditions as well as its growing popularity. **(395.2 ALV)**

- Alvarez, Julia. *The other side = El otro lado*. A collection of poems written in English by a Hispanic American woman, reflecting her experiences as a young girl and as a middle-aged woman. The collection includes the twenty-one-part title poem El Otro Lado which deals with the poet's return to her native Dominican Republic. **(811 ALV)**
- Alvarez, Julia. *Return to sender*. After his family hires migrant Mexican workers to help save their Vermont farm from foreclosure, Tyler befriends the oldest daughter, but when he discovers they may not be in the country legally, he realizes that real friendship knows no borders.
- Alvarez, Julia. *The woman I kept to myself : poems*. Presents a collection of seventy-five poems that provide a narrative of a woman's inner life. **(811 ALV)**
- Alvarez, Julia. *Yo!* Yolanda Garcia finds success with her first novel in which she made characters out of her family members and friends, but her "fictionally victimized" relatives exact revenge by telling all they know about the author, Yo.
- Anaya, Rudolfo A. *Bless me, Ultima*. Ultima, the one heals with herbs and magic, comes to live with Antonio's family in New Mexico and helps Tony journey through life.
- Bernardo, Anilú. *Jumping off to freedom*. Courage and desperation lead fifteen-year-old David and his father to flee Cuba's repressive regime and seek freedom by taking to the sea on a raft headed for Miami.
- Bertrand, Diane Gonzales. *Trino's choice*. Frustrated by his poor financial situation and hoping to impress a smart girl, seventh grader Trino falls in with a bad crowd led by an older teen with a vicious streak.
- Cisneros, Sandra. *Caramelo, or, Puro cuento : a novel* Celaya "Lala" Reyes, traveling from Chicago to Mexico City each summer, draws together stories of her Mexican-American family of shawl-makers, including her papa and Awful Grandmother.
- Cisneros, Sandra. *The house on Mango Street*. A young girl living in a Hispanic neighborhood in Chicago ponders the advantages and disadvantages of her environment and evaluates her relationships with family and friends.
- Cisneros, Sandra. *Loose woman : poems*. A collection of love poems which celebrates the female aspects of love **(811 CIS)**
- Cofer, Judith Ortiz. *The meaning of Consuelo*. A Puerto Rican girl coming of age in the 1950s struggles to negotiate her own terms of survival within the confines of her culture.
- Cool salsa : bilingual poems on growing up Latino in the United States* Celebrates the tones, rhythms, sounds, and experiences of growing up Latino in America. Includes works by poets such as Sandra Cisneros, Martín Espada, Gary Soto, Ed Vega, and others. **(811.008 COO)**
- Red hot salsa : bilingual poems on being young and Latino in the United States. Presents a collection of poems written in both Spanish and English on being young and Latino living up in the United States. **(811.008 RED)**
- Paper dance : 55 Latino poets. An anthology of poetry by Latin American poets living and writing in the United States. **(811 PAP)**
- Riding low on the streets of gold. Presents a collection of stories and poems by Latino authors for young adults in which they explore the challenges of leaving childhood behind and forging new relationships and identities. **(SC RID)**

- Engle, Margarita. *The poet slave of Cuba : a biography of Juan Francisco Manzano*. A portrait in poems of Juan Francisco Manzano, the poet who was born a slave in Cuba in 1797. **(B MAN)**
- García Márquez, Gabriel, *Love in the time of cholera*. A love story that ranges from the late nineteenth century to the early decades of the twentieth, tracing the lives of three people and their entwined fates.
- García Márquez, Gabriel, *One hundred years of solitude*. The rise and fall, birth and death of the mythical town of Macondo through the history of the Buendia family.
- Hart, Elva Treviño. *Barefoot heart : stories of a migrant child*. The author, born in south Texas to Mexican immigrants, provides an account of her life growing up in a family of migrant farm workers, and tells how she overcame the disadvantages of her youth to attend college and earn a master's degree in computer science/engineering. **(B HAR)**
- Herrera, Juan Felipe. *CrashBoomLove : a novel in verse*. After his father leaves home, sixteen-year-old Cesar Garcia lives with his mother and struggles through the painful experiences of growing up as a Mexican American high school student.
- Herrera, Juan Felipe. *Laughing out loud, I fly : poems in English and Spanish*. A collection of poems in Spanish and English about childhood, place, and identity. **(811 HER)**
- Jaramillo, Ann. *La línea*. When fifteen-year-old Miguel's time finally comes to leave his poor Mexican village, cross the border illegally, and join his parents in California, his younger sister's determination to join him soon imperils them both.
- Jiménez, Francisco, *Breaking through*. Having come from Mexico to California ten years ago, fourteen-year-old Francisco is still working in the fields but fighting to improve his life and complete his education.
- Jiménez, Francisco, *The circuit : stories from the life of a migrant child*. Explores a migrant family's experiences moving through labor camps, facing poverty and impermanence, and discusses how they endure through faith, hope, and back-breaking work.
- Jiménez, Francisco, *Reaching out*. The author describes the many challenges he faced as the son of Mexican American migrant workers during his quest to continue his education and become an academic success, overcoming poverty, family turmoil, guilt, and self-doubt.
- Martinez, Victor, *Parrot in the oven : mi vida : a novel*. Manny relates his coming of age experiences as a member of a poor Mexican American family in which the alcoholic father only adds to everyone's struggle.
- Mora, Pat. *Adobe odes*. A collection of forty-nine odes by noted children's author and poet Pat Mora, that represents many of the things she loves such as chocolate, books, church bells, deities, spirits, and literary figures. **(811 MOR)**
- Mora, Pat. *House of houses*. A memoir of the author's Mexican-American family in El Paso, Texas, told through the voices of several generations of relatives, both living and dead, with photographs and genealogical charts. **(B MOR)**
- Mora, Pat. *My own true name : new and selected poems for young adults, 1984-1999*. **(811 MOR)**
- Ortiz Cofer, Judith, 1952-. *An island like you : stories of the barrio*. Twelve stories about young people caught between their Puerto Rican heritage and their American surroundings. **(SC ORT)**
- Osa, Nancy. *Cuba 15 : a novel* Violet Paz, a Chicago high school student, reluctantly prepares for her upcoming "quince," a Spanish nickname for the celebration of an Hispanic girl's fifteenth birthday.

- Paulsen, Gary. *Sisters = Hermanas*. The lives of a fourteen-year-old Mexican prostitute, living in the United States illegally, and a wealthy American girl intersect in a dramatic way.
- Rice, David, 1964-. *Crazy loco : stories*. A collection of nine stories about Mexican American kids growing up in the Rio Grande Valley of southern Texas. **(SC RIC)**
- Rodriguez, Luis J., 1954-. *Always running : La Vida Loca : gang days in L.A.* The author recounts his growing up in poverty in Los Angeles, his encounters with racism in school and on the streets, and his struggle to overcome prejudice, drugs, and violence. **(B ROD)**
- Ryan, Pam Muñoz. *Esperanza rising*. Esperanza and her mother are forced to leave their life of wealth and privilege in Mexico to go work in the labor camps of Southern California, where they must adapt to the harsh circumstances facing Mexican farm workers on the eve of the Great Depression.
- Sáenz, Benjamin Alire. *Sammy & Juliana in Hollywood*. Sammy Santos and Juliana Rios live amongst the racism, discrimination, and everyday violence during the Vietnam years of the 1960s in a small town in Southern New Mexico.
- Sanchez, Alex, . *The God box*. When openly gay Manuel transfers to Paul's high school, Paul, a born-again Christian, begins to question his own sexuality.
- Sanchez, Alex, *Rainbow boys*. Three high school seniors, a jock with a girlfriend and an alcoholic father, a closeted gay, and a flamboyant gay rights advocate, struggle with family issues, gay bashers, first sex, and conflicting feelings about each other.
- Sanchez, Alex, *Rainbow road*. While driving across the United States during the summer after high school graduation, three young gay men encounter various bisexual and homosexual people and make some decisions about their own relationships and lives.
- Santiago, Esmeralda. *Almost a woman*. Follows the author from the Brooklyn barrios to Harvard as she overcomes an overprotective mother, siblings who scoff at her attempts to learn "Eastern Standard England," and a whirlwind marriage. **(B SAN)**
- Santiago, Esmeralda. *When I was Puerto Rican*. Memoirs of the author's childhood and youth in Puerto Rico and New York City. **(B SAN)**
- Soto, Gary. *The afterlife*. A senior at East Fresno High School lives on as a ghost after his brutal murder in the restroom of a club where he had gone to dance.
- Soto, Gary. *Buried onions*. When nineteen-year-old Eddie drops out of college, he struggles to find a place for himself as a Mexican American living in a violence-infested neighborhood of Fresno, California.
- Soto, Gary. *Jesse*. Two Mexican American brothers hope that junior college will help them escape their heritage of tedious physical labor.
- Soto, Gary. *Local news*. A collection of thirteen short stories about the everyday lives of Mexican American young people in California's Central Valley.
- Soto, Gary. *Pacific crossing*. Fourteen-year-old Mexican American Lincoln Mendoza spends a summer with a host family in Japan, encountering new experiences and making new friends.
- Velasquez, Gloria. *Tommy stands alone*. A high school student and member of a Mexican-American family struggles with his sexual identity and finally learns that he will not have to stand alone anymore.