**Latinos in the U.S.**

Book needs to be selected by Tuesday & you should have a copy in your hand by Oct. 1st (Monday). If you would like me to order you a copy on Amazon. Look up the price and provide me with a check by Wednesday.

Offering a diversity of books is wonderful as it allows for students to have choice, however the costs associated with having multiple copies of books is very high. As such, we request that you secure your own copy if possible. There are many ways to go about this.

1. Check out the book from the Public Library. You can search the catalog at <https://sddp.sirsi.net/uhtbin/cgisirsi/nwmwpJEHcl/CENTRAL/325180160/49> and find out where the book is in stock. There appear to be copies of many of the books at various libraries.
2. You can borrow the book from a family member, friend, or former teacher.
3. You can purchase the book from a local book store.
4. You can order the book on Amazon.com. In fact, if you tell me this is your preferred option by Tuesday and provide me with a check for the amount listed for Amazon Prime on Wednesday, I will place an order for the class and eliminate the shipping fee.
5. If you are not able to obtain the book through these methods, please come and see me on Friday so we can make arrangements for you to get the book.

**Puerto Ricans**

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| **When I Was Puerto Rican**  | **Esmeralda Santiago**  | Goodreads 3.92 | **# in library: E -1 , S - 0** |
| **Description (from Amazon)** This is a rich and evocative memoir of the author's chaotic childhood. Growing up in rural Puerto Rico, while often living in primitive conditions, the author's lush and lyrical prose paints a vivid picture her early life. The flavor and rythms of her island home come alive under her expert hand, creating an unforgettable picture of her early childhood. |
| **Recommendations:** * I read this a long time ago. Don’t remember enough to recommend.
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| **Almost a Woman**  | **Esmeralda Santiago**  | Goodreads 4.01 | **# in library: E - 0 , S - 0** |
| **Description (from Amazon):** In her new memoir, the acclaimed author of **When I Was Puerto Rican** continues the riveting chronicle of her emergence from the barrios of Brooklyn to the theaters of Manhattan."Negi," as Santiago's family affectionately calls her, leaves rural Macún in 1961 to live in a three-room tenement apartment with seven young siblings, an inquisitive grandmother, and a strict mother who won't allow her to date. At thirteen, Negi yearns for her own bed, privacy, and a life with her father, who remains in Puerto Rico. Translating for Mami at the welfare office in the morning, starring as Cleopatra at New York's prestigious Performing Arts High School in the afternoons, and dancing salsa all night, she yearns to find balance between being American and being Puerto Rican. When Negi defies her mother by going on a series of hilarious dates, she finds that independence brings its own set of challenges.At once a universally poignant coming-of-age tale and a brave and heartfelt immigrant's story, **Almost a Woman** is Santiago's triumphant journey into womanhood.   |
| **Recommendations:**  |

**Mexican Revolution – Early Migrants**

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| **Rain of Gold** | **Victor Villaseñor** | **Rating**: Goodreads 4.47 **(LONG)** | **# in library: E -3 , S – 0**  |
| **Description (from Wikipedia or Goodreads): *Rain of Gold*** is [Victor Villaseñor](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Victor_Villase%C3%B1or)'s 1991 book, a [*New York Times* bestseller](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_New_York_Times_Best_Seller_list), which tells the story of his own parents who were [undocumented immigrants](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Illegal_immigration) from [Mexico](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mexico). Two families escaping from the [Mexican Revolution](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mexican_Revolution) to the relative safety of the [United States](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States) have parallel experiences centered around their mothers' strength. |
| **Recommendations:** * *Highly recommended by students, Liz & Mr. Aguirre.*
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| **The Hummingbird’s Daughter**  | **Luis Alberto Urrea** | **Goodreads:** 4.13 **(LONG)**  | **# in library: E - 6 , S - 2** |
| **Description (from Amazon):** The prizewinning writer Luis Alberto Urrea's long-awaited novel is an epic mystical drama of a young woman's sudden sainthood in late 19th-century Mexico.It is 1889, and civil war is brewing in Mexico. A 16-year-old girl, Teresita, illegitimate but beloved daughter of the wealthy and powerful rancher Don Tomas Urrea, wakes from the strangest dream--a dream that she has died. Only it was not a dream. This passionate and rebellious young woman has arisen from death with a power to heal--but it will take all her faith to endure the trials that await her and her family now that she has become the Saint of Cabora.THE HUMMINGBIRD?S DAUGHTER is a vast, hugely satisfying novel of love and loss, joy and pain. Two decades in the writing, this is the masterpiece that Luis Alberto Urrea has been building up to. |
| **Recommendations:** * *We read this as a class in spring 2012. I enjoyed it and students, for the most part, did as well. The length was a challenge for some students and some students reported feeling lost, but overall, if you can stick with it, it is a great story that dives into history and culture.*
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**Cubans**

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| **Dreaming in Cuban**  | **Cristina Garcia**  | **Rating**: 3.64 | **# in library: E - 1, S - 0** |
| **Description (from Wikipedia or Goodreads): *Dreaming in Cuban*** is the first novel written by author [Cristina García](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cristina_Garc%C3%ADa), and was a finalist for the National Book Award. This novel moves between [Cuba](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cuba) and the [United States](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States) featuring three generations of a single family. The novel focuses particularly on the females—Celia del Pino, her daughters Lourdes and Felicia, and her granddaughter Pilar. While most of the novel is written in the third person, some sections are written in the first person, and letters are also included. The novel is not told in linear fashion; it moves between characters and jumps in time. The novel’s central themes include family relationships, exile, the divisiveness of politics, and memory. Cuban history and culture are important in the novel, including important historical events and the elements of [Santería](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Santer%C3%ADa) that appear throughout the novel. |
| **Recommendations:** * *I (Liz) read this a long time ago. Can’t remember how I felt about it.*
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| **The Red Umbrella**  | **Christina Diaz Gonzalez**  | **Rating**: Young Adult, 4.0 | **# in library: E - 0 , S - 0**  |
| **Description (from Goodreads):** *The Red Umbrella* is the moving tale of a 14-year-old girl's journey from Cuba to America as part of Operation Pedro Pan—an organized exodus of more than 14,000 unaccompanied children, whose parents sent them away to escape Fidel Castro's revolution. |
| **Recommendations:**  |

**Chicano Movement – Later Mexican Immigration**

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| **Bless Me Ultima**  | **Rodulfo Anaya**  | **Rating:** Goodreads 3.66  | **# in library: E 4 , S - 2** |
| **Description (from Wikipedia) *Bless Me, Ultima*** is a [novel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Novel) by [Rudolfo Anaya](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rudolfo_Anaya) in which his young protagonist, Antonio Márez y Luna tells the story of his coming-of-age with the guidance of his [*curandera*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Curandero), mentor, and protector, Ultima. It has become the most widely read and critically acclaimed novel in the Chicano literary canon since its first publication in 1972.[[1]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bless_Me%2C_Ultima#cite_note-0)[[2]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bless_Me%2C_Ultima#cite_note-writSouthwest-1)[[3]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bless_Me%2C_Ultima#cite_note-times_of_transition-2) Teachers across disciplines in middle schools, high schools and universities have adopted it as a way to multiculturalize their classes.[[4]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bless_Me%2C_Ultima#cite_note-3)[[5]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bless_Me%2C_Ultima#cite_note-4) The novel reflects Chicano culture of the 1940s in rural New Mexico. Anaya’s use of Spanish, mystical depiction of the New Mexican landscape, use of cultural motifs such as [*La Llorona*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/La_Llorona), and recounting of [*curandera*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Curandera) folkways such as the gathering of medicinal herbs, gives readers a sense of the influence of indigenous cultural ways that are both authentic and distinct from the mainstream. |
| **Recommendations:** * *We read this as a class in spring 2012. An interesting read, set in New Mexico, for the most part. A classic, but not a hit with all students. Some students thought it was boring or moved to slowly. I liked some of the philosophical themes in the book and the cultural components related to healing and the connection between family members.*
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| **Burro Genius**  | **Victor Villaseñor**  | Goodreads: 3.98 | **# in library: E - 0 , S - 0** |
| **Description (from Amazon)** From one of America's most beloved authors comes a raw and unnerving memoir that explores the transformation of an angry young man into the bestselling author we know today. When Victor Villaseñor stood at the podium and looked at the group of teachers amassed before him, he became enraged. He had never spoken in public before. His mind was flooded with childhood memories filled with humiliation, misunderstanding, and abuse at the hands of his teachers. With his heart pounding, he began to speak of these incidents. To his disbelief, the teachers before him responded to his embittered recollection with a standing ovation. Many could not contain their own tears. So begins a touching memoir of an extremely angry adolescent. Highly gifted and imaginative, Villaseñor coped with an untreated learning disability (he was finally diagnosed with extreme dyslexia at the age of forty-four) and the frustration he felt growing up Latino in an English-only American school system that had neither the cultural understanding nor the resources to deal with Hispanic students.  |
| **Recommendations:** * I’ve never read, but love his other book, The Rain of Gold. One student, male, has read this and enjoyed it.
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| **Caramelo**  | **Sandra Cisneros**  | **Rating**:, Goodreads 3.78  | **# in library: E - , S -**  |
| **Description (from Wikipedia or Goodreads): *Caramelo*** is a [2002](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2002_in_literature) [novel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Novel) by [American](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States) author [Sandra Cisneros](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sandra_Cisneros). It was inspired by her [Mexican](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mexican_people) heritage and childhood in the [barrio](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barrio) of [Chicago](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chicago), [Illinois](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Illinois). The main character, Lala, is the only girl in a family of seven children and her family often travels between Chicago and [Mexico City](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mexico_City). Because Cisneros also has six brothers and her family moved frequently when she was a child, the novel is semi-autobiographical |
| **Recommendations:** * *Haven’t read this one yet, but students have recommended to it to me, so it will soon be one I pick up myself.*
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| **Face of an Angel**  | **Denise Chavez**  | Goodreads 4.03 **(LONG)**  | **# in library: E - 0, S - 0**  |
| **Description (from Amazon)** Employing a variety of techniques-unattributed dialogue, stories within stories, passages from term papers and a waitressing manual-Chavez's accomplished first novel weaves the interlocking histories of the Dosamantes clan and the fictional New Mexico town of Agua Oscura. But the author, a playwright, actress and story writer, seeks to be more than a compiler of earthy, colorful tales about love, marriage, death, trailer parks and pickup trucks. Here is an updated Pilgrim's Progress with a Chicana feminist twist: Chavez follows the spiritual journey of her narrator, Soveida Dosamantes, who grows from a shy fearful girl to become a vulnerable, obliging waitress and, finally, a forceful woman ready to make difficult choices. Her highly readable style effortlessly mixes Spanish and English in a way that won't jar the monolingual reader ("May [the Virgin Mary] spare you a drunken man... smelling of frijoles and beer. Dios mio el gas!"). And if there is an occasional excess of sentimentality, there is never a dull moment in this rich polyphonic novel. |
| **Recommendations:** * I’ve never read this, but it has a good rating on goodreads. I’m certain to pick this one up soon.
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| **The House on Mango St.** | **Sandra Cisneros** | **Rating**: Goodreads  | **# in library: E - 1, S - 0** |
| **Description (from Wikipedia or Goodreads): *The House on Mango Street*** is a [coming-of-age novel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bildungsroman) by Mexican-American writer [Sandra Cisneros](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sandra_Cisneros), published in 1984. It deals with a young Latina girl, Esperanza Cordero, growing up in [Chicago](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chicago) with [Chicanos](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chicano) and [Puerto Ricans](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Puerto_Rican_people). Esperanza is determined to "say goodbye" to her impoverished Latino neighborhood. Major themes include her quest for a better life and the importance of her promise to come back for "the ones I left behind." |
| **Recommendations:** * *A classic – often referred to Latin Amer. Lit book by a well-known author. Short stories that show glimpses into Esperanza’s life. Not linear, jumps around a little, but provides insight into her experience.*
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**The Dominican Republic**

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| **How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accent**  | **Julia Alvarez**  | Goodreads: 3.56  | **# in library: E -1 , S - 0** |
| **Description (from Wikipedia) *How the García Girls Lost Their Accents*** is a 1991 novel written by [Dominican-American](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dominican_American) poet, novelist, and essayist [Julia Alvarez](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Julia_Alvarez). Told in reverse chronological order and narrated from shifting perspectives, the text possesses distinct qualities of a [bildungsroman](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bildungsroman) novel. Spanning more than thirty years in the lives of four sisters, the story begins with their adult lives in the United States and ends with their childhood in the [Dominican Republic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dominican_Republic), from which their family was forced to flee due to the father’s opposition to [Rafael Leónidas Trujillo](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rafael_Le%C3%B3nidas_Trujillo)'s dictatorship. |
| **Recommendations:** * .
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| **In the Time of the Butterflies**  | **Julia Alvarez**  | Goodreads: 4.13  | **# in library: E -1 , S - 0** |
| **Description (from Wikipedia)** This is the story of the four Mirabal sisters during the dictatorship of Rafael Trujillo. The sisters make a political commitment to overthrow the Trujillo regime. They are harassed, persecuted, and imprisoned, their family suffers retaliation from the Military Intelligence Service, and they are eventually awarded for their awesome leadership. The book presents the perspective of the surviving sister, Dedé. Throughout the book the events leading up to each sister's political awakening are discussed. Dedé Mirabal to discuss the tragic story of her sisters. Although Dedé at first refuses, she eventually tells her sisters' tale. She explains how Minerva had a dream of going to a school, which was unusual for farmers' daughters. When she eventually convinced her father to allow her go, Minerva meets a girl, Sinita, who later became one of her best friends. Sinita eventually confided in Minerva the truth about Trujillo - that their "glorious" leader was a killer. |
| **Recommendations:** * Recommended to me by others
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| **The Brief Wonderous Life of Oscar Wao**  | **Junot Diaz** | Goodreads: 3.81  | **# in library: E – 2 , S – 0**  |
| **Description (from Wikipedia) *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*** (2007) is a best-selling [novel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Novel) written by [Dominican](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dominican_Republic) author [Junot Díaz](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Junot_D%C3%ADaz). Although a work of fiction, the novel is set in [New Jersey](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Jersey) where Díaz was raised and deals explicitly with his ancestral homeland's experience under [dictator](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dictator) [Rafael Trujillo](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rafael_Trujillo).[[1]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Brief_Wondrous_Life_of_Oscar_Wao#cite_note-jersey-0) It has received numerous positive reviews from critics and went on to win numerous prestigious awards in 2008, such as the [National Book Critics Circle Award](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Book_Critics_Circle_Award) and the [Pulitzer Prize for Fiction](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pulitzer_Prize_for_Fiction). |
| **Recommendations:** * **A newer hit! Students have enjoyed this.**
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**Enrique’s Journey –**

In this astonishing true story, award-winning journalist Sonia Nazario recounts the unforgettable odyssey of a Honduran boy who braves unimaginable hardship and peril to reach his mother in the United States. When Enrique is five years old, his mother, Lourdes, too poor to feed her children, leaves Honduras to work in the United States. The move allows her to send money back home to Enrique so he can eat better and go to school past the third grade. – goodreads 3.8

**Last Min. Addition: Into the Beautiful North – Look into it. Amazon best seller list for Hispanic Fiction**

Nineteen-year-old Nayeli works at a taco shop in her Mexican village and dreams about her father, who journeyed to the US to find work. Recently, it has dawned on her that he isn't the only man who has left town. In fact, there are almost no men in the village--they've all gone north. While watching *The Magnificent Seven,* Nayeli decides to go north herself and recruit seven men--her own "Siete Magníficos"--to repopulate her hometown and protect it from the bandidos who plan on taking it over.

Filled with unforgettable characters and prose as radiant as the Sinaloan sun, INTO THE BEAUTIFUL NORTH is the story of an irresistible young woman's quest to find herself on both sides of the fence. Though the Spanglish can be tough for the uninitiated to detangle, the colorful characters, strong narrative and humor carry this surprisingly uplifting and very human story. – Amazon