



OAKLAND SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS

3rd Annual Latinx Literature Read In Week Recommended Booklist

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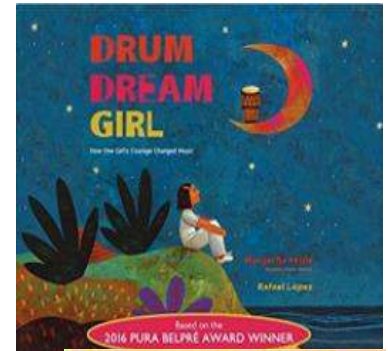
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TK - 2nd Grade Recommended Books

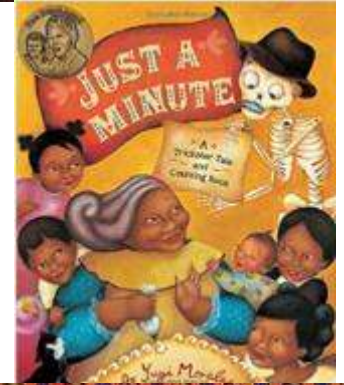
1. “Drum Dream Girl” by Margarita Engle

A wonderfully illustrated book that was inspired by a Chinese-African-Cuban girl who broke Cuba’s traditional taboo against female drummers. “*Girls cannot be drummers.*” Long ago on an island filled with music, no one questioned that rule—until the drum dream girl. In her city of drumbeats, she dreamed of pounding tall congas and tapping small bongós. She had to keep quiet. She had to practice in secret. But when at last her dream-bright music was heard, everyone sang and danced and decided that both girls and boys should be free to drum and dream.



2. “Just a Minute” by Yuyi Morales

What's an old woman to do when a skeleton pays her a birthday visit and beckons her to "come along"? "Just a minute," she says; there's something she needs to do. One chore leads to another, but the skeleton can't mask his enthusiasm as Grandma cooks, fills piñatas, and performs other tasks, each one linked to a number from 1 to 10, *uno* to *diez*. Eventually *nueve* grandchildren arrive for Grandma's birthday party, and guess who else is invited? Even if children don't grasp the implications of the skeleton's visit, they'll enjoy seeing him join the fun.



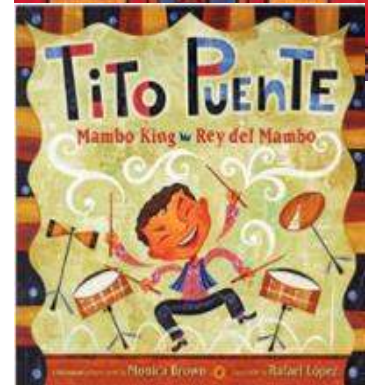
3. “Quinito’s Neighborhood | El Vecindario de Quinito” by Ina Cumpiano

Quinito's neighborhood is made up of more than just buildings, streets, and shops — it's made up of people he knows and loves. Each person has an important job to do, and each knows and values every member of the community. Readers meet them on this delightful neighborhood tour. His cousin Tita, who learns how to make people laugh in clown school. His aunt, who paints murals to brighten up the streets. Rafi, who bakes bread, and Luis Manuel, who sells it. Highlighted by José Ramírez's energetic, jewel-like illustrations, “Quinito's Neighborhood” inspires readers to explore and appreciate their own neighborhoods.



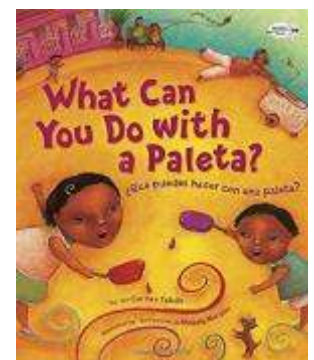
4. “Tito Puente” by Rafael Lopez

In this vibrant bilingual picture book biography of musician Tito Puente, readers will dance along to the beat of this mambo king's life. Tito Puente loved banging pots and pans as a child, but what he really dreamed of was having his own band one day. From Spanish Harlem to the Grammy Awards—and all the beats in between—this is the true life story of a boy whose passion for music turned him into the "King of Mambo."



5. “What Can You Do with a Paleta?” By Carmen Tafola

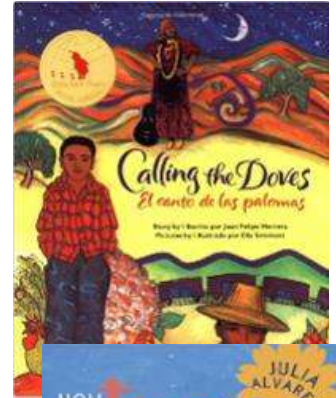
Charming bilingual book about paletas, the traditional Mexican popsicle treat. As she strolls through her barrio, a young girl introduces readers to the frozen, fruit-flavored treat that thrills Mexican and Mexican-American children. Create a masterpiece, make tough choices (strawberry or coconut?), or cool off on a warm summer's day - there's so much to do with a paleta.



3rd - 5th Grade Recommended Books

1. **Calling the Doves/El canto de las palomas** by Juan Felipe Herrera

Now available in paperback, poet Juan Felipe Herrera's bilingual memoir paints a vivid picture of his migrant farmworker childhood. His rich, evocative prose re-creates the joy of eating under the open sky, celebrating at a fiesta with other farm families, and listening to his mother singing Mexican songs and his father calling the doves. This book is a welcome alternative to the usually bleak portrayal of the migrant farmworker experience, this is an inspirational self-portrait of a loving Latino family.



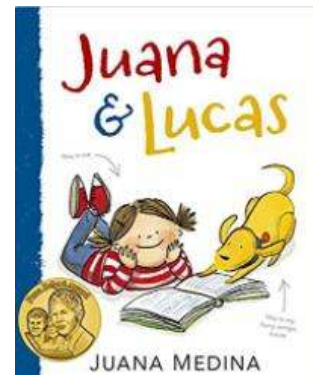
2. **“How Tía Lola Saved Summer”** by Julia Alvarez

Miguel Guzman isn't exactly looking forward to the summer now that his mother has agreed to let the Sword family—a father, his three daughters, and their dog—live with them while they decide whether or not to move to Vermont. Little does Miguel know his aunt has something up her sleeve that just may make this the best summer ever. With her usual flair for creativity and fun, Tía Lola decides to start a summer camp for Miguel, his little sister, and the three Sword girls, complete with magical swords, nighttime treasure hunts, campfires, barbecues, and surprise!



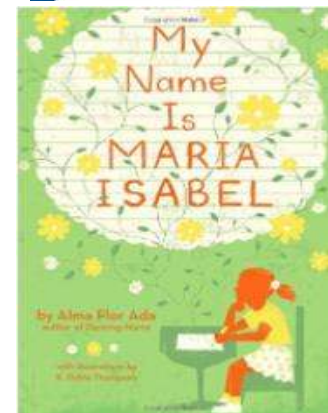
3. **“Juana and Lucas”** by Juana Medina

Juana loves many things — drawing, eating Brussels sprouts, living in Bogotá, Colombia, and especially her dog, Lucas, the best *amigo* ever. She does *not* love wearing her itchy school uniform, solving math problems, or going to dance class. And she especially does not love learning the English. Why is it so important to learn a language that makes so little sense? But when Juana's *abuelos* tell her about a special trip they are planning, Juana begins to wonder whether learning the English might be a good use of her time after all. Hilarious, energetic, and utterly relatable, Juana will win over the hearts of readers everywhere.



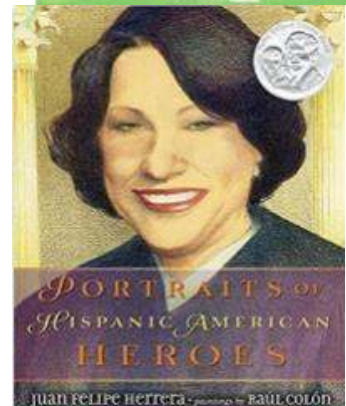
4. **“My Name is María Isabel”** by Alma Flor Ada

For María Isabel Salazar López, the hardest thing about being the new girl in school is that the teacher doesn't call her by her real name. "We already have two Marías in this class," says her teacher. "Why don't we call you Mary instead?" But María Isabel has been named for her Papá's mother and for Chabela, her beloved Puerto Rican grandmother. Can she find a way to make her teacher see that if she loses her name, she's lost the most important part of herself?



5. **“Portraits of Hispanic American Heroes”** by Juan Felipe Herrera

An inspiring tribute to Hispanic Americans who have made a positive impact on the world. This stunning book showcases 20 Hispanic and Latino American men and women who have made outstanding contributions to the arts, politics, science, humanitarianism, and athletics.



6th - 8th Grade Recommended Books

From ReadBrightly.com by Cindy L. Rodriguez

1. “BRAVO! Poems About Amazing Hispanics” by Maria Engle

The Latinxs featured in this collection are from different countries and backgrounds, which is important to note because Latin American culture can be misperceived as a monolith. Biographical poems celebrate the accomplishments of Aida de Acosta, César Chávez, Fabiola Cabeza de Baca, José Martí, Julia de Burgos, Pura Belpré, Roberto Clemente, Tito Puente, and Tomás Rivera, among others.

2. “The Epic Fail of Arturo Zamora” by Pablo Cartaya

Set during a Miami summer, Arturo spends his time playing basketball, sipping mango smoothies, keeping cool under banyan trees, and working a few shifts as a dishwasher at Abuela’s restaurant. But this summer also includes Carmen, a cute girl who moves into Arturo’s apartment complex, the poetry of José Martí, and a shady land developer. This novel sounds like a great mix of family, first romance, and community involvement set in a city steeped in Cuban culture.

3. “The First Rule of Punk” by Celia C. Pérez

The main character — full name María Luisa — loves rock music, skateboarding, zines, and Soyrizo, minus the cilantro. When she starts a band with a group of like-minded misfits at school, she finally begins to feel at home. She’ll do anything to preserve this, which includes standing up to an anti-punk school administration. The themes of non-conformity and social protest are perfect for middle grade readers.

4. “Stef Soto, Taco Queen” by Jennifer Torres

Estefania “Stef” Soto wants nothing to do with her family’s taco truck, which gets her labeled “Taco Queen” at school. She wants her dad to get a normal job, but when her family’s livelihood is threatened, Stef will become the truck’s unlikely champion. I think any middle grade reader will relate to Stef being generally mortified by her parents, even when they are acting “normal.” Learning not to be “so embarrassed” and to be proud of family is an important and relatable theme for middle schoolers.

5. “Us, In Progress: Short Stories About Young Latinos” by Lulu Delacre

Puerto Rican author Lulu Delacre writes 12 short stories about what it means to be Latinx in the U.S. today. Readers will meet a young girl who spends the day on her father’s burrito truck, two sisters working together to change the older sister’s immigration status, and more. Short stories are often the just-right thing for reluctant readers who have low reading stamina.



9th - 12th Grade Recommended Books

1. “Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe” by Benjamin Alire Sáenz

Set in El Paso, “Aristotle and Dante Discover The Secrets of the Universe” is the story of two loners who strike up an unusual friendship and later, something more. This book is great for teenagers (particular gay teenagers) who think they're alone in the world and in their struggles. This book is a reminder that everyone will find their place and their people. That's a lesson every teen wants to hear and one every gay teen growing up on the border needs to hear.

2. “Enchanted Air: Two Cultures: Two Wings: a Memoir” Margarita Engle

Margarita is a girl from two worlds. Her heart lies in Cuba, her mother's island country, a place so lush with vibrant life that it seems like a fairy tale kingdom. But most of the time she lives in Los Angeles, lonely in the noisy city and dreaming of the summers when she can take a plane through the enchanted air to her beloved island. Then a revolution breaks out in Cuba. When the hostility between Cuba and the United States erupts at the Bay of Pigs Invasion, Margarita's worlds collide in the worst way. How can the countries she loves hate each other so much?

3. “The House on Mango Street” by Sandra Cisneros

The book follows Mexican-American child Esperanza as she struggles to find a way to achieve her dreams while staying true to her roots in the humble house on Mango Street. Told through a series of vignettes, the novel beautifully captures the spirit and culture of her Mexican-American neighborhood.

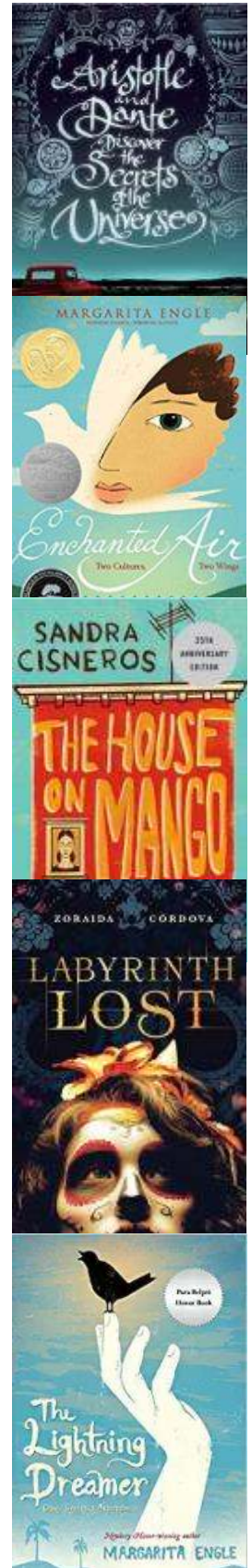
4. “Labyrinth Lost” by Zoraida Cordova

Few novels explore the superstitions of various Latinx communities, a huge missed opportunity for publishers and authors. In “Labyrinth Lost”, Cordova draws inspiration from Ecuadorian, Spanish, African, Mexican, and Caribbean folklore and mythology to craft a page turning tale about a young bruja unsure of her place in the world.

Determined to reject her future as a witch, Alex accidentally sends her family tumbling into another dimension. Now, she and a mysterious brujo (Nova) must travel into the unknown to reclaim her family and close the portal between worlds.

5. “The Lightning Dreamer” by Margarita Engle

Opposing slavery in Cuba in the nineteenth century was dangerous. The most daring abolitionists were poets who veiled their work in metaphor. Of these, the boldest was Gertrudis Gómez de Avellaneda, nicknamed Tula. In passionate, accessible verses of her own, Engle evokes the voice of this book-loving feminist and abolitionist who bravely resisted an arranged marriage at the age of fourteen, and was ultimately courageous enough to fight against injustice. Historical notes, excerpts, and source notes round out this exceptional tribute.



Additional Recommended Books, the Long List!

Organized by Grade Level (Lowest to Highest), then Author's Last Name

Title	Author First Name	Author Last Name	Grade Level
The Christmas Tree/ El arbol de Navidad	Alma Flor	Ada	TK – K
¿Quién nacerá aquí?	Alma Flor	Ada	TK – K
La tataranieta cucarachita	Alma Flor	Ada	TK – K
Los 6 deseos de la jirafa	Alma Flor	Ada	TK – K
Sale el oso	Alma Flor	Ada	TK – K
Why are you doing that?	Amado, Elisa	Amado	TK – K
Lightkeepers to the Rescue!	Marisa	de Jesus Paolicelli	TK – K
The Bossy Gallito/El Gallo de Bodas	Lucia M.	Gonzalez	TK – K
Maria had a little llama / María tenía una llamita	Angela	Dominguez	K – 1
Secret Footprints	Julia	Alvarez	K – 2
Jimmy the Greatest!	Jairo	Buitrago	K – 2
Ten Little Puppies/ Diez Perritos	Isabel	Campoy	K – 2
Be My Valentine	Isabel	Campoy	K – 2
The New Hamster	Isabel	Campoy	K – 2
Year by Year	Isabel	Campoy	K – 2
My Place	Isabel	Campoy	K – 2
Parents' Night	Isabel	Campoy	K – 2
Last Stop on Market Street	Matt	de la Peña	K – 2
Abuela	Arthur	Dorros	K – 2
Little Roja Riding Hood	Susan Middleton	Elya	K – 2
The Empanadas That Abuela Made	Diane	Gonzales Bertrand	K – 2
Tiger, Tiger	Susan	Guevara	K – 2
Señor Pancho had a rancho	René Colato	Laínez	K – 2
Viva Frida	Yuyi	Morales	K – 2
Just a Minute: A Trickster Tale and Counting Book	Yuyi	Morales	K – 2
Chato and the Party Animals	Gary	Soto	K – 2
What Can You Do with a Paleta? / ¿Qué puedes hacer con una paleta?	Carmen	Tafolla	K – 2
What Can You Do with a Rebozo? / ¿Qué puedes hacer con un rebozo?	Carmen	Tafolla	K – 2
Mi familia calaca / My skeleton family	Cynthia	Weill	K – 2
I Love Saturdays and Domingos	Alma Flor	Ada	K – 3
La lagartija y el sol	Alma Flor	Ada	K – 3
Xochitl and the Flowers: Xóchitl, la Niña de las Flores	Jorge	Argueta	K – 3
Salsa: Un poema para cocinar / A Cooking Poem (Bilingual Cooking Poems)	Jorge	Argueta	K – 3
Guacamole: Un poema para cocinar / A Cooking Poem (Bilingual Cooking Poems)	Jorge	Argueta	K – 3
Tamalitos: Un poema para cocinar / A Cooking Poem	Jorge	Argueta	K – 3

(Bilingual Cooking Poems)			
Arroz con leche / Rice Pudding: Un poema para cocinar / A Cooking Poem (Bilingual Cooking Poems)	Jorge	Argueta	K – 3
Sopa de frijoles/Bean Soup (Bilingual Cooking Poems)	Jorge	Argueta	K – 3
Talking with Mother Earth / Hablando con madre tierra: Poems / Poemas	Jorge	Argueta	K – 3
My Colors, My World / mis colores, mi mundo	Maya Christina	Gonzalez	K – 3
Doña Flor	Pat	Mora	K – 3
Niño Wrestles the World	Yuyi	Morales	K – 3
Big Bushy Mustache	Gary	Soto	K – 3
Chato's Kitchen	Gary	Soto	K – 3
Chato Goes Cruising	Gary	Soto	K – 3
Green is a Chile Pepper	Roseanne Thong	Greenfield	K – 4
Snapshots from the Wedding	Gary	Soto	K – 4
The Old Man and His Door	Gary	Soto	K – 5
There's a Coqui in My Shoe	Marisa	de Jesus Paolicelli	K – 6
The Cazuela that the Farm Maiden Stirred	Samantha	Vamos	K – 6
Viva Frida	Yuyi	Morales	1 – 2
Dear Primo: a letter to my cousin	Duncan	Tonatiuh	1 – 2
Kikiriki / Quiquiriqui	Diane	de Anda	1 – 3
Drum Dream Girl	Margarita	Engle	1 – 3
The Storyteller's Candle	Lucia	Gonzalez	1 – 4
My Very Own Room / Mi propio cuartito	Irma	Perez Amada	1 – 4
A Gift from Papá Diego / Un regalo de Papá Diego	Benjamin Alire	Saenz	1 – 4
Family Pictures / Cuadros de familia	Carmen Lomas	Garza	1 – 5
In My Family / En Mi Familia	Carmen Lomas	Garza	1 – 5
Martina the Beautiful Cockroach: A Cuban Folktale	Carmen	Agra	1 – 5
The Harvest Bird	Blanca	Lopez de Mariscal	1 – 5
Laughing Tomatoes and Other Spring Poems / Jitomates Risueños y otros poemas de primavera	Francisco	Alarcon	2 – 3
Me, Frida	Amy	Novesky	2 – 3
Dear Primo: A Letter to My Cousin	Duncan	Tonatiuh	2 – 3
Side by side: the story of Dolores Huerta and César Chávez / Lado a lado: la historia de Dolores Huerta y César Chávez	Monica	Brown	2 – 5
Sonia Sotomayor: a judge grows in the Bronx / Sonia Sotomayor: la juez que creció en el Bronx	Jonah	Winter	2 – 5
Separate is never equal: Sylvia Mendez and her family's fight for desegregation	Duncan	Tonatiuah	2 – 7
Abuela's Weave	Omar	Castaneda	3 – 3
How Tía Lola Came to Visit Stay	Julia	Alvarez	3 – 5
Book Fiesta!: Celebrate Children's Day/Book Day; Celebramos El día de los niños/El día de los libros	Pat	Mora	3 – 5
Celebrations	Isabel	Campoy	3 – 5

Food for Fun	Isabel	Campoy	3 – 5
My School Year	Isabel	Campoy	3 – 5
Observe, Think, Try!	Isabel	Campoy	3 – 5
The ABCs of My School	Isabel	Campoy	3 – 5
The Science Fair	Isabel	Campoy	3 – 5
Two Fridas	Isabel	Campoy	3 – 5
What Should I Be?	Isabel	Campoy	3 – 5
Tomas and the Library Lady	Pat	Mora	3 – 5
If the Shoe Fits	Gary	Soto	3 – 5
La Bamba	Gary	Soto	3 – 5
Off and Running	Gary	Soto	3 – 5
The Cat's Meow	Gary	Soto	3 – 5
The Pool Party	Gary	Soto	3 – 5
Marisol	Gary	Soto	3 – 5
Dancing Home	Alma	Flor Ada	3 – 7
Too Many Tamales	Gary Soto	Soto	3 – 7
Celebra de Día de Acción de Gracias	Alma Flor	Ada	3 – 8
Hairs/ Pelitos	Sandra	Cisneros	4 – 5
My Name is Maria Isabel / Me llamo Mariá Isabel	Alma Flor	Ada	4 – 5
Los ángeles andan en bicicleta	Francisco X.	Alarcón	4 – 5
Under Royal Palms	Alma Flor	Ada	4 – 6
Esperanza Rising / Esperanza Renace	Pam	Munos Ryan	4 – 6
Boys at Work	Gary	Soto	4 – 7
Fearless Fernie: Hanging out with Fernie and Me	Gary	Soto	4 – 7
Pacific Crossing	Gary	Soto	4 – 7
Petty Crimes	Gary	Soto	4 – 7
The Skirt	Gary	Soto	4 – 7
Cajas de cartón	Francisco	Jimenez	5 – 5
Yes! We are Latinos	Alma Flor	Ada	5 – 8
Breaking Through	Francisco	Jimenez	5 – 8
Becoming Naomi León	Pam	Munos Ryan	5 – 8
Baseball in April	Gary	Soto	5 – 8
La mariposa	Francisco	Jimenez	6 – 5
El bosque de los pigmeos	Isabel	Allende	6 – 8
This is Who I Am	Isabel	Campoy	6 – 8
The Circuit: Stories from the Life of a Migrant Child	Francisco	Jimenez	6 – 8
Broken Chain	Gary	Soto	6 – 8
Buried Onions	Gary	Soto	6 – 8
Crazy Weekend	Gary	Soto	6 – 8
Fire in My Hands	Gary	Soto	6 – 8
Help Wanted: Stories	Gary	Soto	6 – 8
Local News	Gary	Soto	6 – 8
Neighborhood Odes	Gary	Soto	6 – 8
Small Faces	Gary	Soto	6 – 8
Summer on Wheels	Gary	Soto	6 – 8

Taking Sides	Gary	Soto	6 – 8
The Afterlife	Gary	Soto	6 – 8
The Jumping Tree: A Novel	Rene	Saldana	6 – 9
Reaching Out	Francisco	Jimenez	6 – 12
Taking Hold: From Migrant Childhood to Columbia University	Francisco	Jimenez	6 – 12
Más allá de mí	Francisco	Jimenez	6 – 12
Senderos Fronterizos	Francisco	Jimenez	6 – 12
Burn Baby Burn	Meg	Medina	6 – 12
My Diary from Here to There / Mi diario de aqui hasta allá	Amada	Perez	6 – 12
Before We Were Free	Julia	Alvarez	7 – 10
Cuba 15	Nancy	Osa	7 – 10
Accidental Love	Gary	Soto	7 – 10
Silver People: Voices from the Panama Canal	Margarita	Engle	7 – 12
Love is the Drug	Alaya Dawn	Johnson	7 – 12
La ciudad de las bestias	Isabel	Allende	7 – 8
Jesse	Gary	Soto	7 – 9
Show and Prove	Sophia	Quintero	8 – 12
The Hunted	Matt	de la Peña	9 – 12
The Living	Matt	de la Peña	9 – 12
The Surrender Tree: Poems of Cuba's Struggle for Freedom	Margarita	Engle	9 – 12
Even if the Sky Falls	Mia	Garcia	9 – 12
The Summer Prince	Alaya Dawn	Johnson	9 – 12
Eye from the Edge	Ruben	Llamas	9 – 12
Parrot in the Oven: Mi Vida	Victor	Martinez	9 – 12
Shadowshaper	Daniel Jose	Older	9 – 12
An Island Like You: Stories of the Barrio	Judith	Ortiz Cofer	9 – 12
Gabi, A Girl in Pieces	Isabel	Quintero	9 – 12
Always Running	Luis	Rodriguez	9 – 12
More Happy than Not	Adam	Silvera	9 – 12
A Summer Life	Gary	Soto	9 – 12
Jessie de la Cruz: Profile of a United Farm Worker	Gary	Soto	9 – 12
Living Up the Street	Gary	Soto	9 – 12
Nerdlandia: A Play	Gary	Soto	9 – 12