



# The Booklist Project

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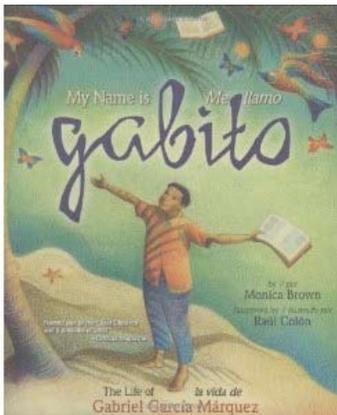


Focus: A Multicultural booklist  
for Latinos

Developed by: Karen Wargo  
FALL 2012

All of my ELL students this year are from Latino backgrounds. I wanted to create a collection of books focusing on Latinos, who demonstrate each of Howard Gardner's multiple intelligences (Visual, Linguistic, Logical, Bodily, Musical, Interpersonal, Intrapersonal, Naturalistic). I chose books about people with Latino backgrounds, so that the Latino-background children could relate to the people in books. I plan to use most of the books as read alouds for grades 1 to 3, so that we can discuss the person highlighted. I tried to find either bilingual books or books available in Spanish and English, so that the ELL students could take the books home to read with their families.

## 1. Word Smart (Linguistic)



Brown, Monica. (2007). *My name is Gabito: The life of Gabriel Garcia Marquez*. Flagstaff, AZ.: Luna Rising.

**ISBN:** 0-87358-908-4

This book is about the childhood of Gabriel Garcia Marquez. He is a Columbian Nobel Prize-winning author. The story is about Gabriel as a boy and how he became one of the world's great storytellers. The oil pastel illustrations make this a visually interesting read aloud. I think that this book would be good for English Language Learners because it highlights one of the great Latino writers. It also discusses how he used his imagination to become a storyteller. Additionally, the format of this book is great for ELLs because it is bilingual.

### **Awards:**

- 2008 Pura Belpré Honor Book
- Latino Book Award Best Children's Picture Book - English -2nd Place



Brown, M., & Paschkis, J. (2011). *Pablo Neruda: poet of the people*. New York, New York: Henry Hold Company.

**ISBN:** 978-0-8050-9198-4

This book is about Chilean poet, Pablo Neruda. The book starts with Pablo's childhood and follows him to adulthood, when he starts writing poetry. The illustrations are colorful and have both English and Spanish words embedded into the design. I think this is a good book to use with ELL students because it highlights how to find words all around us by noticing the things we love. ELL students would benefit from a class discussion about all of the English and Spanish words in the illustrations.

**Reading level:** Lexile: AD970L, 4.3

**WIDA Level:** High Developing, Expanding

**Available formats:**

Language: English

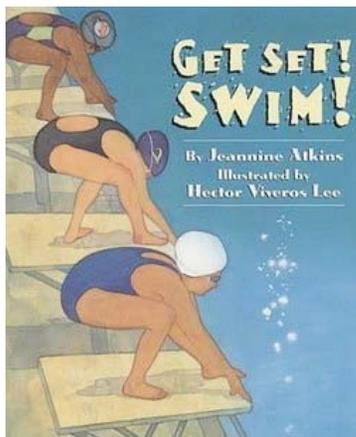
Hardcover edition

**Online Resources:**

<http://www.monicabrown.net/books/neruda.html>

[http://redpoppy.net/pablo\\_neruda.php](http://redpoppy.net/pablo_neruda.php) (background information)

### 3. Body Smart



Atkins, Jeannine. (1998). *Get Set! Swim!* New York: Lee and Low Books.

**ISBN:** 978-1600603365

This book is about a young girl, Jessenia, who is preparing for her first swim meet. Jessenia is excited and scared, and her mom comforts her before the big meet. The colorful illustrations depict individuals from

diverse cultural groups. I think this a good book to use with ELL students who have a Puerto Rican background, because the mom talks about memories from Puerto Rico. It is a simple story, which children could identify with. Also, ELLs could connect to some of the simple Spanish words that are used in the dialogue.

**Reading Level:** Lexile Measure: 680, 3.4

**WIDA Level:** Expanding

**Available Formats:**

Language: available in Spanish and English

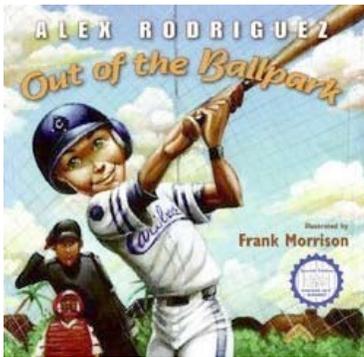
Hardcover and paperback editions

**Online resources:**

[http://www.leeandlow.com/p/swim\\_tg.mhtml](http://www.leeandlow.com/p/swim_tg.mhtml)

[http://www.jeannineatkins.com/books/get\\_swim.htm](http://www.jeannineatkins.com/books/get_swim.htm)

## 4. Body Smart



Rodriguez, A. (2007). *Out of the ballpark*. New York: HarperCollins Children's Books.

**ISBN:** 0-06-115194-7

**Reading Level:** Lexile: 590L, 2.8

**WIDA Level:** Developing to Expanding

This book is a fictional story of Alex Rodriguez, third baseman for the New York Yankees. The book discusses teamwork and family. The book also covers the concept that you can achieve your dreams if you work hard. Colorful and dramatic illustrations make this an interesting read aloud. I think this is a good book for ELL students, with a Dominican background, since baseball is a popular sport in the Dominican Republic. The text is clear, allowing students to understand the story easily.

**Available Formats:**

Language: available in Spanish and English

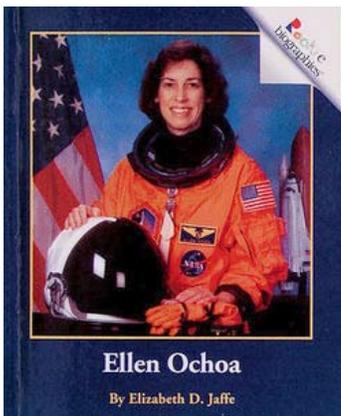
Hardcover and paperback editions

Kindle edition

**Online Resources:**

<http://www.teachingbooks.net/tb.cgi?tid=5210>

## 5. Math/Science Smart (Logical)



Jaffe, E. D. (2004). *Ellen Ochoa*. New York: Children's Press.

**ISBN:** 0-516-25827-3

This book is about Ellen Ochoa, the first Hispanic female astronaut to go to space. This short, fact-packed biography makes an interesting independent read. I think this is a good book for ELL students because the colorful photographs support the text directly. And, there is a “Words to Know” section at the back of the book, which uses photographs to help define the words.

**Reading Level:** Lexile: 280L, 2.5

**WIDA Level:** Developing

**Available Formats:**

Language: English

Hardcover and paperback editions

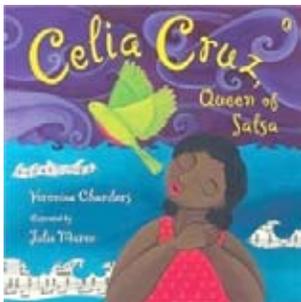
**Online resources:**

<http://teacherlink.ed.usu.edu/tlresources/units/byrnes-famous/ochoa.html#objectives> (For grades 5-6)

<http://www.jsc.nasa.gov/Bios/htmlbios/ochoa.html>

<http://www.biography.com/people/ellen-ochoa-10413023>

## 6. Music Smart



Chambers, Veronica. (2005). *Celia Cruz, queen of salsa*. New York: Penguin Group.

**ISBN:** 0-14-240779-8

This book is about the life of Celia Cruz, a famous Cuban-American singer, who is also known as “Queen of Salsa.” The illustrations in this book are vibrant and have a tropical feel to them. I think this a good book for ELL students, because although Celia spoke English well she refused to record her music in English. A class discussion about honoring both languages would benefit ELL students. Also, there are some Spanish words used throughout the book.

**Reading Level:** Guided Reading Level: M, 5.1

**WIDA Level:** High Developing, Expanding

### Available Formats:

Language: English

Hardcover and paperback editions

Audible Audio Edition

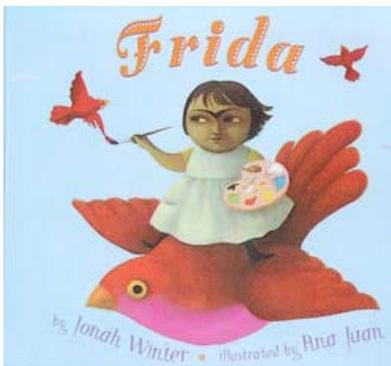
### Online Resources:

<http://americanhistory.si.edu/celiacruz/printable/downloads/PDF/Autobiography%20though%20Objects.Kto4.pdf> (grades 3-4)

<http://www.enotes.com/cruz-celia-reference/cruz-celia>

<http://music.yahoo.com/videos/rie-y-llora-28148440.html> (music video)

## 7. Art Smart



Winter, Jonah. (2002). *Frida*. New York: Scholastic.

**ISBN:** 0-590-20320-7

This book is about the life of Mexican painter Frida Kahlo, who had a difficult life. She had polio as a child and was in a terrible accident when she was 18. The book shows how Frida Kahlo turned the challenges of her life into art. The acrylic illustrations have a traditional Mexican folk-art feel to them, which make this a very visually appealing book. I think this is a good book for ELL students because the simple text can lead to deeper conversations about how to be happy despite great difficulties in your life.

**Reading Level:** Lexile: AD280L, 2.5

**WIDA Level:** Emerging and Developing

**Available Formats:**

Language: available in Spanish and English (Spanish is 3.4)

Hardcover and paperback editions

**Awards:**

ALA Notable Book

Américas Award Honor Book

Society of Illustrators' Original Art Show selection

Parenting Magazine Best Book of 2002

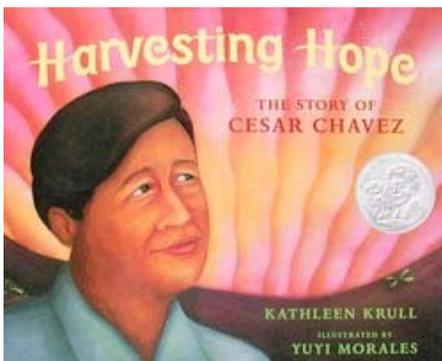
2002 Parents' Choice Gold Award (includes both English and Spanish texts)

National Association of Parenting Publications Gold Award

**Online resources:**

<http://betterlesson.com/lesson/79145/frida-by-jonah-winter> (2nd grade lesson)

## 8. People Smart (Interpersonal)



Krull, K., & Morales, Y. (2003). *Harvesting hope: The story of Cesar Chavez*. Orlando, FL: Harcourt, Inc.

**ISBN-** 0152014373

This book is about the life of Cesar Chavez, who is known as a civil rights leaders and labor leader. The story tells how he grew up and one day stood up for the rights of all farm workers. The well-illustrated book carries the story of strength and hope. I think this is a good book for ELL students because the book can have potentially familiar cultural content for the students, which can help students to think at a deeper level about immigrant workers and civil rights.

**Reading Level:** Lexile: AD800L, 5.6

**WIDA Level:** High Developing, Expanding

### **Available Formats**

Language: available in Spanish and English

Hardcover and paperback editions

Audio Cassette

### **Awards:**

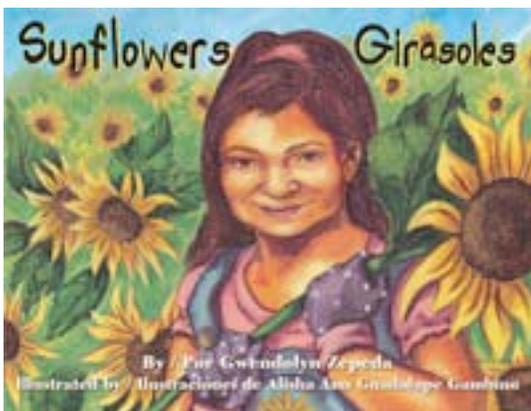
ALA Pura Belpre Honor Book ALA Notable Children's Book 2003 Picture Book Award, Jane Addams Peace Association Winner of 2004 Christopher Award

### **Online resources:**

<http://www.yuyimorales.com/guide.pdf>

[http://www.highsmith.com/pdf/librarysparks/2009/lsp\\_aug09\\_lib\\_lessons.pdf](http://www.highsmith.com/pdf/librarysparks/2009/lsp_aug09_lib_lessons.pdf) (grades 2-5)

## 9. Nature Smart



Zepeda, Gwendolyn. (2009). *Sunflowers/Girasoles*. Houston, Tex.: Piñata Books.

**ISBN:** 978-1558852679

This book is about a seven-year-old girl who plants a garden with her grandfather. Her grandfather teaches her about many different vegetables and plants. The paintings in the book are colorful. The format of this book is great for ELL students because it is bilingual, with Spanish and English throughout the book. Also, it shows a close family relationship with her grandfather.

**Reading level:** Accelerated Reader: 2.7

**WIDA Level:** Developing

**Awards:** 2009 Austin Public Library Friends Foundation Award

### **Available Formats**

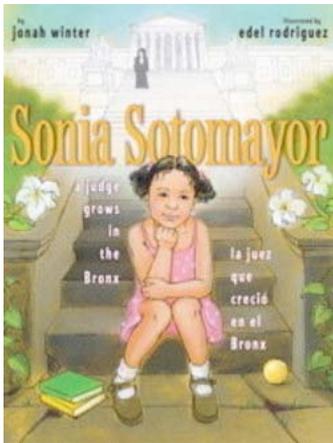
Language: Bilingual, available in Spanish and English

Hardcover edition

### **Online Resources:**

[http://www.vangoghgallery.com/lesson\\_plans/](http://www.vangoghgallery.com/lesson_plans/) (students practice measuring and counting through the use of Van Gogh's *Sunflowers*)

## 10. Self Smart (Intrapersonal)



Winter, J., & Rodriguez, E. (2009). *Sonia Sotomayor: a judge grows in the bronx /Sonia Sotomayor: un juez crece en el bronx*. New York, New York: Atheneum Books For Young Readers.

**ISBN:** 978-1442403031

**Reading Level:** Lexile: NC840L, 5.0

**WIDA Level:** High Developing, Expanding (and Bridging)

This book is about the life of Sonia Sotomayor, the first Latin American Supreme Court Justice. The story follows her from a child until she is nominated as a Supreme Court Justice. The colorful illustrations help reinforce the story. I think this book is good for ELL students, because the format is bilingual, with Spanish and English throughout. The story is very motivating because it teaches us that no matter what our race or gender, we can still make a difference in the world.

### **Available Formats:**

Language: Bilingual, available in Spanish and English

Hardcover and Kindle editions

### **Online Resources:**

[http://books.simonandschuster.com/Sonia-Sotomayor/Jonah-Winter/9781442403031/reading\\_group\\_guide](http://books.simonandschuster.com/Sonia-Sotomayor/Jonah-Winter/9781442403031/reading_group_guide)

<http://teaching.monster.com/training/articles/9077-lesson-justice-sotomayor-hispanic-heritage-month>  
(for higher grades, but useful background information on Sonia Sotomayor)

<http://www.biography.com/people/sonia-sotomayor-453906>

REACH. INSPIRE. CONNECT.



## The Booklist Project

A Project of the  
M.Ed. In TESL Program,



Feinstein School of Education and Human  
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