



TEN MUST-READ CHICANO/LATINO TITLES

Compiled by Jesse Tijerina, Chicano Literature Specialist

1. Anaya, Rudolfo A.. **Bless Me, Ultima**. Recently reprinted in an edition including educational ideas on how to teach the book. His two following books; **Heart of Aztlan**, and **Tortuga** which complete the Anaya trilogy should also be read. Chicano Lit. (High School)
2. Cisneros, Sandra. **The House On Mango Street**. A coming of age classic of a young Chicana growing up in a Chicago barrio. Because of its style, being written in short, vignette-like chapters, all ages will enjoy certain chapters of the book. The chapter titled *Hairs* has also been published in a picture book with bilingual text titled, **Hairs/Pelitos**. All Cisneros is worth reading. Chicano Lit.
3. Soto, Gary. **Chato's Kitchen**. A lovely picture book written in English with occasional short Spanish phrases. Complimented with illustrations by Susan Guevara. There is also a Spanish edition with occasional short English phrases; just as wonderful. All Soto picture books are a must. Chicano Lit. (1st–3rd grade)
4. Urrea, Luis Alberto. **Across The Wire: Life and Hard Times on the Mexican Border**. A remarkable piece of non-fiction allowing us to hear some of the stories of those who suffer and endure with great faith; life on the border. One of Chicano Literature's most prolific writers. A must. Chicano Lit. (High School)
5. Rivera, Tomas. **...y no se lo trago la tierra/And the Earth Did Not Part**. Two different translations; Hermini Rios-C is the preferred translation. A collection of vignettes about a young boy growing up within the Migrant stream. Chicano Lit. (7th–High School)
6. Jimenez, Francisco. **The Circuit**. A short and precise collection of short fiction revolving around the life of a migrant child. Like the Cisneros book, this book may apply to various ages. The story titled, *La Mariposa*, has been published as a picture book by Houghton Mifflin. Houghton Mifflin has just recently published **Breaking Through**, the sequel to Jimenez' first collection. Chicano Lit.
7. Soto, Gary. **Baseball in April**. A classic short story collection that has crossed over from Chicano Lit. into the huge array of juvenile short story collections. Influenced by his experiences of growing up poor and Mexican-American. By far one of the most active Chicano writers; an abundance of work spreading from picture books to juvenile non-fiction. All of which are worth reading. Chicano Lit. (Middle School)
8. Lopez, Tiffany Ana. **Growing Up Chicana/o**. An anthology of 20 Chicana/o writers writing about their childhoods. Included are the cornerstone writers of the Chicano literary canon: Anaya, Soto, Cisneros, and many more. Chicano Lit. (Upper Middle–High School)
9. Mohr, Nicholasa. **Nilda**. This, her first book, received the Jane Addams Children's Book Award, and the New York Times outstanding book of the year. Experiences of a first generation Puerto Rican-American girl growing up in Spanish Harlem. Her follow-up book, **El Bronx Remembered** was a finalist for the National Book Award 1976. Puerto Rican Lit. (Accelerated Middle–High School)
10. Diaz, Junot. **Drown**. A superb collection of short fiction; ten stories spanning from life in the barrios of the Dominican Republic to the struggling neighborhoods of New Jersey. A bit heavy with the language. A personal favorite. Dominican/Latino Lit. (High School)