

# Hispanic Lit For Teens

**Rice, David - *Crazy Loco***

A collection of nine stories about Mexican American kids growing up in the Rio Grande Valley of southern Texas.

**Ryan, Pam Munoz - *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.

**Ryan, Pam Munoz - *Becoming Naomi Leon***

When Naomi's absent mother resurfaces to claim her, Naomi runs away to Mexico with her great-grandmother and younger brother in search of her father.

**Sáenz, Benjamin Alire - *Sammy and Juliana in Hollywood***

As a Chicano boy living in the unglamorous town of Hollywood, New Mexico, and a member of the graduating class of 1969, Sammy Santos faces the challenges of "gringo" racism, unpopular dress codes, the Vietnam War, barrio violence, and poverty.

**Saldana, Jr., Rene - *Finding our Way***

This powerful collection of stories focuses on young adults living on the border of Texas and Mexico, with touching moments of family closeness,

lighthearted stories where boys love feisty girls; and snapshots of kids finding their way out of trouble and into the world.

**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.

**Non-Fiction:****Atkin, S. Beth - *Voices from the Fields***

Photographs, poems, and interviews with children reveal the hardships and hopes of Mexican American migrant farm workers and their families.

**Cockcroft, James D. - *Latino Visions: Contemporary Chicano, Puerto Rican, and Cuban American Artists***

Describes the evolution of Latino art in America through discussion of various artistic movements and important Latino artists.

**Novas, Himilce - *Everything You Need to Know About Latino History***

Organized in a question and answer format, this book is informative and

entertaining; "a comprehensive look at a multifaceted, vibrant, and influential culture."

**Stavans, Ilan - *Wachale! Poetry and Prose on Growing Up Latino in America***

A bilingual collection of poems, stories, and other writings which celebrates diversity among Latinos.

**Thomas, Piri - *Down These Mean Streets***

In Piri Thomas's classic memoir of the "barrio" of Spanish Harlem Thomas recounts his transformation from gang member, junkie, and stick-up man to poet of the streets. His memoir breathes new meaning into our notions of manhood, survival, and redemption.

**Winick, Judd - *Pedro and Me***

Told entirely in sequential art the story of the life-changing friendship between the author, a cartoonist from Long Island, and Pedro Zamora, an HIV-positive AIDS activist, which was filmed day by day on MTV's Real World San Francisco.

**Compiled by**

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*Desktop Publishing & Printing by RCLS*



## **Fiction:**

### **Anaya, Rudolfo - *Bless Me, Ultima***

When a curandera comes to stay with a young boy, he tests the bonds that tie him to his culture and finds himself in the secrets of the past.

### **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.

### **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.

### **Cameron, Ann - *Colibri***

Kidnapped when she was very young by an unscrupulous man who has forced her to lie and beg to get money, a twelve-year-old Mayan girl endures an abusive life, always wishing she could return to the parents she can hardly remember.

### **Chambers, Veronica - *Quinceanera Means Sweet 15***

Eagerly anticipating her Quinceanera, the fifteenth birthday celebration that will signify her adulthood, Marisol is troubled by a lack of money, her mother's new boyfriend, changes in her

best friend, and the absence of the father she never knew.

### **Cisneros, Sandra - *The House on Mango Street***

This is the story of Esperanza Cordero, whose neighborhood is one of harsh realities and harsh beauty. Esperanza doesn't want to belong - not to her run-down neighborhood, and not to the low expectations the world has for her. Esperanza's story is that of a young girl coming into her power, and inventing for herself what she will become.

### **Draper, Sharon - *Romiette and Julio***

Romiette, an African-American girl, and Julio, a Hispanic boy, discover that they attend the same high school after falling in love on the Internet, but are harrassed by a gang whose members object to interracial dating.

### **Ewing, Lynne - *Party Girl***

The death of her best friend Ana in a drive-by shooting causes fifteen-year-old Kata to question her position in the Los Angeles gang life.

### **Herrera, Juan Felipe - *CrashBoomLove***

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.

### **Jimenez, 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.

### **Jimenez, Francisco - *The Circuit***

An honest and powerful account of a family's journey to the fields of California and a life of constant moving. Seen through the eyes of a boy who longs for an education and the right to call one place home, this is a story of survival, faith, and hope. It is a journey that will open readers' hearts and minds.

### **Joseph, Lynn - *The Color of My Words***

When life gets difficult for Ana Rosa, a twelve-year-old would-be writer living in a small village in the Dominican Republic, she can depend on her older brother to make her feel better--until the life-changing events on her thirteenth birthday.

### **Little, Kimberley Griffiths - *Enchanted Runner***

Twelve-year-old Kendall, half Anglo and half Acoma, discovers his heritage and his destiny as a runner when he visits his great-grandfather's pueblo and finds a culture he used to hear about from his deceased mother.

### **Martinez, Manuel Luis - *Drift***

Robert Lomos' musician father has left. His mother has had a breakdown and moved to Los Angeles. Only his iron-willed grandmother remains. But Robert's got a plan: Duck trouble, save his money, and head to California to put the family back together. Trouble is, no one believes a delinquent Mexican American kid has a chance--least of all, Robert himself.

### **Mikaelsen, Ben - *Tree Girl***

While protected by the branches of one of the trees she loves to climb, Gabriela witnesses the destruction of her Mayan village and the murder of nearly all its inhabitants. She realizes that only by facing her fears can she have a future.

### **Osa, Nancy - *Cuba 15***

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.

### **Quinonez, Ernesto - *Bodega Dreams***

This powerful debut novel brilliantly evokes the trials of Chino, a smart, promising young man to whom Bodega, the king of Spanish Harlem, turns for a favor. Chino is drawn to Bodega's street-smart idealism, but soon finds himself in over his head, navigating an underworld of switchblade tempers, turncoat morality, and murder.