
“(This) book is Acosta's own account of coming of age as a Chicano in the psychedelic sixties, of taking on impossible cases while breaking all the rules of courtroom conduct, and of scrambling headlong in search of a personal and cultural identity. “


Readers witness the anguish of the families of missing sisters, wives, mothers and come to know their fear.


From the view of Norma, the wife of a rebel, we see a fictitious civil war seeming to be set in Chile, Peru, or Argentina.


A young Chilean enters the world of the Gold Rush in 1849. There she learns of a new world and follows a path to discover love, and takes a journey into what and who she really wants out of love.


A cultural and political look at color of skin and identity within one’s own culture.


This book is about the story of acculturation and maturation of three sisters from the Dominican Republic.


This novel takes place in the late 1800’s in the Dominican Republic and Cuba. The story flip-flops between the 1800’s and the early 1960’s where the main character’s daughter recounts the memory and poetry of her mother, Salome Urena. The daughter struggles with identity and sexuality and the rich history of her mother’s life.


A collection of essays on life, culture, identity and relationships. Autobiographical.

Anaya’s speech to graduating seniors that honors their achievement, but teaches them a lesson about the difficulty of education using a story about his friend, Jessie.


This novel chronicles a young boy’s struggle to understand the ancient ways of a *curandera* and Catholicism.


Essays about the many languages Mexican Americans speak, also about family sayings.


A cultural and political autobiography discussing Anzaldua’s most intimate thoughts about being a woman on the border and the importance of inclusion.


A poem about cultural identity.


This collection of poems depicts life for the author’s grandparents and his father growing up in Mexico. The poems follow a sequence of life that leads to discovery, pain, and visions of future life for generations of Mexicans who immigrate to the United States. The poems bring the writer in the lives of a family that would otherwise be forgotten not the memory be alive in this writing.


This is a collection of short stories and excerpts from prominent Latino writers including Julia Alvarez, Piri Thomas and Gloria Anzaldua among others.


Baca’s experience of learning to read and write in prison.


This collection of poems tells the story of a romance from beginning to end.

The story of a family on a ranch in New Mexico and the struggles of being a woman in a man’s world.


A memory of a story that Baca’s grandmother tells him about himself.


This is Baca’s memoir about learning the power of writing and poetry while in prison.


100 interviews of working and middle class Latinos on politics and socialization.


A collection of essays, lesson plans and mixed media about immigration and border issues.


This is a wonderful creative non-fiction account of a woman’s journeys over a 10-year period to Baja California. She notes the magical qualities of the region and recounts her adventures and sadness in the changing environment. She tells of music, food, and the warmthness of the people of the region.


A collection of essays on Chicano culture, experience and life in the U.S.


Buricaga describes the absence of Mexican Americans from the Postal Service’s series of stamps.


A short essay describing how writing healed a lot of her family and identity struggles.


A story of the importance of knowing your roots.

A novel which focuses on the letter correspondences between two Latina women. Through their letters we see the women grapple with culture, love and society.


An article about how Chavez learned about the social organization and leadership with very little formal education.


A coming of age story about Rocio Esquibel who defines who she is by her neighborhood which, in turn, is defined by the trees. She tries to find her way and create her world at night through her imagination into a magical world. It is there that she finds her strength to find what she loves: drama and stories.


A book about family, food and culture.


This novel tells the travels of a family’s annual trip from Chicago to Mexico City told from the perspective of a young girl in the family. The reader gets a humorous and detailed account of the family members.


This novel is a series of vignettes that tell the story of Esperanza and her struggles growing up.


This novel follows the path of a young man as he searches for the meaning of his life.


The story of a man who wants to test the theory that all man has good and evil that dwells within. He tests a small town by tempting them to do evil in exchange for money in the hopes that good will prevail.


This magical novel explores the power of the feminine through dance and the imaginative unconscious. Through dance and exploration of self, we see Athena find her place in this world as she mentors other women to find themselves.

An autobiographical look at discrimination and racial assumptions.


This collection of short stories carries women writers from all over Latin America. The stories explore love, personal identity, feminism, marriage, and strength.


A young girl crosses the border from San Diego into Tijuana in search of her roots.


The stories of Carmela, CA. reveal the settling of farm workers north east of Los Angeles in the early 1900’s. The reader gets a detailed looked at the characters, the neighborhood and development of the town of Carmelas.


30 Dominican males living in New Jersey and New York. Immigrants defining their identity. Includes stories about torn family structures, sexuality and coming of age.


Dominican boy who wants to be a famous writer. Includes stories about multi-generational curses in the family, troubles and tragedy. The idea that there is no escaping your family history.


An essay on identity and life in the United States for second generation families.


A ten year study. Not much ethnographic study, but statistical.


This novel is a portrait of life in a small town near Riverside, CA in the 1990’s. The characters are brought to life through culture, ritual, and struggles of life in poverty. Through the eyes of Perla, somewhat of the town curandera, we see the kaleidoscope of characters and how they struggle through poverty, crime, drugs, love, and immigration in a quickly changing world. **The author is a former Puente student.**

Two children learn of the socio-economic and political differences between Mexican and American in a Texas border town.


Garcia recounts the story of three generations of women and their connection of life to Cuba. Garcia explores the connection of the magical with politics and the thread that holds generations together with culture and identity.


A professor/journalist reads about a missing girl of Juarez and becomes entangled in researching the mystery.


Anthology of Latina writers, mainly about living in the western and southwestern United States.


Discusses the impact of globalization on a country bordering Haiti.


A book of spiritual revelation in a world inundated with pop culture.


A poem honoring and recounting the life of her much-loved father.


16 essays on media, music, movies and the need to study the Latino influence.


Latino popular culture across the United States.

Harjo, Suzan Shown. “Last Rites for Indian Dead.” Source unknown.

A discussion about museums holding Indian remains versus allowing them cultural peace in their own burial sites. Politics and education versus cultural beliefs and tradition.

Anthology of Latino Literature that focuses on border towns and cities in California.


The struggle of immigrants and second generation children in finding identity in a new country.


An essay explaining the role of family in the Latino culture.


A cultural analysis of the traditional quincenieria.


A personal essay on living in two cultures and the hypocrisy of parents wanting their children to have the best of both.


A boys view of how it is living in/as a migrant family where the idea of “home” is always changing.


This novel delves into the lives of several characters that are not favorable in the eyes of society, but gives the reader the inside look to make them warm and humane. The characters struggle in a search to find meaning in life.


An anthology of works from Chicano authors/topics covering issues in religion, culture, pop-culture, education and identity that concern the Latino population in the United States.


This novels follows an American journalist along with the women of the Lacadonian jungle in their fight and struggle of the 1994 Zapatista uprising. Juana and Adriana, though from opposite sides of the world, share a special bond in their fight to protect women.

Graciela takes the reader back to the violent taking of land by the Spaniards. The indigenous people there fight to keep culture and family together.


A fiction novel set in Alabama. Stories of a family of repeat misery through the generations and women who must learn to survive in an abusive home.


A story of love, heartbreak and a look into patient and unrequited love.


This story gives a detailed look at graffiti artists in Los Angeles. Martinez discusses the escape that it provides and a possible life outside of East LA.


A review and interview with Luis Valdez on Teatro Campesino and his intentions and meanings. Draws on examples in Teatro that correspond with Valdez’s experiences.


This book provides a great historical context for the understanding and evolution of Chicano Literature.


This anthology authors express their experiences with language and the cultural sentiment about Latin@s in the United States.


This is a collection of poems and short stories that embrace border issues. It is a combination of fiction and non-fiction that embodies life in San Diego and Tijuana. This collection covers war, immigration, migration, bars, beach life, and much more.

Through interviews of the people of East Palo Alto, Moraga recreates the issues and politics that affect the racially mixed communities. This plays depicts the mounting of a group of people that fight the culturally dominant politics of the area.


This is a collection of the short plays which established Moraga as the premier Latina playwright in America.


Anthology of published and unpublished Latinas.


This play reveals the struggles of immigrant workers and changing times through the lives of the workers.


Labor history from 1400’s to 1998. Particularly good chapter on Chavez and the field workers.


A journalists account of a boy’s journey from Guatemala to United States in search of his mother who has gone to the U.S. to work. The struggles and violence are outlined in detail.


---*With His Pistol in His Hand.* Austin: University of Texas Press, 1970.

Using popular corridos, Parades explores the history behind the legend of Gregorio Cortez.


A photographic and ethnographic look at child labor around the world.


Girls and boys playing a game, where one girl, Concha, pushes herself beyond her limits.

A story of a young Mexican girl in an American school and the discrimination she observes.


Quintana’s poems retell life growing up in a small ranch town in New Mexico.


A collection of poems on politics, family, spiritual awakening and cultural awareness.


This book is really a collection of short stories about the coming of age and education of Ricky Coronado.


A timely novel about immigration and some of the challenges immigrants can face.


The story of migrant workers in the 1950’s.


Rivera’s complete literary production: his award winning novel, *... y no se lo tragó la tierra*, his poetry, his short fiction and essays.


A short essay about migrant workers who arrive in the U.S.


This is a collection of Rodriguez’s new and old poems that recount his life growing up in the Barrio in East Los Angeles, Ca.


This controversial novel “is the poignant journey of a ‘minority student’ who pays the cost of his social assimilation and academic success with a painful alienation — from his past, his parents, his culture — and so describes the high price of ‘making it’ in middle-class America.”

This true account follows the story of missing women in Juarez, Mexico, where women are kidnapped, sold and endure tremendous violence.


A social science and ethnic study of immigrant identity, work and family life.


Poetry about life and identity. Includes an interview about his growing up in TJ and his changed plans to originally becoming a priest.


Complete collection of Ruiz de Burton’s letters, including personal and business correspondences.


A fictional sentimental account of the land conflicts in California following the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo.


A fictional sentimental account of a young Mexican girl brought to New England against the backdrop of the Civil War.


Essays on relationships and how we deal with them affects our whole lives.


*Chicana Falsa* is a collection of poems and short stories of her life growing up. She tells of coming of age, cultural clashes, and growing up in Oxnard, Ca.


This fiction piece includes the thoughts and struggles of a Chicana writer and the realization of the role of culture for writers.


Sikes spends two years studying and interviewing female gang bangers in Los Angeles, Milwaukee, and San Antonio.

Padilla writes of political restraints and the state of affairs in Cuba with Fidel Castro.


Coming of age on the streets in Spanish Harlem with drugs, street fighting and prison. A realization that freedom from all that comes in self-acceptance, faith, and inner confidence.


This memoir recounts the struggles of a Frances Esquibel to get an education and then become the first Latina to graduate from UC Berkeley.


A view of the municipal dump in Tijuana from the hills of San Diego.


Urrea discusses the impact of poverty on the Mexican border and what kind of relief is possible.


A look at the resourcefulness of Tijuana’s dump pickers and trash dwellers.


26 men who cross the border of the desert of South Arizona; 14 died.


A play about farm workers; part of El Teatro Campesino.


A play about racism, politics and discrimination. A satire of socially accepted views.


A play about the Sleepy Lagoon Murder trail and the following Zoot Suit riots. The play explores racism and discrimination that young Mexican Americans faced in the 1940s.

Originally serialized in newsprint in the 1920s, this novel follows the picaresque adventures of a migrant worker who comes to the United States.


Poem about a Chicano family.


Considered by many to be the first Chicano novel, certainly it was the first to be published by a major publisher, Random House. *Pocho* is a Depression era novel that follows the struggles of Richard Rubio to negotiate American culture with his traditional Mexican culture.


The life of a young boy growing up in Carlsbad, Ca. This story depicts his struggles with racism, culture, family, the education system and living with a learning disability he didn’t know he had.


A discussion of what motivates Villasenor to write.


Villasenor tells how he became a writer and how his life inspires his work.


A childhood story about tradition, holidays and family. A memory of her grandmother.


A fond memory of grandmother in the kitchen.


This collection of poems recollects Zamora’s experience of growing up in Nicaragua in time of war and struggle. She focuses on class and gender struggle of women during time of war.

Zamora’s new and selected poems combine her personal struggles and those of growing up in time of war. This collection embodies her identity as a woman and her experience with political liberation.


This is the follow-up text to People’s History by Zinn that includes chapters of personal diary entries that correspond with the chapters in People’s History.