



Whole Child CONNECTION

Training • Resources • Coaching

CHILDREN'S INSTITUTE
www.childrens institute.net

A Celebration of Hispanic Heritage and Hope!

"The past year has been one unlike any in recent memory. For so many of us our lives have changed; we've celebrated life's milestones at home or spent holidays alone. But despite how our world has changed, we've kept our eyes on the horizon—we've held onto our hope. This theme celebrates our Hispanic heritage and our resilience. It provides us the opportunity to reflect on those who came before us and hold onto hope to create a better tomorrow. It inspires us to recognize that we are stronger together and reminds us that although we are apart, with hope, we are not alone."

As you think about choosing Hispanic Heritage history lessons, activities, literature, resources, consider the above words of Mr. Victor Anthony Zertuche, Attorney-Advisor at U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, after his message "Esperanza: A Celebration of Hispanic Heritage and Hope" was selected by the National Council of Hispanic Employment Program Managers (NCHEPM) as their 2021 observance theme for Hispanic Heritage month. Remember that although National Hispanic Heritage Month is celebrated by many between September 15 and October 15, celebrating culture, especially that of students in your classrooms, is something to do throughout the year.

Hispanic Month | A Hispanic News Source <http://www.hispanicmonth.net>

HISPANIC HERITAGE

Select books and literature that centers and celebrates Latinx and Hispanic voice, experience and history. Follow readings with a discussion. Discussion prompts include:

- What did you notice?
- What did you feel?
- What did you connect with?
- What would you change?
- What are you still unsure/curious about?



Create a “discussion ball” by writing the discussion prompts on a beach ball and toss to students for engagement. Or number questions and have students roll a die. The number they get will be connected to their question.

Further this activity by having students write book reviews, act out a scene from a play they read, write their own story or poem, create a drawing or collage that illustrates their favorite part or engage in a dialogue journal with a book buddy.

SEL skills: Self-Awareness, Social awareness, Relationship skills

Books to Consider

Elementary Level:

- *Abuela* By: Arthur Dorros
- *Dreamers* By: Yuyi Morales
- *Marisol McDonald Doesn't Match/Marisol McDonald no combina* By: Monica Brown
- *Where Are You From?* By: Yamile Saied Méndez
- *Julian Is a Mermaid* By: Jessica Love
- *Side by Side/Lado a lado* By: Monica Brown, Joe Cepeda

Middle School Level:

- *Sanctuary* By: Paola Mendoza and Abby Sher (Middle and Highschool)
- *Us, in Progress: Short Stories About Young Latinos* By: Lulu Delacre I
- *I Got This: To Gold and Beyond* By: Laurie Hernandez
- *American Immigration: Our History, Our Stories* By: Kathleen Krull

High School Level:

- *Clap When You Land* By: Elizabeth Acevedo
- *El Bronx Remembered* By: Nicholasa Mohr
- *We Set the Dark on Fire* By: Tehlor Kay Mejia

PLEASE CONSIDER: As you think about choosing activities, we invite you to be thoughtful, intentional, and reflective. What is your purpose? Does this create a welcoming and affirming environment? Is it inclusive and personalized to your student’s diverse needs? Whose voices and experiences are you centering?

Anytime you are asking students to share, it is helpful to have community norms around sharing, listening, respect and trust. If you have not created these together, we encourage you to do that. If you have created these together, we encourage you to refer back to them before introducing the activity.