Recommended Bilingual Books in English and Spanish

The following books are excellent examples of what to look for in bilingual texts for your students. Literary and engaging, they either present English and Spanish on the same page or have many Spanish words and phrases woven into the English text. Such books are important scaffolds for English language learners, especially for those who are already literate in their first language. They improve and inspire both reading and writing at all levels of language acquisition. When learners see and hear words they know in their first language with an accompanying translation, their transition to speaking, reading, and writing English is easier and more meaningful and comprehensible. Often, the most useful bilingual texts will be the ones you write with your own students. (See Teaching Essentials, p. 10.)

The titles are listed alphabetically and are loosely grouped by grade level ranges. Keep in mind that a book recommended for the intermediate grades may also be appropriate as a read aloud in the primary grades.

**Primary Grades (K–2)**


*Isabel and the Hungry Coyote/Isabel y el coyote hambriento.* Written by/Escrito por Keith Polette. Illustrated by/Ilustrado por Esther Szegedy, 2004.
**Intermediate Grades** (3–5)


*My Name is Celia: The Life of Celia Cruz/Me llamo Celia: La vida de Celia Cruz.* Written by/Escrito por Monica Brown. Illustrated by/Ilustrado por Rafael López.

Fairy Tales for all grades

The following fairy tales, a series published by Chronicle Books in San Francisco (1998–2005) are retold in both Spanish and English on each page:

- Cinderella/Cenicienta
- Goldilocks and the Three Bears/Ricitos de Oro y los tres osos
- Jack and the Beanstalk/Juan y los frijoles mágicos
- Hansel and Gretel/Hansel y Gretel
- The Little Mermaid/La sirenita
- Little Red Riding Hood/Caperucita Roja
- The Musicians of Bremen/Los músicos de Bremen
- The Princess and the Pea/La princesa y el guisante
- Puss in Boots/El gato con botas
- Rapunzel/Rapunzel
- The Sleeping Beauty/La bella durmiente
- The Three Little Pigs/Los tres cerditos
- Thumbelina/Pulgarcita
- The Ugly Duckling/El patito feo

Songs and Rhymes


Diez deditos • 10 Little Fingers • and Other Play Rhymes and Action Songs from Latin America by José-Luis Orozco. Illustrated by Elsa Kleven. NY: Dutton Juvenile, 1997.