

Hispanic Heritage Month

Recommended Reads

To celebrate the stories, contributions and influence of Latinx Americans, the library has put together a short recommended reading list of award-winning and engaging books for students of all grade levels (and adults too!).

All books are available via our [Sora](#) library eBook collection or can be checked out from the as physical books from the collection and delivered or set aside for curbside pickup. To request a title for delivery or pickup, please contact Jennifer Abercrombie (jabercrombie@latinpcs.org). To see more great book recommendations from the library, go to latinpcs.libguides.com/library/read.

5-6th Grade

Merci Suárez Changes Gears by Meg Medina

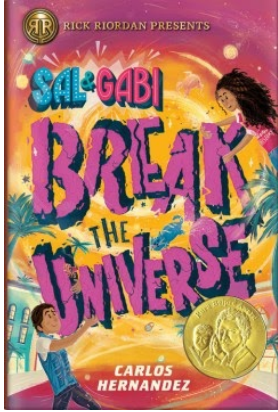


Merci Suárez knew that sixth grade would be different, but she had no idea just *how* different. For starters, as strong and thoughtful as Merci is, she has never been completely like the other kids at her private school in Florida, because she and her older brother, Roli, are scholarship students. They don't have a big house or a fancy boat, and they have to do extra community service to make up for their free tuition. So when bossy Edna Santos sets her sights on the new boy who happens to be Merci's school-assigned Sunshine Buddy, Merci becomes the target of Edna's jealousy. Things aren't going well at home, either: Merci's grandfather and most trusted ally, Lolo, has been acting strangely lately — forgetting important things, falling from his bike, and getting angry over nothing. And Merci is left to her own worries, because no one in her family will tell her what's going on. Winner of the 2019 Newbery Medal, this coming-of-age tale by *New York Times* best-selling author Meg Medina gets to the heart of the confusion and constant change that defines middle school — and the steadfast connection that defines family.

Listen to author Meg Medina read from the book [here](#). Available from WLPCS Library and eBook on SORA.

7-8th Grade

Sal and Gabi Break the Universe by Carlos Hernandez



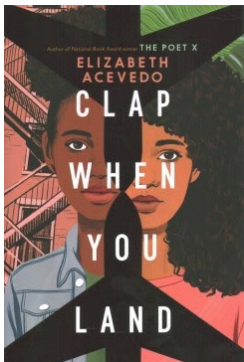
In order to heal after his mother’s death, Sal learned how to meditate. But no one expected him to be able to take it further and “relax” things into existence. Turns out he can reach into time and space to retrieve things from other universes—even his mom! He has promised his dad and stepmom that he won’t bring back his mother anymore (it causes a lot of marital tension), but sometimes he can’t help himself. Why can’t they all just get along?

Sal doesn’t talk about his ability with anyone. At Culeco, his performing arts middle school, he just chalks it up to being a magician. But when he meets Gabi, the student council president and editor of the school paper, he realizes she is someone he can work with. She could use his help, too, because she has a newborn brother on life support. But just because Sal and Gabi can do some interesting things to improve lives, does that mean that they should? When things get out of hand, it’s going to require some truly out-of-the-box thinking to set things right.

Listen to Rick Riordan and Carlos Hernandez discuss the book [here](#). Available from WLPCS Library and eBook on SORA. The sequel, *Sal and Gabi Fix the Universe* is available on SORA.

High School

Clap When You Land by Elizabeth Acevedo



Camino Rios lives for the summers when her father visits her in the Dominican Republic. But this time, on the day when his plane is supposed to land, Camino arrives at the airport to see crowds of crying people...

In New York City, Yahaira Rios is called to the principal’s office, where her mother is waiting to tell her that her father, her hero, has died in a plane crash.

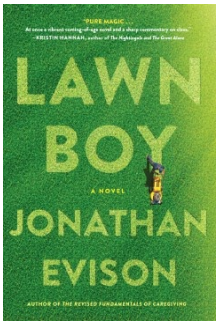
Separated by distance—and Papi’s secrets—the two girls are forced to face a new reality in which their father is dead and their lives are forever altered.

And then, when it seems like they’ve lost everything of their father, they learn of each other.

Listen to the author read an excerpt [here](#). Available from WLPCS Library and eBook on SORA.

Adult

Lawn Boy by Jonathan Evison

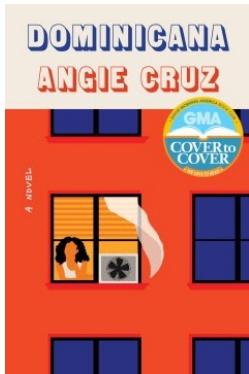


For Mike Muñoz, life has been a whole lot of waiting for something to happen. Not too many years out of high school and still doing menial work--and just fired from his latest gig as a lawn boy on a landscaping crew--he's smart enough to know that he's got to be the one to shake things up if he's ever going to change his life. But how? He's not qualified for much of anything. He has no particular talents, although he is stellar at handling a lawn mower and wielding clipping shears. But now that career seems to be behind him. So what's next for Mike Muñoz?

In this funny, biting, touching, and ultimately inspiring novel, bestselling author Jonathan Evison takes the reader into the heart and mind of a young man determined to achieve the American dream of happiness and prosperity--who just so happens to find himself along the way.

Available from WLPCS Library

Dominicana by Angie Cruz



Fifteen-year-old Ana Cancion never dreamed of moving to America, the way the girls she grew up with in the Dominican countryside did. But when Juan Ruiz proposes and promises to take her to New York City, she has to say yes. It doesn't matter that he is twice her age, that there is no love between them. Their marriage is an opportunity for her entire close-knit family to eventually immigrate. So on New Year's Day, 1965, Ana leaves behind everything she knows and becomes Ana Ruiz, a wife confined to a cold six-floor walk-up in Washington Heights. Lonely and miserable, Ana hatches a reckless plan to escape. But at the bus terminal, she is stopped by Cesar, Juan's free-spirited younger brother, who convinces her to stay.

As the Dominican Republic slides into political turmoil, Juan returns to protect his family's assets, leaving Cesar to take care of Ana. Suddenly, Ana is free to take English lessons at a local church, lie on the beach at Coney Island, see a movie at Radio City Music Hall, go dancing with Cesar, and imagine the possibility of a different kind of life in America. When Juan returns, Ana must decide once again between her heart and her duty to her family.

In bright, musical prose that reflects the energy of New York City, Angie Cruz's *Dominicana* is a vital portrait of the immigrant experience and the timeless coming-of-age story of a young woman finding her voice in the world.

Available from WLPCS Library. See an Angie Cruz being interviewed about the book on Good Morning America [here](#).