



The Booklist Project



Focus: Culturally-Responsive Author Study
Booklist

Monica Brown

Developed by: Jenn Antonelli

Fall, 2011



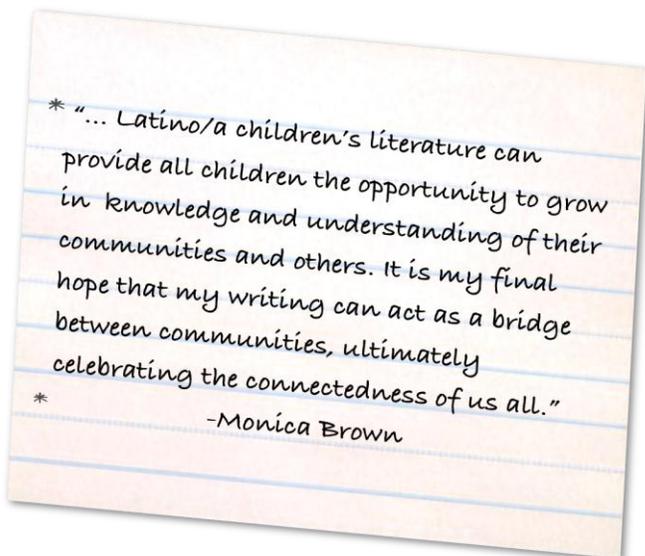
Monica Brown

Author Study Grades 3-6

Biography

Monica Brown is an award-winning author who writes multicultural and bilingual children's books, inspired by her Peruvian-American heritage. Her collection includes picture books and picture book biographies.

The author was born in the Bay State Area of California and is the daughter of a Peruvian South American mother and a Jewish-Italian North American father. Growing up in California, her mother's vibrant abstract Peruvian paintings helped her feel connected to her family she in Peru, along with her large family network of Peruvians, Central Americans and Mexicans. "I was raised to see me self as a citizen of the world." Traveling back and forth between California and Peru, English, and Spanish, I was a bridge between my South American mother and my North American Father, my abuelito and my nana, my cousins from there and here, south and north, everywhere." Brown's multicultural and bilingual upbringing and a desire to share Latino/a stories with children is reflected in her children's books.



The author also uses her writing to introduce readers to the concepts of magical realism, social justice and dreaming big. Engaging themes and stunning illustrations make these abstract ideas accessible to even the youngest readers.

Monica Brown currently lives in Arizona with her family. She is a Professor of English at Northern Arizona University, specializing in U.S. Latino Literature and Multicultural Literature.

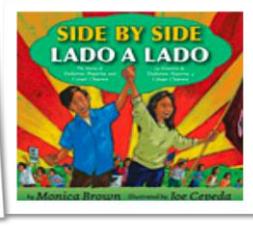
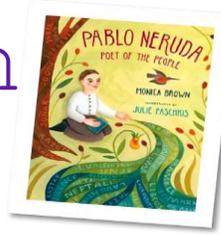
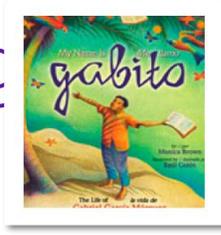
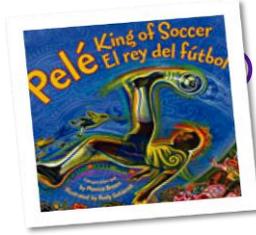
[Author's Website](http://www.monicabrown.net/)

<http://www.monicabrown.net/>

Monica Brown's website is in English and Spanish. On this website you will find her biography, a list of published books, links to radio her interviews and news articles written about her books, and the author's Youtube channel and Facebook page, which include "book trailers" of her latest books. Educators will find the "Teacher's Page" of her website extremely helpful! It includes downloadable curriculum guides and discussion guides for each of her books. Also included are links for lesson plans, documentaries, interactive student websites, and other resources to support student learning and literacy development.



Picture Book



All of the biographies listed are bilingual in English and Spanish

1. Brown, M. (2004). *My Name Is Celia: The Life of Celia Cruz/Me llamo Celia: la vida de Celia Cruz*. Flagstaff, Arizona: Luna Rising. [ISBN 08735887-X]

This biography is about Celia, the “Queen of Salsa,” music. The vibrant illustrations and upbeat rhythmic text, makes this a perfect choice for it read alouds! Through first person narrative, we learn about Celia’ life, and how she shared her Cuban culture and traditions with the world through music. Although this book is geared to be a read aloud for younger readers, the content is so rich, that developing ELL readers in upper grades will also enjoy this short story biography. This text could be used to discuss how we can learn about the traditions and customs of cultures through music, poetry, dance and costumes.

WIDA Level: High Developing with Teacher Support/Extending

Grade Level: Grade-level 1-4

Reading Level: DRA 20

Format: Hardcover / Bilingual in Spanish and English , Ebook

Teacher Resources

[Curriculum Guide for book:](#) Lessons that can be used for the book.

[The Smithsonian's National Museum of American History](#) The museum has an interactive online exhibit on Celia Cruz - Includes, her musical, biography, photos and lesson plans for K-12.

2. Brown, M. Pele 92008. (2008) *King of Soccer: Pele El rey del futbol*. New York, New York: Rayo and Harper Collins. [ISBN-10: 006122779X].

The biography is about the Brazilian soccer player Pele, the first person in the world to score 1000 goals! Since Pele was a little boy, he had the big dream of being a professional soccer player. Spanish speaking may connect to the language Latin and content, because soccer is a huge part of Latin and South American culture. However, all readers will find Pele’s determination and achievements inspirational. Since the text is filled with action verbs used to describe how soccer is played, teachers could introduce the new vocabulary to ELLs by using Total Physical Response activities.

WIDA: High Developing (with Teacher Support) /Expanding

Reading Level: Lexile 820AD

Grade/Interest Level 1-6

Format: Hardcover / Bilingual in English & Spanish

3. Brown, M. (2011). Pablo Neruda: Poet of the People. New York, New York: Henry Hold Company. (ISBN: 978-0805091984)

Readers will learn about the Chilean Poet, Pablo Neruda considered to be one of the greatest and most influential poets of the 20th century. Readers will learn how Pablo found ideas for his writing by noticing the beauty in the world around him. For example, he wrote about the ferns in the forest and the rocks that tumbled down the mountains. He also wrote poems that addressed social issues of the people of Chile, earning him the nickname: "Poet of the People." The illustration alone, filled with Spanish and English words used to describe the object lends itself to lessons about imagery and word choice. This would be a great mentor text to teach ELLs how to write shape poems in English or using their first and second language. Additionally, this book could be used with ELLs to teach about the topics of cognates, rhymes, or same sound correspondence of English and Spanish words.

WIDA: Extending and up

Reading Level 970AD (Adult directed)

Grade Level: 3-6 (Intended to be an Adult Directed)

Format: Hardcover / Bilingual in English and Spanish

Lesson Plan Idea

The Writing Fix

http://writingfix.com/6_Traits/Primary/rain_drop_plop.htm

This lesson focuses on the writing trait of "Word Choice" using common shapes and familiar ideas as a way to help students develop vocabulary surrounding a curricular topic. Although a different mentor text is used, the lesson filled with tips and ideas that ELL can modify and/or utilize when teaching writing.

4. Brown, M. (2009). My name is Gabito/Me llamo Gabito. Flagstaff Arizona: Luna Rising. [ISBN 139780873589086]

Reader will learn of Columbian writer Gabito Garcia Marquez an admired novelist and journalist, and storyteller. Readers learn how Gabito found magic in the world around him, and used his imaginations to fuel his writing. He wrote to entertain and also wrote to bring about social change. The reputation of the text and whimsical illustrations allow younger readers to learn about Gabito Garcia Marquez's life and his important contributions.

WIDA: Expanding and Up

Grade /Interest Level : 3-6

Format: Hardcover: Bilingual in English & Spanish, E-book

Link

[The Children's Theater of Minneapolis' Family Guide to the Play](#) - A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings (adapted from Gabriel García Márquez's story.)

5. Brown, M. (2005). *My Name is Gabriela: The Life of Gabriela Minstral/Me llama Gabriela: la vida de Gabriela Mistral*. Flagstaff, Arizona: Luna Rising Books.

The biography is about Chilean poet, Gabriela Minstral, who was the first Latina woman to receive the Nobel Piece Prize and honors a Latina's accomplishments as an educator and poet. The story encourages students to play with words and language the way Gabriele did, when writing creatively. The text is written in first person and is geared towards younger readers, however the figurative language and verb tense would be too challenging for developing ELLs unless read aloud combined with extra supports, in aid comprehension.

WIDA: High Developing (with teacher support) /Expanding

Reading Level: 4.1

Interest Level: Grades 3-4

Format: Bilingual in Spanish and English

Poetry Foundation Organization Website

To extend learning, teachers can share Minstrel's poems she wrote as a child, including poems about her home in Chile and family. The poems are written in Spanish and translated in English. This may be an excellent opportunity to discuss how sometimes exact meaning of something doesn't translate perfectly into another language.

<http://www.poetryfoundation.org/bio/gabriela-mistral>

6. Brown, M. (2010). *Side by Side: The Story of Dolores Huerta and Cesar Chavez/ Lade A Lade, La Historia De Dolores Huerta y Cesar Chavez*. New Your New York: Harper Collins. [ISBN 978-0061227813]

Students will learn about the heroic efforts of Mexican-Americans Dolores Huerta and Caesar, both were leaders in fighting for the civil rights of migrant farm workers and their children. This would be an excellent book to use when the teaching about the Civil Rights Movement.

Additionally, this text would be good to use when exploring the values of teamwork and social change. The language, length, and content of would make it a difficult read for beginning ELLs and/or younger students to read. However, with teacher support, intermediate ELLs will be able to understand the content of the expository text.

WIDA Level: Expanding/Bridging

Reading Level: Lexile 870AD

Interest Level: Grades 4-6

Format: Bilingual in Spanish and English

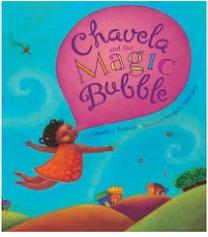
Link

Voices from the Fields -- Interviews with Migrant Workers (Video)

The following link includes a short video of people who were once migrant workers.

http://www.ufw.org/board.php?mode=view&b_code=res_multi&no=9991&page=1&field=&key=&n=259

Picture Books: Fiction



7. Brown, M. (2010). *Chavela and the Magic Bubble*. New York and Boston: Clarion Books, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.

This is a whimsical story about the special bond between a little girl Chevela and her abuelita (grandmother) and the origins of natural chewing gum, infused with magical realism. All students will enjoy this fun and educational story! Yet, ELLs may connect with Chevala's character, because they also belong to two cultures, and their family helps them connecting them to their heritage. This would make an excellent read aloud, used to explore themes about grandparents, producers-consumers, rainforests, chewing gum, and/or Mexican-American culture. The book includes an afterward that includes traditional Latin American Folksong, along with additional information about natural chewing gum.

WIDA Level: High Developing (Teacher support)/ Expanding

Reading Level: Lexile 860AD (Adult Directed)

Grade Level: 3-4

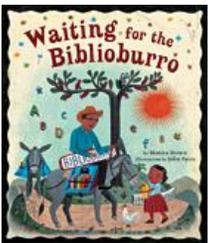
Format: Hardcover and EBook

Teacher Resource

[The Glee Gum Candy Website](http://www.gleegum.com)

On this website you can find sample lesson plans, online resources, and suggestions for making gum, gummies and other types of candy.

<http://www.gleegum.com/education-guide-candykit.htm>



8. Brown, Monica (2011). *Waiting for the Biblioburro*. WIDA: High Developing/ Expanding. New York, New York, Tricycle Press. [ISBN 978-58246-353-7]

The story is about a little girl Ana who loves to read, shares, and listen to stories. However, in her rural Columbian village, there are only a few books- and she has read all of them. Then, much to her surprise, the Biblioburro, (Donkey Library) which is a mobile library, filled with books. "The new selection of books Ana reads, inspires her to tell and write new stories. Many students will connect to the joy one feels when reading or listening to their favorite stories. Spanish speaking ELLs will be excited to share with students the meaning of Spanish words sprinkled throughout the text. Columbian-American students may know of the efforts of Luis Bohorques, who is the real life librarian of the Biblioburro, and be excited to share their knowledge of him with the class.

WIDA LEVEL: Developing/Expanding

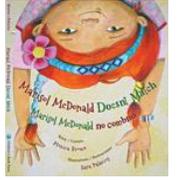
Reading Level: Lexile 640

Grade Level 3-6

Format: Hardcover

Bilingual Picture Books (Fiction)

9. Brown, Monica. (2011). *Marisol McDonald Doesn't Match*. Children's Book Press: San Francisco, California. [ISBN 978-0892392353] In the book readers will meet the Marisol, the daughter of Peruvian-Scottish- American parents, who has brown skin and hair "the color of fire." Her friends tell her she doesn't "match" because of her appearance and clothing, but when she tries to change her style to be like others, she just doesn't feel like herself anymore. Teachers could use this story as a way to encourage all students to celebrate their uniqueness's, build a strong identity, and stay true to whom they are.

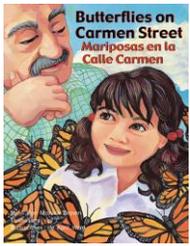


WIDA LEVEL: Developing /High Developing

Reading Level:

Interest Level: Grade 3 and younger

Format: Bilingual in Spanish and English & Ebook



10) Brown, M. (2007) *Butterflies on Carmen Street/Mariposas en la calle Carmen*. Houston, Texas. [ISBN- 978-1558854840].

A story about a little girl, who is excitedly waits for her caterpillar to transform into a butterfly, a science project she is involved with at school and shares her excitement with her abuelito (grandfather). In turn, her abuelito shares his knowledge and memories of the monarch butterflies' annual migration to his beloved hometown in Michoacán, Mexico. Her abuelito symbolically compares his emigration from Mexico to the United States, as she prepares release monarch butterfly she has raised back into nature. Many students who connected to two cultures, students may share the same desire to one day make the journey to their family's homeland, a "place that will forever be in their hearts." Teachers can also use this book to explore the topics of insects, the life cycle, animal migration and immigration.

WIDA LEVEL: Expanding

READING LEVEL: 4.1

GRADE/ INTEREST LEVEL: grades 3-5

FORMAT: Hardcover / Bilingual in English and Spanish

Links

Science Museum of Minnesota:

<http://www.smm.org/sln/monarchs/>

This website is loaded with information about Monarch Butterflies and encourages classrooms to participate in bogging about their interest in butterflies. Classrooms from Mexico and the United States blog about there shared interest Monarch Butterflies and track their migration.

Journey North

<http://www.learner.org/jnorth/>

A project that tracks wildlife migration, filled with photographs and simple explanations of their progress.



Descriptions of Types of Awards

The Pura Belpré Award

Established in 1996, is presented to a Latino/Latina writer and illustrator whose work best portrays, affirms, and celebrates the Latino cultural experience in an outstanding work of literature for children and youth. It is co-sponsored by the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC), a division of the American Library Association (ALA), and the National Association to Promote Library and Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish-Speaking ([REFORMA](#)), an ALA Affiliate



Américas Award for Children's Literature

This award is given in recognition of U.S. works of fiction, poetry, folklore, or selected non-fiction (from picture books to works for young adults) published in the previous year in English or Spanish that authentically and engagingly portray Latin America, the Caribbean, or Latinos in the United States.

Teacher Resources

http://www.readingrockets.org/atoz/english_language_learners/

http://www.everythingsl.net/lessons/harvest_festivals_around_world_79423.php

<http://www2.scholastic.com/browse/collection.jsp?id=50>

<http://www.readingrockets.org/articles/books/c818/>

<http://www.nvo.com/ecnewsletter/linkstoeflresources/>

Model of Author Study Unit

<http://www.readwritethink.org/classroom-resources/lesson-plans/author-study-improving-reading-906.html>

Teaching using Non Fiction Text

<http://www.colorincolorado.org/article/29035/>

When I Was Young In...A Literature to Language Experience

<http://www.readwritethink.org/classroom-resources/lesson-plans/when-young-literature-language-911.html>

Chatting About Books

<http://www.readwritethink.org/parent-afterschool-resources/podcast-episodes/think-peace-30499.html>

Think Peace....theme....episode 21

Biblioburro link to full 57 min show

<http://edselect.com/biblioburro-the-donkey-library>

REACH. INSPIRE. CONNECT.



The Booklist Project

A Project of the
M.Ed. In TESL Program,



Feinstein School of Education and Human Development
Rhode Island College

For Further Information, Contact:

Nancy Cloud, Ed.D., Director

ncloud@ric.edu

Rhode Island College

600 Mt. Pleasant Avenue

Providence, RI 02908