

Librarian's Shelf by Brad Hruska

"Amazing Spanish Books @ Your Columbus Public Library!"

The city of Columbus is fortunate enough to have a diverse community. A multicultural population is beneficial for young children because it teaches them to respect individual differences while allowing them to embrace their own unique traditions.

One way the Columbus Public Library has tried to help foster diversity is by providing books in various languages. One of the largest language collections housed at the library is the Children's Spanish/Bilingual Collection. The texts found in this section feature concept books, Spanish lore and fables, and classic/popular American stories translated into Spanish.

Families of all nationalities will enjoy the Children's Spanish/Bilingual Collection! Spanish speaking parents can use the collection to introduce their little ones to the fun, fairy tales they enjoyed while growing up like "El Regalo De La Flor De Nochebuena/The Gift of the Poinsettia" by Pat Mora and "The First Tortilla" by Rudolfo Anaya.

Non-Spanish speaking families can use the collection to introduce their little ones to a new and exciting foreign language! Parents can read the English portion of the bilingual texts to their children and then use the Spanish part of the text to teach their youngsters what a particular English word would be in Spanish. For example, in the book "Little Red Riding Hood/Caperucita Roja" retold by Pau Estarda, when parents read the sentence, "Why Grandmother! What big teeth you have!," they can engage their children in a conversation about the fact that grandmother is abuelita, big is grande, and teeth is dientes in Spanish, causing great excitement for little ones!

The Children's Spanish Collection can also be a valuable resource for older students taking Spanish classes. During the school year, these learners are heavily immersed in the Spanish language through daily class attendance and assignments; however, during the summer months they may only have few opportunities to practice their second language skills.

For these students, I strongly recommend checking out a Spanish language/bilingual picture book. They will be able to use the Spanish text to comfortably hone their Spanish skills and also learn new vocabulary words not have covered in the Spanish classroom setting. Students can also practice their oral foreign language speaking skills by reading the text out loud to a younger family member.

So the next time you are in search of great books to read to your children, consider checking out one from the Columbus Public Library's Children's Spanish Collection. I guaranteed you will select the perfect story and your children will pick up on words from a new and exciting language. Please keep in mind that if you are experienced in the Spanish Language and know of a quality text that would make a suitable addition to the Children's Spanish/Bilingual Collection, please be sure to pass the title on to me and I will do my best to see that it is added! If you have any question about the titles featured or would like other ideal recommendations, please contact me at (402) 564-7116 opt. 4.