

# Book List for Día

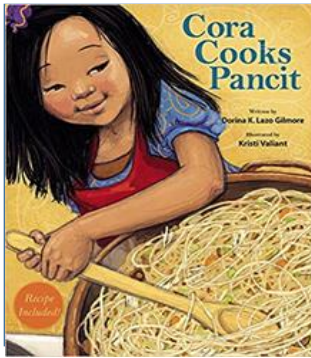
*Día de los niños* (Day of the Children) is an annual celebration in Mexico and other Latin Countries that dates back to 1925. Every year on April 30, parents prepare fun family activities and yummy treats to honor and celebrate their children.

In 1997, the holiday became an annual celebration in the United States, known here as *El día de los libros/ El día de los niños*, or simply *Día*. Pat Mora, a nationally recognized author of children's books, first learned about the traditionally Mexican holiday and realized the United States did not have a day dedicated to children. Mora collaborated with the National Association to Promote Library and Information Services to Latinos and Spanish Speakers to expand on the celebration of *El día de los niños* to include the importance of literacy and bilingualism for children of all backgrounds.

According to the Association for Library Service to Children, the [goals of Día](#) are to

- Celebrate children and connect them to the world of learning through books, stories and libraries.
- Nurture cognitive and literacy development in ways that honor and embrace a child's home language and culture.
- Introduce families to community resources that provide opportunities for learning through multiple literacies.
- Recognize and respect culture, heritage and language as powerful tools for strengthening families and communities.

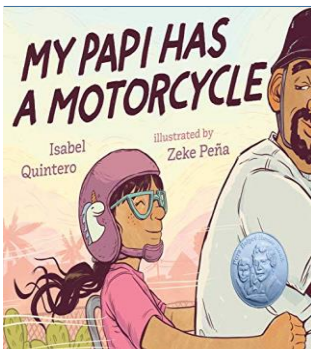
To celebrate the 25th anniversary of *Día*, [CLINIC's Center for Immigrant Integration](#) offers a children's book list, including staff favorites. Learn more about the [history](#) of *El día de los niños/El día de los libros* and the various ways to [celebrate](#).



Cora Cooks Pancit by [Dorina K. Lazo Gilmore](#)

Cora and Mama work together to cook up pancit for the family in this celebration of Filipino heritage and foods.

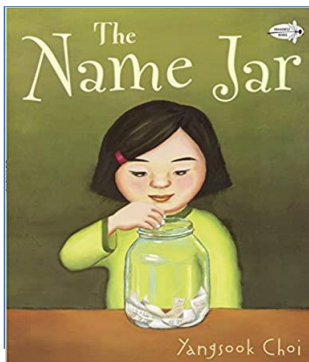
*Recommended by Kristina Villavicencio, Events Manager, Operations*



My Papi Has a Motorcycle by [Isabel Quintero](#)

A celebration of the love between a father and daughter, and of a vibrant immigrant neighborhood, by an award-winning author and illustrator duo.

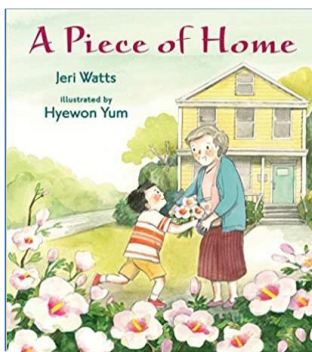
*Recommended by Silvana Arista-Olms, Field Support Coordinator, Capacity Building*



The Name Jar by [Yangsook Choi](#)

The new kid in school needs a new name! Or does she?

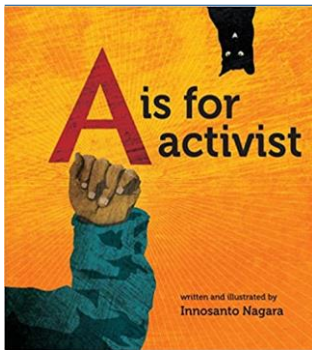
*Recommended by Aimee Mayer-Salins, Staff Attorney, Defending Vulnerable Populations Program*



A Piece of Home by [Jeri Watts](#)

A child-friendly story about the trials and triumphs of starting over in a new place while keeping family and traditions close.

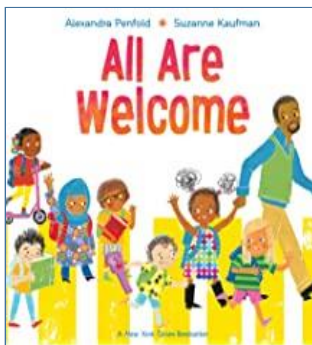
*Recommended by Minyoung Ohm, Section Manager/Field Support Coordinator, Capacity Building*



**A is for Activist** by [Innosanto Nagara](#)

*A is for Activist* is an ABC board book written and illustrated for the next generation of progressives: families who want their kids to grow up in a space that is unapologetic about activism and everything else that activists believe in and fight for.

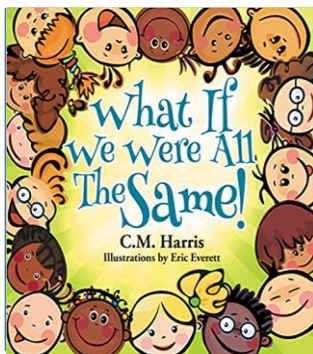
*Recommended by Shaila Rahman, Field Support Coordinator, Capacity Building*



**All Are Welcome** by [Alexandra Penfold](#) and [Suzanne Kaufman](#)

Join the call for a better world with this bestselling picture book about a school where diversity and inclusion are celebrated.

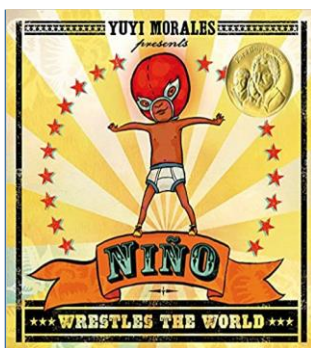
*Recommended by Leya Speasmaker, Immigrant Integration Program Manager/Field Support Coordinator, Capacity Building*



**What If We Were All The Same!: A Children's Book About Ethnic Diversity and Inclusion** by [C.M. Harris](#)

*What If We Were All The Same!* embraces all of our beautiful differences. Aimed to help children understand there are many great reasons for being friends with those who are different than they are.

*Recommended by Megan S. Turngren, Managing Attorney, Religious Immigration Services*



**Niño Wrestles the World** by [Yuyi Morales](#)

*Niño Wrestles the World* is in English with Spanish vocabulary, and is a fun, colorful story about a boy wrestling with imaginary monsters (including an Olmec Head and La Llorona) and adversaries like his younger sisters. This is a joyful picture book about imagination, play and siblings.

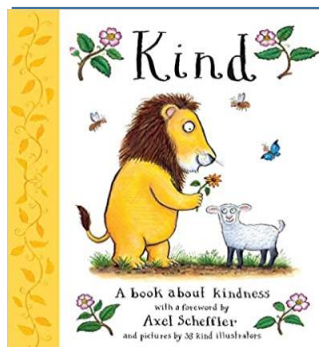
*Recommended by Elizabeth Carlson, Attorney, Training and Legal Support Section*



**The Someone New** by [Jill Twiss](#)

A fresh and timely story about how it feels when someone new comes knocking at your door.

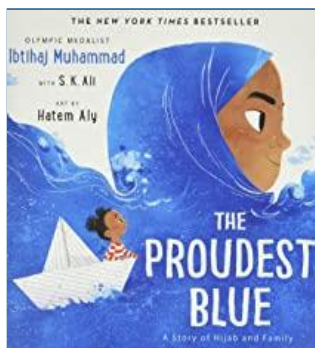
*Recommended by Jen Riddle, Staff Attorney, Training and Legal Support*



**Kind** by [Alison Green](#)

*Kind* is a timely, inspiring picture book about the many ways children can be kind, from sharing their toys and games to helping those from other countries feel welcome.

*Recommended by Robyn A. McCormick, Senior Paralegal, Religious Immigration Services*



**The Proudest Blue: A Story of Hijab and Family** by [Ibtihaj Muhammad](#)

A powerful, vibrantly illustrated story about the first day of school — and two sisters on one's first day of hijab — by Olympic medalist and social justice activist Ibtihaj Muhammad.

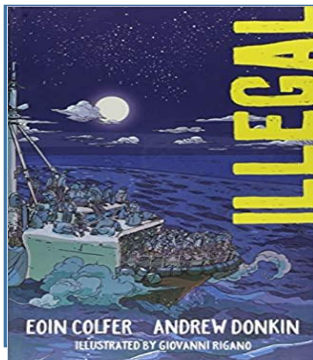
*Recommended by Laura Nino, Project Coordinator, Capacity Building*



**FIERCE FILIPINA: Inspired by the Life of Gliceria Marella de Villavicencio** by [Maxie Villavicencio Pulliam](#)

FIERCE FILIPINA tells the story of national hero Gliceria Marella de Villavicencio and her contributions towards the Philippines' independence.

*Recommended by Kristina Villavicencio, Events Manager, Operations*



**Illegal: A Graphic Novel** by [Eoin Colfer](#) and [Andrew Donkin](#)

A powerfully moving, award-winning graphic novel that explores the current plight of undocumented immigrants. How can a human being be illegal for simply existing?

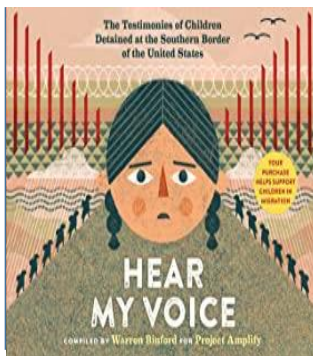
*Recommended by Jeff Chenoweth, Section Director, Capacity Building*



**The Year I Flew Away** by [Marie Arnold](#)

In this magical middle-grade novel, ten-year-old Gabrielle finds out that America isn't the perfect place she imagined when she moves from Haiti to Brooklyn. With the help of a clever witch, Gabrielle becomes the perfect American — but will she lose herself in the process?

*Recommended by Kaitlin Bell, Publications and Social Media Coordinator, External Relations*



**Hear My Voice/Escucha mi voz: The Testimonies of Children Detained at the Southern Border of the United States** by [Warren Binford](#)

The moving stories of children in migration — in their own words.

*Recommended by Valentino Chagolla, Graphic Designer, External Relations*

Are you a librarian, educator or community leader who needs help getting information and services to immigrants in your community? CLINIC's *Inclusive Communities: Immigrant Integration and Public Education Resources* email list shares resources and ideas you can use to engage your students and neighbors on various immigration and integration issues. Sign up here: [cliniclegal.org/email](https://cliniclegal.org/email)

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