

CHICAGO PUBLIC LIBRARY

The House on Mango Street

SANDRA CISNEROS



One Book, One Chicago
Spring 2009

City of Chicago, Richard M. Daley, Mayor
Presented by the Chicago Public Library and
The Chicago Public Library Foundation



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OBOC

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The House on Mango Street by Sandra Cisneros is the latest selection for One Book, One Chicago (OBOC). Previous selections for the citywide book club were: *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee; *Night* by Elie Wiesel; *My Antonia* by Willa Cather; *A Raisin in the Sun* by Lorraine Hansberry; *The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien; *The Coast of Chicago* by Stuart Dybek; *In the Time of the Butterflies* by Julia Alvarez; *The Ox-Bow Incident* by Walter Van Tilburg Clark; *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen; *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich* by Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn; *Interpreter of Maladies* by Jhumpa Lahiri, *Go Tell it on the Mountain* by James Baldwin, *The Crucible* by Arthur Miller, *The Long Goodbye* by Raymond Chandler and *The Right Stuff* by Tom Wolfe.



Greetings,

As Mayor and on behalf of the City of Chicago, I invite you to participate in the 16th One Book, One Chicago program presented twice annually by the Chicago Public Library. This award-winning program encourages all Chicagoans to come together with friends and neighbors to share and discuss a great work of literature.

This spring, we have selected *The House on Mango Street* by Chicago-raised writer Sandra Cisneros. *The House on Mango Street* is the unique story of a Chicago girl growing up in a lively Latino neighborhood under the watch of her many relatives and neighbors. The book brings to life the portrait of this young girl and the neighborhood she calls home, exemplifying Chicago as a “city of neighborhoods.” The selection is sure to please readers across generations and communities.

The House on Mango Street is required reading in middle schools, high schools and universities across the country. First published in 1984, it received the Before Columbus Foundation’s American Book Award, and has sold over four million copies in the United States. This spring marks the book’s 25th anniversary, and Chicago is proud to be part of the celebration of this groundbreaking work.

You can find a copy of *The House on Mango Street* at your neighborhood Chicago Public Library or local bookstore. Please take part in one of the many book discussions planned in libraries, bookstores, cafes, museums and universities throughout April, and join us for any of the spectacular events celebrating the book this spring, including an appearance by Ms. Cisneros on April 14th.

Sincerely,

Richard M. Daley
Mayor

Sandra Cisneros

Sandra Cisneros was born in Chicago in 1954, the only daughter in a family of seven children. The Cisneros family travelled frequently between Chicago and Mexico to visit relatives, often settling in a different home upon each return. The family resided for the majority of Sandra's youth in the Humboldt Park neighborhood.

Growing up in a home where library cards were mandatory, Sandra retreated into books and began to express herself in poetry. It was in high school, at St. Josephinum in Chicago, that Cisneros first found an outlet and discovered acceptance for her creativity. Encouraged by a teacher, Cisneros wrote poetry and became willing to share her work with her young peers. She worked on a high school literary magazine, eventually becoming editor. Cisneros went on to study English at Loyola University of Chicago, and in 1978 received her M.F.A. in Creative Writing from the renowned University of Iowa Writers' Workshop.

Upon graduating from the Writers' Workshop, Cisneros returned to Chicago and took a job teaching at the Latino Youth Alternative High School, a facility for high school dropouts. In her free time she wrote and submitted poems to literary journals with some success. She read her poems to club and coffee shop audiences, gradually earning a local reputation.

In 1982, Cisneros received a National Endowment for the Arts fellowship. With the award money she went to Europe, where she

wrote *The House on Mango Street*. Drawing on the rootlessness of her childhood, the book created a vibrant picture of one girl's idealization of "home." (The house from the title is a composite of the author's many homes, but is placed on a street, Mango Street, where the Cisneros family never actually lived.) Published in 1984, the book gained international acclaim, winning Cisneros the Before Columbus American Book Award. Today, *The House on Mango Street* is required reading in schools throughout the United States.

In 1985 came the publication of *Antojitos* (Arte Publico) and *The Rodrigo Poems* (Third Woman). In 1987 Cisneros' master's thesis, *My Wicked, Wicked Ways*, was revised and expanded, then published by Third Woman Press. This collection of poems touches upon a mélange of topics—among them female emancipation, friendship and self-identity.

With her book *Woman Hollering Creek and Other Stories* (1991), Cisneros became the first Chicana author to sign with a major American publisher, Random House. Depicting the lives of Chicana women in the San Antonio area, the book garnered both critical and popular acclaim and earned the author the financial stability she would need to be a full-time writer.

Cisneros' long-awaited second novel, *Caramelo* (Knopf, 2002), fictionalized the author's family, highlighting a trip between Chicago and Mexico and the main character's conversion from child to young adult. *Caramelo* was selected as notable book of the year by *The New York Times*, the *Los Angeles Times*, the *San Francisco Chronicle*, the *Chicago Tribune*, and the *Seattle Times*. In 2005





Caramelo was awarded the Premio Napoli and was short listed for the Dublin International IMPAC Award.

Sandra Cisneros' books have been translated into over a dozen languages, including Spanish, Galician, French, German, Dutch, Italian, Norwegian, Japanese, Chinese, Turkish, Greek, Thai and Serbo-Croatian. Cisneros has been visiting writer at a number of universities, including the University of California, Berkeley, and the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor and is currently Writer-in-Residence at Our Lady of the Lake University in San Antonio. Cisneros' daring and original works have won her numerous awards and fellowships including, in 1995, the MacArthur Foundation Fellowship. She is the president and founder of the Macondo Foundation, an association of writers dedicated to social involvement. She also directs the Alfredo Cisneros Del Moral Foundation, granting funds to Texas writers.

Sandra Cisneros continues to write

poetry and prose and is working on a collection of fiction titled *Infinito*, a children's book titled *Bravo, Bruno* and a book about writing that she will call *Writing in My Pajamas*.

See p. 18 for a list of additional books by Sandra Cisneros.

Sources:

- www.sandracisneros.com/bio/php
- Contemporary Authors Online, Gale, 2003.
- "Sandra Cisneros." *Authors and Artists for Young Adults*, Vol 53. Gale Group, 2003.
- "Sandra Cisneros." *Encyclopedia of World Biography*, 2nd ed. 17 vols. Gale Research, 1998.
- "Sandra Cisneros." *Contemporary Hispanic Biography*. Vol 1. Gale Group, 2002.
- "Sandra Cisneros." *Notable Hispanic American Women*, Book 1. Gale Research, 1993.

Q: It's been 25 years since *The House on Mango Street* was first published. What about your work or about your writing style has changed over the years? What has remained the same?

A: I think my work still has a distinctive voice that is uniquely mine—and that voice is one of a person speaking Spanish in English. By that I mean that I write with the syntax and sensibility of Spanish, even when there isn't a syllable of Spanish present. It's engrained in the way I look at the world, and the way I construct sentences and stories. I was not aware of this when I wrote *House*, but I'm conscious of it now. What remains the same? Well, I am still as astonished by the world and as intuitive/foolish as ever, but I am aware that this is a good thing, and not ashamed of it as I was when I was young. The difference now is that I know myself. I think my writing is wiser, and, I hope, more complex.

Q: How much does childhood still influence your writing? How much has your family influenced you?

A: I believe the farther away we are from a story the clearer we can see it. So the older I am, the clearer I can see the stories of my youth. I am constantly influenced by what is spoken and told to me. It doesn't always come from family.

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Most times, family are the [most] reluctant to tell me anything, and that's why I have to invent so much when it comes to my family's stories. I have very sketchy information there. Perhaps because we lived alongside each other, and I've found the closer you live to someone, the more distance you have to create to have privacy. But maybe it's just my family that doesn't talk about their inner life to me. Especially after I became a writer.

Q: *The House on Mango Street* so wonderfully portrays a young girl, Esperanza, discovering her identity. Do you think that such self-discovery is harder for a young Latina girl? Would Esperanza's story be different if she were growing up today?

A: I think it's hard for any woman in the world, regardless her color, because the world is so patriarchal, especially now with the Christian Taliban taking over women and their lives on one extreme, and the media taking over women on the other polar opposite. It's hard for women to know what they want when they've never been asked, but controlled by Church, State, and consumerism. Add to that women are colonized and don't know their history, but in a sense, all women are colonized, don't you think?

It's hard for women to gain access to who they are when they aren't even allowed information about their own bodies, control of their fertility, church and state dictating

choices that should belong to women themselves. I had to scavenge to find out about myself as a woman, and as a Latina. In many ways it's simpler because of access to the web. In some ways it's harder, because women aren't even aware they are not in control of their lives.

At least when I was a young woman there was a feminist movement. Nowadays so many women don't even know what feminism is, and equate "Girls Gone Wild" to liberation. Sad. On the other hand, I meet a lot of intelligent young women, and that's encouraging. A lot of politically aware, intellectually curious, independent-minded women, who don't buy the Paris Hilton model. So, I guess there's hope.

Q: What is it like knowing that this book is taught so widely in American schools today?

A: I don't take it personally. It has nothing to do with me, or with my book. The book is being taught because it is telling a story that has spiritual resonance at this time in history. It is serving a need, it is doing its healing, it is transmitting light, but I was just the conduit for that light, not the source. I am grateful that the timing was right for my labor to be recognized, and that the readers were ready to hear this story at this time. I am fortunate and blessed to be the flute, but I recognize and acknowledge I am not the music.

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ANDRA CISNEROS

Programs & Events

The below programs are free and open to the public, with no reservations required unless otherwise noted. For more information on programming, call (312) 747-8191 or go to chipublic.org.

POETRY WRITING WORKSHOPS



In acknowledgment of April as National Poetry Month and in partnership with CityVerse, the Chicago

Public Library's initiative to promote poetry across Chicago, a series of free poetry writing workshops will focus on themes of neighborhood and community.

Reservations required. Call (312) 747-8191.

Saturday, April 4, 2:00 p.m.

Workshop with Johanny Vasquez Paz

Lozano Branch
1805 S. Loomis St.

Saturday, April 4, 3:00 p.m.

Workshop with Regina Harris Baiocchi

South Shore Branch
2505 E. 73rd St.

Thursday, April 16, 3:00 p.m.

Workshop with Pam Osbey

Kelly Branch
6151 S. Normal Blvd.

Saturday, April 18, 11:00 a.m.

Workshop with Jennifer Karmin

Bezazian Branch
1226 W. Ainslie St.

Saturday, April 18, 1:30 p.m.

Workshop with Cynthia Gallaher

Harold Washington Library Center,
Room 3N5/3rd Fl.
400 S. State St.

Wednesday, April 22, 6:30 p.m.

Workshop with Carlos Cumpián

Albany Park Branch
5150 N. Kimball Ave.

Saturday, April 25, 2:00 p.m.

Workshop with Kelly Norman Ellis

Legler Branch
115 S. Pulaski Rd.





Sandra Cisneros Talk and Book Signing

Tuesday, April 14, 6:00 p.m.

Chicago Public Library
Harold Washington Library Center – Cindy Pritzker Auditorium
400 S. State St.

Join Sandra Cisneros as she reflects on her prestigious career 25 years after the initial publication of her groundbreaking work, *The House on Mango Street*. A book signing will follow, with books available for purchase by Barbara's Bookstore.

READINGS

Dramatic Reading At Shimer College

Saturday, April 4, 7:00 p.m.

Shimer College
3424 S. State St.

Shimer College students will present a dramatic reading of vignettes selected from Cisneros' *The House on Mango Street*, directed by Eileen Buchanan, Professor of Humanities and Director of the Shimer College Theatre Program. A reception will follow.

For more information call (312) 235-3510 or email b.stone@shimer.edu.

Palabra Pura Reading Series

Wednesday, April 15, 7:30 p.m.

Decima Musa
1901 S. Loomis Ave.

The Guild Complex presents a bi-lingual poetry reading featuring work by Latino/a poets that moves between languages and cultures. Poets reading their work include

Dan Vera. For more information on the reading series and The Guild Complex, go to <http://guildcomplex.org>.

Proyecto Latina Reading Series

Monday, April 20, 7:00 p.m.

Radio Arte
1401 W. 18th St.

Mangos, Chismes y Mucho Más! This monthly reading series promotes and features emerging and established Latinas of all written and performance disciplines from Chicago. This month's event honors Sandra Cisneros and includes a sneak peak at Tanya Saracho's adaptation of *The House on Mango Street*. Proyecto Latina is a collaborative between Teatro Luna, Tianguis Books, and Mariposa Atomica Ink. For more information, go to www.proyectolatina.org.

Staged Reading: *The House on Mango Street*

Monday, April 27, 7:00 p.m.

Steppenwolf Theatre - Upstairs theatre
1650 N. Halsted Ave.

This fall, Steppenwolf will present Sandra Cisneros' inimitable work about growing up Latina in Chicago. Adapted by Tanya Saracho, co-founder of Teatro Luna, this play will bring the world of Esperanza—her friends, family and neighbors, her dreams and her heartbreak—to vivid life on the stage. This reading presents Chicago actors performing scenes from the adaptation-in-progress.

Free event, **reservations required!**

Call (312) 335-1650.



Programs & Events

OTHER PROGRAMS

Community Forum on Immigration

Wednesday, April 29, 7:00 p.m.

Chicago Public Library
Logan Square Branch
3030 W. Fullerton Ave.

Join fellow Chicagoans from all backgrounds for a "town hall" meeting on the topic of immigration. The evening will feature a short reading, input by local activists, and your conversation.

This program is presented as a partnership between the Chicago Public Library, The Guild Complex and Latinos Progresando.

Ongoing Exhibit: Mexicanidad, Our Past Is Present

National Museum of Mexican Art
1852 W. 19th St.
(312) 738-1503

Sandra Cisneros has always drawn inspiration from the work of Mexican and Chicano artists such as those included in this permanent exhibit. Come experience the work of just a few of her favorites, including Ester Hernández, Josefina Aguilar, César Martínez, Einar and Jamex de la Torre, Olga Costa and Carmen Lomas Garza.



Kitchen by Patssi Valdez

This permanent exhibition showcases the National Museum of Mexican Art's 6,000 piece Collection as it chronologically traces the cultural history on both sides of the border. The changes, struggles, and triumphs within Mexican communities are brilliantly depicted in the works of art and artifacts presented in each of the five sections. The exhibition begins with the ancient indigenous pre-Cuauhtémoc era and influences, and is followed by four additional sections: Colonial Mexico, Independence to Revolution, Post-Mexican Revolution to Present Day Mexico, and the Mexican Experience in the U.S. For more information, go to www.nationalmuseumofmexicanart.org.

OBOC AT DEPAUL UNIVERSITY

The following are sponsored by DePaul University's Department of English. For more information, go to www.depaul.edu/~oboc or call (773) 325-7485.

Panel Discussion: Celebrating Latina Creativity in Chicago

Thursday, April 2, 6:00 p.m.

DePaul University—John R. Cortelyou
Commons Building
2324 N. Fremont St.

Join a distinguished panel of artists who will discuss the path of their own creative journeys, examine the ways in which their work has been influenced by Cisneros, and trace the dynamic relationship between artists and their communities. Panelists will include Professor **Bibiana Suarez** from the Department of Art, Media, and Design at DePaul University; **Irasema Gonzalez**, poet and founder of Tianguis Books; **Coya Paz**, co-founder of Teatro Luna and Visiting Multicultural Faculty in DePaul University's Theatre School; and **Tanya Saracho**, co-founder of Teatro Luna who is adapting *The House on Mango Street* for the stage.

Co-sponsored by the Women's Center at DePaul University. Free and open to the public; no reservations required.

Lecture: Mango Street Revisited—Youth, the Community/Barrio, and Immigration in Mexican Chicago

Tuesday, April 21, 6:00 p.m.

DePaul University—McGowan South Building
1110 W. Belden Ave., Room 108

Come to DePaul for a lecture by **Juan Mora-Torres**, Associate Professor in the Department of History. In the spring of 2006, over a million people, including large numbers of young people, marched in Chicago to demand civil rights for the undocumented population. This lecture/presentation revisits key themes in Sandra Cisneros' novel, *The House on Mango Street*—the meaning of community, the politics of the youth and issues of immigration in the making of contemporary Mexican Chicago. *Free and open to the public; no reservations required.*

Panel Discussion: Uprooted and Unprotected—Voices of Longing in *The House on Mango Street*

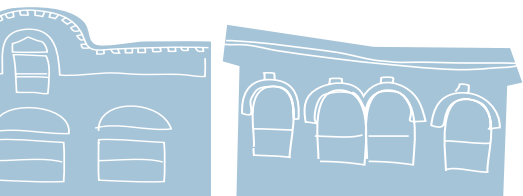
Wednesday, April 29, 6:00 p.m.

DePaul University—Student Center, Room 120
2250 N. Sheffield Ave.

Join a panel of distinguished DePaul faculty who will explore various questions about the impact and importance of *The House on Mango Street*, from its representation of Latino communities in Chicago to its portrayal of the challenges faced by immigrants and first-generation Americans. Panelists will include **Lourdes Torres**, Professor in the Latin American and Latino Studies Program; **Euan Hague**, Associate Professor in the Department of Geography; **Bill Johnson González**, Assistant Professor in the Department of English; and moderator, **Maria Beltran Vocal**, Professor in the Department of Modern Languages. *Free and open to the public; no reservations required.*

DePaul University Course on *The House on Mango Street*

DePaul University's Department of English offers a course dedicated to exploring the city's One Book selection in a challenging academic setting. The course, entitled English 378, "Literature and Social Engagement: Chicago's One Book—Issues and Perspectives," will be taught this spring by **Bill Johnson González**, Assistant Professor of English. The class will survey all of Cisneros' published works, with a special emphasis on *Mango Street*, and will explore such topics as multilingualism, transnationalism and the place of Cisneros's work in the tradition of Chicano/a literature. The course is available to DePaul undergraduates as well as adult learners seeking graduate level credit. DePaul students who enroll in this course for Junior Year Experiential Learning credit will take advantage of a variety of service learning opportunities in the community. Life-long learners who have already earned their bachelor's degree are encouraged to visit www.depaul.edu/~oboc for more information about tuition and for further details about the application process. This ten-week course meets on Tuesday evenings, 5:45-9:00 p.m., beginning on March 31st.



Programs & Events

DISCUSSION GROUPS

The below One Book, One Chicago discussion groups take place outside of library branches, in addition to those listed on pp. 12-14. Reservations are not required unless noted.

Thursday, April 15, 10:00 a.m.

Literacy Chicago

17 N. State St.
(312) 870-1100

Tuesday, April 21, 7:30 p.m.

Barnes & Noble Webster Place

Presented by the Great Books Foundation
1441 W. Webster Ave.
(773) 871-3610

Wednesday, April 22, 7:30 p.m.

Wright College – Library

4300 N. Narragansett Ave.
(773) 777-7900

Wednesday, April 22, 5:30 p.m.

Instituto Cervantes – Biblioteca

31 W. Ohio St.
(312) 335-1996 ext. 4045

Thursday, April 23, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Harold Washington College

30 E. Lake St.
(312) 553-5883

Thursday, April 23, 2:00 p.m.

Loyola University Chicago

Lewis Library, Water Tower Campus
25 E. Pearson St., Room 713
(773) 508-2641

Thursday, April 23, 7:00 p.m.

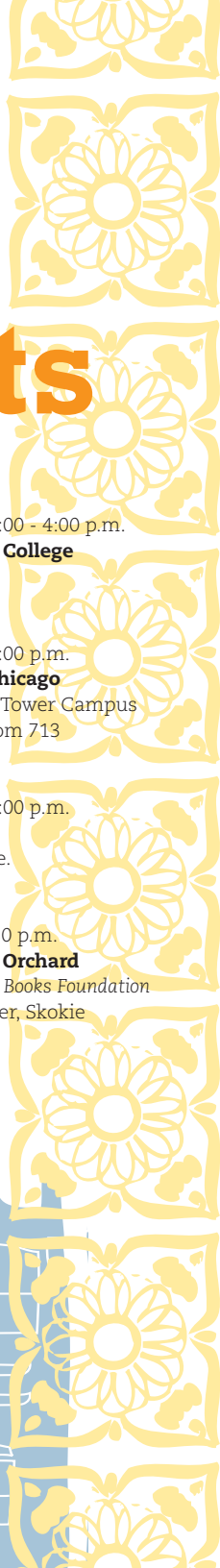
Gerber/Hart Library

1127 W. Granville Ave.
(773) 381-8030

Tuesday, April 28, 7:30 p.m.

Barnes & Noble Old Orchard

Presented by the Great Books Foundation
55 Old Orchard Center, Skokie
(847) 676-2230



Preschool Story Time: *Hairs/Pelitos*

The Chicago Public Library will hold various story times for kids and families featuring Sandra Cisneros' touching children's story, *Hairs/Pelitos*, which in fact is a vignette lifted from *The House on Mango Street*. Ages 3-5.

April 7, 11:00 a.m.
Brighton Park Branch
4314 S. Archer Ave.
(312) 747-0666

April 16, 6:30 p.m.
Vodak - East Side Branch
3710 E. 106th St.
(312) 747-5500

April 23, 6:00 p.m.
Back of the Yards Branch
4650 S. Damen Ave.
(312) 747-8367

April 8, 10:00 a.m.
Toman Branch
2708 S. Pulaski Rd.
(312) 745-1660

April 22, 11:00 a.m.
Humboldt Park Branch
1605 N. Troy St.
(312) 744-2244

TEEN VOLUME

Script-Writing Workshop

In partnership with Steppenwolf Theatre Company, Chicago Public Library will host



writer and actress Tanya Saracho as the guest presenter of a script adaptation workshop especially for teens. Tanya Sara-

cho is the adaptor for the fall 2009 Steppenwolf production of *The House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros.

Registration is required and space is limited!

Call (312) 745-3941.

Saturday, April 18, 2:00 p.m.

Harold Washington Library Center
400 S. State St., Lower Level Multipurpose Rooms

Reader's Theatre Troupe Performance

Chicago Public Library's Teen Volume Reader's Theatre Troupe brings books to life in performances of adaptations from current and classic literature relating to themes found in *The House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros. This program will also feature an adaptation from *The House on Mango Street*. (Copyright © 1984 by Sandra Cisneros. Published by Vintage Books, a division of Random House, Inc. and in hardcover by Alfred A. Knopf in 1994. By

permission of Susan Bergholz Literary Services, New York, NY and Lamy, NM. All rights reserved.) A presentation and discussion by Steppenwolf Theatre Company's Young Adult Council follow the performances.

Wednesday, April 29, 6:00 p.m.

Toman Branch
2708 S. Pulaski Rd.
(312) 745-1660

Book Discussions

Join an engaging book discussion for teens in high school, ages 14-19. Three discussions will focus on *The House on Mango Street*. Please be sure to stop by or call the branch library to sign up in advance for each discussion and pick up or reserve a copy of the book.

Thursday, April 16, 4:00 p.m.

Albany Park Branch
5150 N. Kimball Ave.
(312) 744-1933

Tuesday, April 21, 4:00 p.m.

Blackstone Branch
4904 S. Lake Park Ave.
(312) 747-0511

Wednesday, April 22, 4:30 p.m.

Woodson Regional Library
9525 S. Halsted St.
(312) 747-6900

CPL Discussion Groups

Wednesday, April 1, 6:00 p.m.
Toman Branch
2708 S. Pulaski Rd.
(312) 745-1660

Please note: This is a bilingual book discussion. Those reading in both English and Spanish are welcome.

Thursday, April 2, 7:00 p.m.
Walker Branch
11071 S. Hoyne Ave.
(312) 747-1920

Saturday, April 4, 10:30 a.m.
Eckhart Park Branch
1330 W. Chicago Ave.
(312) 746-6069

Saturday, April 4, 11:00 a.m.
Edgewater Branch
1210 W. Elmdale Ave.
(312) 744-0718

Saturday, April 4, 11:00 a.m.
Humboldt Park Branch
1605 N. Troy Ave.
(312) 744-2244

Saturday, April 4, 3:00 p.m.
Rogers Park Branch
6907 N. Clark St.
(312) 744-0156

Monday, April 6, 6:30 p.m.
Albany Park Branch
5150 N. Kimball Ave.
(312) 744-1933

Monday April 6, 7:00 p.m.
McKinley Park Branch
1915 W. 35th St.
(312) 747-6082

Wednesday, April 8, 2:00 p.m.
Beverly Branch
2121 W. 95th St.
(312) 747-9673

Wednesday, April 8, 6:30 p.m.
Avalon Branch
8148 S. Stony Island Ave.
(312) 747-5234

Wednesday, April 8, 7:00 p.m.
Sulzer Regional Library
4455 N. Lincoln Ave.
(312) 744-7616

Thursday, April 9, 7:00 p.m.
Canaryville Branch
642 W. 43rd St.
(312) 747-0644

Thursday, April 9, 7:00 p.m.
Lincoln Park Branch
1150 W. Fullerton Ave.
(312) 744-1926

Thursday, April 9, 7:30 p.m.
Hegewisch Branch
3048 E. 130th St.
(312) 747-0046

Saturday, April 11, 11:00 a.m.
Brainerd Branch
1350 W. 89th St.
(312) 747-6291

Saturday, April 11, 11:00 a.m.
Near North Branch
310 W. Division St.
(312) 744-0991

Monday, April 13, 11:00 a.m.
Near North Branch
310 W. Division St.
(312) 744-0991

Monday, April 13, 1:30 p.m.
Mabel Manning Branch
6 S. Hoyne Ave.
(312) 746-6800

Monday, April 13, 7:00 p.m.
Oriole Park Branch
7454 W. Balmoral Ave.
(312) 744-1965

Wednesday, April 15,
10:00 a.m.
Brighton Park Branch
4314 S. Archer Ave.
(312) 747-0666

Wednesday, April 15, 2:00 p.m.
Northtown Branch
6435 N. California Ave.
(312) 744-2292

Wednesday, April 15, 3:30 p.m.
Midwest Branch
2335 W. Chicago Ave.
(312) 744-7788

Wednesday, April 15, 6:30 p.m.
Galewood-Mont Clare Branch
6969 W. Grand Ave.
(312) 746-5032

Wednesday, April 15, 7:00 p.m.
Jefferson Park Branch
5363 W. Lawrence Ave.
(312) 744-1998

Wednesday, April 15, 7:00 p.m.
Mt. Greenwood Branch
11010 S. Kedzie Ave.
(312) 747-2805

Thursday, April 16, 10:30 a.m.
Roosevelt Branch
1101 W. Taylor St.
(312) 746-5656

Thursday, April 16, 6:30 p.m.
Roosevelt Branch
1101 W. Taylor St.
(312) 746-5656

Thursday, April 16, 7:00 p.m.
Garfield Ridge Branch
6348 S. Archer Ave.
(312) 747-6094

Thursday, April 16, 7:00 p.m.
Lincoln Belmont Branch
1659 W. Melrose St.
(312) 744-0166

Saturday, April 18, 9:30 a.m.
Garfield Ridge Branch
6348 S. Archer Ave.
(312) 747-6094

Saturday, April 18, 11:00 a.m.
Bucktown-Wicker Park Branch
1701 N. Milwaukee Ave.
(312) 744-6022

Saturday, April 18, 11:00 a.m.
Budlong Woods Branch
5630 N. Lincoln Ave.
(312) 742-9590

Saturday, April 18, 11:00 a.m.
Chicago Lawn Branch
6120 S. Kedzie Ave.
(312) 747-0639

Saturday, April 18, 11:00 a.m.
Harold Washington Library
Center
400 S. State St., 3rd floor
(312) 747-4700

Saturday, April 18, 1:00 p.m.
Blackstone Branch
4904 S. Lake Park Ave.
(312) 747-0511

Saturday, April 18, 1:00 p.m.
Uptown Branch
929 W. Buena Ave.
(312) 744-8400

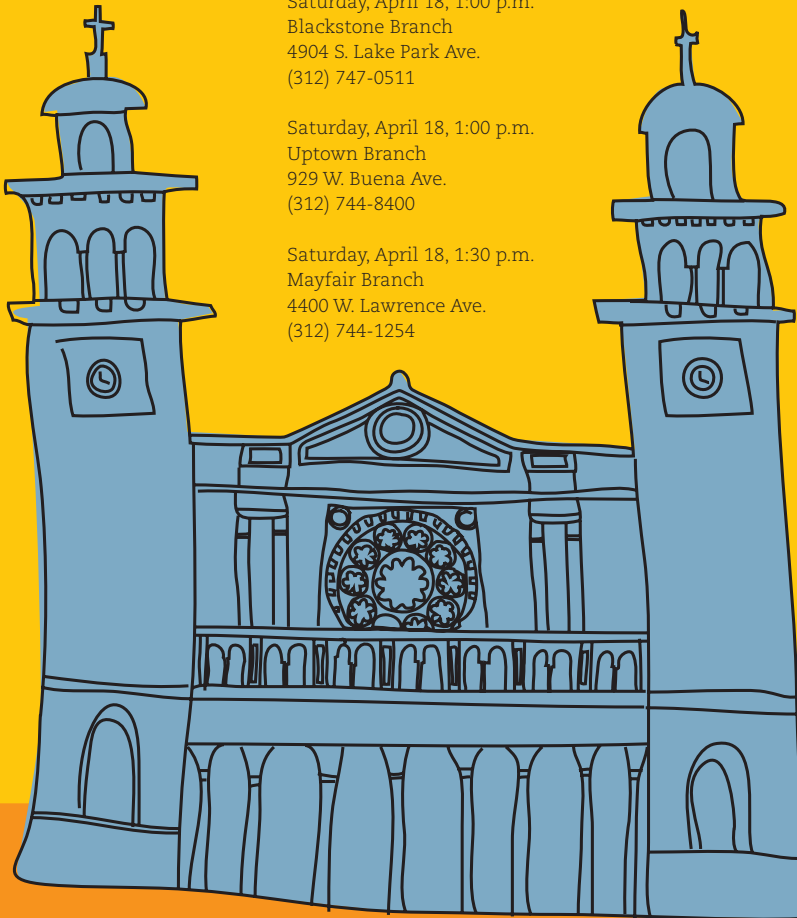
Saturday, April 18, 1:30 p.m.
Mayfair Branch
4400 W. Lawrence Ave.
(312) 744-1254

Saturday, April 18, 2:00 p.m.
South Shore Branch
2505 E. 73rd St.
(312) 747-5281

Saturday, April 18, 3:00 p.m.
Merlo Branch
644 W. Belmont Ave.
(312) 744-1139

Monday, April 20, 1:00 p.m.
Vodak - East Side Branch
3710 E. 106th St.
(312) 747-5500

Monday, April 20, 6:30 p.m.
North Austin Branch
5724 W. North Ave.
(312) 746-4233



Monday, April 20, 7:00 p.m.
Independence Branch
3548 W. Irving Park Rd.
(312) 744-0900

Tuesday, April 21, 7:00 p.m.
Austin-Irving Branch
6100 W. Irving Park Rd.
(312) 744-6222

Tuesday, April 21, 7:00 p.m.
Clearing Branch
6423 W. 63rd Pl.
(312) 747-5657

Tuesday, April 21, 7:00 p.m.
West Pullman Branch
830 W. 119th St.
(312) 747-1425

Wednesday, April 22, 5:00 p.m.
Sherman Park Branch
5440 S. Racine St.
(312) 747-0477

Wednesday, April 22, 7:00 p.m.
Archer Heights Branch
5055 S. Archer Ave.
(312) 747-9241

Wednesday, April 22, 7:00 p.m.
Jefferson Park Branch
5363 W. Lawrence Ave.
(312) 744-1998

Thursday, April 23, 12:00 p.m.
The Talking Book Center
Harold Washington Library,
Rm. 7N
400 S. State St.
(312) 747-4001

Thursday, April 23, 2:00 p.m.
Whitney M. Young Jr. Branch
7901 S. King Dr.
(312)747-0039

Thursday, April 23, 7:00 p.m.
Scottsdale Branch
4101 W. 79th St.
(312) 747-0193

Thursday, April 23, 7:00 p.m.
Woodson Regional Library
9525 S. Halsted St.
(312) 747-6921

Saturday, April 25, 10:15 a.m.
Thurgood Marshall Branch
7506 S. Racine Ave.
(312) 747-5927

Saturday, April 25, 10:30 a.m.
King Branch
3436 S. King Dr.
(312) 747-7543

Saturday, April 25, 2:00 p.m.
Bessie Coleman Branch
731 E. 63rd St.
(312) 747-7760

Tuesday, April 28, 6:30 p.m.
West Chicago Branch
4856 W. Chicago Ave.
(312) 743-0260

Tuesday, April 28, 7:00 p.m.
Lozano Branch
1805 S. Loomis St.
(312) 746-4329

Tuesday, April 28, 7:00 p.m.
Portage-Cragin Branch
5108 W. Belmont Ave.
(312) 744-0152

Tuesday, April 28, 7:00 p.m.
Roden Branch
6083 N. Northwest Hwy.
(312) 744-1478

Thursday April 28, 7:00 p.m.
West Belmont Branch
3104 N. Narragansett Ave.
(312) 746-5142

Thursday, April 30, 7:00 p.m.
Edgebrook Branch
5331 W. Devon Ave.
(312) 744-8313

Spanish Language Discussions

Wednesday, April 1, 6:00 p.m.
Toman Branch
2708 S. Pulaski Rd.
(312) 745-1660

Please note: This is a bilingual book discussion. Those reading in both English and Spanish are welcome.

Saturday, April 18, 11:00 a.m.
Humboldt Park Branch
1605 N. Troy St.
(312) 744-2244

Saturday, April 18, 2:00 p.m.
Clearing Branch
6423 W. 63rd Pl.
(312) 747-5657

Saturday, April 18, 2:00 p.m.
Rogers Park Branch
6907 N. Clark St.
(312) 744-0156

Tuesday, April 21, 7:00 p.m.
West Belmont Branch
3104 N. Narragansett Ave.
(312) 746-5142

Tuesday, April 21, 7:00 p.m.
West Lawn Branch
4020 W. 63rd St.
(312) 747-7381

Wednesday, April 22, 6:00 p.m.
Brighton Park Branch
4314 S. Archer Ave.
(312) 747-0666

Saturday, April 25, 1:00 p.m.
South Chicago Branch
9055 S. Houston Ave.
(312) 747-8065

Discussion Questions

1. Cisneros writes “I’m going to tell you a story about a girl who doesn’t belong...” Why does she feel she doesn’t belong? Is her experience universal for all adolescent girls?
2. How is Esperanza’s identity shaped by her community? How does her identity shift throughout the vignettes?
3. In *The House on Mango Street* Cisneros writes of “those who don’t know” about her neighborhood and the people in it. What is she saying about the way prejudices shape our perceptions of “us” and “them”?
4. How is language used to divide and include? What does the language you speak suggest about your connection or disconnection to your culture?
5. What do “My Name” and “Geraldo No Last Name” tell us about how identities are tied into our names? How do names affect the way we see ourselves & the way others see us?
6. Although much of the book details experiences outside the narrator’s house, why do you think Cisneros chose *The House on Mango Street* as her title? What does it reveal about her connection to her family, her home and her neighborhood?
7. How does Cisneros’ book impact and/or influence the Latino experience in America? Is the Chicago experience distinct?
8. What can we learn about life in Chicago from Cisneros’ experiences? Do you see your Chicago story in *The House on Mango Street*?



The Chicago Public Library wishes to thank Facing History and Ourselves for contributing these discussion questions.

Further Reading

FICTION

Titles available in both English and Spanish are noted.

The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao

La breve y maravillosa vida de Óscar Wao

by Junot Díaz

Riverhead Books, 2007

Oscar is a hopeless, fantasy-reading, role-game-playing, overweight nerd with dreams of finding love and writing the next Tolkienesque masterpiece. It's not going so well, and it might have something to do with the fukú (ancient curse) on his family. In his Pulitzer prize-winning novel, Díaz uses his truly original, no-holds-barred voice to take us through the woes of Oscar and his family, spanning two countries and decades of history.

Brownsville: Stories

by Oscar Casares

Back Bay Books, 2003

Casares delivers a collection of nine stories set in the border town of Brownsville, Texas. Each story paints a portrait of the Mexican-American experience through rich, down-to-earth characters, whose everyday struggles may be unique to their setting and culture, but are universal in the humanity they portray.

Coffee Will Make You Black

El café te hará negro

by April Sinclair

Hyperion, 1994

Sinclair's debut novel, set against the backdrop of the emerging Civil Rights movement, tells the story of Stevie, a young African-

American girl coming of age on the South Side of Chicago. During a racially charged period in history, Stevie struggles to find her identity as she also copes with her transition from childhood to adolescence.

Dreaming in Cuban

Soñar en Cubano

by Cristina García

Knopf, 1992

A finalist for the National Book Award, García's debut chronicles the story of three generations of a Cuban family, following them from Havana to Brooklyn across fifty years. Incorporating an array of writing styles, she captures the tumultuous and often magical history of one family traversing two countries and two cultures.

Drown

Negocios

by Junot Díaz

Vintage Books, 1997

Set in New Jersey and the Dominican Republic, this collection of ten stories garnered much critical acclaim for Díaz. Many of the stories are linked by the voice of a young narrator whose life bears a resemblance to that of the author, most notably in "Fiesta, 1980" and "Negocios" in which themes of familial relationships, growing up in dual cultures, and immigrant struggles run deep.

How the García Girls Lost Their Accents
De como las muchachas García perdieron el acento

by Julia Alvarez

Algonquin Books, 1991

Exiled from the Dominican Republic in the 1960s, the four García girls—Carla, Sandra, Yolanda and Sofia—find a new home in the Bronx. Not surprisingly, the move is an adjustment for the whole family, although the girls, eager to acclimate to their new life, fare better than their parents. Through episodic vignettes, the girls share their experiences, illuminating the challenges they face in reconciling their newly adopted American mindset with their Dominican culture.

The Joy Luck Club
El Club de la Buena Estrella

by Amy Tan

Putnam, 1989

Jing-Mei “June” Woo takes her recently deceased mother’s place at the Joy Luck Club, a weekly gathering of women who enjoy mahjong, dim sum, and conversation. In alternating chapters, the members and their American-born daughters reveal their storied pasts, allowing both generations to connect as they share their experiences.

The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fist Fight in Heaven

by Sherman Alexie

Atlantic Monthly Press, 1993

While the lives portrayed in these linked stories set on a Spokane Indian reservation are often filled with sadness and despair, Alexie manages to inject humor and compassion into these tales. Narrated by several characters with distinct voices, the book explores the relationships within the reservation and those outside its confines, depicting the clash between not just two cultures, but between two generations.

A Tree Grows in Brooklyn
Un árbol crece en Brooklyn

by Betty Smith

Harper, 1943

This classic novel introduced the world to Francie Nolan, a young girl coming of age during the early 1900s. Francie grows up in a run-down part of Brooklyn, but her intelligence and strength of character allow her to surpass her humble beginnings as she ventures away from her neighborhood to pursue a better life.

When Luba Leaves Home

by Irene Zabytko

Algonquin, 2003

Luba Vovkovych lives in Chicago’s Ukrainian Village, and while she longs to escape it and participate in a “real” American life, her family and friends need her. She tries to pull away from her immigrant neighborhood—which she thinks seems stuck in another time—by going to college and buying a car, but she finds it difficult to turn her back on her tight-knit community.

I Sailed with Magellan

by Stuart Dybek

Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2003

Dybek once again returns to his hometown with eleven stories tied together by the voice of Perry Katzek, a young narrator who navigates the city’s South Side through both childhood and adolescence. With his vivid descriptions and obvious love of the city, Dybek’s Chicago becomes another living, breathing character in his most recent collection.



Further Reading

MORE BY SANDRA CISNEROS

Bad Boys, Mango Publications, 1980

Caramelo, Knopf, 2002

Caramelo, o, Puro cuento, Vintage, 2003

Hairs/Pelitos (juvenile; bilingual), illustrated by Terry Ybanez, Knopf, 1994

Loose Woman, Knopf, 1994

My Wicked, Wicked Ways, Third Woman Press, 1987

Vintage Cisneros, Vintage Books, 2004

Woman Hollering Creek and Other Stories, Random House, 1991

El arroyo de la Llorona y otros cuentos, Vintage, 1996

NONFICTION

Titles available in both English and Spanish are noted. For more titles available in Spanish only, see p. 18 on the Spanish side of this guide.

Chicago: City of Neighborhoods

City of Dreams: Latino Immigration to Chicago
by Wilfredo Cruz
University Press of America, 2007

Division Street: America
by Studs Terkel
Pantheon Books, 1967

Never a City So Real: a Walk in Chicago
by Alex Kotlowitz
Crown Journeys, 2004

Streetwise Chicago: a History of Chicago Street Names

by Don Hayner and Tom McNamee
Loyola University Press, 1988

My Bloody Life: The Making of a Latin King
Latin King: Mi Vida Sangrienta
by Reymundo Sánchez
Chicago Review Press, 2000

Waiting for Snow in Havana: Confessions of a Cuban Boy
Nieve en La Habana: Confesiones de un Cubanito
by Carlos Eire
The Free Press, 2003

Immigrant Experience

The Devil's Highway: a True Story
by Luis Alberto Urrea
Little, Brown, 2004

Harvest of Empire: a History of Latinos in America
by Juan Gonzalez
Viking, 2000

Translation Nation: Defining a New American Identity in the Spanish-speaking United States
by Héctor Tobar
Riverhead Books, 2005

Burro Genius: A Memoir
Burro Genioby
by Victor Villaseñor
Rayo, 2005

Dying to Cross: The Worst Immigrant Tragedy in American History

Morir en el Intento: la Peor Tragedia de Inmigrantes en la Historia de los Estados Unidos

by Jorge Ramos
Rayo/Harper Collins, 2005

Adolescence

Once Upon a Quinceañera: Coming of Age in the USA

by Julia Alvarez
Viking, 2007

Reviving Ophelia: Saving the Selves of Adolescent Girls

Reviviendo a Ophelia o, Cómo Salvar a la Niña Adolescente

by Mary Pipher
Putnam, 1994

**When I Was Puerto Rican
Cuando Era Puertorriqueña**

by Esmeralda Santiago
Addison-Wesley, 1993

The Power of Writing

Bad Boy: a Memoir

by Walter Dean Myers
HarperCollins Publishers, 2001

The Freedom Writers Diary: How a Group of Extraordinary Teens Used Writing to Change Themselves and the World Around Them

by The Freedom Writers with Erin Gruwell
Doubleday, 1999

Writing Women's Lives: an Anthology of Autobiographical Narratives by Twentieth Century American Women Writers

edited by Susan Cahill
HarperPerennial, 1994

CPL RESOURCES

The below resources are available in English only.
For resources available in Spanish, please see p. 19 of the Spanish side of this guide.

For More Information on...

Sandra Cisneros' process and influence:

- Ruth Behar. "Talking in Our Pajamas: A Conversation with Sandra Cisneros on Finding Your Voice, Fear of Highways, Tacos, Travel, and the Need for Peace in the World." *Michigan Quarterly Review* 47, issue 3, Summer 2008; pp. 411-439. (Available through Proquest Magazines & Journals)
- "Interview: Writer Sandra Cisneros Discusses the Cultural Origins of her Work." *Morning Edition*, May 3, 2004; p. 1. (Available through Proquest Magazines & Journals)

Latina Feminist takes on The House on Mango Street:

- Kelly Wissman. "Writing Will Keep You Free: Allusions to and Recreations of the Fairy Tale Heroine in The House on Mango Street." *Children's Literature in Education* 38, no. 1, Mar. 2007; pp. 17-34. (Available through ERIC)
- Leslis Petty. "The 'Dual'-ing Images of La Malinche and La Virgen de Guadalupe in Cisneros' *The House on Mango Street*." *Melus*, Vol. 25, Issue 2 (Summer 2000): pp. 119-134. (Available through ProQuest)

Immigration to Chicago:

- John Powell. "Immigration to Chicago." *Encyclopedia of North American Immigration*, Fact on File Inc.
<http://fofweb.com/activelink2.asp> (Available though Facts on File History Online)



Further Reading

BOOKS FOR KIDS

Titles available in both English and Spanish are noted.

Becoming Naomi León, Scholastic, 2004

Yo, Naomi León, Scholastic en Español, 2005

by Pam Muñoz Ryan

Ages 10-13

Threatened by the unexpected return of her dysfunctional mother, Naomi Soledad León Outlaw sets out for Mexico with her brother and great-grandmother to locate her father, an Oaxacan woodcarver from whom she has inherited her artistic talent.

Elena's Serenade, Atheneum, 2004

Elenita, Lectorum, 2006

by Campbell Geeslin, illustrated by Ana Juan

Ages 7-10

Longing to follow in the footsteps of her family's artistic traditions, Elena creates music with her pipe and the images in the songs appear as beautiful glass figurines.

Family Pictures/Cuadros de Familias,

Children's Book Press, 2005

by Carmen Lomas Garza, introduction by Sandra Cisneros

In My Family/En mi familia,

Children's Book Press, 2000

by Carmen Lomas Garza

Ages 7-10

Both of these books are teeming with life and provide snapshots of the author's life growing up in a very loving Mexican-American family.

Hairs/Pelitos, Dragonfly, 1997

by Sandra Cisneros, illustrated by Terry Ybanez

Ages 3-6

This very special vignette from *The House on Mango Street* is tenderly illustrated to create a loving read-aloud experience.

Neighborhood Odes, Harcourt, 2005

by Gary Soto, illustrated by David Diaz

Canto familiar, Harcourt, 2007

by Gary Soto, illustrated by Annika Nelson

Ages 9 and up

These evocative poems capture the joy and energy of growing up in a community.

Poems to Dream Together/Poemas para Soñar

Juntos, Lee & Low, 2005

by Francisco X. Alarcón, illustrated by Paula

Barragán

Ages 9-12

This is a vibrant collection of nineteen bilingual poems all celebrating family, community and the world around us.

The Smell of Old Lady Perfume,

Cinco Puntos, 2008

by Claudia Guadalupe Martinez

Ages 9-12

Chela can't wait to start sixth grade, but nothing goes the way she had imagined, especially when her beloved father has a stroke and her grandmother comes to stay.

Snapshots from the Wedding, Putnam, 1997

by Gary Soto, illustrated by Stephanie Garcia

Ages 4-8

You're invited to share the excitement of the big day with Maya, a flower girl at a family wedding, complete with mariachi music, pollo con mole, and naughty cousins.

The Storyteller's Candle/La velita de los

cuentos, Children's Book Press, 2008
by Lucía M. González, illustrated by
Lulu Delacre

Ages 6-9

This is the inspiring true story of how one special librarian many years ago, Pura Belpré, showed all the children in her community that "la biblioteca es para todos."

The Tequila Worm,

Random House/Wendy Lamb, 2005
by Viola Canales

Ages 9-13

From the barrio to a fancy school in the big city, Sofia stays true to her family and Mexican-American culture, while having fun all along.

BOOKS FOR TEENS

Baseball in April and Other Stories,

Harcourt, 2000

Béisbol en Abril y otros cuentos,

Alfaguara, 2007

by Gary Soto

Ages 12 and up

Guys and girls and growing up is what these true-to-life tales are all about.

Cool Salsa: Bilingual Poems on Growing Up

Hispanic in the United States, Holt, 1994

edited by Lori Carlson, introduction by

Oscar Hijuelos

Ages 13 and up

Sandra Cisneros and many other writers contributed to this hot collection.

Esperanza Rising, Scholastic, 2000

Esperanza Renace, Scholastic en

Español, 2002

by Pam Muñoz Ryan

Ages 12-14

This story of Esperanza's journey from Mexico to a new life in the United States is a winner of the Pura Belpré Medal for the book that "best portrays, affirms, and celebrates the Latino cultural experience."

Estrella's Quinceañera,

Simon & Schuster, 2006

by Malin Alegria

Ages 12 and up

As her family prepares for the big day, Estrella must move back and forth between cultures, and between her *damas* and Speedy, the guy she really likes.

Finding Miracles, Knopf, 2004

En busca de milagros, Laurel Leaf, 2006

by Julia Alvarez

Ages 12 and up

Milly's high school life is changed forever, and for the better, when Pablo arrives from a troubled country that she discovers to be part of her own history.

Parrot in the Oven: Mi Vida,

HarperCollins, 1996

by Victor Martinez

Ages 12 and up

Life is tough in Manuel Hernandez's family and neighborhood, but it won't stop him as he tries to become a man.

Taking Sides, Harcourt, 2003

Tomando Partido, Alfaguara, 2007

by Gary Soto

Ages 12-14

Sometimes the basketball court is the only place where Lincoln Mendoza feels he belongs.

Wáchale! Poetry and Prose About Growing Up

Latino in America, Cricket, 2001

edited by Ilan Stavans

Ages 14-18

Twenty-nine Latino writers have contributed experiences to relate to, learn from, and be inspired by.



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Evaluation

Which of the following represents your age bracket?

14-18 19-25 26-35 36-45 46-55 56 and up

How did you hear about the One Book, One Chicago program?

Chicago Public Library (branch name: _____)

Cultural or educational institution other than CPL: _____

TV/Radio/Magazine/Newspaper: _____

Bookstore: _____

Other: _____

Have you participated in One Book, One Chicago before? Yes No

If yes, how frequently have you participated previously? (This is the 16th OBOC selection.)

Less than five times 11-15 times 5-10 times all 16 times!

Do you plan to participate again?

Yes No It depends on the book chosen.

How did you participate this spring?

Read the book

Attended a book discussion group (if so, where? _____)

Attended a public program (if so, where? _____)

Other: _____

Share your thoughts on the selection of *The House on Mango Street* for OBOC: _____

Please provide your email address if you would like to hear about future OBOC or Library programming: _____

Please provide your mailing address to be included in a drawing to receive a free copy of the next One Book, One Chicago selection: _____

WIN A FREE BOOK!

Completed forms will be entered into a drawing for a free copy of the Fall OBOC selection.

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ATTN: Adult Services
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