TEN MUST-READ CHICANO/LATINO TITLES
Compiled by Jesse Tijerina, Chicano Literature Specialist

1. Anaya, Rudolfo A.. Bless Me, Ultima. Recently reprinted in an edition including educational ideas on how to teach the book. His two following books; Heart of Aztlan, and Tortuga which complete the Anaya trilogy should also be read. Chicano Lit. (High School)

2. Cisneros, Sandra. The House On Mango Street. A coming of age classic of a young Chicana growing up in a Chicago barrio. Because of its style, being written in short, vignette-like chapters, all ages will enjoy certain chapters of the book. The chapter titled Hairs has also been published in a picture book with bilingual text titled, Hairs/Pelitos. All Cisneros is worth reading. Chicano Lit.


5. Rivera, Tomas. ...y no se lo trago la tierra/And the Earth Did Not Part. Two different translations; Hermini Rios-C is the preferred translation. A collection of vignettes about a young boy growing up within the Migrant stream. Chicano Lit. (High School)


7. Soto, Gary. Baseball in April. A classic short story collection that has crossed over from Chicano Lit. into the huge array of juvenile short story collections. Influenced by his experiences of growing up poor and Mexican-American. By far one of the most active Chicano writers; an abundance of work spreading from picture books to juvenile non-fiction. All of which are worth reading. Chicano Lit. (Middle School)

8. Lopez, Tiffany Ana. Growing Up Chicana/o. An anthology of 20 Chicana/o writers writing about their childhoods. Included are the cornerstone writers of the Chicano literary canon: Anaya, Soto, Cisneros, and many more. Chicano Lit. (Upper Middle–High School)
