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2026 Virtual Hike - Mexico

English Language Titles

ADULT FICTION

A Place Where the Sea Remembers, by Sandra Benítez

DB 55916

In the 1980s, in a small Mexican village by the sea, Candelario, an illiterate restaurant salad maker, offers to raise his sister-in-law Marta's illegitimate baby. But he reneges when his own wife Chayo becomes pregnant. Marta places a curse on their child through a native healer, with tragic consequences.

Caramelo, by Sandra Cisneros

DB 55405

Celaya Reyes spins out her story from childhood to maturity. She weaves in threads about her immediate family's bicultural adaptation in Chicago, journeys to her grandparents' home in Mexico City, and melodramatic strands from past and present. The tale sustains her, like her ancient inherited caramel-colored shawl.

Destiny and Desire, by Carlos Fuentes

DB 75645

The severed head of Josué Nadal relates his life story as it washes away in the Pacific Ocean. Josué and his friend Jericó enter commerce and politics in contemporary Mexico City and share an unexpected bond.

Gods of Jade and Shadow, by Silvia Moreno-Garcia

DB 96115

In 1920s Mexico, Casiopea Tun is cleaning her wealthy grandfather's house when she finds a curious wooden box. She opens it, accidentally freeing the spirit of the Mayan god of death, who requests her help in recovering his throne from his treacherous brother.

Happy Families: Stories, by Carlos Fuentes

DB 68321

Sixteen stories set in modern-day Mexico. Vignettes depict relationships between spouses, lovers--including a homosexual couple--and parents and children while invoking Tolstoy's observation about happy and unhappy families. In "Sweethearts" former lovers cross paths unexpectedly on a cruise ship.

Hurricane Season, by Fernanda Melchor

BR 23248

When the woman known as the Witch is found murdered, a Mexican village is turned upside down as everyone investigates--but for their own reasons. People can't be trusted, and depravity and brutality rule all.

Like Water for Chocolate, by Laura Esquivel

DB 36256

When Pedro asks Mama Elena for the hand of her youngest daughter, Tita, he is offered her sister instead. By family tradition, Tita is to remain unmarried to care for her mother. Tita, a magical cook, shares recipes that, seasoned by her emotions, have an extraordinary impact on the events that follow her mother's decision.

Mexican Gothic, by Silvia Moreno-Garcia

BR 23483

DB 99404

Mexico City, 1950. After receiving a frantic letter from her newly-wed cousin begging for someone to save her from a mysterious doom, socialite Noemí Taboada heads to High Place, a distant house in the Mexican countryside. Both the home and its owners seem to have a dark past.

Sofi Mendoza's Guide to Getting Lost in Mexico, by Malín Alegría

DB 66079

Southern Californian high school senior Sofi Mendoza and her friends sneak to Tijuana for the weekend. When Sofi is not allowed back into the United States, she stays with relatives in rural Baja without an indoor bathroom, a telephone, the Internet, or American television.

Sun, Stone, and Shadows: Twenty Great Mexican Short Stories

DB 68735

Mexican authors born in the first half of the twentieth century write tales that reveal a panorama of Mexican culture and society--past and present, urban and rural, real and

unreal. In "What Became of Pampa Hash?" an impoverished Mexican has a torrid love affair.

Swift as Desire, by Laura Esquivel

DB 54598

As her father, Júbilo, lies on his deathbed, Lluvia tries to unravel the secret behind his estrangement from her mother, Lucha. This is the tale of Júbilo's career as a telegraph operator in Mexico and his gift for communication with all except his wife.

The Book of Lamentations, by Rosario Castellanos

DB 45081

A tale of social and racial conflict set in the Mexican state of Chiapas in 1930. Describes events that precipitate a Mayan Indian rebellion against the dominant Ladino class. Culminates in a harrowing, redemptive crucifixion of a child.

The Condesa of M, by George H. Szanto

BRG 00477

This absorbing story contains a tale of an intelligent, beautiful, and fiercely just eighteenth-century Mexican noblewoman. When her beloved husband dies unexpectedly during lovemaking, he returns as an intermittent, other-worldly presence. From this new vantage point, he watches over her and their three daughters, offering practical advice and unique insights that even the astute Victoria misses.

The Eagle's Throne, by Carlos Fuentes

DB 63369

In 2020, after Mexico protests the U.S. invasion of Colombia, the Americans cut off all electronic communications within Mexico. Forced to write letters, various ambitious Mexicans vie for power under ineffectual president Lorenzo Terán, including María del Rosario Galván, her protégé Nicolás Valdivia, and other Machiavellian types.

The Hummingbird's Daughter, by Luis Alberto Urrea

DB 61312

Teresita Urrea, illegitimate daughter of a Mexican landowner, learns healing from a medicine woman. After a near-death experience, her powers grow. She preaches self-reliance and is proclaimed a saint by the faithful, who begin an uprising. Based on the life of Saint Teresa de Cabora.

The Murmur of Bees, by Sofía Segovia

BR 23652

DB 102087

1910. An abandoned newborn is discovered under a bridge in a Mexican town. The townspeople consider him cursed, but he is taken in by the Morales family and named Simonopio. As Simonopio grows older, his talent to see the future haunts the town.

The Mutations, by Jorge Comensal

BR 23844

Militant atheist, successful attorney, and traditional family man Ramón discovers the pain he is experiencing is cancer of the tongue. As his family deals with the diagnosis and treatment, their maid Elodia gives Ramón a foul-mouthed parrot.

The Queen of the South, by Arturo Pérez-Reverte

BRG 01113

Teresa Mendoza's phone rings--a signal that her drug runner boyfriend is dead, and she now has to run for her own life. On the lam, Teresa leaves Mexico for Morocco, where she transports drugs until she undergoes a terrible accident and a brief stint in prison. Gaining knowledge along the way and using her brilliant intuition and head for numbers, she eventually heads one of the biggest drug traffic rings in the Mediterranean.

The Savage Detectives, by Roberto Bolaño

DB 64504

1976. Mexican student Juan Garcia Madero and poets Arturo Belano and Ulises Lima search for literary icon Cesarea Tinajero, who disappeared in the Sonora Desert in the 1920s. The trio is joined by a prostitute fleeing from her pimp.

The Sons of El Rey, by Alex Espinoza

DB 125896

Ernesto and Elena Vega arrive in Mexico City where Ernesto becomes the famous lucha libre wrestler, El Rey Coyote. Years later, in East Los Angeles, his son Freddy struggles to save his gym while Freddy's son Julian seeks his own path as a Mexican American gay man. As Ernesto is dying, Freddy and Julian must confront their family's past in Mexico. Told through alternating perspectives, the story spans from Michoacán to Mexico City, 1980s Los Angeles, and West Hollywood's modern hook-up culture, portraying a family's fight against time and legacy.

Vampires of El Norte, by Isabel Cañas

DB 116478

In 1840s Mexico, rancher's daughter Nena is threatened by Anglo settlers and a blood-draining monster that attacked her nine years ago. Believing Nena dead, vaquero Néstor fled his grief. The U.S. invasion of Mexico in 1846 reunites them: Nena is a curandera trying to avoid a forced marriage; Néstor is auxiliary cavalry. Their shocking

reunion, complicated by Nena's anger at his past abandonment, is eclipsed by the return of the monster. To survive the war and the nightmare, Nena and Néstor must reconcile their past and face the future together.

ADULT NONFICTION

Conquistador: Hernan Cortes, King Montezuma, and the last stand of the Aztecs,

by Buddy Levy

DB 68382

Freelance journalist chronicles the Spanish conquest of Mexico that began with the 1519 arrival of Hernán Cortés from Cuba. Details Cortés's incursion into the Aztec city of Tenochtitlán, where he confined Montezuma and witnessed human sacrifice. Discusses the violent clash and lack of comprehension between the two cultures.

El México Antiguo = Ancient Mexico, by Paul Gendrop

DB 32242

Survey of the pre-Columbian Indian civilizations of Mexico, including the Olmecs, the Teotihuacans, the Zapotecs, the Totonacs, the Maya, the Maya-Toltecs, and the Aztecs. Includes background information on the origin and spread of human beings in America as well as cultural data on the art, architecture, and religion of these civilizations. In English and Spanish languages.

First Stop in the New World: Mexico City, the Capital of the Twenty-first Century,

by David Lida

DB 68032

Resident journalist offers an insider's social chronicle of the largest metropolis--twenty million people--in the western hemisphere. Describes wealthy citizens and street vendors; gracious old colonial and modern, densely packed neighborhoods; the sex district and the arts and entertainment scene; and the enjoyment he finds living there.

Manana Forever? Mexico and the Mexicans, by Jorge G. Castañeda

DB 74212

Mexican diplomat and professor explains why the traits that helped forge his country hinder its search for a future and modernity. Castañeda analyzes Mexican attributes such as acute individualism and rejection of collective action, fascination with the past, fear of the foreign, and disregard for the law.

My Mexico City Kitchen: Recipes and Convictions, by Gabriela Cámara

BR 24997

Gabriela Cámara, an internationally recognized figure with acclaimed restaurants in Mexico City and San Francisco, offers 150 vegetable-forward, fresh-first, and seafood-centric Mexican recipes inspired by Mexico City's culinary scene. Her cookbook features Basicos, Desayunos, Primeros, Platos Fuertos, and Postres, including dishes like Chilaquiles Verdes, Chiles Rellenos, Flan de Cajeta, and her signature tuna tostadas. Over 150 images and a dozen essays detail her cooking principles, such as the importance of non-GMO corn and the versatility of the taco. Her simple, innovative Mexican food is perfect for confident home cooks.

Opening Mexico: The Making Of A Democracy, by Julia Preston

DB 58349

Pulitzer Prize-winning reporters examine Mexico's July 2000 revolution to end a despotic, one-party rule. Includes history of political events and pivotal players in the rise of pluralistic democracy. Describes changes such as ballot and legislative reform, presidential power limitations, and improved human rights.

The Distance between Us: A Memoir, by Reyna Grande

DB 85006

The author recounts her childhood, when her father left her, her siblings, and her mother behind in Mexico to cross the United States' border. Years later he summons his wife to join him, but Reyna and her siblings are left behind with their stern grandmother.

The Life and Times of Mexico, by Earl Shorris

DB 59103

Author of *Latinos* (DB 37272) provides a history of Mexico from the Aztecs to "telenovelas." Using the Mexican concepts of head (Tonalli), heart (Teyolia), and liver (Ihiyotl), separate sections examine history and philosophy; art, literature, and family; and education, politics, economics, and survival.

The Mexico Reader: History, Culture, Politics, by Timothy J. Henderson

DB 72427

Selections of wide-ranging materials, including essays, memoirs, histories, and poetry, that explore ideas about Mexican identity. Unique voices chronicle Mexico's development from the epochs of ancient indigenous cultures to the Spanish conquest, colonization, formation of the Republic, revolution, and the ongoing struggle of U.S. border relations and immigration.

YOUTH FICTION

Magic: Once upon a Faraway Land, by Mirelle Ortega

DB 113203

Growing up on a pineapple farm in Mexico, a young girl discovers the magic in everyday transformations that take place around her. For Preschool-grade 2.

Señorita Mariposa, by Mister G

DB 111752

Rhyming text and lively illustrations showcase the epic trip taken by the monarch butterflies. At the end of each summer, these international travelers leave Canada to fly south to Mexico for the winter--and now readers can come along for the ride! Over mountains capped with snow, to the deserts down below. Children will be delighted to share in the fascinating journey of the monarchs and be introduced to the people and places they pass before they finally arrive in the forests that their ancestors called home. For Preschool-grade 2.

The First Tortilla: A Bilingual Story, by Rudolfo A. Anaya

BR 17045

When Jade offers food to the Mountain Spirit and asks him for rain, he responds with a gift--the first corn for the Mexican people. Returning home, she plants some corn and after crushing the kernels, cooks the first tortilla. Bilingual book in English and Spanish. PRINT/BRAILLE. For grades K-3.

A Land of Books: Dreams of Young Mexihcah Word Painters, by Duncan Tonatiuh

BR 25057

Illustrations and text describe how the Mixtecs create painted manuscripts, or codices, that reflect their way of life and document their history, science, land tenure, tribute, and sacred rituals. PRINT/BRAILLE. For grades 2-4.

The Dream Stealer, by Sid Fleischman

DB 70105

Eight-year-old Susana, a plucky Mexican girl, tries to get her dream back from the chili-pepper-eating Dream Stealer. He takes her to his castle, where countless dreams and even more adventures await. For grades 3-6.

Barefoot Dreams of Petra Luna, Book 1, by Alda P. Dobbs

DB 106811

During the Mexican Revolution, twelve-year-old Petra Luna flees north with her abuelita and siblings in search of a safe place to live a better life. For grades 5-8.

¡Viva Lola Espinoza!, by Ella Cerón

DB 114282

Book smart teen Lola's summer plans are derailed when she is sent to live with her grandmother in Mexico City and learns a family secret that changes her life forever. For senior high and older readers.

YOUTH NONFICTION

***Let's Work: Mexican Folk Art Trabajos in English and Spanish = A Trabajar :
Trabajos de Arte Popular Mexicano en Inglés Y Español***, by Cynthia Weill

DB 111922

Cynthia Weill brings to life the work of the dedicated palm weavers of Flavio Gallardo's workshop, whose miniature palm weavings illustrate this playful book, teaching children words for work in two languages. The weavers live in the village of Chigmecatitlán in the Mixteca part of the Mexican state of Puebla. For Preschool-grade 2. Bilingual book in English and Spanish languages.

Child of the Flower-Song People: Luz Jiménez, Daughter of the Nahua, by Gloria Amescua

BR 24055

DB 106522

A biographical account of a Nahua girl who grew up in Mexico during the early 1900s. She became a model for artists, worked with scholars to preserve Nahuatl language and stories, and was known as the "soul of Mexico." For grades K-3.

Day of the Dead: A Latino Celebration of Family and Life, by Carol Gnojewski

DB 62277

Describes the customs and traditions of this Mexican family holiday, observed from October 31 to November 2, that celebrates the stages of life. Traces the holiday's history from ancient Aztec beliefs to the Spanish conquest and modern times. Discusses offerings and skeleton symbols. For grades 2-4.

Jovita Wore Pants: The Story of a Mexican Freedom Fighter, by Aida Salazar

BR 25636

Jovita didn't want to cook and clean like her sisters, and she especially didn't want to wear the skirts her abuela gave her. She wanted to race her brothers and climb the tallest mesquite trees in Rancho Palos Blancos, ride horses, and wear pants! When her father and brothers joined the Cristeros War to fight for the right to practice religion, she wanted to help. She wasn't allowed to fight, but that didn't stop her from observing how her father strategized and familiarizing herself with the terrain. When tragedy struck, she did the only thing that felt right to her--cut her hair, donned a pair of pants, and continued the fight, commanding a battalion who followed her without question. PRINT/BRAILLE. For grades 2-4.

Cinco de Mayo: A Mexican Holiday about Unity and Pride, by James Garcia
DB 61994

Discusses the historical events of May 5, 1862, when Mexico defeated the powerful French at the Battle of Puebla and the growing popularity of celebrating this date. Includes suggestions for planning a Cinco de Mayo fiesta. For grades 3-6.

Meet Our New Student from Mexico, by Tamra Orr
DB 71503

To prepare for a new classmate, students learn about the country bordering the United States to the south. This introduction provides a brief history of Mexico and describes its geography, social life, and customs. Includes a recipe for guacamole and instructions for creating a pinata. For grades 3-6.

Mexico, by Beth Gruber
BR 17643

An overview of America's neighbor to the south. Describes Mexico's geography, climate, plants and animals, history, government, economy, and culture, which blends both Spanish and native traditions. Includes a glossary of common Spanish phrases. For grades 3-6.

Viva Mexico!: A Journey through Food, Fiestas and Beyond, by Alex Pathe
DB 123358

There's so much to love about Mexico. Indigenous traditions stretching back millennia; colourful cuisine that's loved the world over; and vibrant festivals bursting with joyful energy. Mexico is a country worth celebrating - and that's exactly what ¡Viva Mexico! is all about. Uncover its varied natural landscapes, explore its vibrant cuisine, and learn about its ever-changing cycle of colourful feasts and fiestas. Unearth the unshakable ties that link this diverse country together. Get ready to learn what makes Mexico so special - ¡viva Mexico! Long live Mexico! For grades 4-7.

Mexico, by R. Conrad Stein

BR 18909

Describes the geography, history, and people of the Spanish-speaking nation of Mexico. Discusses the country's wildlife; Catholic religion; arts; sports; holidays; and mestizo, indigenous, and white population. Covers the Aztec civilization, modern government and economics, and border problems with the United States. For grades 5-8.

Teens in Mexico, by Brian Baumgart

DB 66319

Discusses the differences between teenagers who live in the city and those from rural areas who leave school early to work full-time and help support their families. Covers celebrations, religion, poverty, job opportunities, and the lure of crossing the border into the United States. For grades 6-9.