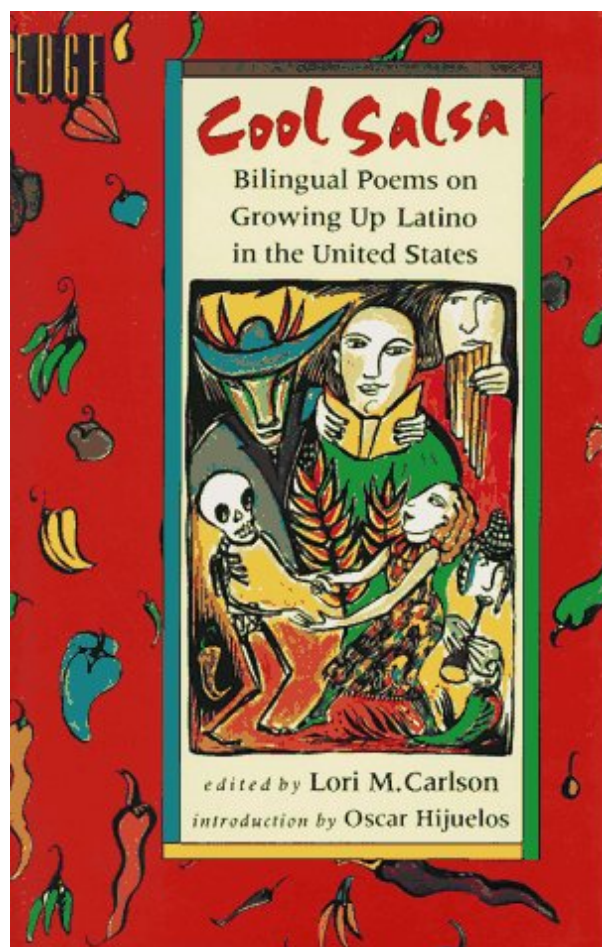
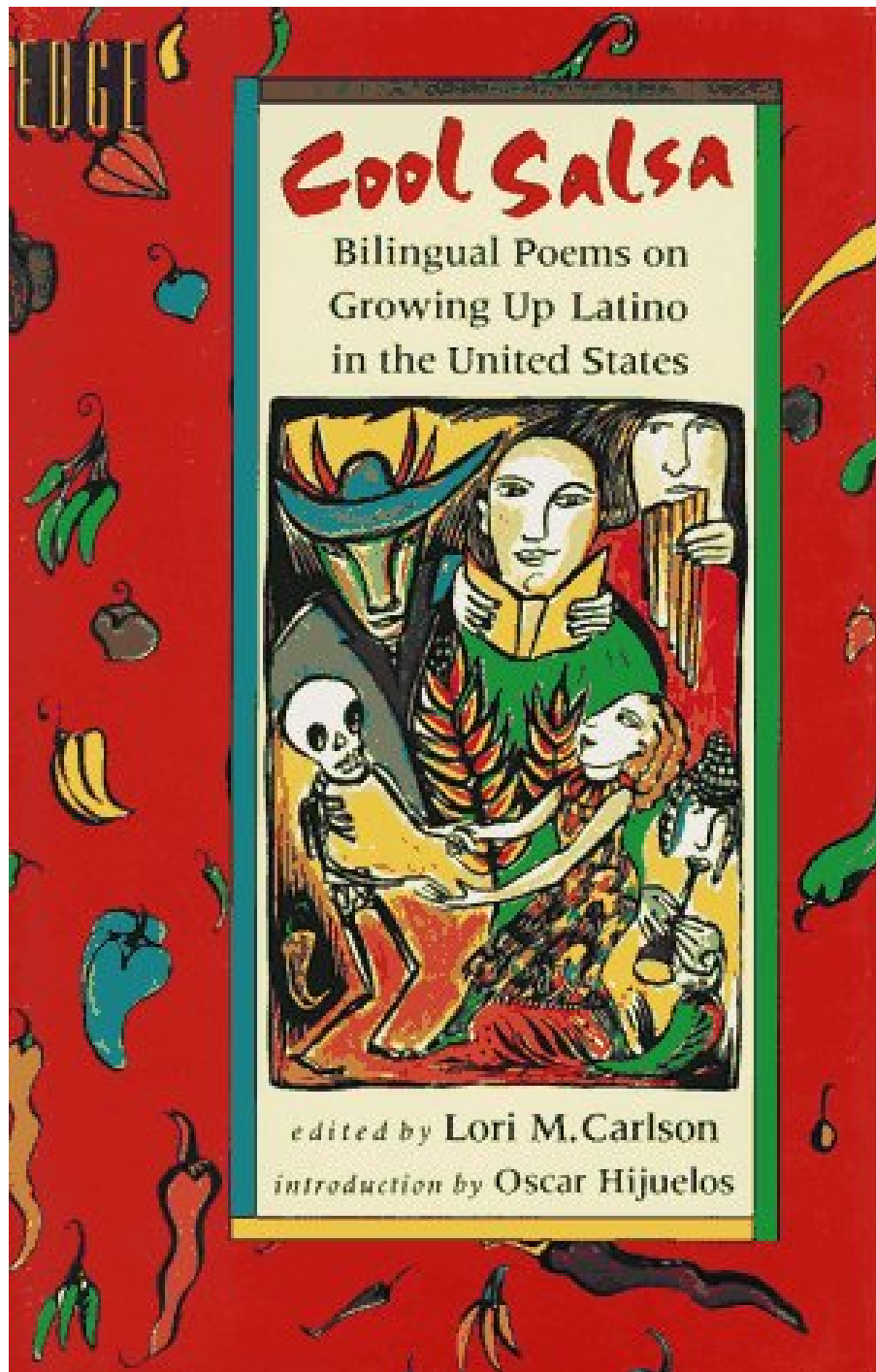


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From School Library Journal

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Growing up Latino in America means speaking two languages, living two lives, learning the rules of two cultures. Cool Salsa celebrates the tones, rhythms, sounds, and experiences of that double life. Here are poems about families and parties, insults and sad memories, hot dogs and mangos, the sweet syllables of Spanish and the snag-toothed traps of English. Here is the glory, and pain, of being Latino American.

Latino Americans hail from Cuba and California, Mexico and Michigan, Nicaragua and New York, and editor Lori M. Carlson has made sure to capture all of those accents. With poets such as Sandra Cisneros, Martín Espada, Gary Soto, and Ed Vega, and a very personal introduction by Oscar Hijuelos, this collection encompasses the voices of Latino America. By selecting poems about the experiences of teenagers, Carlson has given a focus to that rich diversity; by presenting the poems both in their original language and in translation, she has made them available to us all.

As you move from memories of red wagons, to dreams of orange trees, to fights with street gangs, you feel Cool Salsa's musical and emotional cross rhythms. Here is a world of exciting poetry for you, y tú también.

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- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.56" h x .65" w x 6.34" l,
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- 124 pages

Features

- Used Book in Good Condition

From Publishers Weekly

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From School Library Journal

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Cool Salsa for the elementary classroom

By Toni M. Riehle

Growing up in a country where my parents are also from is something I have always taken for granted. I am from the United States, more specifically New York, and so are my parents. They are English speakers, and so am I. I attended public and catholic school in which both I learned to perfect my native language. I never struggled with learning English and never thought twice about it. Now I am studying to be an elementary teacher with a focus in English. What I have become more and more aware of is the children who do not come from English speaking parents, and the trouble they have when faced with learning the English language in public school. Different then students like myself, these children of immigrant parents do not have a basis of English education going into elementary school. Most were raised to speak their Native language and being immersed in an English taught school proves to be very challenging and frustrating for them. This can have intense negative effects on the progression and success of the students' academic career and it is very important for a teacher to familiarize themselves and understand this. The book Cool Salsa takes an interesting approach in dealing with these issues.

Cool Salsa is a compilation of poems written by Latino poets of all different ages, cultures, and walks of life. Each poet does share though, the struggle of growing up Latino in America. Some poems are traditional, others are slang, some are funny and others are serious. Many are written in Spanglish (a mix of English and Spanish) and others have been translated from either Spanish or English. These poems take the reader

through the experience of growing up Latino. We learn about speaking two languages, living two cultures, the challenges, the rewards, the memories and the dreams of these poets.

I found this book to potentially be extremely helpful in dealing with diversity in the classroom. It truly grabs the essence of what it means to be an immigrant student. As a teacher I would really enjoy being able to read this book to my students or having them read passages from it in both Spanish and English. If my students are able to recognize and appreciate another language and culture I believe they will be more sensitive and accepting of their peers from that culture. If I do have an immigrant student from the Latino heritage I would have them read this book so that they can find familiarity with their struggles and learn a creative way to express their feelings. Even if I do not have an immigrant student I would like to use this book in my classroom to expose my students to culture and language anyway. The translations are easy and fun and the poems are personal and real. The only problem I found with this book is that some of the poems may be too mature for the lower elementary grades. Some of the language used like "niggerlips" and "spic" and "whitey" may be offensive and inappropriate for younger children. The reality of the matter is though that these are the racial slurs that some children have to deal with growing up. I would recommend and use this book for fourth grade and up only.

4 of 5 people found the following review helpful.

Spice For All

By Vikki Sneed

If you like mild, medium, or hot there is something for anyone in *Cool Salsa: Bilingual Poems on Growing up Latino in the United States*, and just like nachos, there is a whole lot for everyone. This book is a compilation of first, second, and third-generation Latino writers, and it includes a diversity of writing styles and themes. The combination of the poems captures the essences of Latin rhythms and ways of life in America. Students of all races will relate to different aspects of this book, and two examples of poems that all students should be able to identify with are "Translating Grandfather's House" and "The Aquatic Show." "Translating Grandfather's House" depicts in a semi-sarcastic tone a very common situation. A teacher is looking at a student's sketch, and she tells him that it looks like a house from a Zorro movie instead of a picture of a real house. However, the student says he is drawing the house that his mother was born in and she was born in Mexico. On the finished picture of a Spanish style house in an elaborate natural wild grass setting of his grandfather's town, he titles the picture "GRANDFATHER'S HOUSE." The teacher realizes her error, gives the picture an "A+," and then displays the picture on the "green" blackboard. The teacher-student miscommunication battle is timeless, and the irony or confusion over why green chalkboards are called "blackboards" is classic as well. The "Aquatic Show" is a very charming and funny poem. A kid is talking about singing and sort of dancing in the shower. He explains how much he enjoys this activity. Also, he assumes that the bathroom fixtures, which are his audience, really enjoy it too. He mentions songs from different Latin countries, which is a nice form of cultural exposure for non-Latin Americans. In addition to the poetry, this book has an excellent glossary and an interesting "Biographical Notes" section that gives a brief synopsis of accomplishments for each poet.

Furthermore, the "Editor's Note," provides an outstanding description of what the reader should expect from this book, and it gives a great rationale for the writing of this book. The purpose of this book is to inspire the desire in others to learn other languages. Finally, the introduction, written by Oscar Hijuelos, presents a heartfelt, compelling, and poignant picture of what it was like to live in America over 40 years ago as a Latin American. It relays the trials of a life when people were "Hearing one language on the streets, another at home, and a third at school..."(p.xxi), and one where there were no books or attitudes of sympathy for anyone dealing with this issue.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

Just as it is named, Cool....

By Laura Lea Porter

....

This book is really what it says it is, COOL SALSA...it goes in hot yet cooling to the senses, then slides warmly all the way down to the last page! This book is awesome for anyone who is interested in just reading something that isn't Americanized. These poems are true and real, great for children and Adults. Some of the greatest Latin American writers are featured in this book like Sandra Cisneros, Oscar Hijuelos, Ana Castillo, etc. There are many books that I think about and this one is at the TOP of my list for children and adults to read, if you like poetry.

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