Books about Hispanics
A List for PSHS Students, April, 2008

*Always Running: La Vida Loca, Gang Days in L.A.* by Luis Rodriguez. This title is a 1993 biography of a Mexican American youth.

*Becoming Americana* by Lara Rios. Lupe Perez finds out what it is like to be a Mexicana in Americana L.A.

*Becoming Latina in 10 Easy Steps* by Lara Rios. Marcela finds out that her father was a white man and struggles to accept her mixed racial heritage.

*Bless Me Ultima* by Rudolfo Anaya. Herbal healer Ultima comes to live with Antonio’s family in New Mexico.


*Devils Highway: a True Story* by Luis Albert Urrea. This nonfiction title looks at illegal immigration in the Mexican American border region.

*Enrique’s Journey* by Sonia Nazario. Enrique traveled alone from Honduras through the length of Mexico in search of his mother who was working as a domestic in California. This true story first appeared in the Los Angeles Times.

*Esperanza Rising* by Pam Munoz Ryan. Esperanza flees Mexico with her mother and works in labor camps in Southern California.


*House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros. The famous author writes about the life of a Hispanic American girl in Chicago.


*Tequila Worm* by Viola Canales. Sofia leaves the comfort of her close-knit family in a barrio of McAllen to attend an Episcopal boarding school on a scholarship.

*Parrot in the Oven M.i Vida* by Victor Martinez. Manny’s family struggles with poverty and with an alcoholic head of the family.

*Romiette and Julio* by Sharon Draper. Romiette, an African American girl and Julio, a Hispanic boy, are harassed by a gang whose members object to their interracial dating.


*Surprising Cecilia* by Susan Gonzales Abraham and Denise Gonzales Abraham. Cecilia faces challenges in the 1930s in the Rio Grande Valley where a young Hispanic girl is not expected to try to get an education.