

## Celebrate Dia with children and books on April 30

### Erin McCusker

*For Go! Magazine* One of the greatest gifts you can give your child is a love of reading. On April 30, in honor of Dia, celebrate with your child by sharing the wonder of the world through books, stories and libraries.

Dia, also known as El dia de los ninos/El dia de los libros (Children's Day/Book Day) is a commitment to include and celebrate a variety of cultures every day, year-round, culminating annually on April 30. Dia is an enhancement of Children's Day, which began in 1925. In 1996, nationally acclaimed children's book author Pat Mora proposed linking the celebration of childhood and children with literacy to found Dia.

This year is the 25th anniversary of Dia. The celebration emphasizes the importance of advocating literacy for children of all linguistic and cultural backgrounds. Public and school libraries celebrate Dia, a national library program that fosters literacy for all children from all backgrounds. Programs such as Dia play a critical role in helping meet the needs of an increasingly diverse population, while also fueling understanding and acceptance.

Join in the national celebration of diverse children's books by sharing a book with your child from your library. Below are several books for a variety of ages; check with your library to find these books and many more: Birth to pre-kindergarten: "Nosotros Means Us: Un cuento bilingue" by Paloma Valdivia.

Kindergarten to second grade: "Jump at the Sun: The True Life Tale of Unstoppable Storycatcher Zora Neale Hurston" by Alicia D. Williams.

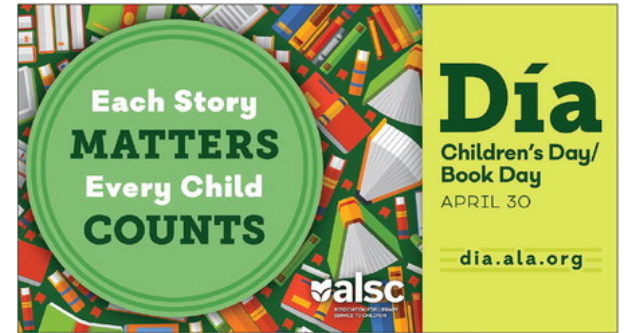
Third through fifth grades: "Sugar and Spite" by Gail D. Villanueva.

Sixth through eighth grades: "Ancestor Approved: Intertribal Stories for Kids," edited by Cynthia Leitich Smith.

The Milton-Freewater Public Library, 8 SW Eighth Ave. #1501, will hand out goody bags for children. The bags will include toys, candy and a couple of crafts to do together at home.

The library will also have free books to give away in celebration of Dia through the last week in April.

For more information, find your library's website at [www.ucslid.org](http://www.ucslid.org). The Umatilla County Special Library District works in partnership with our libraries to advance and make available excellent library services, programs and continuing education opportunities for all. ——— *Erin McCusker is the district director of the Umatilla County Special Library District. Reach her at 541-276-6449 or [director@ucslid.org](mailto:director@ucslid.org).*



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