

# ATN NEWSLETTER

More than just Día de Muertos



## HONOURING HERITAGE & HISTORY MONTHS

From the desks of the Antiracist Teachers Network:

October marks the beginning of the school year's heritage and history months, and of course, the ATN is ready to provide some guidance! In fact, you can check out our newsletter on [Canadian Islamic Heritage Month resources](#) right here!

However, when we found ourselves building this month's issue focusing on Canadian Latin American Heritage Month we encountered a few challenges that made us take pause and ask:

**How can we honour heritage and history months without tokenizing the purpose of the month as a whole?**

Enter the **Anti-Defamation League** with a guide titled [Dos and Don'ts with Special Diversity Events](#) with poignant advice for every educator wishing to engage with these months throughout the year. We won't rewrite the entire guide as our opening statement for this month but highlight three do's that we think speak to our efforts here at the ATN.

1. **Define Diversity in Diverse Ways** - The definition for diversity in your school should include the intersectionalities of those present in your building!
2. **Input From All** - Considering everyone involved in your school community can help ensure your observances are meaningful and avoid tokenization of certain groups
3. **Be Expansive in Exploring Cultures** - Cultural groups remain present in our contemporary times and should not just be observed in just a past tense.

We hope this helps to frame your explorations for the school year ahead!

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### DATES OF NOTE FOR OCTOBER

**All Month:**

**Canadian Islamic Heritage Month** (Theme: Celebrating Muslim Women in Arts & Sciences)

**Latin American Heritage Month**

**Canadian Women's History Month**

**Canadian LGBTQ+ History Month**

**October 4th** - Sisters in Spirit Day

**October 10th** - World Mental Health Day

**October 11th** - International Day of the Girl Child

**October 17th to 22nd** - Secret Path Week

**October 24th** - Dussehra

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## PODCAST RECCS FROM THE ATN



We recommend the episode [The Fever Tree Hunt](#)



We recommend the episode [Exploring Language Identity and Power with Poetry](#)



## JOIN THE ATN!

Interested in joining the ATN for this school year?  
Email: [local38atn@gmail.com](mailto:local38atn@gmail.com)  
for more information!

## COOL STUFF!

- **Casa Pueblito** and the **Ontario Trillium Foundation** have the [Voices for Change Anthology](#) collecting literary work from Latin-Hispanic Youth
- **Casa Pueblito** has also developed the [Our Voices In Schools Toolkit](#) to help foster Inclusive Education
- **The Canadian Centre for Diversity and Inclusion** has created a [Hispanic and Latin American Heritage Month Educational Resource Guide](#)
- **The National Film Board of Canada** has curated a selection of films for [Latin American Heritage Month](#)
- **The Canadian Encyclopedia** highlights [Latin American Canadians](#) in Canadian history
- Check out [Multicultural Classroom](#) to help bring a anti bias and anti racist lenses to your classroom and school!
- Explore the [Canadian Hispanic Latin American Virtual Museum](#)
- **UNLADYLIKE2020** highlights educator and civil rights activist [Jovita Idar](#) and botanist [Ynés Mexia](#) in their video series
- **Google Arts & Culture** made an interactive gallery highlighting [10 Inspiring Latinas Who've Made History](#)
- **Teaching for Change** has developed a [Latino/Hispanic Heritage Month Resource package](#) that presents several starting points for your explorations
- **The Anti-Defamation League** created an [Ideas for Educators](#) page around Hispanic Heritage Month
- **The National Educators Association** made [a directory of lesson plans](#) around Hispanic Heritage Month

## OUR MONTHLY BOOK RECCS

From the ATN Resource Bank!

### K-4

*And So It Goes* by Paloma Valdivia, *Islandborn* by Junot Díaz  
*El Cucuy... and other spooky legends from Latin American folklore* by Naibe Reynoso  
*Niños: Poems for the Lost Children of Chile* by María José Ferrada  
*Cantora: Mercedes Sosa The Voice of Latin America* by Melisa Fernandez Nitsche  
*Senora Sanasana* by Ashlee Campbell  
*A Gift from Abuela* by Cecilia Ruiz  
*Alma and How She Got Her Name* by Juana Martinez-Neal  
*La Mariachi* by Isabel Estrada & Addy Rivera Sound

### 5-9

*I dream...: A book about hope* by Gabriela Olmos  
*The Dreamer* by Pam Muñoz Ryan & Peter Sís  
*The Lightning Dreamer: Cuba's Greatest Abolitionist* by Margarita Engle  
*The Last Cuentista* by Donna Barba Higuera  
*Yes! We Are Latinos: Poems and Prose About the Latino Experience* by Alma Flor Ada, F. Isabel Campoy & David Díaz

### 10-12

*Furia* by Yamile Saied Méndez  
*I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter* by Erika L. Sánchez  
*The Lesbian's Guide to Catholic School* by Sonora Reyes  
*Cemetery Boys* by Aiden Thomas

### For Educators

*Something Fierce: Memoirs of a Revolutionary Daughter* by Carmen Aguirre  
*My Time Among the Whites: Notes from an Unfinished Education* by Jennine Capó Cruet  
*In the Country We Love: My Family Divided* by Diane Guerrero  
*Wild Tongues Can't be Tamed* edited by Saracen J. Fennell  
*Afterlife* by Julia Alvarez  
*Olga Dies Dreaming* by Xochitl Gonzalez  
*Infinite Country* by Patricia Engel  
*The House of Broken Angels* by Luis Alberto Urrea  
*The Undocumented Americans* by Karla Cornejo Villavicencio  
*Of Women and Salt* by Gabriella Garcia



Looking for previous ATN issues?  
Find them under

[Antiracist Teacher Network Newsletter](#) here!