Delve Deeper into “The Ballad of Esequiel Hernandez”
A film by Kieran Fitzgerald

This multi-media resource list, compiled by Debby DeSoer of the Ellensburg Public Library, provides a range of perspectives on the issues raised by the upcoming P.O.V. documentary “The Ballad of Esequiel Hernandez” that premieres on July 8th, 2008 at 10 PM (check local listings at www.pbs.org/pov/).

In 1997, U.S. Marines patrolling the Texas-Mexico border as part of the War on Drugs shot and killed Esequiel Hernández Jr. Mistaken for a drug runner, the 18-year-old was, in fact, a U.S. citizen tending his family’s goats with a .22 rifle. He became the first American killed by U.S. military forces on native soil since the 1970 Kent State shootings. “The Ballad of Esequiel Hernández,” narrated by Tommy Lee Jones, explores Hernández’s tragic death and its torturous aftermath. His parents and friends, the Marines on patrol and investigators discuss the dangers of militarizing the border and the death of one young man.

**ADULT NONFICTION**

Andreas contrasts the inconstancies between an increased focus on border law enforcement with the upsurge of the global economy.

**Bigelow, Bill. The Line Between Us: Teaching About the Border and Mexican Immigration.** Rethinking Schools, 2006.
Explores the history of U.S.-Mexican relations and the roots of Mexican immigration, all in the context of the global economy.

Exposes the racism behind the anti-immigration vigilante movement while putting a face to the immigrants risking their lives to cross the U.S.-Mexico border.

Leo Chavez analyzes over 70 cover images from politically diverse magazines.

Davidson portrays the struggles of communities in Nogales, Arizona and Nogales, Sonora as they deal with everyday issues of life on the border, from the maquiladora boom to confrontations with law enforcement.

From the 1970s through the mid-1980s Ford made his living as an outlaw, smuggling marijuana across the U.S./Mexico border in the Big Bend region.


**Herrera, Juan Felipe. 187 Reasons Mexicanos Can’t Cross the Border.** City Lights Publishers, 2007. Herrera, a professor of creative writing at the University of California, Riverside, offers this collection of texts about what it’s like to be Mexican American.

Peter Lafer helps readers understand the background of Bush’s proposals for the U.S.-Mexican border, and argues that the border with Mexico should be completely open, with a free flow of people between the two countries. He offers a step-by-step blueprint for making it happen.

Book and CD. Provides an in-depth study of a body of poetry that takes violence as its subject: the Mexican ballad form known as the *corrido*. Through interviews with *corrido* composers and performers, both male and female, and a generous sampling of ballad texts, McDowell reveals a living vernacular tradition that amounts to a chronicle of local and regional rivalries.

In 1994 the Clinton administration doubled the budget for fences and trained agents along the border. Journalist Joseph Nevins investigates the Clinton administration’s effort to prevent illegal border crossings in the context of the mid-90s.

Illuminates the connection between homeland security policies, drug laws and illegal immigration at the U.S.-Mexico border.

Price looks at the Mexico - U.S. border in a historical context, and researches the many peoples who have laid claim to it.
Delve Deeper into “The Ballad of Esequiel Hernandez”
A film by Kieran Fitzgerald


Annerino, John. Dead in Their Tracks: Crossing America’s Desert Borderlands. Basic Books, 2003. Follows John Annerino, a noted photojournalist from Newsweek, and the four Mexican nationals determined to illegally immigrate who became his companions while on assignment in the land between Mexico and The U.S.

ADULT FICTION


Kelton, Elmer. Jericho’s Road. New York:Forge Books, 2004. Set in the 1870’s the players were different, cattle rustlers and the Texas Rangers, but the issues remain the same, conflicts on the border between clashing cultures and the law.


NONFICTION FOR YOUNGER READERS


FICTION FOR YOUNGER READERS


Jaramillo, Ann. La Linea. Roaring Brook/Deborah Brodie. 2006. Grades 5-8. Teenage brother and sister undergo the horrors of crossing the border to reunite with their parents.

FILMS/DOCUMENTARIES

The Border. Universal Studios. A film by Tony Richardson. 1982, 107 min. A border guard faces corruption in his department when the infant of a poor Mexican girl is kidnapped.


Bordertown. A film by Gregory Nava. 2006, 112 min. Nearly 400 women have been murdered in the border town of Juarez, Mexico, since 1993. Reporter Lauren Fredericks (Jennifer Lopez), assigned by her editor (Martin Sheen) to investigate, discovers cover-ups by the local authorities. With the help of colleague Alfonso (Antonio Banderas), she helps the only survivor find the courage to tell her story.

Border War: The Battle Over Illegal Immigration. Genius Entertainment. 2006, 95 min. Documentary. The issue of illegal immigration and the continued conflict taking place at the U.S.-Mexico border are brought to life in this documentary.

Delve Deeper into “The Ballad of Esequiel Hernandez”
A film by Kieran Fitzgerald

Kent State: The Day the War Came Home. Produced by Pictures in Motion and Single Spark Pictures. 2000, 47 min. A compilation of interviews with witnesses, national guardsmen, and victims.

The Three Burials of Melquiades Estrada. A film by Tommy Lee Jones. 2005, 121 min. Ranch hand Pete Perkins looks to fulfill the promise to his recently deceased best friend by burying him in his hometown in Mexico.


MUSIC CD


ESSAYS