

Delve Deeper into "Calavera Highway"

A film by Renee Tajima-Peña

This multi-media resource list, compiled by Debby DeSoer of the Ellensburg City Public Library, provides a range of perspectives on the issues raised by the upcoming P.O.V. documentary "Calavera Highway" that premieres on September 16th, 2008 at 10 PM (check local listings at www.pbs.org/pov/).

When brothers Armando and Carlos Peña set off to carry their mother's ashes to south Texas, their road trip turns into a quest for answers about a strangely veiled past. As they reunite with five other brothers, the two men try to piece together their family's shattered history. Why was their mother cast out by her family? What happened to their father, who disappeared during the notorious 1954 U.S. deportation program Operation Wetback? "Calavera Highway" is a sweeping story of seven Mexican-American men grappling with the meaning of masculinity, fatherhood and a legacy of rootless beginnings. Produced in association with American Documentary | P.O.V. A co-presentation of Latino Public Broadcasting. Funded in part by Center for Asian American Media with funds provided by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

ADULT NONFICTION

Bennett, William J. *The Broken Hearth: Reversing the Moral Collapse of the American Family*. Doubleday, 2001. Bennett examines the decay of the nuclear family and the importance of a stable environment for children.

Corneau, Guy. *Absent Fathers, Lost Sons: The Search for Masculine Identity*, Shambhala Publications, Inc., 1991. Psychoanalyst Corneau writes about masculinity and the male image in order to gain a better understanding of baby boomer men and their experience with absentee fathers.

Davis, Sampson, George Jenkins, et al. *The Bond: Three Young Men Learn to Forgive and Reconnect with Their Fathers*. Riverhead, Oct. 2007. The story of three men trying to overcome their common issues of fatherlessness and poverty, and their attempts to give their sons better lives.

Hart, Elva Trevino. *Barefoot Heart: Stories of a Migrant Child. Bilingual Review Pr*, 1999. A stark look at growing up in an impoverished migrant family in the 1950s.

Maguire, Jack. *The Power of Personal Storytelling*. Tarcher, 1998. A how-to guide to personal storytelling.

Mirandé, Alfredo. *Hombres y Machos: Masculinity and Latino Culture*. Westview Press, 1997. Based on in-depth interviews with diverse Latino men, this book looks into the myths and misconceptions about Latinos in society.

Paisley, Jeff. *Fifty-Five Fathers: Real Men Share Their Stories and Life Lessons about Their Own Fathers*. Tucson, Arizona. Wheatmark Press, 2007. These men recount their life stories in order to demonstrate the impact of their actions on their children and family.

Ramon Garcia, Juan. *Operation Wetback: The Mass Deportation of Mexican Undocumented Workers in 1954*. Westport, Conn. Greenwood Press, 1980. Analyzes the highly-charged issue of Mexican labor immigration.

Ruiz, Ramon Eduardo. *Triumphs and Tragedies: A History of the Mexican People*. W.W. Norton and Co., 1993. Ruiz, a history professor at UCSD, offers a people's history of Mexico.

Ryskamp, George R. *Finding Your Hispanic Roots*. Genealogical Publishing Company, 1997. Expanded and revised, this a good beginning guide to tracing ancestral roots.

Ryskamp, George R. and Peggy. *Finding Your Mexican Ancestors: A Beginner's Guide*. Ancestry, 2007.

The Ryskamps describe how easy it can be to find your ancestors through public records in Mexico.

Sawyer, Ruth. *The Way of the Storyteller*. Penquin. 1977. The classic storytelling primer.

Suárez-Orozco, Marcelo M. and Carola. *Children of Immigration*. Harvard University Press, 2002. Co-directors of the Harvard Immigration Project, the authors spent two decades studying how immigrant children fare in the United States.

ADULT FICTION

Grattan-Dominquez, Alejandro. *The Dark Side of the Dream*. Houston: Arte Publico, 1995. This is an epic tale of immigration, war, labor organizing and the quest for human rights by Mexican Americans told through the hardships of two immigrant brothers.

Limon, Graviela. *The Memories of Ana Calderon*. Houston: Arte Publico, 2001. A fictional memoir of a talented woman, born in tradition-bound rural Mexico, who comes to the United States in hope of greater opportunity only to find herself battling against family, church and the justice system in an effort to succeed.

Mazziotti, Maria and Jennifer Gillan, editors. *Growing Up Ethnic in America: Contemporary Fiction about Learning to be American*. Penguin, 1999. The book brings together the voices of many contemporary authors who have struggled to make sense of their identities after coming to this country from other countries around the world.

Rulfo, Juan. *Pedro Paramo*. Grove Press, 1994. A novel about a man in search of his Mexican heritage.



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NONFICTION FOR YOUNGER READERS

Atkin, S. Beth. *Voices from the Fields: Children of Migrant Farmworkers Tell Their Stories*. Topeka: Topeka Bindery, 2000. A collection of photographs, interviews and poems, which tell the stories of Mexican-American children and their migrant families.

Fernandez-Shaw, Carlos M. *The Hispanic Presence in North America from 1942 to Today*. New York: Facts on File, 1991. A general historic overview of Hispanic culture accompanied by a state-by-state study of the history and influence of Hispanics in America. Also includes a reference for related media and organizations.

Garza, Carmen Lomas. *In My Family*. San Francisco: Children's Book Press. Grades K-4. Garza writes about and illustrates aspects of life in her family. Each illustration is accompanied by text in both English and Spanish describing a tradition, event or memory from her Mexican-American childhood.

Hoyt-Goldsmith, Diane. *Migrant Worker: A Boy From the Rio Grande Valley*. New York: Holiday House Inc., 1996. Grades 3-6. A photo essay covering an 11-year-old boy's daily life in the fields and at school as well as general information about migrant workers.

de Ruiz, Dana Catharine and Rishard Larios. *La Causa: The Migrant Farmworkers' Story*. Austin: Steck-Vaughn Publishers, 1993. Grades 3-5. Describes the efforts of Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta to organize migrant workers in California during the 1960s, a group that later became the United Farm Workers.

Schroeder, Michael J. *Mexican Americans*. Chelsea House Publications, 2006. This book describes the achievements and hardships of Mexican American immigrants since the passage of the Immigration and Naturalization Services Act in 1965.

FICTION FOR YOUNGER READERS

Jimenez, Francisco. *The Circuit: Stories from the Life of a Migrant Child*. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1997. Grades 5-8. A collection of twelve short stories presented from the perspective of a young boy, in which the author narrates his childhood experiences growing up in a family of Mexican migrant farmworkers.

Rivera, Thomas. *...Y No Se Lo Trago la Tierra*. Houston: Arte Publico Press, 1996. The story of a Mexican-American family's life as migrant workers during the 1950s, as seen through the eyes of a young boy who must forge his self identity in the face of exploitation, death and disease, constant moving and conflicts with school officials.

Soto, Gary. *Jesse*. Scholastic Inc., 1996. Grade 6 - 9 Two Mexican American brothers hope that junior college will help them escape their routine of tedious physical labor.

Zolotow, Charlotte. *A Father Like That*. Illustrated by LeUyen Pham. HarperCollins, 2007. Grades K-3. A boy daydreams of what it would be like to have a father around. His mother encourages him that even though he doesn't have a father, he can be a great father when he grows up.

FILMS/DOCUMENTARIES

After the Immigrant (Documentary Series) Films by Dan Banda. Customflix, 2007. The *After the Immigrant* series includes the awarding winning PBS documentaries, *Mountain's Mist & Mexico*, *Indigenous Always*, *The Legend of La Malinche*, and *Redlining, It's Not Just For Housing Anymore*. These video portraits look at a wide spectrum of issues, representations and cultural shifts of people whose families moved from Mexico to the United States during the 20th and 21st centuries. <http://wwwcreatespace.com>

Dying to Get In. A film by Brett Tolley. Mooncusser Films, 2007. 39 minutes. Provides an intimate perspective of border crossing and the people who cross. The U.S./Mexican border, dubbed a "gauntlet of death" by documentarian Brett Tolley is infiltrated first-hand in this gritty examination. www.amazon.com

Mojados- Through the Night. A film by Tommy Davis. Vanguard Cinema, 2005. 70 minutes. "Mojados", the English translation is "wetbacks," referring to workers from Mexico who illegally cross the border into the United States in order to earn money to send to their families back home. www.mojadosmovie.com

My Family, Mi Familia. New Line Home Video. 2004, 127 minutes. Starring Jimmy Smits and Edward James Olmos, this film tells the fictionalized account of three generations of a Mexican-American family living in Los Angeles. www.newlineshop.com

