



# SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT

## SPANISH 3, 4, & 5 STUDENTS

Recommended Books with Reading Levels

### How can I pass the high-stake Spanish exams?

The AP, IB and Seal of Biliteracy exams are not easy. Some college Spanish students would not pass these tests. If you are considering taking any of these tests before graduating, ***the single most important factor that helps students pass is reading.***

In ***levels 3, 4 and 5 we have a summer reading program.*** In order to have a high degree of success, you will need to read in Spanish this summer. The students who have read during the summer have returned in the fall without having lost any of their Spanish. Most students who have scored a 4 or 5 on the AP have stated that they read 2-3 novels in Spanish during the summer.

The Summer Spanish Reading Program for students that are registered for Spanish IV & V Spanish classes aims to strengthen reading skills and comprehension. Additional benefits will include:

- Higher scores on important standardized tests (like ACT, SAT and AP)
- A broader knowledge of literature in general
- Bonus points added to Spanish grades of participants for extra reading

### Required Reading for Spanish 3, 4 & 5 Spanish:

All Spanish 3, 4 & 5 students MUST read at least **two novels** in Spanish during the summer.

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**Remember, pick something that is  
COMPREHENSIBLE & INTERESTING TO YOU,**

- books that you:**
- 1) Will enjoy reading, and...**
  - 2) Can read without looking up too many words.**

**Write a short reaction in Spanish (1-2 pages) to what you have read  
and be prepared to talk about it when you return.**

**YOU MUST HAVE THIS ASSIGNMENT WITH YOU THE FIRST DAY OF CLASS IN ORDER TO BE  
ELIGIBLE TO CONTINUE TO BE ENROLLED IN THE COURSE.**

### Optional Extra Reading for AP Spanish:

Extra credit will be awarded for reading beyond the requirements—start off the year ahead!

## Suggested Titles for Spanish Summer Reading

*Here are some books that students have said they enjoyed reading. The titles vary widely in reading level and subject matter. Some are translations of titles that students enjoyed in English when they were younger. Some are translations of popular adult or young adult novels. Many are of special interest to students taking Spanish because they are set in other countries and emphasize the culture or history of the Spanish-speaking world.*

### **Read Novels**

*You may choose from the titles below or other novels in Spanish that are at your reading level to fulfill your summer reading requirements.*



**Why novels? Because a good story will carry you along—your interest will drive you to read. Also, novels tend to recycle vocabulary more than non-fiction, which reinforces it.** In a novel, unknown vocabulary can be often be figured out by context clues, which will reinforce Spanish core vocabulary which is so crucial for fluency.

### Interest

Whatever you choose to read, choose it because the story is interesting to you—not because it is something you think you ought to read. If you find that the book does not appeal to you, put it down and pick up another one. Why? Because if you really enjoy the book, you will be much more likely to finish reading it and you will learn much more Spanish.

### Level Doesn't Matter Much

The reading level of many of the novels on this list is posted a guide. The reading level should not be the main criteria for choosing a book. What interests you is what should guide you. If you find that a book is too hard for you to read right now, then you might want to note the reading level and look for one that is a bit easier to read—but don't lock yourself into a reading level. You will be surprised what you can read with a bit of experience. A seemingly "low" level does not matter that much. Many popular novels are written at relatively low levels. Best sellers are often written between levels 5 & 7, and rarely exceed level 8. As a relatively new learner of the language, it is OK for you to be reading something at level 3, 4, or 5.

### Where to Find Books

Some of the titles below may be available in your Spanish teacher's classroom library. If you have proven yourself to be dependable in returning books, you may be able to check one out for the summer. The school library may also have some novels in Spanish. You can also find many books in Spanish at the local public library. If the public library does not have the titles you want, they can order them for you.

Another option is to purchase books at local bookstores that carry Spanish titles or that can order them. You can also easily find most of the titles below for purchase on line at websites such as **Amazon.com** or **BarnesandNoble.com**, but it is NOT necessary to buy a book to fulfill the requirements of this assignment.

*The novels below have been read and recommended by students in Spanish 2, 3, 4, & 5 classes—  
If several students didn't say they liked these books, they didn't make this list.*

**Most of these are in our classroom library.**

The novels marked with a \*\* are those which many students have said they particularly enjoyed.

Alphabetical by Author's Last Name

\*\* **Las cinco personas que encontrarás en el cielo**, por **Mitch Albom**, ISBN: 1-4013-0172-X,

Publisher: Hyperion. Reading Level: **4.7**

*A story of the hidden influences that we have on one another's lives.*

**El reino del dragón de oro**, por **Isabel Allende**, ISBN: 0-06-059171-4, Publisher: Rayo (Harper-Collins).

**La ciudad de las bestias**, por **Isabel Allende**, ISBN: 0-06-051032-3, Publisher: Rayo (Harper-Collins).

Reading Level: **7.8**.

**El bosque de los pigmeos**, por **Isabel Allende**, ISBN: 0-06-076219-5, Publisher: Rayo (Harper-Collins).

**Zorro**, por **Isabel Allende**, ISBN: 0-06-077901-2, Publisher: Rayo (Harper-Collins).

**Antes de ser libres**, por **Julia Alvarez**, ISBN: 0375815457, Publisher: Laurel Leaf. Reading Level: **5.0**.

**En el tiempo de las mariposas** (*In the Time of Butterflies*), por **Julia Alvarez**,

ISBN: 0452279968, Publisher: Plume. Reading Level: **5.8**.



**Quando tía Lola vino (de visita) a quedarse**, por **Julia Alvarez**, ISBN: 0-375-81552-X, Publisher: Dell.  
Reading Level: **5.1**.

\*\* **Bendíceme, Última** (*Bless me, Ultima*), por **Rudolfo Anaya**, ISBN: 0-446-60077-2, Publisher: Warner.  
Reading Level: **5.4**.

**Lazarillo de Tormes** (Kaplan Vocabulary-Building Novel), por **Anonymous**, ISBN: 0-7432-6284-0, publisher: Simon & Schuster. *This particular novel is a simplified version of the classic Spanish tale of a poor but clever orphan and his adventures, which poke fun at the foibles of the upper classes. It is the original picaresque novel whose main character is similar to Little Orphan Annie, Huckleberry Finn, or Oliver Twist.*

**Tuck para siempre** (*Tuck Everlasting*), por **Natalie Babbitt**, ISBN: 0374480117, Publisher: Farrar, Straus and Giroux. Reading Level: **5.0**. *What if the fountain of youth were real and some of us could live forever? Would you choose to or not? This delightful story is about a girl that has the opportunity with a young/old boy. Better than the movie.*

\*\* **Stories from Mexico / Historias de México**, por Genevieve Barlow & William N. Stivers, ISBN: 0-8442-0811-6, Publisher: Passport Books/NTC. *Contains 16 Mexican legends in a bilingual format that covers 1,500 years of history and mythology from pre-Columbian times to the Spanish colonial era and later.*

**Odisea del norte**, por **Mario Bencastro**, ISBN: 1-55885-266-2, Publisher, Arte Público Press

**La tregua**, por **Mario Benedetti**, ISBN-13: 978-9707311169, Publisher: Punto de Lectura (May 2006) 202 pages.

\*\* **La Cruz del diablo** (*vocabulary-controlled version*), por **Gustavo Adolfo Bécquer**, ISBN: 84-294-3421-6, Publisher: Santillana. *A simplified version of a folktale from medieval Spain as portrayed by the famous Spanish romantic poet.*

**El código DaVinci** (*The DaVinci Code*), por **Dan Brown**, ISBN: 84-95618-60-5, Publisher: Umbriel.  
Reading Level: **7.1**. *The Spanish translation of the novel.*

\*\* **La Casa en Mango Street**, por **Sandra Cisneros**, ISBN: 0-679-75526-8, Publisher: Vintage. Reading Level: **4.5**.

**El arroyo de la Llorona y otros cuentos**, por **Sandra Cisneros**, ISBN: 0-679-76804-1

**Ramona la chinche** (*Ramona the Pest*), **Beverly Cleary**, ISBN: 0-688-14888-3, Publisher: Rayo. Reading Level: **5.1**.

\*\* **El Alquimista**, por **Paulo Coelho**, ISBN: 0-06-251140-8 Publisher: Rayo. Reading Level: **6.8**.  
*A timeless story about following one's dreams, written in the form of a fable. Provides grist for reflective class discussions and real philosophical growth in students. Guide and Glossary available at benslavic.com.*

**El demonio y la señorita Prym**, por **Paulo Coelho**, ISBN: 956-258-114-4, Publisher: Editorial Grijalbo.

**La quinta montaña**, por **Paulo Coelho**, ISBN: 0-06-093012-8, Publisher: HarperLibros (Harper Perennial).

**Veronika decide morir**, por **Paulo Coelho**, ISBN: 0-06-001193-9, Publisher: Rayo (Harper Collins).

**La Catrina**, por **David Curland**, ISBN: 0-673-21588-1, Publisher: Scott Foreman Addison Wesley.

**La Catrina el último secreto**, por **David Curland**, ISBN: 0-673-21846-5, Publisher: Prentice Hall.

**Me llamo Bud, no Buddy**, por **Cristopher Paul Curtis**, ISBN: 84-241-86-38-9.

**Charlie y la fábrica de chocolate**, por **Roald Dahl**, ISBN: 8420447714, Publisher: Santillana.

**Como agua para chocolate**, por **Laura Esquivel**, ISBN: 0385721234, Publisher: Anchor.

- \*\* **El regalo de Navidad** (*The Christmas Gift*), por **Richard Paul Evans**, ISBN: 0-684-81554-0, Publisher: Simon Schuster Libros en Español.
- \*\* **Aura**, por **Carlos Fuentes**, ISBN: 374-51171-3, Publisher: Farrar, Strauss, Giroux.  
*This is a short novel written completely in the second person singular (the tú form). It is mysterious and a quick read (5 chapters, a total of just 65 pages).*
- Cajas de cartón**, por **Francisco Jiménez** ISBN: 0-618-22616-8, Publisher: Houghton Mifflin
- \*\* **Senderos Fronterizos** (Continuación de Cajas de Cartón), por **Francisco Jiménez**, ISBN: 0-618-22618-4, Publisher: Houghton Mifflin.
- \*\* **El presente** (*The Present*), por **Spencer Johnson**, ISBN: 968-19-1334-5, publisher: Aguilar
- ¿Quién se ha llevado mi queso?** (*Who Moved my Cheese?*), por **Spenser Johnson**, ISBN: 84-7953-338-2, Publisher: Ediciones Urano, 1999.
- La caseta mágica** (*The Phantom Tollbooth*), por **Norton Juster**, ISBN: 1-58717-109-0, Publisher: SeaStar Books. *Reading Level: 6.7.*
- La gran aventura de Alejandro**, por **Abby Kanter**, ISBN: 0-87720-135-8, Publisher: Amsco. *This is a lower-level book for Spanish 2, but it is a good review of the history and literature of Spain, told in the form of a story about a boy who is given a magic ring.*
- Viviana y su gran aventura mexicana**, por **Abby Kanter**, ISBN: 1-56765-475-4, Publisher: Amsco. *This is a lower-level book for Spanish 2, but it is a good review of the history and literature of Mexico, told in the form of a story about a girl who has a magic ring. A continuation of La Gran Aventura de Alejandro.*
- Una arruga en el tiempo** (*A Wrinkle in Time*), **Madeleine L'Engle**, ISBN: 8420440744, Publisher: Alfaguara Ediciones, S.A. (Spain). *Reading Level: 5.1.*
- \*\* **El león, la bruja, y el ropero** (Las Crónicas De Narnia), por **C.S. Lewis**, ISBN: 0-06-008661-0, Publisher: Rayo. *Reading Level: 5.7.*
- El Príncipe Caspian** (Las Crónicas De Narnia) por **C.S. Lewis**, ISBN: 0060884282, Publisher: Rayo. *Reading Level: 5.7.*
- La Silla de Plata** (Las Crónicas De Narnia) por **C.S. Lewis**, ISBN: 0060884304, Publisher: Rayo. *Reading Level: 5.7.*
- La Última Batalla** (Las Crónicas De Narnia) por **C.S. Lewis**, ISBN: 0060884312, Publisher: Rayo. *Reading Level: 5.6.*
- Me llamo Rigoberta Menchú y así me nació la conciencia**, por **Rigoberta Menchú**, ISBN: 9682313155, Publisher: Siglo XXI. *The autobiography of a of the Nobel-prize winning Guatemalan woman. Although some of what she wrote has since been proven to be embellished, it is still an interesting read.*
- \*\* **Crepúsculo** (*Twilight*), por **Stephenie Meyer**, ISBN-13: 978-1603963541
- Luna Nueva** (*New Moon*), por **Stephenie Meyer**, ISBN-13: 978-9705800238
- Eclipse** (*Eclipse*), por **Stephenie Meyer**, ISBN-13: 978-1603960229
- Amanecer** (*Breaking Dawn*), por **Stephenie Meyer**, ISBN-13: 978-6071100337
- Isla de luz**, por **Elías Miguel Muñoz**, ISBN: 0-07-232616-6, Publisher: McGraw/Hill. *The story of the history of an imaginary Caribbean country. Contains pictures, historical and cultural information, glossing of more difficult words, a glossary and an introduction by Stephen Krashen.*
- \*\* **Ladrón de la mente**, por **Elías Miguel Muñoz**, ISBN: 0-07-232617-4, Publisher: McGraw/Hill. *A mystery about a mental/emotional vampire set in modern-day Spain. Contains pictures, historical and cultural information, glossing of more difficult words, a glossary and an introduction by Stephen Krashen.*

**Viajes fantásticos**, por **Elías Miguel Muñoz**, ISBN: 0-07-231009-X, Publisher: McGraw/Hill. *Two short stories written in the Latin American magical realism style, one about the conquest of the Aztecs from the perspective of an Aztec warrior, and another about contemporary Puerto Rico. Contains pictures, historical and cultural information, glossing of more difficult words, a glossary and an introduction by Stephen Krashen.*

**Una Nota Falsa** (from the Lola Lago series, this is the version with CD), por **Lourdes Miguel & Neus Sans**, ISBN: 84-8443-129-0, Publisher: Difusión.

\*\* **Esperanza renace** (*Esperanza Rising*), por **Pam Muñoz Ryan**, ISBN: 0-439-39885-1, Publisher: Mariposa (Scholastic) *Reading Level: 5.5.*  
*Es una novela acerca de una familia adinerada mexicana que tienen que venir a California en los años 30 para trabajar como campesinos. Es simple, pero tiene mucho que decir a los alumnos.*

**Un caballo llamado Libertad** (*Riding Freedom*), por **Pam Muñoz Ryan**, ISBN: 0-439-23761-0, Publisher: Scholastic en Español. *Reading Level: 4.8.*

\*\* **El hacha** (*Hatchet*), por **Gary Paulsen**, ISBN: 8427932065, Publisher: Lectorum Publications. *Reading Level: 5.7.*  
*Many students have read this in middle school, but they say they have enjoyed it more and have got more out of this book re-reading it in Spanish in high-school.*

**El cuento de la isla desconocida**, por **José Saramago**, ISBN: 8-420-47840-7. Publisher: Alfaguara.

\*\* **Un viejo que leía novelas de amor**, por **Luis Sepulveda**, ISBN: 978-0140271416. Publisher: Penguin.  
*Cuenta solamente 130+ paginas. Se trata de un ecuatoriano que se traslada de la sierra a la selva amazónica y aprende mucho de los indígenas. El argumento es bastante emocionante porque se trata de una tigrilla que mata a algunos hombres. Al fin el viejo tiene que enfrentar la tigrilla. Los estudiantes aprenden mucho de los problemas sociales, políticos y ambientales de Sudamérica sin que el libro predique a ellos. Es un libro de bastante acción con personajes fuertes. A mis estudiantes les encanta este libro.*

**Cebollas enterradas**, por **Gary Soto**, ISBN: 968-16-6669-0, Publisher: Fondo de Cultura Económica, 2002.

**¿Dónde está Eduardo?**, por **Blaine Ray** y **Lisa Ray Turner**, ISBN: Publisher: Command Performance Language Institute & Blaine Ray Workshops.

**Mi propio auto**, por **Blaine Ray** y **Lisa Ray Turner**, ISBN: 0-929724-74-7, Publisher: Command Performance Language Institute & Blaine Ray Workshops

**El viaje perdido**, por **Blaine Ray** y **Lisa Ray Turner**, ISBN: 0-929724-59-3, Publisher: Command Performance Language Institute & Blaine Ray Workshops

**Viva el toro**, por **Blaine Ray** y **Lisa Ray Turner**, ISBN: 0-929724-48-8, Publisher: Command Performance Language Institute & Blaine Ray Workshops.

**...y no se lo tragó la tierra**, por **Tomás Rivera**, ISBN: 1-55885-083-X, Publisher: Arte Público Press.  
*Reading Level: 4.8.*

\*\* **Harry Potter y la piedra filosofal** (*Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*), por **J.K. Rowling**, ISBN: 84-7888-654-0, Publisher: Salamandra. *Reading Level: 5.5.*

**Harry Potter y la cámara secreta** (*Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*), por **J.K. Rowling**, ISBN: 84-7888-656-7, Publisher: Salamandra. *Reading Level: 6.7.*

**Harry Potter y el prisionero de Azkaban** (*Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*), por **J.K. Rowling**, ISBN: 84-7888-655-9, Publisher: Salamandra. *Reading Level: 6.7.*

**Harry Potter y el cáliz de fuego** (*Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*), por **J.K. Rowling**, ISBN: 84-7888-646-X, Publisher: Salamandra. *Reading Level: 6.8.*

**Harry Potter y la Orden del Fénix** (*Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*), por **J.K. Rowling**, ISBN: 84-7888-884-5, Publisher: Salamandra. *Reading Level:* 7.2.

**Harry Potter y el misterio del príncipe** (*Harry Potter and The Half-Blood Prince*), por **J.K. Rowling**, ISBN: 84-7888-993-0, Publisher: Salamandra. *Reading Level:* 7.2.

**El principito** (*The Little Prince*), por **Antoine de Saint-Exupéry**, ISBN: 0-15-628450-2, Publisher: Harcourt Brace & Company. *Reading Level:* 5.0.

**Los ojos del perro siberiano**, por **Antonio Santa Ana**, ISBN: 9580443912, Publisher: Grupo Editorial Norma.

**Stories from Puerto Rico / Historias de Puerto Rico** (bilingual) por **Martinez Santiago**, ISBN: 9-780844-204024

**Un Grillo en Times Square** (*A Cricket in Times Square*), por **George Selden**, ISBN: 0374480605. *Reading Level:* 4.9.

**Una serie de catastróficas desdichas** (*The Bad Beginning*), por Lemony Snicket, ISBN: 0-307-20934-2, Publisher: Random House. *Reading Level:* 6.1.

\*\* **Secretos**, por **Danielle Steel**, ISBN: 1-4000-0095-5, Publisher: Random House Español. *As far as I can tell, this is just another romance novel, but it must be pretty good—I have not been able to keep a copy of it in my classroom library—female students keep taking and reading it and passing it on to their friends to read, and it never seems to make it back to the classroom—I have to buy a new copy every year.*

**La comunidad del anillo** (*The Fellowship of the Ring*), por **J.R.R. Tolkien**, ISBN: 84-450-7140-8, Publisher: Minotauro. *Reading Level:* 6.1.

**El hobbit**, por **J.R.R. Tolkien**, ISBN: 84-450-7141-6, Publisher: Minotauro. *Reading Level:* 6.6.

**Las telarañas de Carlota** (*Charlotte's Web*), por **E.B White**, ISBN: 8427933886, Publisher: Lectorum *Reading Level:* 4.9.

**La casa de la pradera** (*Little House on the Prairie*), por **L. E. Wilder**, ISBN: 8427931956, Publisher: Lectorum Publications. *Reading Level:* 4.3.

**Better Spanish Reading** (*Short articles and activities*) por **Yates**, ISBN: 39785-41074