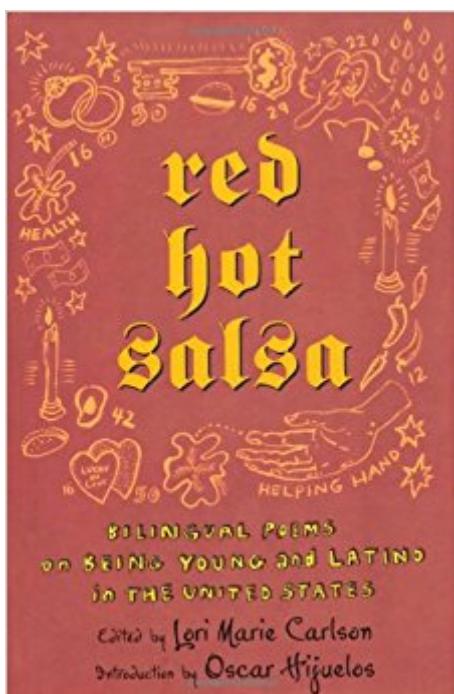


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# Red Hot Salsa: Bilingual Poems On Being Young And Latino In The United States (Spanish Edition)



## Synopsis

i think in spanishi write in englishi want to go back to puerto rico,but i wonder if my kink could livein ponce, mayagÃ©ez and carolinatengo las venas aculturadasescribo en spanglishabraham in espaÃol--from "My Graduation Speech," by Tato LavieraA new collection of bilingual poems from the bestselling editor of Cool SalsaTen years after the publication of the acclaimed Cool Salsa, editor Lori Marie Carlson has brought together a stunning variety of Latino poets for a long-awaited follow-up. Established and familiar names are joined by many new young voices, and Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist Oscar Hijuelos has written the Introduction. The poets collected here illuminate the difficulty of straddling cultures, languages, and identities. They celebrate food, family, love, and triumph. In English, Spanish, and poetic jumbles of both, they tell us who they are, where they are, and what their hopes are for the future.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Starred Review. Grade 8 Upâ "As she did in Cool Salsa (Holt, 1994), Carlson assembles another impressive forum of poetic voices. In Spanish and English, the poets speak eloquently of themselves, how and where they live, their families, and their dreams for the future. Many of them are quite well known and a number were included in the earlier book: Gary Soto, Gina ValdÃ©s, MartÃ-n Espada, and Luis J. RodrÃ-guez, among others. In this volume, Carlson has added a few poems by students in the New York City public school system: they, too, are excellent and thought-provoking. Ivette Alvarez, for example, issues a passionate plea in Invisible Boundaries to

go beyond the stereotypes that/lock us down and judge us. Other poems will delight readers with their delicate play of language, as in JosÃ© Antonio Burciaga's Bilingual Love Poem/Poema de amor bilingÃ©, or in Tato Laviera's My Graduation Speech, which conveys a sardonic frustration through its comic mix of languages. By turns humorous and poignant, nostalgic and immediate, these poems represent a diversity of experiences, underpinned by emotions that anyone can recognize. Once again, Oscar Hijuelos's personable, highly readable introduction sets the tone. Carlson has crafted an accessible gem of a collection, and teen readers of all backgrounds will find echoes of their own experiences in its pages.â "Marilyn Taniguchi, Beverly Hills Public Library, CA  
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Gr. 8-11. Carlson follows up Cool Salsa (1994) with another bilingual collection of poems that appear in both Spanish and English. Included are many well-known writers, such as Gary Soto and Luis J. Rodriguez, who appeared in the first volume, as well as emerging poets. Divided into loose categories--language, identity, neighborhoods, amor, family moments, "victory"--the poems often speak about the complex challenges of being bicultural: "I'm a grafted flower that didn't / take, a Mexican without being one, / an American without feeling like one," writes Raquel Valle Senties. Among the new writers are a few high-school students, and teens of all backgrounds will easily relate to the young authors' fury over stereotypes: "I'm surrounded by a society that expects nothing of me / other than to become a regular, tired housewife," writes student Ivette Alvarez. Most poems are translated by the poets themselves, and many are written in an inventive blend of languages, which English speakers will easily follow with help from the appended glossary. Powerful and immediate, these are voices students and teachers will want to share. Gillian Engberg  
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I teach high school Oral Interpretation (mostly poetry) for ESL students... these are great because of the dual language text and relevant themes. Screen through for sexual and/or adult themes if you're sharing with a young audience. Otherwise, enjoy!! Beautiful poetry... well-rounded collection.

I teach middle school English Language Acquisition, and this is the third time I have purchased this book and its companion, Cool Salsa. My Hispanic kids see themselves in it, and see what they could be. They borrow it, and it just never comes back. I'm okay with that. I wish there were more- Salsa Verde? Salsa Fresca? Salsa con queso? (for the cheesy poems...)

I was introduced to this book during a summer writing institute with the National Writing Project. I loved it and would, occasionally, try to find it in used bookstores without any success. Finally, I went to and found several. I need this book in my English I class to acquaint my Spanish-speaking and other students to the joys of poetry in all languages.

This is a great poetry book of Latino culture. I used this in my classes when I was a teacher.

I teach 6-7 graders who are mostly Latino. I always look for books that they can get excited about. This is one of the books that the students seem to enjoy. We use this book to work with tutors to improve writing and reading comprehension.

Met my expectations and worked very well for my ESL students. They seemed to find it useful in learning poetry.

Red Hot Salsa: Bilingual Poems on Being Young and Latino in the United States by Lori Marie Carlson. Red Hot Salsa was such an amazing selection of poems that really delved into what it was like for a young adult to develop their identity. They are still trying to develop their identity. This can be an extremely frustrating process for children. The process of growing up can be even more difficult if you are apart of two different cultures, not just one. Red Hot Salsa is a book of collected bilingual poems written from the perspective of the Hispanic youth living in the United States. The book was edited by Lori Marie Carlson and the introduction was written by Oscar Hijuelos. The book has the poems in English first, and then in Spanish. There is no rhyming pattern to the poems. The book is split up into 4 different categories: language identity, neighborhoods, Amor, family moments/memories, and victory. The authors of these poems spend their time writing about their hopes, dreams, family, foods, and Spanish Culture. In other words, they talk about how they live in the United States and how difficult it is for them to fit in because of the two different cultures that they are from. This book of poems would be a great read for anyone who has trouble dealing with identifying who they are and where they belong. It has wonderful poems about how to overcome that fear with pride and dignity. It is also a great book to learn how to overcome cultural expectations and be true to yourself. I would put Red Hot Salsa as being between grades 7 and up.

As a latina born and raised in Mexico with a gringo father and now in the U.S. I found many of the poems to be an accurate reflection of being bicultural and the many directions it pulls you in. I found

the book (along with discussion questions and activities for classroom use) at: [...]

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