



Talking Book Center
1 Churchville Avenue
Staunton, VA 24401
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Global Reading Challenge: Mexico

DB63158 Itinerary: An Intellectual Journey by Octavio Paz

These autobiographical essays on politics and history are influenced by such twentieth-century events as the Mexican and Cuban revolutions and the works of writers like Trotsky and Camus. They chart the development of Paz's political philosophy and the dynamism of historical change. 1999. (1990 Nobel laureate in Literature)

DB48624 Pedro Páramo by Juan Rulfo (general fiction)

When his mother dies, Juan Preciado sets off to find his father, Pedro Pramo. In the town of Comala, built on the tyranny of the Pramo family, Juan learns his father is dead. In fact, the town seems populated by tormented spirits of the deceased. Mexican author's classic surrealist novel. 1955.

DB32879 The Old Gringo by Carlos Fuentes (historical fiction)

The old gringo is an embittered American journalist who has made an abrupt break with his past and is riding into Mexico to join Pancho Villa's revolutionary army. There are clues suggesting that if this man were ever named he would prove to be Ambrose Bierce, who vanished into Mexico in 1913. 1985.

DB54598 Swift As Desire by Laura Esquivel (romance)

As her father, Júbilo, lies on his deathbed, Lluvia tries to unravel the secret behind his estrangement from her mother, Lucha. This is the tale of Júbilo's career as a telegraph operator in Mexico and his gift for communication with all except his wife. Some descriptions of sex and some strong language. 2001.

DB64550 The Guardians by Ana Castillo (mystery)

School aide Regina is raising her teenage nephew Gabo on the American side of the Mexican border. When Gabo's father vanishes one day crossing over to visit, Regina enlists the help of her coworker Miguel and his grandfather Milton to find her missing brother. 2007.

DB84395 The Story Of My Teeth by Valeria Luiselli (contemporary)

Mexico City resident Gustavo "Highway" Sánchez Sánchez is a collector. He began as a humble security guard and rose to be a famous auctioneer, but his passion is collecting teeth. Translated from the Spanish. Some descriptions of sex. 2015.

DB100713 Signs Preceding The End Of The World by Yuri Herrera (fiction)

Leaving behind her life in Mexico to search for her brother, Makina is smuggled across the border into the USA carrying a pair of secret messages--one from her mother and one from the Mexican underworld. Strong language and some violence. 2009.

DB72427 The Mexico Reader: History, Culture, Politics edited by Gilbert M. Joseph
Selections of wide-ranging materials, including essays, memoirs, histories, and poetry, that explore ideas about Mexican identity. Unique voices chronicle Mexico's development from the epochs of ancient indigenous cultures to the Spanish conquest, colonization, formation of the Republic, revolution, and the ongoing struggle of U.S. border relations and immigration. 2002.

DB34427 Mexico: A History by Robert Ryal Miller (nonfiction, history)

Beginning with a description of the early Indian cultures, Miller, a scholar of Mexican and Latin American history, outlines the Spanish takeover, the various rulers over the centuries, the war with the United States, the Revolution, and the birth of modern Mexico. He highlights the accompanying changes in the shape of the country and the makeup of the population. 1985.

DB108967 Treasurers Of The Mexican Table: Classic Recipes, Local Secrets
by Pati Jinich (cooking)

Although many of us can rattle off our favorite authentic Mexican dishes, we might be hard pressed to name more than ten. Which is preposterous, given that Mexico has a rich culinary history stretching back thousands of years. For the last decade, Pati Jinich has sought out the culinary treasures of her home country, from birria, to salsa macha, to coyotas, to carne asada. Many of these dishes are local specialties, heirlooms passed down through generations, unknown outside of their original regions. Others have become national sensations. Each recipe is a classic. Each one comes with a story told in Pati's warm, relatable style. And each has been tested in Pati's American kitchen to ensure it is the best of its kind. Together, these essential recipes paint a vivid picture of the richness of Mexico. 2021.