

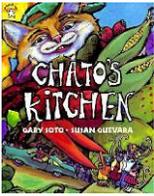
Book Ideas for **Chato's Kitchen**

By Mark Valdez, based on the book by Gary Soto

Gary Soto's hilarious book comes to life in this charming new play about Chato, the coolest low-riding cat in the barrio. When a family of ratoncitos, or little mice, moves in next door, Chato invites them over for dinner. What they don't know is that they are on the menu! But things don't go quite as planned for Chato. The mice bring a surprise guest of their own who may be more than this cool cat can swallow.

★ **BIG IDEA:** Acceptance and Community

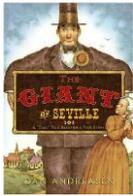
Links are to [goodreads](#)



[Chato's Kitchen](#) (1995) **Grades K-2**

By Gary Soto

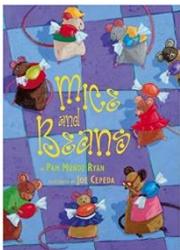
Chato, a "low-riding cat with six stripes," struts and slinks like he's the cool cat of East Los Angeles. So when a family of ratoncitos, or little mice, moves in next door, he invites them for dinner. Chato invites his cat friend, Novio Boy, and together they plan side dishes to go with the main course.



[The Giant of Seville: a "Tall" Tale Based on a True Story](#) (2006) **Grades K-2**

By Dan Andreason

Nothing exciting ever happens in the sleepy town of Seville, Ohio - until Captain Martin Van Buren Bates arrives. Standing seven feet and eleven and a half inches, Captain Bates is a giant who has toured around the world in the circus. The captain and his wife decide to settle in Seville, but will the little town welcome the giants?

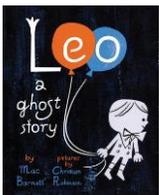


[Mice and Beans](#) **Grades Pre K - 3**

By Pam Muñoz Ryan

Illustrated by Joe Cepeda

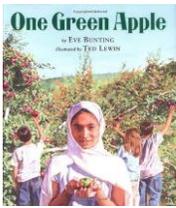
Mice get back into the kitchen with this delightful tale from Pam Muñoz Ryan. Rosa Maria wants to make the perfect meal for her granddaughter's birthday, but every time she turns around, more ingredients are missing. Are the mice to blame, or are they simply helping to prepare for the fiesta in their own (slightly diabolical) way?



[Leo: A Ghost Story](#) (2015) **Grades K-2**

By Mac Barnett

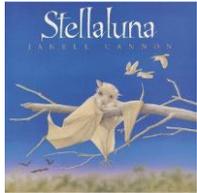
Leo likes to draw, he makes delicious snacks, and most people can't even see him. Because Leo is also a ghost. When a new family moves into his home and Leo's efforts to welcome them are misunderstood, Leo decides it is time to leave and see the world. That is how he meets Jane and makes a new friend.



[One Green Apple](#) (2006) **Grades 1-4**

By Eve Bunting

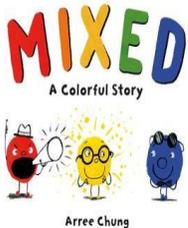
Farah feels alone, even when surrounded by her classmates. She is the new kid in school, from another country, and doesn't know the language. On a field trip to an apple orchard, Farah discovers there are lots of things that are the same as they were at home. As she helps the class make apple cider, Farah connects with the other students and begins to feel that she belongs.



[Stellaluna](#) (1993) **Grades K-3**

By Janell Cannon

While out searching for food, fruit bat Stellaluna and her mother are attacked by a vicious owl. Stellaluna is separated from Mother Bat and taken in by a family of birds where she must put aside her bat habits to fit in with her new family. One fateful flight she is separated from her adoptive siblings and Stellaluna is reunited with her bat family. She learns that even though we're different, we're very much the same.



[Mixed: A Colorful Story](#) (2018) **Grades K-1**

By Arree Chung

In the beginning, there were three colors . . .

Reds, Yellows, and Blues. All special in their own ways, all living in harmony—until one day, a Red says "Reds are the best!" and starts a color kerfuffle.

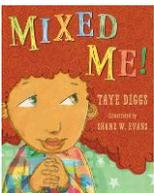
When the colors decide to separate, is there anything that can change their minds? A Yellow, a Blue, and a never-before-seen color might just save the day in this inspiring book about color, tolerance, and embracing differences.



[The Cheshire Cheese Cat: A Dickens of a Tale](#) (2011) **Grades 5-8**

By Carmen Agra Deedy

Skilley, is a cat who longs to escape his hard life in a damp alley for the warmth of the Cheshire Cheese Inn. He learns that the innkeeper is looking for a new mouser and manages to get the job. Skilley strikes a bargain with Pip, the intelligent mouse-resident, and his fellow mice. Skilley protects the mice and the mice provide the delicious cheese.



[Mixed Me](#) (2015) **Grades 2-5**

By Taye Diggs

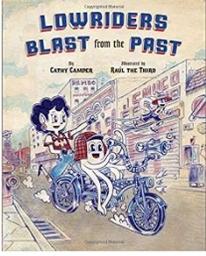
Mom and Dad say I'm a blend of dark and light: "We mixed you perfectly, and got you just right." Mike has awesome hair. He has LOTS of energy! His parents love him. And Mike is a PERFECT blend of the two of them. Still, Mike has to answer LOTS of questions about being mixed. And he does, with LOTS of energy and joy in this charming story about a day in the life of a mixed-race child.

[Lowriders Blast from the Past](#) Grades 3-7

By Cathy Camper

Illustrated by Raúl the Third

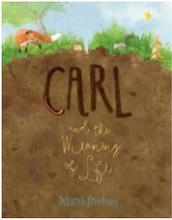
The third book in Cathy Camper and Raúl the Third's graphic novel series, the young lowriders face down bullying and chauvinism to prove that everyone – boys AND girls – should be allowed to compete in a car show. The artwork in this series is stellar, the characters funny and smart, and the characters' unique way of handling bullies is provides an affirming message to us all.



[Carl and the Meaning of Life](#) (2019) Grades K-2

By Deborah Freedman

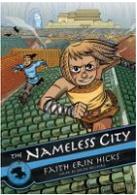
Carl is an earthworm. He spends his days happily tunneling in the soil until a field mouse asks him a simple question that stops him short: "Why?" Carl's quest takes him on an adventure to meet all the animals of the forest, each of whom seems to know exactly what they were put on this earth to do, unlike the curious Carl. But it's not until the world around him has changed that Carl begins to realize everyone, no matter how small, makes a big difference just by being themselves.



[The Nameless City](#) (2016) Grades 4-6

By Faith Erin Hicks

This graphic novel set in 'Nameless' Chinese-style city, so called because it is fought over and re-named constantly by its conquerors. Kai is a young boy from the latest wave of conquerors, the Dao. He is bookish and terrible at his combat lessons. He escapes into the streets and meets a local urchin called Rat. She is distrustful of him but they become friends, and their friendship is the seed of peace for the whole city.



[Merci Suarez Changes Gears](#) (2018) Grades 4-7

By Meg Medina

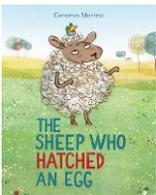
Thoughtful, strong-willed sixth-grader Merci Suarez navigates difficult changes with friends, family, and everyone in between in a resonant new novel from Meg Medina.



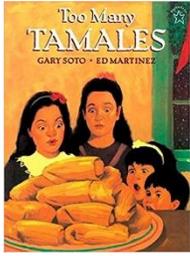
[The Sheep Who Hatched an Egg](#) (2017) Grades K-2

By Gemma Merino

Lola is a bit too proud of her extraordinary wool. She excludes everyone in favor of brushing it over and over, proud the other sheep think it's beautiful. Then she gets the inevitable shaving and goes off to pout and wait for it to grow back. Quite unexpectedly she becomes the caretaker and friend of a bird who happens to love her messy tangled wool as a place to keep warm. Eventually Lola forgets about having the gorgeous wool and looks forward to having more and more opportunities to make more friends.



[Too Many Tamales](#) Grades Pre-K – 3

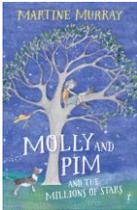


By Gary Soto

Illustrated by Ed Martinez

If you enjoyed *Chato's Kitchen*, here is another story from Gary Soto that starts with a recipe. In this case, it is the family's recipe for Christmas tamales. Maria gets to help make the tamales for the first time, but when she tries on her mama's precious diamond ring (that she maybe isn't supposed to touch!) and it slips into the batter, Maria and her cousins find themselves eating their way through piles of tamales in search of a happy ending.

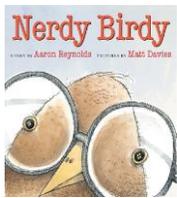
[Molly and Pim and the Millions of Stars](#) (2017) Grades 3-6



By Martine Murray

Molly is a conflicted young girl, wishing for a 'normal' mother yet loving her mother. Her best friend Ellen lives this so-called normal life, yet she is fascinated by Pim, who follows his own path. When her life is turned upside-down, the friendships of Ellen and Pim help her through it.

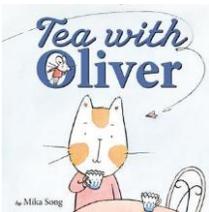
[Nerdy Birdy](#) (2015) Grades K-3



By Aaron Reynolds

Nerdy Birdy isn't like the other birds and has trouble making friends until he meets a flock of birds who are just like him. But Nerdy Birdy has to make a tough choice when his new friends won't allow a new bird who is a little different into their group. This is a story about accepting everyone no matter what they look like or like to do in their spare time.

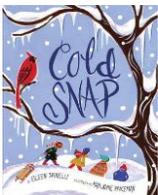
[Tea with Oliver](#) (2017) Grades K-2



By Mika Song

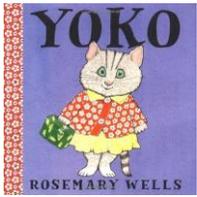
Oliver is not like other cats. He likes cookies and tea and just wants a friend to share them with. Philbert is the shy mouse who lives under Oliver's couch. He tries to get Oliver's attention by writing him notes, but Oliver doesn't notice little Philbert. When a full-on cat party erupts at Oliver's apartment, brave Philbert decides this is his big chance to finally introduce himself to Oliver.

[Cold Snap](#) (2012) Grades K-3



By Eileen Spinelli

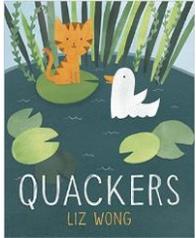
There is a cold spell in a town and the community tries several things to warm up but nothing seeing to help. The mayors wife has a big bonfire and the whole town gets together and they are finally warm. Sharing and community save the day!



[Yoko](#) (1998) **Grades K-2**

By Rosemary Wells

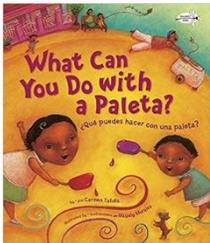
Yoko is a little girl cat that brought sushi to school for her lunch. The other students, who were different kinds of animals, thought that Yoko's food was gross and teased her about it. Yoko's teacher has a plan that might solve Yoko's problem. But will it work with the other children in class?



[Quackers](#) (2016) **Grades K-1**

By Liz Wong

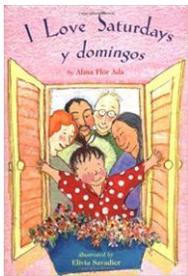
Quackers is a duck. Sure, he may have paws and whiskers. And his quacks might sound more like...well, meows, but he lives among ducks, everyone he knows is a duck, and he's happy. Then Quackers meets another duck who looks like him (& talks like him, too!)--but he calls himself a cat. So silly! Quackers loves being among his new friends the cats, but he also misses his duck friends, and so he finds a way to combine the best of both worlds. Part cat, part duck, all Quackers!



[What Can You Do with a Paleta?](#) (2009) **Grades Pre-K - 2**

By Carmen Tafolla

This celebration of community and summertime follows a young girl as she swirls through her barrio with a perfect paleta. Beautiful illustrations and richly descriptive language draw us into a world where paletas can win baseball games, make us new friends, and even create master works of art!



[I Love Saturdays y Domingos](#) **Grades K - 3**

By Alma Flor Ada

The narrator in this story has the best of two worlds – she spends Saturdays with her European-American grandparents and Sundays with her Mexican-American grandparents. As she goes on adventures with both sets of loving grandparents, we journey with her to explore her family's histories and the rich connection she makes with her multifaceted heritage.