



# **Igualada:**

## **Refusing to Know Your Place**

### **DELVE DEEPER READING LIST**



**This list of fiction and nonfiction books, compiled by Kim Dorman, Community Engagement Coordinator of Princeton Public Library, and retired librarian Susan Conlon, provides a range of perspectives on the issues raised by the POV documentary [Iguálada: Refusing to Know Your Place](#).**

In Colombia's most consequential election, Black activist Francia Márquez rises from rural organizer to presidential candidate, challenging centuries of racial and social exclusion. Filmed over fifteen years, this intimate portrait captures how Márquez transforms a grassroots movement into a powerful force for change, inspiring millions to reimagine their nation's future and their place within it.

### **Contributors**



**Kim Dorman**

Kim Dorman serves as the Community Engagement Coordinator for the Princeton Public Library.



**Susan Conlon**

Retired public librarian.

# ADULT NON-FICTION

**Abad Faciolince, Héctor. *Oblivion: A Memoir*. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2013.**

Héctor Abad's *Oblivion* is a heartbreaking, exquisitely written tribute to the author's father, Héctor Abad Gómez, whose outspoken criticism of the Colombian regime led to his assassination by paramilitaries in 1987. Twenty years in the making, this memoir paints an unforgettable portrait of a man who followed his conscience and paid for it with his life during one of the darkest chapters in Latin America's recent history.

**Bandle, Asha, and Patrisse Khan-Cullors. *When They Call You a Terrorist: A Black Lives Matter Memoir*. St. Martin's Press, 2018.**

Raised by a single mother in an impoverished Los Angeles neighborhood, Patrisse Khan-Cullors experienced firsthand the prejudice and persecution that Black Americans face at the hands of law enforcement. For her, Black people are among the most vulnerable in the country, deliberately targeted by a criminal justice system designed to uphold white supremacy. *When They Call You a Terrorist* is both a reflection on humanity and an empowering account of survival, strength, and resilience. It's a call to action that challenges the culture that renders Black life expendable.

**Felling, Tom. *Short Walks from Bogotá*. Allen Lane, 2012.**

*Short Walks from Bogotá* unpacks Colombia's complex modern identity for readers unfamiliar with the country beyond headlines of cocaine and violence. Felling traces stories from conflict-scarred cities to peaceful rural villages in an attempt to illuminate the deeper historical, cultural, and social currents shaping Colombia today.

**Bryant, Sherwin K. *Rivers of Gold, Lives of Bondage: Governing Through Slavery in Colonial Quito*. University of North Carolina Press, 2018.**

This work explores the political and social structures of colonial Quito, revealing how slavery became embedded in systems of governance. Bryant examines how enslaved Africans and their labor shaped colonial institutions and how power was maintained through the legal and social regulation of bondage, offering insight into the historical roots of racial inequality in Latin America.

**Bushnell, David. *The Making of Modern Colombia: A Nation in Spite of Itself*. University of California Press, 1993.**

Widely considered essential reading on Colombian history, Bushnell's work offers a thorough and accessible account of the nation's development. From the independence movement to twentieth-century democratization, the book traces Colombia's complex political evolution and sheds light on its fractured national identity.

**Kellaway, Victoria, and Sergio J. Lievano. *Colombia: A Comedy of Errors*. Kauf Books, 2014.**

A satirical guide to Colombian life, this bestseller humorously dissects the country's history, culture, and politics. Told with sharp wit and affection, *Colombia: A Comedy of Errors* explores everything from Colombianomics to justice, serving both as a cultural primer and a playful survival guide for locals and foreigners alike.

**McFarland Sánchez-Moreno, María. *There Are No Dead Here: A Story of Murder and Denial in Colombia*. Bold Type Books, 2018.**

This gripping narrative follows three courageous Colombians who risk everything to expose the collusion between drug cartels, paramilitaries, and the country's political and military elite. Human rights lawyer Jesús María Valle, prosecutor Iván Velásquez, and journalist Ricardo Calderón each take enormous personal risks to reveal systemic corruption—efforts that ultimately helped land a third of Colombia's Congress in prison. *There Are No Dead Here* is a powerful, unflinching look at justice in the face of impunity.

**Mendoza, Mario. *Satanás*. Press, 2018.**

Writer Mario Mendoza ventures into graphic novels with a script he wrote for his most successful novel, *Satan*. He does so with the help of the talented Keco Olano, who was tasked with illustrating the story of Campo Elías Delgado, the Vietnam veteran who killed nearly thirty people in different locations around Bogotá. The Colombian capital comes to life and becomes the protagonist of the story, serving as the grim setting in which evil intertwines the fate of the murderer with that of an exorcist priest, a painter who captures his strange prophetic visions in his paintings, and a "tomasera," a woman who uses her charms to seduce men in bars, drug them, and rob them. This is the first glimpse of Mario's new path, as starting in 2020 he will focus on publishing a trilogy of graphic novels entitled *The End of Times*.

**Smith, Tracy K (ed) and John Freeman. *There's a Revolution Outside, My Love: Letters from a Crisis*. Penguin Random House, 2021.**

*There's a Revolution Outside, My Love* highlights the work of some of our most powerful and insightful writers who hail from across a range of backgrounds and from almost all fifty states. Galvanizing and lyrical, this anthology of poetry, short stories, and essays is filled with pain and beauty, warmth and intimacy. This book offers solace in a time of swirling protest, change, and violence, reminding us of the human scale of the upheaval and providing hope for a kinder future.

# ADULT FICTION

**Eustacio Rivera, José. *The Vortex*. Duke University Press, 2018.**

Published in 1924 and widely acknowledged as a major work of twentieth-century Latin American literature, José Eustasio Rivera's *The Vortex* follows the harrowing adventures of the young poet Arturo Cova and his lover Alicia as they flee Bogotá and head into the wild and woolly backcountry of Colombia. After being separated from Alicia, Arturo leaves the high plains for the jungle, where he witnesses firsthand the horrid conditions of those forced or tricked into tapping rubber trees. A story populated by con men, rubber barons, and the unrelenting landscape, *The Vortex* is both a denunciation of the sensational human-rights abuses that took place during the Amazonian rubber boom and one of the most famous renderings of the natural environment in Latin American literary history.

**Gabriel Vásquez, Juan. *The Sound of Things Falling*. Press, Year of Publication. (translated by Anne McLean 2012)**

In the city of Bogotá, Antonio Yammara reads an article about a hippo that had escaped from a derelict zoo once owned by legendary Colombian drug kingpin Pablo Escobar. The article transports Antonio back to when the war between Escobar's Medellín cartel and government forces played out violently in Colombia's streets and the skies above. Back then, Antonio witnessed a friend's murder, an event that haunts him still. As he investigates, he discovers the many ways in which his own life and his friend's family have been shaped by his country's recent violent past. His journey leads him all the way back to the 1960s and a world on the brink of change: a time before narco-trafficking trapped a whole generation in a living nightmare.

**García Márquez, Garbriel. *One Hundred Years of Solitude*. Harper & Row, 1970.**

One of the most influential literary works of our time, *One Hundred Years of Solitude* remains a dazzling and original achievement by the masterful Gabriel García Márquez, winner of the Nobel Prize in Literature. *One Hundred Years of Solitude* tells the story of the rise and fall, birth and death of the mythical town of Macondo through the history of the Buendía family. Inventive, amusing, magnetic, sad, and alive with unforgettable men and women—brimming with truth, compassion, and a lyrical magic that strikes the soul—this novel is a masterpiece in the art of fiction.

**García Márquez, Garbriel. *Chronicle of a Death Foretold*. Alfred a Knopf, 1983.**

A man returns to the town where a baffling murder took place 27 years earlier, determined to get to the bottom of the story. Just hours after marrying the beautiful Angela Vicario, everyone agrees, Bayardo San Roman returned his bride in disgrace to her parents. Her distraught family forced her to name her first lover, and her twin brothers announced their intention to murder Santiago Nasar for dishonoring their sister. Yet if everyone knew the murder was going to happen, why did no one intervene to stop it? The more that is learned, the less is understood, as the story races to its inexplicable conclusion.

**Moreno, Marvel. *December Breeze*. Press, 2022**

From her home in Paris, Lina recalls the story of three women whose lives unfold in the conservative city of Barranquilla in Colombia. Amid parties at the Country Club and strolls along the promenade in Puerto Colombia unfurls a story of sensuality suppressed by violence unfolds; a narrative of oppression in which Dora, Catalina, and Beatriz are victims of a patriarchy that is woven into the social fabric. In Lina's obsessive account of the past, this masterful novel transforms personal anecdotes into a profound panorama of Colombian society towards the end of the 1950s. From private memories to historical reality, the structure of this book is full of precision, poetry, and exile's insight. Standing above and apart from her contemporaries of the Latin American literary boom, Marvel Moreno narrates a reality that describes the private lives of the people of Barranquilla while offering a compelling perspective on the human condition

**Pachico, Julianne. *The Lucky Ones*. Random House, 2017.**

While her parents are away, a teenager finds herself home alone, with the household staff mysteriously gone, no phone connection, and news of an insurgency on the radio—and then she hears a knock at the door. Her teacher, who has been kidnapped by guerrillas, recites Shakespeare in the jungle to a class of sticks, leaves, and stones while his captors watch his every move. Another classmate, who has fled Colombia for the clubs of New York, is unable to forget the life she left behind without the help of the little bags of powder she carries with her. Taking place over two decades, *The Lucky Ones* presents us with a world in which perpetrators are indistinguishable from saviors, the truth is elusive, and loved ones can disappear without a trace.

**Palacios, Arnaldo. *Las Estrellas Son Negras*. Seix Barral Colombia, 2020.**

The book is a poignant narrative set in the Chocó region of Colombia, where it delves into the harsh realities faced by Afro-Colombian communities. Through the eyes of its protagonist, the story explores themes of racial discrimination, poverty, and the struggle for survival in a society marred by social inequality. The protagonist's journey is one of resilience and determination, as he confronts the systemic barriers that oppress his community, revealing the often invisible suffering of marginalized groups in Latin America. The title itself, translating to "The Stars Are Black," serves as a metaphor for the obscured hopes

**Restrepo, Laura. *Delirio*. Knopf Doubleday Publishing Group, 2008.**

In this remarkably nuanced novel, both a gripping detective story and a passionate, devastating tale of eros and insanity in Colombia, internationally acclaimed author Laura Restrepo delves into the minds of four characters. There's Agustina, a beautiful woman from an upper-class family who is caught in the throes of madness; her husband, Aguilar, a man passionately in love with his wife and determined to rescue her from insanity; Agustina's former lover, Midas, a drug-trafficker and money-launderer; and Nicolás, Agustina's grandfather. Through the blend of these distinct voices, Restrepo creates a searing portrait of a society battered by war and corruption, as well as an intimate look at the daily lives of people struggling to stay sane in an unstable reality.

**Restrepo, Laura. *The Divine Boys*. Amazon Crossing, 2020.**

Immune to the consequences of immorality, five privileged young men in Bogotá bond over a shared code: worship drugs and drink, exploit women, and scorn the underclass. As males, they declare the right to freedom of pleasure. As friends, only disloyalty to each other is forbidden. When a little girl from the slums disappears, the limits of a perverse and sacred bond will be tested in ways none of them could have imagined. Hauntingly true, this daringly told work of fiction explores the tragic dynamic between genders, social classes, and victim and victimizer, and between five men whose intolerable transgressions will shake the conscience of a country.

**Rosero, Evelio. *The Armies*. Maclehose Press, 2008.**

The novel delves into the harrowing experiences of Ismael, an elderly retired teacher in a small Colombian town plagued by political violence. As he navigates the complexities of his daily life, which includes a deep affection for his garden and his wife, the town becomes increasingly engulfed by the chaos of warring factions. The narrative captures the sense of dread and the abruptness of violence as neighbors disappear and the social fabric unravels, revealing the profound impact of conflict on ordinary lives. Ismael's journey becomes a poignant exploration of the human condition amidst the terror of the unseen and the struggle to maintain a semblance of normalcy and dignity in a world falling apart.



# YOUNG ADULT NON-FICTION

**DuBois, Jill, Leslie Jermyn, Jui Lin Yong, and Nicole Horning. *Colombia*. Cavendish Square, 2023.**

The culture of Colombia is presented to readers to inspire thought about both the history and current events that have affected and are still affecting this nation, with additional information presented in sidebars and short biographies of Colombian citizens who are examples of global citizens.

**Eismann, Sonja. *Movements and Moments*. Drawn and Quarterly, 2022.**

In 1930s Bolivia, Cholas form a libertarian trade union. In the Northern Highlands of Vietnam, the songs of one girl's youth lead her to a life of activism. In the Philippines, female elders from Kalinga blaze a trail when pushed into an impromptu protest. These stories and other accounts from Chile, Ecuador, India, Nepal, and Peru weave a tapestry shedding light on not-too-distant histories otherwise overlooked. *Movements and Moments* is an introductory glimpse into how Indigenous Peoples tell these stories in their own words. These stories were selected from an open call across forty-two countries to spotlight feminist movements and advocacies in the Global South.



# YOUNG ADULT FICTION

**Bolden, Tonya. *Saving Savannah*. Bloomsbury, YA, 2020**

Savannah Riddle is a teen girl becoming a woman on her own terms against the backdrop of widespread social change in the early 1900s. As a daughter of an upper class African American family in Washington D.C., but lately the structure of her society--the fancy parties, the Sunday teas, the pretentious men, and shallow young women--has started to suffocate her. Then Savannah meets Lloyd, a young West Indian man from the working class who opens Savannah's eyes to how the other half lives. Inspired to fight for change, Savannah starts attending suffragist lectures and socialist meetings, finding herself drawn more and more to Lloyd's world. Set against the backdrop of the press for women's rights, the Red Summer, and anarchist bombings, *Saving Savannah* is the story of a girl and the risks she must take to be the change in a world on the brink of dramatic transformation.

**Contreras, Ingrid Rojas. *Fruit of the Drunken Tree*. Doubleday, 2018.**

Seven-year-old Cula and her older sister, Cassandra, enjoy carefree lives thanks to their gated community in Bogotá but the threat of kidnappings, car bombs, and assassinations hover just outside the neighborhood walls where the godlike drug lord, Pablo Escobar, continues to elude authorities and capture the attention of the nation.

**Ibáñez, Francisco Montaña. *The Immortal Boy*. Levine Querido, 2021.**

Two intertwining stories of Bogotá. One, a family of five children, left to live on their own. The other, a girl in an orphanage who will do anything to befriend the mysterious Immortal Boy.

**Vidal, Juan. *A Second Chance on Earth*. Holiday House, 2024.**

When sixteen-year-old Marcos travels to Cartagena, Colombia, to scatter his late father's ashes, he strikes up a friendship with Camilo, a boy his age who works as a local taxi driver and shares Marcos's love for the novel *One Hundred Years of Solitude*.

**Watson, Renée, and Ellen Hagan. *Watch Us Rise*. Bloomsbury YA, 2019.**

Jasmine and Chelsea are best friends on a mission--they're sick of the way women are treated even at their progressive NYC high school, so they decide to start a Women's Rights Club. They post their work online--poems, essays, videos of Chelsea performing her poetry, and Jasmine's response to the racial microaggressions she experiences--and soon they go viral. But with such positive support, the club is also targeted by trolls. When things escalate in real life, the principal shuts the club down. Not willing to be silenced, Jasmine and Chelsea will risk everything for their voices--and those of other young women--to be heard.

# BOOKS FOR YOUNGER LEARNERS AND CHILDREN

**Alessandri, Alexandra. *Colombia*. Barefoot Books, 2024.**

Explore the sights and sounds of Colombia from the farm to the city. Join Bebé and Perrito as they snack on arepa con chocolate, visit the market, dance cumbia, and count whales in the waves. Colombian author Alexandra Alessandri and illustrator Manu Montoya draw on their personal experiences to create this board book as part of the Our World series for very young readers.

**Alessandri, Alexandra. *The Enchanted Life of Valentina Mejia*. Anthem Books for Young Readers, 2023.**

To save their father's life, a brother and sister must journey across a land full of magical beings from Colombian folklore and find the most powerful and dangerous of them all--the Madremonte.

**Cervantes, Angela. *Encanto: The Deluxe Junior Novelization*. Random House, 2021.**

The tale of an extraordinary family that lives hidden in the mountains of Colombia in a wondrous, place called an Encanto. Everyone in the Madrigal family has a unique gift, ranging from superstrength to the power to heal. Everyone except Mirabel. But when the magic surrounding the Encanto is in danger, Mirabel decides she might just be her exceptional family's last hope.

**Anderson, Sharron. *Colombia*. Bellwether Media, Inc. 2025.**

Images match text in this introduction to Colombia. Intended for students in kindergarten through third grade.

**Kunkel, Angela Burke. *Digging for Words*. Penguin Random House, 2020.**

In Bogotá, Columbia, young José eagerly anticipates Saturday, when he can visit the library started by José Alberto Gutiérrez, a garbage collector, and take a book home to enjoy all week. Includes notes about Gutiérrez's life and Bogotá.

**Torres, Jennifer. *Lola Out Loud: Inspired by the Childhood of Activist Dolores Huerta*. Little, Brown and Company, 2022.**

Lola has a big voice: her grandpa jokingly calls her "Lolita Siete Lenguas" — Little Lola, Seven Tongues. She knows that people think she's too loud, and she does her best to be quiet. But when she sees injustice happening in her very own neighborhood, how can she look away? Maybe her big voice is just what is needed to make things better! Inspired by civil rights activist and labor leader Dolores Huerta, this empowering picture book reminds young readers that every hero started out small — and that loud voices are necessary to fight for change.

**Bolden, Tonya. *Speak Up, Speak Out! The Extraordinary Life of Fighting Shirley Chisholm*. National Geographic Kids, 2022.**

This is a biography of the first Black woman elected to the U.S. House of Representatives and the first Black woman to run for president with a major political party: Shirley Chisholm. This “pepper pot,” as she was known, shows how you can change a country when you speak up and speak out.

**Pérez, Celia C. *Strange Birds: A Field Guide to Ruffling Feathers*. Puffin Books, 2020.**

When three very different girls find a mysterious invitation to a lavish mansion, the promise of adventure and mischief is too intriguing to pass up. Ofelia Castillo (a budding journalist), Aster Douglas (a bookish foodie), and Cat Garcia (a rule-abiding birdwatcher) meet the kid behind the invite, Lane DiSanti, and it isn’t love at first sight. But they soon bond over a shared mission to get the Floras, their local Scouts, to ditch an outdated tradition. In their quest for justice, independence, and an unforgettable summer, the girls form their own troop and find something they didn’t know they needed: sisterhood.