at conferences and book fairs. She is also a board member of the Círculo Panamericano de Lectores (Pan American Writers Circle).

Further Reading

Nicolás Kanellos and Cristelia Pérez

Castillo, Ana (1953–). Born in Chicago on June 15, 1953, to working-class Mexican American parents, Castillo earned a B.A. from Northern Illinois University in 1975 and began teaching while developing her writing career. In 1979, she earned a master’s degree in Latin American and Caribbean Studies at the University of Chicago. Castillo made her way into print during the 1970s as a Chicana feminist poet, first in such magazines as Revista Chicano-Riqueña (Chicano-Puerto Rican Review) and later by self-publishing her own chapbooks, Oro Canto (1977, Another Song) and The Invitation (1979). In 1984, Castillo published her first full-length collection of poems, Women Are Not Roses, with Arte Público Press, which launched her soon-to-be extensive touring career. From the late 1980s up to the present, Castillo has become a respected fiction writer, publishing novels with the independent small press, Bilingual Review Press, and later with W. W. Norton: The Mixquihuala Letters (1986), So Far from God (1993), Sapogonia: An Anti-romance in 3/8 Meter (1994), and Peel My Love like an Onion (2000). Castillo’s latest novel, The Guardians (2007), follows the trials and tribulations of a Mexican immigrant family, using the voices of the various family members to narrate the story. In 1991 and 1995, respectively,

Ana Castillo reading at the National Latino Book Fair in 1979.
Castillo published two feminist tracts, *Massacre of the Dreamers: Essays on Xicanisma* and *The Sexuality of Latinos* (with Cherrie Moraga and Norma Alarcón), which are often cited, along with her work on the Spanish version of *This Bridge Called My Back*, as standard texts on Chicana literary theory. Other works in various genres include *My Father Was a Toltec and Selected Poems* (poetry, 1995), *Ask the Impossible* (poetry, 2001), *Goddess of the Americas/La Diosa de las Américas* (essays, 1996), and *Loverboys* (short stories, 1996).

Throughout the 1980s and 1990s, Castillo taught courses at various universities, toured extensively, and published poetry, stories, and essays in numerous periodicals and anthologies. From 1989 to 1992, she worked as a writing instructor at the University of New Mexico. During this time, she earned a Ph.D. in American Studies from the University of Bremen in Germany (1991). Today, Castillo holds a chair in creative writing at DePaul University in Chicago.

**Further Reading**


**Nicolás Kanellos and Cristelía Pérez**

**Castillo, Gary (?–).** It seems that Gary Castillo has always had a desire to write. Since his early childhood, he could never pass by a blank piece of paper without putting something on it. His parents found his little stories everywhere and showed them to family and friends. Eventually he began writing songs and was recorded enough to join the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers at an early age. He signed with MGM studios as a Demo Recording Artist at the age of seventeen. By this time, he was enrolled at Pepperdine University near Malibu, studying to be a musician. This combined experience put him in touch with some of the greatest artists, musicians, actors, and writers of that time.

Castillo moved back to Stockton, California, where he began to study opera at the University of the Pacific. He won the Los Angeles Division and was a Western Region Finalist of the Metropolitan Opera Auditions. He began performing in regional theater all around the country and in some performances in Europe. Later he began to settle down, marrying and returning to school. He attended California State University at Los Angeles, where he completed his Bachelor and Master of Arts degrees and began teaching voice and performing arts as an Associate Professor of Music at the same university.

His music writing branched out to lyric-writing for songs and complete books for musicals. Time after time, he found himself returning to storytelling. He found himself writing plays, short stories, and then novels. The subject matter of these stories varied, but most were influenced by his Hispanic upbringing. On his first outing it took him about three months to publish his first book, *Quesadilla Moon* (2007). Although this young adult novel is about a