



Welcome to The Bookshelf! The Bookshelf initiative is for parents, by parents. It’s a parent-led effort that produces a family-picked list of books for children and parents from preschool-5th grade that focus on belonging, inclusion, identity, and diversity. Launched in January 2021, this list is included in Mosaïque each month and is available via the LILA app.

The recommended books do not reflect selections intended for use in the formal curriculum. This list is neither vetted nor sanctioned by the school.

As a parent-led initiative, we encourage anyone to recommend a book and contribute suggestions. To share your recommendations, comments, or questions, please [fill out this parent-reviewed form](#). Thank you for your support and involvement!

Mission of the LILA Bookshelf

As parents, we are responsible for introducing our children to dynamic worlds and stories filled with authentic and relatable characters, characteristic of the world in which we live. As LILA parents, we recognize a need to expand our selection of diverse and inclusive books and resources available to our children and families.

The Bookshelf is an open, parent-led group that works to provide the LILA community with a monthly list of books and resources that encourage healthy identity development, disrupt racism, and support open dialogue within the community, to empower kids and parents to make LILA an inclusive, safe space for everyone. We aim to bring together a group of stories that portray a variety of voices, points of view, and experiences.

This is an extension of the Parents for an Inclusive LILA alliance, which includes but is not limited to, the LGBTQ, Black, Asian, Español / Latinx, Middle Eastern, and What is Allyship Groups.

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September Quick List

To get more info about, or purchase a book, please click its cover image or title.
To discover more titles from these authors and illustrators, click their names.

Our Favorite Book by Featured Lila Families

The Aten-Hall Family recommends [Why Do I Get All the Kisses?](#) by [Sundra Oakley](#) (Author) and [Anthony Conley](#) (Illustrator)

Preschoolers and Pre-Kindergarteners

[Buddy's New Buddy](#)

By [Christina Geist](#) (Author), [Tim Bowers](#) (Illustrator)

Kindergarteners

[Kindergarten: Where Kindness Matters Every Day](#)

By [Vera Ahyya](#) (Author), [Joey Chou](#) (Illustrator)

1st Graders

[Bathe the Cat](#)

By [Alice B. McGinty](#) (Author), [David Roberts](#) (Illustrator)

2nd Graders

[The Buddy Bench](#)

By [Patty Brozzo](#) (Author), [Mike Deas](#) (Illustrator)

3rd Graders

[Mindy Kim and the Yummy Seaweed Business](#)

By [Lyla Lee](#) (Author), [Dung Ho](#) (Illustrator)

4th Graders

[The Streets Belong to Us](#)

By [Karleen Pendleton Jiménez](#) (Author), [Gabriela Godoy](#) (Illustrator)

5th Graders

[Welcome Back, Maple Mehta-Cohen](#)

by [Kate McGovern](#) (Author)

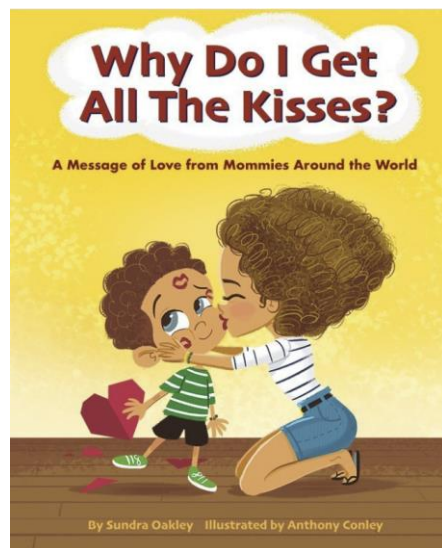
Our Favorite Book by Featured LILA Families

September 2022

Our Favorite Book - The Aten-Hall Family



Pictured from L-R: Cruz (9th Grade Burbank), Eric, Sundra, and Carson ('19 Lila Alumus)



Why Do I Get All the Kisses?

By Sundra Oakley (Author), Anthony Conley (Illustrator)

Why Do I Get All the Kisses? is Sundra Oakley's first children's book. Long time LILA mum, Sundra's title comes from the exact words her eldest, Carsun (LILA 2019 graduate and currently in his last year at the Université de Lille in France) said when he was little. The text is translated into 23 different languages included in the book, and it is Sundra's hope that it will not only bring a sense of recognition to so many bilingual/multilingual families but may also spark an interest in learning about a language and culture they never even knew of or considered before. This book reads like a big hug for parents and children. For more details: www.sundraoakley.com

June 2022

Our Favorite Book - The Roman Family



Pictured from L-R: Josephine "Jojo" (Los Feliz pre-K), Tony, Lida (Los Feliz 1st grader), Sibel



It's Okay to Be Different

By Todd Parr

It's Okay to Be Different is a children's book by Todd Parr that celebrates all the kooky, hilarious, and amazing traits that make us all unique. The book has become a popular resource for teaching diversity and tolerance to children of all ages. Embracing our differences is encouraged with simple and bright illustrations that highlight how fun it is to be yourself.

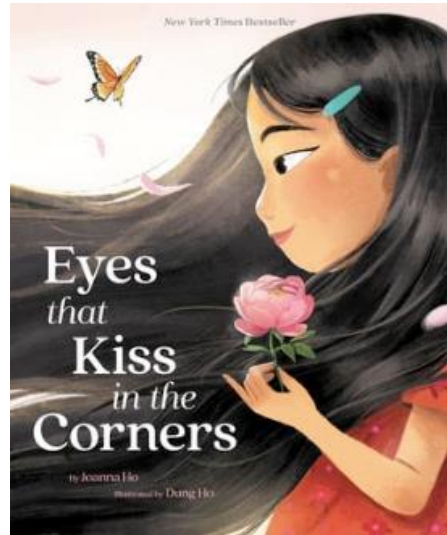
We love reading this book and discussing all the ways the people we know and love are different. It's a wonderful way to look at the world and offer our kids an opportunity to share how differences are positive and vital to building a beautiful and accepting world. The illustrations capture our girls' imaginations and inspire some pretty amazing self-portraits.

May 2022

Our Favorite Book - The FitzRoy-Chow Family



Pictured from L-R: Geoff, Frankie (Los Feliz preschool), Julia, and Freddie



Eyes That Kiss in the Corners

By **Joanna Ho (Author)**, **Dung Ho (Illustrator)**

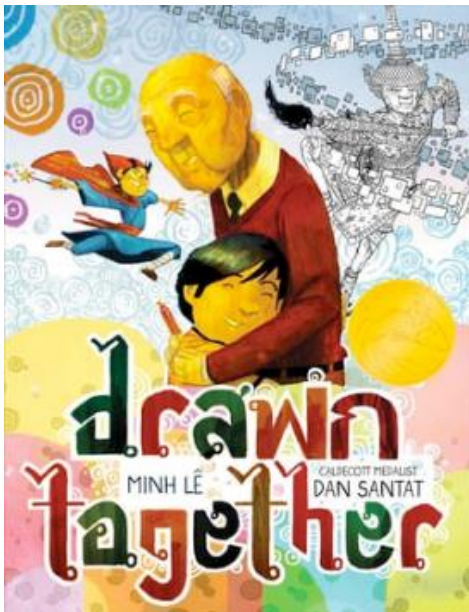
This book has helped our daughter see herself as a protagonist. The book discusses self-acceptance and what it means to look different from one another.

April 2022

Our Favorite Book - The Repoff Family



Pictured from L-R: Skyler (Los Feliz 1st grader), Max, and Edythe



Drawn Together

By Minh Le (Author), Dan Santat (Illustrator)

Drawn Together is a beautifully illustrated book about an American grandson visiting his Vietnamese-speaking grandfather. They lack a common language, which leads to silence and frustration. When they find that they both have a love of drawing and storytelling, they form a bond without needing to speak. It resonates for our family, where Skyler's grandfather's primary language is neither English nor French.

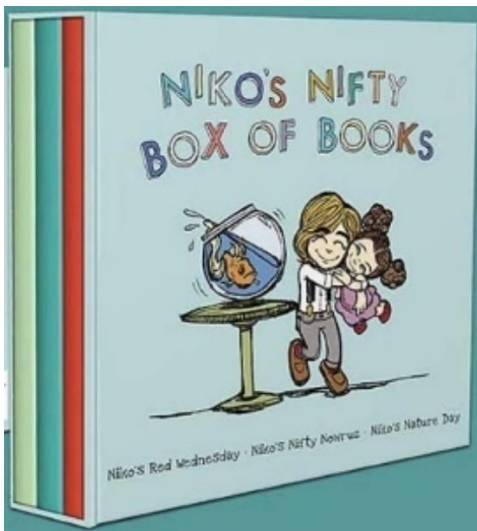
From Skyler: "I like this book because the grandfather and grandson don't speak the same language but they figure out a way to communicate. I really like that the grandson is surprised to find out that he has something in common with his grandfather."

February 2022

Our Favorite Book – The Safinia Family



Pictured from L-R: Evie (Los Feliz 4th grader) and Annabelle



Niko's Nifty Box of Books

By Sheila Salamat

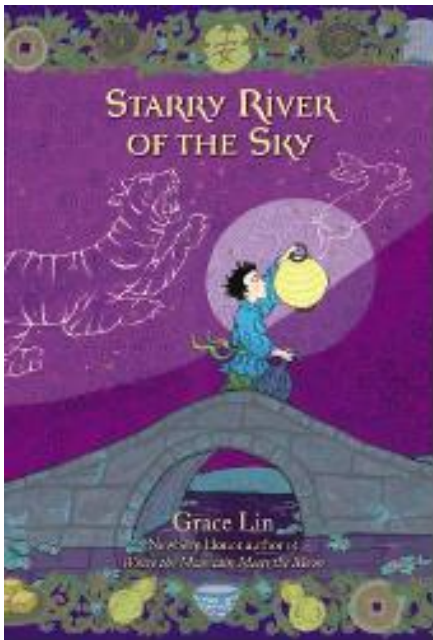
Every year around the time of Persian new year, or Nowruz - the first day of spring, we love to sit down with our favorite box set and read it together. Niko's Nifty Box of Books is a trilogy written by our dear friend Sheila Salamat about how their family celebrate the new year and incorporate the different traditions. It describes the three most significant traditions of the holiday and it helps Evie to learn the different elements and also share it with her friends. Here is a picture of us with our traditional New Year's display, the Haft Seen. Happy Nowruz!

January 2022

Our Favorite Book – The Zhao-Gao Family



Pictured from L-R: Joseph Gao (Pasadena pre-K), Runmin/Ivy Gao, Louis Zhao (Pasadena 2nd grader), and Wei Zhao



Starry River of the Sky

By Grace Lin

From Louis:

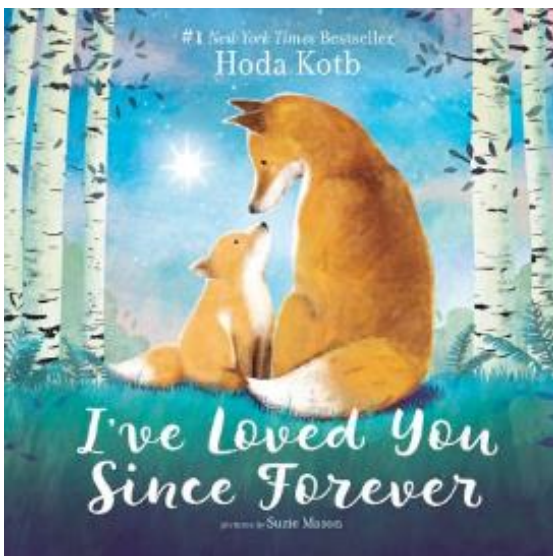
“This book is very fun to me because it’s not just a normal story, but it has shorter stories that talk about a lot of traditional Chinese fairy tales but it wasn’t like other books that turn them into a long list. The author found some ways to connect the first story to the next and to the next etc. For example, Madam Chang told the first story about an old man moving a mountain, and then she asked a small boy to tell a story, and the small boy told a story about an old man that sat at the highest mountain, and how he turned a white tiger into a man. I hope that after you understand these fairy tales you can tell these stories to others and that’s what makes this book so important to me and my family.”

December 2021

Our Favorite Book – The Partamian-Russell Family



Pictured from L-R: Sarah (Pasadena 5th grader), Nayiri, and Damon



I've Loved You Since Forever

By **Hoda Kotb (Author), Suzie Mason (Illustrator)**

Our family endured a long wait to be brought together. The month Sarah was born we saw an enormous shooting star blaze across the night sky on our way home. We knew at that instant that our family was about to be united.

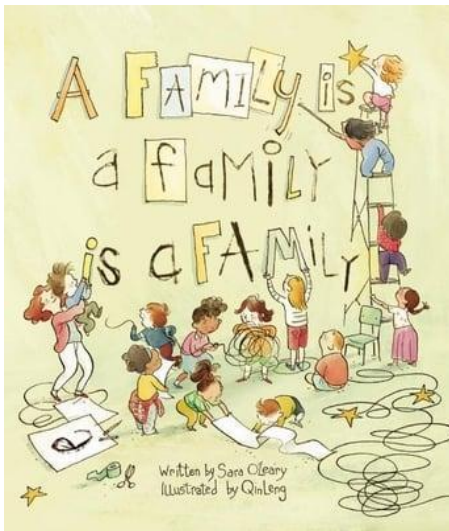
I've Loved You Since Forever resonates with the foundations of our family, one where the love for our child was in our hearts long before her arrival, one where our family was preordained by the cosmos, not by biology. The messages within *I've Loved You Since Forever* are also strongly aligned with the teachings of All Saints Church in Pasadena, where we have been members since our family's beginning.

November 2021

Our Favorite Book – The Dabb-Mouroux Family



Pictured from L-R: Jason (holding Milou), Naomi (Los Feliz 3rd grader), Chloe (Los Feliz 3rd grader) and Olivier (holding Bolt)



A Family Is a Family Is a Family

By Sara O'Leary (Author), Qin Leng (Illustrator)

Teaching kids from an early age that things and people are different, not better or worse, and that diversity is what makes our world a better place can have powerful, long lasting effects.

Even in a privileged environment like ours we have room to grow and improve. A few months ago one of our children came home semi-shamefully telling us that we couldn't be her real parents since we were two dads and other kids had said to her that it took a mom and a dad to make babies and a real family.

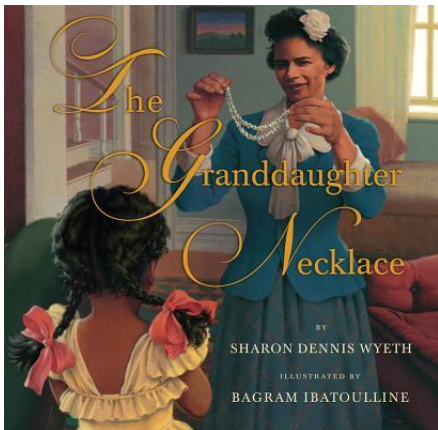
This book proves this notion wrong in a very practical way, showing in a classroom setting that families can look very different yet be equally united by love: whether it's a child with divorced parents, raised by another relative, adopted, or from an LGBTQ+ home. A wonderfully powerful and simple lesson.

October 2021

Our Favorite Book - The Shipp Family



Pictured from L-R: Will, Maja, Zoë (Burbank 9th grader), and Natalie (Burbank 6th grader)



The Granddaughter Necklace

By Sharon Dennis Wyeth (Author), Bagram Ibatoulline (Illustrator)

Both my husband and I come from families with a long line of strong women coming from all around the world and from very different walks of life, and this book made us reflect on our relationships with the women of our families. Even if we don't have a physical necklace to pass down, we have wonderful stories that bind us together.

I loved sharing this story with our daughters Zoë and Natalie to highlight the importance of honoring one's history and lineage. The courage, the strength and the wisdom of those who came before us is somehow a part of us as well, and empower us, and help us become who we are today. It reminds us that life is not measured but what we acquire in a lifetime, but by what we give and leave behind.

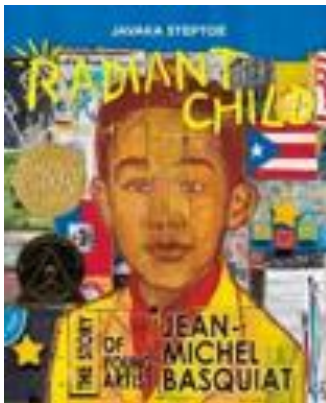
The story captures the spirit of the women as well as the time and place in which they lived. Each woman receives the granddaughter necklace at a point early in her life when she feels vulnerable. The necklace acts as a reassurance to let the girl know that she is not alone; like a bead on a necklace, she is part of an endless chain that stretches back through time.

June 2021

Our Favorite Book – The O’Neal Family



Pictured from L-R: Patrick, Brooklyn (Los Feliz 2nd grader), and Brendan O’Neal



Radiant Child

By Javaka Steptoe

Radiant Child is important to us because it details an amazing Afro-Latino artist's youth and subsequent meteoric rise to popularity. Basquiat revolutionized the art world and is still revered today. This book was especially exciting because we read it after seeing his work at the Broad Museum in downtown Los Angeles.

Winner of the Randolph Caldecott Medal and the Coretta Scott King Illustrator Award

Jean-Michel Basquiat and his unique, collage-style paintings rocketed to fame in the 1980s as a cultural phenomenon unlike anything the art world had ever seen. But before that, he was a little boy who saw art everywhere: in poetry books and museums, in games and in the words that we speak, and in the pulsing energy of New York City. Now, award-winning illustrator Javaka Steptoe's vivid text and bold artwork echoing Basquiat's own introduce young readers to the powerful message that art doesn't always have to be neat or clean--and definitely not inside the lines--to be beautiful.

June 2021

Our Favorite Book – The Bush Mecenaz Family



Pictured from L-R: Susan, Eva (Pasadena PS/PK), and M'Alyssa Bush Mecenaz



Julián Is a Mermaid

By Jessica Love

Our book is *Julián is a Mermaid* by Jessica Love. In it, a child is inspired to make his own mermaid costume at home. His grandmother does not get upset with him - quite the opposite. She takes him to see a local parade of mermaids! Scenes in subway cars and neighborhoods are interspersed with sweepingly magical underwater illustrations, in a beautiful story celebrating the transformative power of unconditional love, imagination, and community.

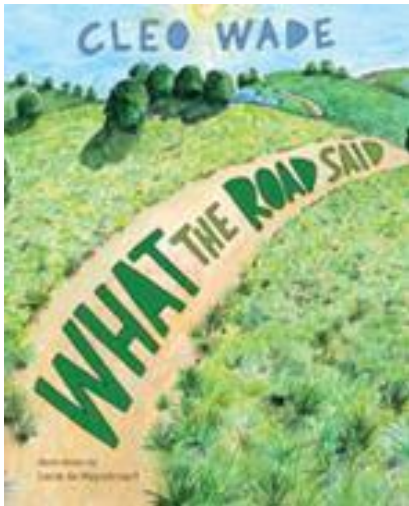
While riding the subway home from the pool with his abuela one day, Julián notices three women spectacularly dressed up. Their hair billows in brilliant hues, their dresses end in fishtails, and their joy fills the train car. When Julián gets home, daydreaming of the magic he's seen, all he can think about is dressing up just like the ladies in his own fabulous mermaid costume: a butter-yellow curtain for his tail, the fronds of a potted fern for his headdress. But what will Abuela think about the mess he makes — and even more importantly, what will she think about how Julián sees himself? Mesmerizing and full of heart, Jessica Love's author-illustrator debut is a jubilant picture of self-love and a radiant celebration of individuality.

May 2021

Our Favorite Book – The Del Rio Family



Pictured from L-R: Aviva (Los Feliz 1st grader), Amy, Paloma (Los Feliz 1st grader), and Enrique Del Rio



What The Road Said

By Cleo Wade (Author), Lucie de Moyencourt (Illustrator)

What the Road Said is a wonderful read for children and adults. It is thoughtfully written by Cleo Wade, a best-selling author, poet and activist, and brilliantly illustrated by Lucie de Moyencourt, a French painter. The book addresses anxiety, bravery, adversity and perseverance. While not as silly as many of the books our children gravitate toward, we believe it will be one of the books they cherish well into adulthood. We hope other members of the LILA community find it meaningful, too.

What the Road Said is the New York Times-bestselling comforting and uplifting picture book from bestselling poet and activist Cleo Wade.

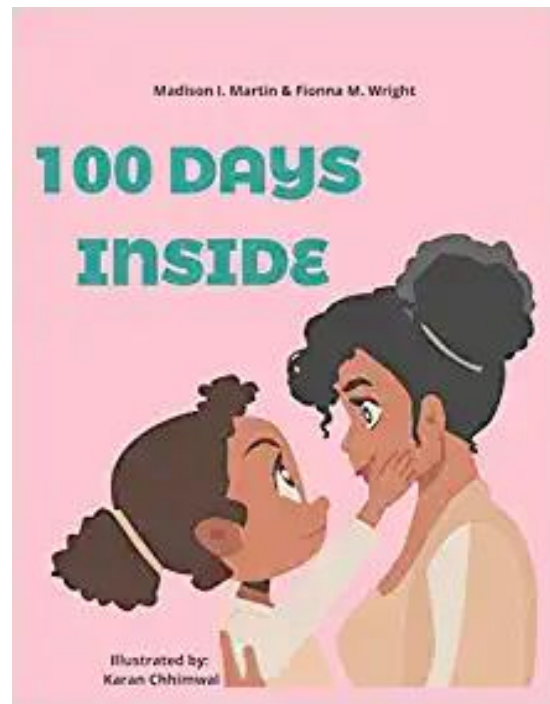
It's okay to be afraid or to sometimes wander down the wrong path. Best-selling poet and activist Cleo Wade's *What the Road Said* features illustrations by Lucie de Moyencourt and encourages us to lead with kindness and curiosity, remembering that the most important thing we can do in life is to keep going.

April 2021

Our Favorite Book – The Martin Family



Pictured from L-R: Fionna and Madison (West Valley 2nd grader)



100 Days Inside

**By Madison I. Martin and Fionna M. Wright (Authors),
Karan Chhimwal (Illustrator)**

100 Days Inside is a story about an only child navigating her new reality and BIG feelings during the stay-at-home orders due to the Coronavirus pandemic. With the help of her mommy, she learns how to deal with the changes and her emotions.

This book is special to us because it is a project we worked on together with our diverse family represented in the book. It also encapsulates this historic time where we are all individually and collectively navigating the changes brought on by the pandemic.

March 2021

Our Favorite Book – The Nourizadeh Family



Pictured from L-R: Amy, Rain (Los Feliz KA), and Nima Nourizadeh



It Began with a Page: How Gyo Fujikawa Drew the Way

By **Kyo Maclear (Author), Julie Morstad (Illustrator)**

We wanted to share this biographical picture book about artist and author, Gyo Fujikawa. Fujikawa wrote and illustrated over 50 children's books, starting with *Babies* (1963), one of the first published children's books to show racial diversity.

It Began with A Page tells the story of Fujikawa's life as an artist and Asian American girl growing up in the United States in the 20th century. In addition to being an educational and historical insight into her life and the lives of Japanese American's in the US, we love how this book encourages readers to be creative, to follow their dreams no matter what, and to never take no for an answer.

February 2021

Our Favorite Book – The Rose Family



Pictured from L-R: Yohannes, Mattie (Pasadena PS/PK), Campbell, and Charlie



Sulwe

By Lupita Nyong'o (Author), Vashti Harrison (Illustrator)

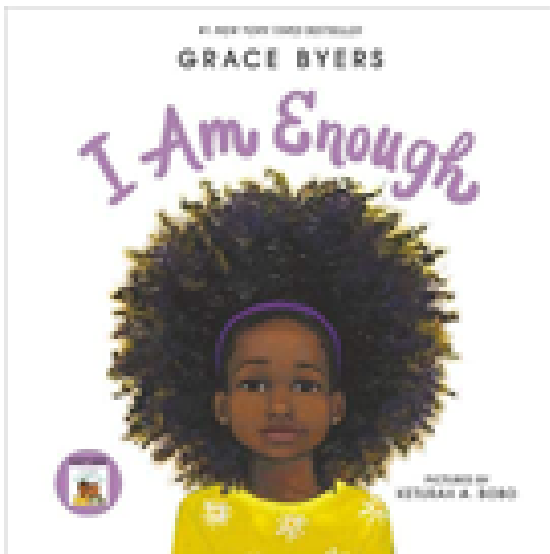
We have selected *Sulwe* which was written by Lupita Nyong'o. This book is a favorite of our family because it illustrates regardless of the hue of our skin that we are all beautiful. It also highlights beauty comes from within and is not based upon how others view you.

January 2021

Our Favorite Book – The Jones Family



Pictured from L-R: Zuri (Pasadena 1st grader), Ayo, and Idris.



I Am Enough

By Grace Byers

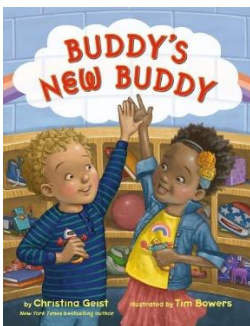
This book offers constructive affirmations for those who lack self-esteem and self-acceptance. It celebrates children for who they are and promotes positive female role models. I Am Enough instills the message that we are unique, and that will always be enough. A young girl makes positive declarations - "Like the sun, I am here to shine... like the bird I am here to fly and soar high over everything." She is surrounded by friends of different colors and cultures and declares, "I'm not meant to be like you; you're not meant to be like me. Sometimes we will get along, and sometimes we will disagree." A book to promote a positive self-image and self-acceptance that we are worthy no matter our skin color, race, religion, disability, and interests.

Books for Preschoolers & Pre-Kindergarteners

PS & PK: September 2022

Buddy's New Buddy

By **Christina Geist (Author)** and **Tim Bowers (Illustrator)**

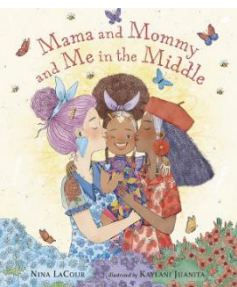


"The newest picture book in the New York Times bestselling Buddy series is about being yourself through-and-through while going back to school and trying to make new buddies! After Buddy's best friend moves away, he doesn't know what to do: Who will he high five at school? Who will he play robo chargers with at lunch? Who will be his field trip partner? Buddy feels he has nothing in common with anyone.... Until a new student shows up who might just be a buddy in the making! And best of all: Buddy can be completely himself with her."

PS & PK: June 2022

Mama and Mommy and Me in the Middle

By **Nina Lacour (Author)**, **Kaylani Juanita (Illustrator)**

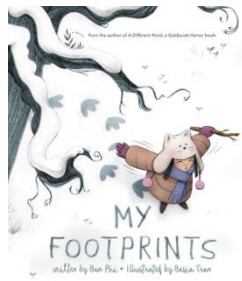


For one little girl, there's no place she'd rather be than sitting between Mama and Mommy. So when Mommy goes away on a work trip, it's tricky to find a good place at the table. As the days go by, Mama brings her to the library, they watch movies, and all of them talk on the phone, but she still misses Mommy as deep as the ocean and as high as an astronaut up in the stars. As they pass by a beautiful garden, the girl gets an idea . . . but when Mommy finally comes home, it takes a minute to shake off the empty feeling she felt all week before leaning in for a kiss. Michael L. Printz Award winner Nina LaCour thoughtfully renders a familiar, touching story of a child who misses a parent, illustrated by Kaylani Juanita, whose distinctive style brings charm and playfulness to this delightful family of three.

PS & PK: May 2022

My Footprints

By Bao Phi (Author), Basia Tran (Illustrator)

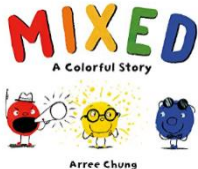


Every child feels different in some way, but Thuy feels double different. She is Vietnamese American and she has two moms. Thuy walks home one winter afternoon, angry and lonely after a bully's taunts. Then a bird catches her attention and sets Thuy on an imaginary exploration. What if she could fly away like a bird? What if she could sprint like a deer, or roar like a bear? Mimicking the footprints of each creature in the snow, she makes her way home to the arms of her moms. Together, the three of them imagine beautiful and powerful creatures who always have courage - just like Thuy.

PS & PK: April 2022

Mixed: A Colorful Story

By Arree Chung

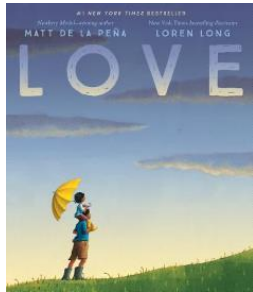


The reds, the yellows, and the blues all think they're the best in this vibrant, thought-provoking picture book from Arree Chung, with a message of acceptance and unity.

PS & PK: March 2022

Love

By Matt de la Peña (Author), Loren Long (Illustrator)



“In the beginning there is light
and two wide-eyed figures standing near the foot of your bed
and the sound of their voices is love.

...

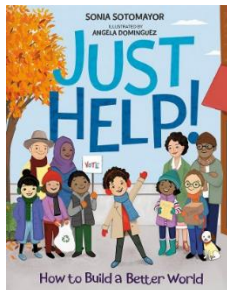
A cab driver plays love softly on his radio
while you bounce in back with the bumps of the city
and everything smells new, and it smells like life.

In this heartfelt celebration of love, Newbery Medal-winning author Matt de la Peña and bestselling illustrator Loren Long depict the many ways we experience this universal bond, which carries us from the day we are born throughout the years of our childhood and beyond. With a lyrical text that's soothing and inspiring, this tender tale is a needed comfort and a new classic that will resonate with readers of every age.”

PS & PK: January 2022

Just Help!

By Sonia Sotomayor (Author), Angela Dominguez (Illustrator)



“Every night when Sonia goes to bed, Mami asks her the same question: *How did you help today?* And since Sonia wants to help her community, just like her Mami does, she always makes sure she has a good answer to Mami's question.

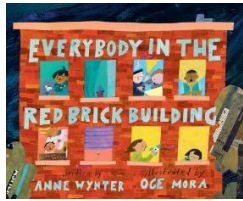
In a story inspired by her own family's desire to help others, Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor takes young readers on a journey through a neighborhood where kids and adults, activists and bus drivers, friends and strangers all help one another to build a better world for themselves and their community.

With art by award-winning illustrator Angela Dominguez, this book shows how we can all help make the world a better place each and every day.”

PS & PK: December 2021

Everybody In The Red Brick Building

By Anne Wynter (Author), Oge Mora (Illustrator)



A fresh, urban take on bedtime stories in the spirit of *The House That Jack Built* and *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom*, from debut author Anne Wynter and Caldecott Honoree Oge Mora.

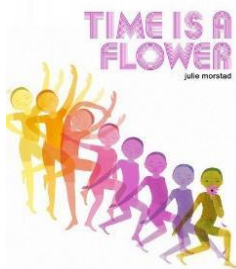
Everybody in the red brick building was asleep. Until . . .
WaaaAAH!
Rraak! Wake up!
Pitter patter STOMP!
Pssheew!

A chain reaction of noises wakes up several children (and a cat) living in an apartment building. But it's late in the night, so despite the disturbances, one by one, the building's inhabitants return to their beds—this time with a new set of sounds to lull them to sleep.

PS & PK: November 2021

Time Is A Flower

By Julie Morstad



What is time? Is it the tick tick tock of a clock, numbers and words on a calendar? It's that, but so much more. Time is a seed waiting to grow, a flower blooming, a sunbeam moving across a room. Time is slow like a spider spinning her web or fast like a wave at the beach. Time is a wiggly tooth, or waiting for the school bell to ring, or reading a story . . . or three! But time is also morning for some and night for others, a fading sunset and a memory captured in a photo taken long ago.

In this magical meditation on the nature of time, Julie Morstad shines a joyful light on a difficult-to-grasp concept for young readers and reminds older readers to see the wonders of our world, including children themselves, through the lens of time.

Abby is anxious to host the perfect tea party for a friend she idolizes, but life serves up a sweet taste of the fun to be had when perfection is off the table.

PS & PK: October 2021

Phoebe Dupree Is Coming to Tea

By **Linda Ashman (Author), Alea Marley (Illustrator)**



Abby is anxious to host the perfect tea party for a friend she idolizes, but life serves up a sweet taste of the fun to be had when perfection is off the table.

Have you met Phoebe – Miss Phoebe Dupree?

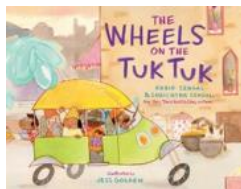
Phoebe's as perfect as perfect can be.

To Abby, her friend Phoebe can do no wrong. Phoebe is speedy. Phoebe is smart. She's equally brilliant at science and art. So when the budding hostess invites Phoebe over for a tea party, everything from the sugary treats on the menu to Abby's dog, Louie, must be, well...perfect. But when life—and possibly Louie—send a clear message to let loose, the girls indulge in a perfectly imperfect playdate. Linda Ashman's vivacious rhyme and Alea Marley's inviting illustrations serve up a classic tale of enduring friendship at a tea party that will leave readers wanting to pull up a chair.

PS: June 2021

The Wheels on the Tuk Tuk

By **Kabir Sehgal (Author), Surishtha Sehgal (Author), Jess Golden (Illustrator)**



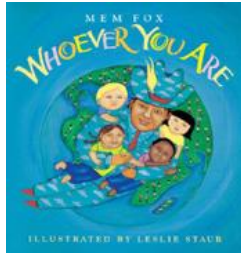
From the mother-son duo behind the New York Times bestselling *A Bucket of Blessings* comes a zany picture book about a wild ride on a tuk tuk taxi in India!

This picture book brings an international twist to the beloved nursery rhyme, *The Wheels on the Bus*, by bringing you aboard a busy three-wheeled taxi in India! Anything can happen as the tuk tuk rolls through town--from an elephant encounter to a tasty treat to a grand fireworks display. And in the midst of all the action, one thing's for sure: passengers young and old love every minute of their exciting ride as the wheels of the tuk tuk go round and round!

PK: June 2021

Whoever You Are

By Mem Fox (Author), Leslie Staub (Illustrator)



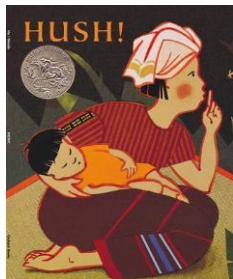
A celebration of diverse childhoods, and the essential things that make us all the same.

Every day all over the world, children are laughing and crying, playing and learning, eating and sleeping. They may not look the same. They may not speak the same language. Their lives may be quite different from each other. But inside, they are all alike. Stirring words and bold paintings weave their way around our earth, across cultures and generations and remind children to accept differences, to recognize similarities, and--most importantly--to rejoice in both.

PS: May 2021

Hush!

By Minfong Ho (Author), Holly Meade (Illustrator)

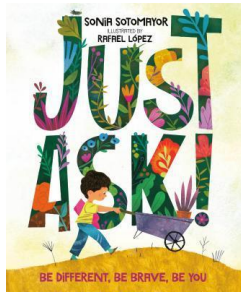


In an endearing lullaby, a mother asks a lizard, a monkey, and a water buffalo to be quiet and not disturb her sleeping baby.

PK: May 2021

Just Ask! Be Different, Be Brave, Be You

By **Sonia Sotomayor (Author), Rafael López (Illustrator)**



Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor and award-winning artist Rafael Lopez create a kind and caring book about the differences that make each of us unique.

A #1 New York Times bestseller!
Winner of the Schneider Family Book Award!

Feeling different, especially as a kid, can be tough. But in the same way that different types of plants and flowers make a garden more beautiful and enjoyable, different types of people make our world more vibrant and wonderful.

In *Just Ask*, United States Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor celebrates the different abilities kids (and people of all ages) have. Using her own experience as a child who was diagnosed with diabetes, Justice Sotomayor writes about children with all sorts of challenges—and looks at the special powers those kids have as well. As the kids work together to build a community garden, asking questions of each other along the way.

PS: April 2021

Lift

By Minh Lê (Author), Dan Santat (Illustrator)



“From the award-winning and bestselling creators of Drawn Together comes the fantastic tale of a magical elevator that will lift your spirits—and press all the right buttons.

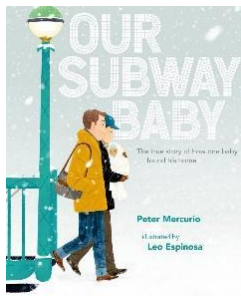
Iris loves to push the elevator buttons in her apartment building, but when it's time to share the fun with a new member of the family, she's pretty put out. That is, until the sudden appearance of a mysterious new button opens up entire realms of possibility, places where she can escape and explore on her own. But when she's forced to choose between going at it alone or letting her little brother tag along, Iris finds that sharing a discovery with the people you love can be the most wonderful experience of all.

Using their dynamic comics-inspired storytelling, acclaimed author Minh Lê and Caldecott Medal-winning artist Dan Santat carry readers on a journey of ups, downs, and twists and turns that will send hearts—and imaginations—soaring.”

PK: April 2021

Our Subway Baby

By Peter Mercurio (Author), Leo Espinosa (Illustrator)



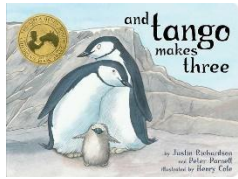
“This gentle and incredibly poignant picture book tells the true story of how one baby found his home. Some babies are born into their families. Some are adopted. This is the story of how one baby found his family in the New York City subway.

So begins the true story of Kevin and how he found his Daddy Danny and Papa Pete. Written in a direct address to his son, Pete's moving and emotional text tells how his partner, Danny, found a baby tucked away in the corner of a subway station on his way home from work one day. Pete and Danny ended up adopting the baby together. Although neither of them had prepared for the prospect of parenthood, they are reminded, Where there is love, anything is possible .”

PS: March 2021

And Tango Makes Three

By **Peter Parnell** and **Justin Richardson** (Authors), **Henry Cole** (Illustrator)



“The heartwarming true story of two penguins who create a nontraditional family is now available in a sturdy board book edition.

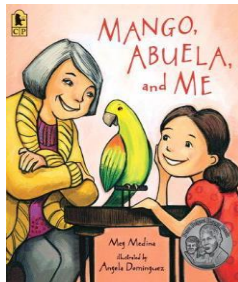
At the penguin house at the Central Park Zoo, two penguins named Roy and Silo were a little bit different from the others. But their desire for a family was the same. And with the help of a kindly zookeeper, Roy and Silo got the chance to welcome a baby penguin of their very own.

In time for the tenth anniversary of *And Tango Makes Three*, this Classic Board Book edition is the perfect size for small hands.”

PK: March 2021

Mango, Abuela, and Me

By **Meg Medina** (Author), **Angela Dominguez** (Illustrator)

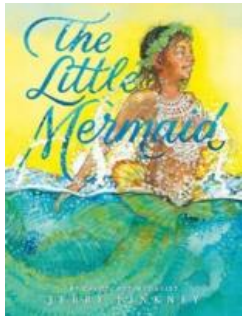


“Mia's abuela has left her sunny house with parrots and palm trees to live with Mia and her parents in the city. While they cook, Mia helps Abuela learn English, and Mia learns some Spanish, too, but it's still hard for Abuela to learn enough words to tell Mia her stories. Then Mia sees a parrot in the pet-shop window and has the perfect idea for how to help them all communicate a little better. Here is an endearing tale that speaks loud and clear about the love that binds families across the generations.”

PS: February 2021

The Little Mermaid

By **Jerry Pinkney**



“In this captivating reimagining of Hans Christian Andersen's classic, Caldecott medalist and bestselling artist Jerry Pinkney conjures a poignant friendship story and an epic tale of redemption -- the definitive new version for our time.

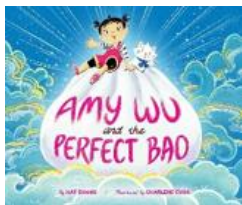
Melody, the littlest sea princess, is not content just to sing in the choir of mermaids like her sisters. She is an explorer who wonders about what lies above the water's surface . . . especially the young girl she has spied from a distance. To meet her requires a terrible sacrifice: she trades her beautiful voice for a potion that gives her legs, so that she may live on land instead. It seems like a dream come true at first. But when trouble stirs beneath the ocean, Melody faces another impossible choice -- stay with her friend, or reclaim her true identity and save her family.

Legendary artist Jerry Pinkney's singular reinvention of this tale about love and sacrifice empowers young, twenty-first century girls with the strong message that "you should never give up your voice . . . for anyone."

PK: February 2021

Amy Wu and the Perfect Bao

By **Kat Zhang (Author), Charlene Chua (Illustrator)**



“A Kirkus Reviews Best Picture Book of 2019

Meet the funny, fierce, and fearless Amy Wu, who is determined to make a perfect bao bun today. Can she rise to the occasion?

Amy loves to make bao with her family. But it takes skill to make the bao taste and look delicious. And her bao keep coming out all wrong. Then she has an idea that may give her a second chance...Will Amy ever make the perfect bao?”

PS: January 2021

Harriett Gets Carried Away

By Jessie Sima



“Harriett loves costumes. She wears them to the dentist, to the supermarket, and most importantly, to her super-special dress-up birthday party. Her dads have decorated everything for the party and Harriett has her most favorite costume all picked out for the big day. There’s just one thing missing—party hats!

But when Harriett dons her special penguin errand-running costume and sets out to find the perfect ones, she finds something else instead—real penguins! Harriett gets carried away with the flock. She may look like a penguin, but she’s not so sure she belongs in the arctic. Can Harriett manage her way back to her dads (and the party hats!) in time for her special day?”

PK: January 2021

M is for Melanin: A Celebration of the Black Child

By Tiffany Rose



“ M is for Melanin is an empowering alphabet book that teaches kids their ABCs and celebrates Black children!

M is for Melanin
shining in every inch of your skin.
Every shade, every hue.
All beautiful and unique.

Each letter of the alphabet contains affirming, Black-positive messages, from A is for Afro, to F is for Fresh, to W is for Worthy. This book teaches children their ABCs while encouraging them to love the skin that they're in.

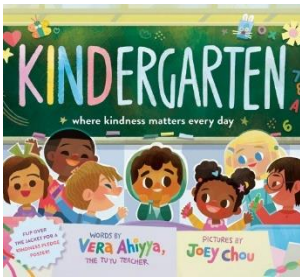
Be bold. Be fearless. BE YOU.”

Books for Kindergarteners

Kindergarten: September 2022

Kindergarten: Where Kindness Matters Every Day

By **Vera Ahyya (Author)** and **Joey Chou (Illustrator)**



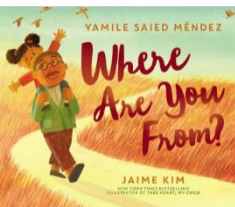
"It's the first day of Kindergarten and Leo isn't at all ready. Leo is a quiet kid and would prefer to stay home. Over the summer, his new teacher, Ms. Perry sent a letter asking her students to think about how to show kindness in school. She explained that they would be making a kindness pledge, and each student should bring one way to show kindness on the first day.

As it turns out, Leo's classmates have lots of ideas about kindness . . . A story reassuringly told by Vera Ahyya and brought to exuberant life by illustrator Joey Chou, this story about a classroom coming together to make a kindergarten into a KINDergarten is sure to calm the nerves--and offer inspiration--to new kindergartners and the adults in their lives."

Kindergarten: June 2022

Where Are You From?

By **Yamile Saied Méndez (Author)**, **Jaime Kim (Illustrator)**



"When a girl is asked where she's from—where she's really from—none of her answers seems to be the right one. Unsure about how to reply, she turns to her loving abuelo for help. He doesn't give her the response she expects. She gets an even better one.

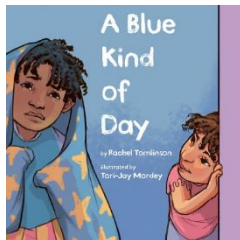
Where am I from? You're from hurricanes and dark storms, and a tiny singing frog that calls the island people home when the sun goes to sleep...

With themes of self-acceptance, identity, and home, this powerful, lyrical picture book will resonate with readers young and old, from all backgrounds and of all colors—especially anyone who ever felt that they don't belong."

Kindergarten: May 2022

A Blue Kind of Day

By **Rachel Tomlinson (Author),** **Tori-Jay Mordey (Illustrator)**



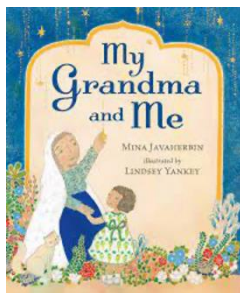
Coen is having a sniffing, sighing, sobbing kind of day. His family thinks they know how to cheer him up. His dad wants to go outside and play, Mom tells her funniest joke, and his little sister shares her favorite teddy. Nothing helps. But one by one, they get quiet and begin to listen. After some time, space, and reassurance, Coen is able to show them what he needs.

With poignant text and stunning illustrations, *A Blue Kind of Day* explores how depression might feel in the body and shows us how to support the people we love with patience, care, and empathy.

Kindergarten: April 2022

My Grandma and Me

By **Mina Javaherbin (Author),** **Lindsey Yankey (Illustrator)**



In a true tale of a young girl in Iran and her grandmother, this beautiful ode to family celebrates small moments of love that become lifelong memories.

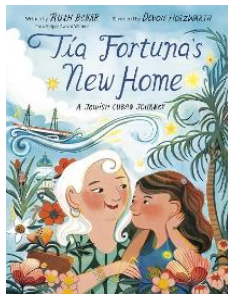
In this big universe full of many moons, I have traveled and seen many wonders, but I have never loved anything or anyone the way I love my grandma.

While Mina is growing up in Iran, the center of her world is her grandmother. Whether visiting friends next door, going to the mosque for midnight prayers during Ramadan, or taking an imaginary trip around the planets, Mina and her grandma are never far apart... At once deeply personal and utterly universal, this story is a love letter of the rarest sort: the kind that shares a bit of its warmth with every reader.

Kindergarten: March 2022

Tia Fortuna's New Home

By **Ruth Behar (Author)**, **Devon Holzwarth (Illustrator)**



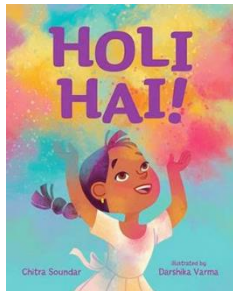
A poignant multicultural ode to family and what it means to create a home as one girl helps her Tia move away from her beloved Miami apartment.

When Estrella's Tía Fortuna has to say goodbye to her longtime Miami apartment building, The Seaway, to move to an assisted living community, Estrella spends the day with her. Tía explains the significance of her most important possessions from both her Cuban and Jewish culture, as they learn to say goodbye together and explore a new beginning for Tía.

Kindergarten: January 2022

Holi Hai!

By **Chitra Soundar (Author)**, **Darshika Varma (Illustrator)**



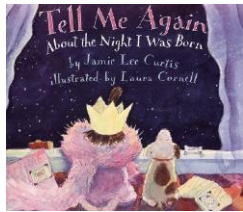
Celebrate the Hindu festival of colors.

Gauri is excited to splash colors on everyone for Holi. But when she doesn't get her favorite color, Gauri gets mad. Will she find a way to overcome her anger and join in the festivities?

Kindergarten: December 2021

Tell Me Again About the Night I was Born

By **Jamie Lee Curtis (Author), Laura Cornell (Illustrator)**



Jamie Lee Curtis and Laura Cornell, the *New York Times* bestselling team behind *Today I Feel Silly* and *I'm Gonna Like Me*, bring us a tender and funny picture book for every parent and child. *Tell Me Again About the Night I Was Born* is a special celebration of the love and joy an adopted child creates for a family.

<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B000APR004>

In asking her parents to tell her again about the night of her birth, a young girl relives a cherished tale she knows by heart. Focusing on the significance of family and love, this is a unique and beautiful story about adoption and the importance of a loving family.

A beautiful adoption story, *Tell Me Again About the Night I Was Born* also speaks to the universal childhood desire to know more about the excitement, awe, love, and sleeplessness that a new baby brings to a family.

Tell me again about the night I was born.

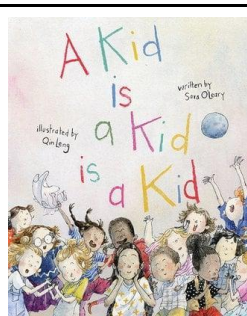
Tell me again how you would adopt me and be my parents.

Tell me again about the first time you held me in your arms.

Kindergarten: November 2021

A Kid Is a Kid Is a Kid

By Sara O'Leary (Author), Qin Leng (Illustrator)



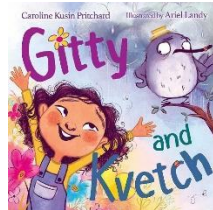
Being the new kid is hard, a child in the school playground tells us. I can think of better things to ask than if I'm a boy or a girl. Another child comes along and says she gets asked why she always has her nose in a book. Someone else gets asked where they come from.

One after another, children share the questions they're tired of being asked again and again – as opposed to what *they* believe are the most important or interesting things about themselves. As they move around the playground, picking up new friends along the way, there is a feeling of understanding and acceptance among them. And in the end, the new kid comes up with the question they would definitely all like to hear: "Hey kid, want to play?"

Kindergarten: October 2021

Gitty and Kvetch

By Caroline Kusin Pritchard (Author), Ariel Landy (Illustrator)



In this hilariously sweet story about an opposites-attract friendship, chock-full of Yiddish humor, a girl and her best bird friend's perfect day turns into a perfect opportunity to see things differently.

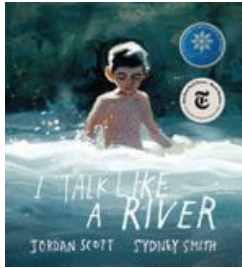
Gitty and her feathered-friend Kvetch couldn't be more different: Gitty always sees the bright side of life, while her curmudgeonly friend Kvetch is always complaining and, well, kvetching about the trouble they get into. One perfect day, Gitty ropes Kvetch into shlepping off on a new adventure to their perfect purple treehouse. Even when Kvetch sees signs of impending doom everywhere, Gitty finds silver linings and holds onto her super special surprise reason for completing their mission.

But when her perfect plan goes awry, oy vey, suddenly it's Gitty who's down in the dumps. Can Kvetch come out of his funk to lift Gitty's spirits back up?

Kindergarten: June 2021

I Talk Like a River

By Jordan Scott (Author), Sydney Smith (Illustrator)



A New York Times Best Children's Book of the Year

I wake up each morning with the sounds of words all around me.
And I can't say them all . . .

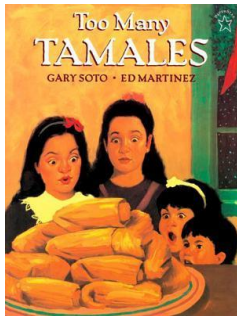
When a boy who stutters feels isolated, alone, and incapable of communicating in the way he'd like, it takes a kindly father and a walk by the river to help him find his voice. Compassionate parents everywhere will instantly recognize a father's ability to reconnect a child with the world around him.

Poet Jordan Scott writes movingly in this powerful and ultimately uplifting book, based on his own experience, and masterfully illustrated by Greenaway Medalist Sydney Smith. A book for any child who feels lost, lonely, or unable to fit in.

Kindergarten: May 2021

Too Many Tamales

By Gary Soto (Author), Ed Martinez (Illustrator)



This modern classic celebrates the tradition of tamales and family bonding at Christmas.

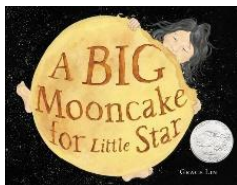
Christmas Eve started out so perfectly for Maria. Snow had fallen and the streets glittered. Maria's favorite cousins were coming over and she got to help make the tamales for Christmas dinner. It was almost too good to be true when her mother left the kitchen for a moment and Maria got to try on her beautiful diamond ring...

This is the story of a treasure thought to be lost in a batch of tamales; of a desperate and funny attempt by Maria and her cousins to eat their way out of trouble; and the warm way a family pulls together to make it a perfect Christmas after all. Also available in Spanish as *¡Qué montón de Tamales!*

Kindergarten: April 2021

A Big Mooncake for Little Star

By Grace Lin



A gorgeous picture book that tells a whimsical origin story of the phases of the moon, from award-winning, bestselling author-illustrator Grace Lin.

Pat, pat, pat...

Little Star's soft feet tiptoed to the Big Mooncake.

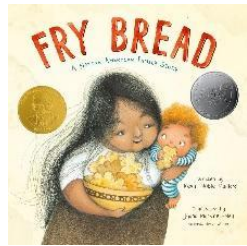
Little Star loves the delicious Mooncake that she bakes with her mama. But she's not supposed to eat any yet. What happens when she can't resist a nibble?

In this stunning picture book that shines as bright as the stars in the sky, Newbery Honor author Grace Lin creates a heartwarming original story that explains phases of the moon. Check out the author discussing her inspiration for the book [here](#).

Kindergarten: March 2021

Fry Bread

By Kevin Noble Maillard (Author), Juana Martinez-Neal (Illustrator)



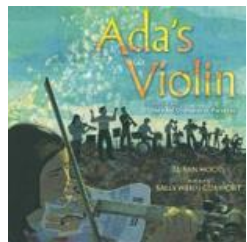
One of NPR's 100 Favorite Books for Young Readers. Told in lively and powerful verse by debut author Kevin Noble Maillard, Fry Bread is an evocative depiction of a modern Native American family, vibrantly illustrated by Pura Belpre Award winner and Caldecott Honoree Juana Martinez-Neal.

Fry bread is food.
It is warm and delicious, piled high on a plate.
Fry bread is time.
It brings families together for meals and new memories.
Fry bread is nation.
It is shared by many, from coast to coast and beyond.
Fry bread is us.
It is a celebration of old and new, traditional and modern, similarity and difference.

Kindergarten: February 2021

Ada's Violin

By Susan Hood (Author), Sally Wern Comport (Illustrator)



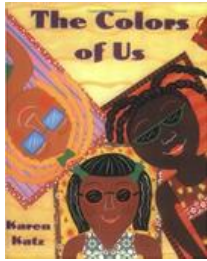
From award-winning author Susan Hood and illustrator Sally Wern Comport comes the extraordinary true tale of the Recycled Orchestra of Paraguay, an orchestra made up of children playing instruments built from recycled trash.

Ada Ríos grew up in Cateura, a small town in Paraguay built on a landfill. She dreamed of playing the violin, but with little money for anything but the bare essentials, it was never an option...until a music teacher named Favio Chávez arrived. He wanted to give the children of Cateura something special, so he made them instruments out of materials found in the trash. It was a crazy idea, but one that would leave Ada--and her town--forever changed. Now, the Recycled Orchestra plays venues around the world, spreading their message of hope and innovation.

Kindergarten: January 2021

The Colors of Us

By Karen Katz



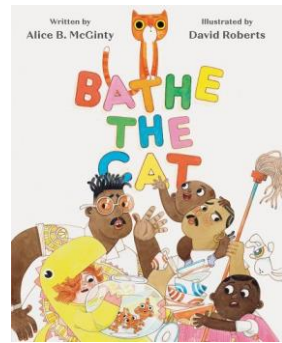
Seven-year-old Lena is going to paint a picture of herself. She wants to use brown paint for her skin. But when she and her mother take a walk through the neighborhood, Lena learns that brown comes in many different shades. Through the eyes of a little girl who begins to see her familiar world in a new way, this book celebrates the differences and similarities that connect all people.

Books for First Graders

1st Grade: September 2022

Bathe the Cat

By **Alice B. McGinty (Author)** and **David Roberts (Illustrator)**



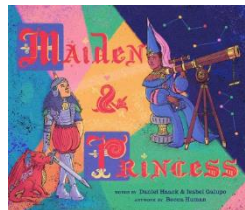
"Bathe the floor? Sweep the dishes? Get ready for a rollicking read-aloud with a truly purrfect ending.

It's cleaning day, but the family cat will do anything to avoid getting a bath. So instead of mopping the floor or feeding the fish, the family is soon busy rocking the rug, vacuuming the lawn, and sweeping the dishes. Bouncy rhyme carries the story headlong into the growing hilarity, until finally Dad restores some kind of order--but will the cat avoid getting his whiskers wet?"

1st Grade: June 2022

Maiden & Princess

By **Daniel Haack (Author)**, **Isabel Galupo (Illustrator)**,
Becca Human (Illustrator)



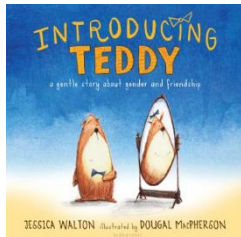
In this modern fairy tale, a strong, brave maiden is invited to attend the prince's royal ball, but at the dance, she ends up finding true love in a most surprising place.

Once in a faraway kingdom, a strong, brave maiden is invited to attend the prince's royal ball, but she's not as excited to go as everyone else. After her mother convinces her to make an appearance, she makes a huge impression on everyone present, from the villagers to the king and queen, but she ends up finding true love in a most surprising place. This book is published in partnership with GLAAD to accelerate LGBTQ inclusivity and acceptance.

1st Grade: May 2022

Introducing Teddy

By **Jessica Walton (Author), Dougal MacPherson (Illustrator)**



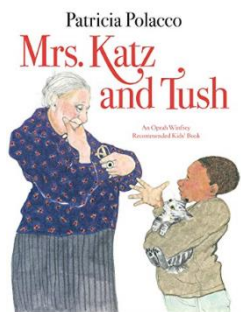
Errol and his teddy, Thomas, are best friends who do everything together. Whether it's riding a bike, playing in the tree house, having a tea party, or all of the above, every day holds something fun to do.

One sunny day, Errol finds that Thomas is sad, even when they are playing in their favorite ways. Errol can't figure out why, until Thomas finally tells Errol what the teddy has been afraid to say: In my heart, I've always known that I'm a girl teddy, not a boy teddy. I wish my name was Tilly, not Thomas. And Errol says, "I don't care if you're a girl teddy or a boy teddy. What matters is that you are my friend."

1st Grade: April 2022

Mrs. Katz and Tush

By **Patricia Polacco**

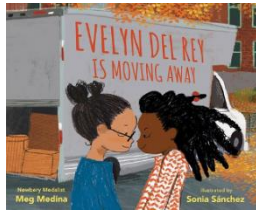


In this special Passover story, Larnel Moore, a young African-American boy, and Mrs. Katz, an elderly Jewish woman, develop an unusual friendship through their mutual concern for an abandoned cat named Tush. Together they explore the common themes of suffering and triumph in each of their cultures.

1st Grade: March 2022

Evelyn Del Rey Is Moving Away

By **Meg Medina (Author), Sonia Sanchez (Illustrator)**



The 2020 Jumpstart Read for the Record Selection
An American Library Association Notable Children's Book
A *Publisher's Weekly* Best Children's Book of the Year
A *Kirkus Reviews* Best Picture Book of the Year
A *Library Journal* Best Book of the Year.

Evelyn Del Rey is Daniela's best friend. They do everything together and even live in twin apartments across the street from each other: Daniela with her mami and hamster, and Evelyn with her mami, papi, and cat. But not after today--not after Evelyn moves away. Until then, the girls play amid the moving boxes until it's time to say goodbye, making promises to keep in touch, because they know that their friendship will always be special. The tenderness of Meg Medina's beautifully written story about friendship and change is balanced by Sonia Sánchez's colorful and vibrant depictions of the girls' urban neighborhood.

1st Grade: January 2022

Celebrating Chinese New Year

By **Eugenia Chu**

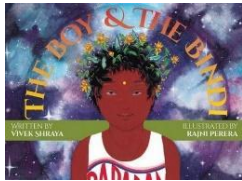


Chinese New Year, also called the Spring Festival or Lunar New Year, is one of the most celebrated holidays around the world. This engaging book for kids explains the history, folklore, traditions, and customs of Chinese New Year and includes interactive activities that encourage kids to celebrate at home or in their communities.

1st Grade: December 2021

The Boy & The Bindi

By Vivek Shraya (Author), Rajni Perera (Illustrator)



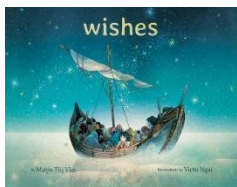
In this beautiful children's picture book by Vivek Shraya, author of the acclaimed *God Loves Hair*, a five-year-old South Asian boy becomes fascinated with his mother's bindi, the red dot commonly worn by Hindu women to indicate the point at which creation begins, and wishes to have one of his own. Rather than chastise her son, she agrees to it, and teaches him about its cultural significance, allowing the boy to discover the magic of the bindi, which in turn gives him permission to be more fully himself.

Beautifully illustrated by Rajni Perera, *The Boy & the Bindi* is a joyful celebration of gender and cultural difference.

1st Grade: November 2021

Wishes

By Mượn Thị Văn (Author), Victo Ngai (Illustrator)



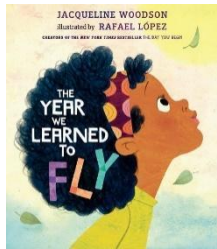
An arresting, poetic journey and a moving reflection on immigration, family, and home, from an acclaimed creative team.

Wishes tells the powerful, honest story about one Vietnamese family's search for a new home on the other side of the world, and the long-lasting and powerful impact that makes on one of the youngest members of the family. Inspired by actual events in the author's life, this is a narrative that is both timely and timeless. Told through the eyes of a young girl, the story chronicles a family's difficult and powerful journey to pack up what they can carry and to leave their world behind, traveling to a new and unknown place in a crowded boat. With sparse, poetic, and lyrical text from acclaimed author Mượn Thị Văn, thoughtful back matter about the author's connection to the story, and luminous, stunning illustrations from *Forbes* 30 Under 30 honoree Victo Ngai, *Wishes* tells a powerful and timely story in a gentle and approachable way for young children and their families.

1st Grade: October 2021

The Year We Learned To Fly

By **Jacqueline Woodson (Author), Rafael López (Illustrator)**



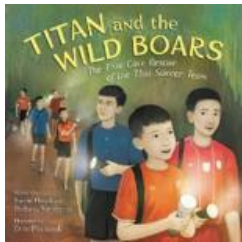
Jacqueline Woodson and Rafael López's highly anticipated companion to their #1 New York Times bestseller *The Day You Begin* illuminates the power in each of us to face challenges with confidence.

On a dreary, stuck-inside kind of day, a brother and sister heed their grandmother's advice: "Use those beautiful and brilliant minds of yours. Lift your arms, close your eyes, take a deep breath, and believe in a thing. Somebody somewhere at some point was just as bored as you are now." And before they know it, their imaginations lift them up and out of their boredom. Then, on a day full of quarrels, it's time for a trip outside their minds again, and they are able to leave their anger behind. This precious skill, their grandmother tells them, harkens back to the days long before they were born, when their ancestors showed the world the strength and resilience of their beautiful and brilliant minds. Jacqueline Woodson's lyrical text and Rafael Lopez's dazzling art celebrate the extraordinary ability to lift ourselves up and imagine a better world.

1st Grade: June 2021

Titans and the Wild Boars

By **Susan Hood (Author)**, **Pathana Sornhiran (Author)**, **Dow Phumiruk (Illustrator)**



An RICBA Children's Book Award 2021 nominee!

A National Science Teachers Association and Children's Book Council best STEM book of 2019!

A Chicago Public Library best book of 2019!

Don't miss the breathtaking true story of the international rescue of the Wild Boars soccer team from a flooded cave in Thailand!

One afternoon, eleven-year-old Titan, his friends from the Wild Boars soccer team, and their coach rode their bikes to explore local caves. They crawled through the narrow tunnels in the dark to reach the center of the cave. When they turned to go home, heavy rains had flooded the tunnel. They were trapped!

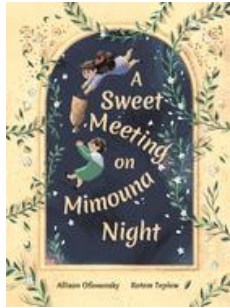
With rising waters and monsoon season upon them, time and oxygen were running out. The world watched with bated breath as rescuers from around the globe joined forces to try to free the boys. After eighteen harrowing days, in an unprecedented effort of international teamwork, they were finally saved.

Award-winning author Susan Hood and journalist Pathana Sornhiran based this picture book on Sornhiran's first-hand reporting of the event, and Dow Phumiruk's beautiful illustrations bring the story to life. The book also includes a timeline and back matter with additional resources.

1st Grade: May 2021

A Sweet Meeting on Mimouna Night

By **Allison Ofanansky (Author), Rotem Teplow (Illustrator)**



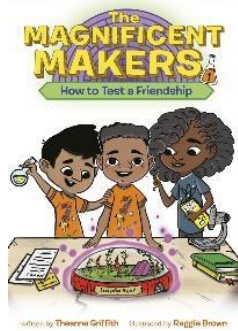
It's Mimouna -- the Moroccan Jewish holiday that marks the end of Passover, and when blessings are given for a year of prosperity and good luck. Miriam wants to help her mother make the sweet moufleta pancakes they always eat at their Mimouna party, but after not eating doughy treats for the week of Passover, they don't have any flour in the house! So, Miriam's mother takes her to visit their Muslim neighbors, who share their flour. The women drink tea together, and Miriam makes friends with a young girl named Jasmine. Miriam almost drops the bag of flour when she and Jasmine go to fetch it from the storeroom -- but luckily Jasmine is there to catch it! Jasmine and her family then join Miriam's family and friends to celebrate Mimouna.

This sweet story of friendship and shared customs will introduce North American readers to the Mimouna holiday. The book concludes with an author's note and a recipe for making moufleta, the sweet, paper-thin pancakes featured in the story, so that readers can enjoy them, too.

1st Grade: April 2021

The Magnificent Makers #1: How to Test a Friendship

By Theanne Griffith (Author), Reggie Brown (Illustrator)



BOOM! SNAP! WHIZ! ZAP! The Magnificent Makers series is filled with science, adventure, and characters that readers will love! A modern-day Magic School Bus for chapter book readers!

This book includes two science activities kids can do at home! These quick educational activities (30 minutes or less) use items you probably already have on hand!

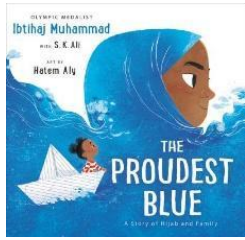
Violet and Pablo are best friends who love science! So when they discover a riddle that opens a magic portal in the Science Space at school, they can't wait to check it out! Along with their new classmate, Deepak, the friends discover a magical makerspace called the Maker Maze. It's a laboratory full of robots, 3D printers, an anti gravity chamber, and more. Doors line the walls of the makerspace, with a new science adventure waiting behind each one.

With the help of a hilarious and odd scientist, the Magnificent Makers embark on out-of-this-world adventures that help them master the science concepts they are learning in school. This series will cover several scientific topics (at an age-appropriate level) ranging from human biology to ecology, while also exploring issues such as managing failure, teamwork, courage, and jealousy.

1st Grade: March 2021

The Proudest Blue

By Ibtihaj Muhammad, with S. K. Ali (Authors), Hatem Aly (Illustrator)



A powerful, vibrantly illustrated story about the first day of school—and two sisters on one's first day of hijab—by Olympic medalist and social justice activist Ibtihaj Muhammad.

With her new backpack and light-up shoes, Faizah knows the first day of school is going to be special. It's the start of a brand new year and, best of all, it's her older sister Asiya's first day of hijab—a hijab of beautiful blue fabric, like the ocean waving to the sky. But not everyone sees hijab as beautiful, and in the face of hurtful, confusing words, Faizah will find new ways to be strong.

Paired with Hatem Aly's beautiful, whimsical art, Olympic medalist Ibtihaj Muhammad and Morris Award finalist S.K. Ali bring readers an uplifting, universal story of new experiences, the unbreakable bond between siblings, and of being proud of who you are.

1st Grade: February 2021

Our Little Kitchen

By Jillian Tamaki



A lively celebration of food and community from Caldecott Honoree Jillian Tamaki

Tie on your apron! Roll up your sleeves!
Pans are out, oven is hot, the kitchen's all ready!
Where do we start?

In this lively, rousing picture book from Caldecott Honoree Jillian Tamaki, a crew of resourceful neighbors comes together to prepare a meal for their community. With a garden full of produce, a joyfully chaotic kitchen, and a friendly meal shared at the table, *Our Little Kitchen* is a celebration of full bellies and looking out for one another. Bonus materials include recipes and an author's note about the volunteering experience that inspired the book.

1st Grade

Julián Is a Mermaid

By Jessica Love



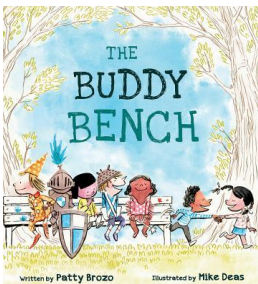
While riding the subway home from the pool with his abuela one day, Julián notices three women spectacularly dressed up. Their hair billows in brilliant hues, their dresses end in fishtails, and their joy fills the train car. When Julián gets home, daydreaming of the magic he's seen, all he can think about is dressing up just like the ladies in his own fabulous mermaid costume: a butter-yellow curtain for his tail, the fronds of a potted fern for his headdress. But what will Abuela think about the mess he makes — and even more importantly, what will she think about how Julián sees himself? Mesmerizing and full of heart, Jessica Love's author-illustrator debut is a jubilant picture of self-love and a radiant celebration of individuality.

Books for Second Graders

2nd Grade: September 2022

The Buddy Bench

By Patty Brozzo (Author) and Mike Deas (Illustrator)



"Patty Brozzo's cast of kids brings a playground to raucous life, and Mike Deas's illustrations invest their games with imaginary planes to fly, dragons to tame, and elephants to ride. And these kids match their imaginations with empathy, identifying and swooping up the lonely among them. Buddy benches are appearing in schoolyards around the country. Introduced from Germany in 2014, the concept is simple: When a child sits on the bench, it's a signal to other kids to ask him or her to play."

2nd Grade: June 2022

The Juneteenth Story: Celebrating the End of Slavery in the United States

By Alliah L. Agostini (Author) and Sawyer Cloud (Illustrator)



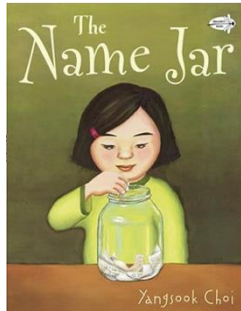
"With colorful illustrations and a timeline, this introductory history of Juneteenth for kids details the evolution of the holiday commemorating the date the enslaved people of Texas first learned of their freedom. On June 19, 1865--more than two years after President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation--the enslaved people of Texas first learned of their freedom. That day became a day of remembrance and celebration that changed and grew from year to year.

Learn about the events that led to emancipation and why it took so long for the enslaved people in Texas to hear the news. The first Juneteenth began as "Jubilee Day," where families celebrated and learned of their new rights as citizens. As Black Texans moved to other parts of the country, they brought their traditions along with them, and Juneteenth continued to grow and develop. Today, Juneteenth's powerful spirit has endured through the centuries to become an official holiday in the United States in 2021. The Juneteenth Story provides an accessible introduction for kids to learn about this important American holiday."

2nd Grade: May 2022

The Name Jar

By Yangsook Choi

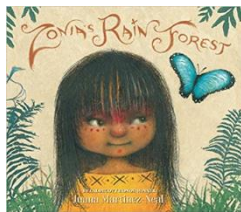


Being the new kid in school is hard enough, but what happens when nobody can pronounce your name? Having just moved from Korea, Unhei is anxious about fitting in. So instead of introducing herself on the first day of school, she decides to choose an American name from a glass jar. But while Unhei thinks of being a Suzy, Laura, or Amanda, nothing feels right. With the help of a new friend, Unhei will learn that the best name is her own. From acclaimed creator Yangsook Choi comes the bestselling classic about finding the courage to be yourself and being proud of your background.

2nd Grade: April 2022

Zonia's Rain Forest

By Juana Martinez-Neal



Zonia's home is the Amazon rain forest [of Peru], where it is always green and full of life. Every morning, the rain forest calls to Zonia, and every morning, she answers. She visits the sloth family, greets the giant anteater, and runs with the speedy jaguar. But one morning, the rain forest calls to her in a troubled voice. How will Zonia answer?

Acclaimed author-illustrator Juana Martinez-Neal explores the wonders of the rain forest with Zonia, an Asháninka girl, in her joyful outdoor adventures. The engaging text emphasizes Zonia's empowering bond with her home, while the illustrations—created on paper made from banana bark—burst with luxuriant greens and delicate details. Illuminating back matter includes a translation of the story in Asháninka, information on the Asháninka community, and resources on the Amazon rain forest and its wildlife.

2nd Grade: March 2022

Prince & Knight

By Daniel Haack (Author), Stevie Lewis (Illustrator)



“In this modern fairy tale, a noble prince and a brave knight come together to defeat a terrible monster and in the process find true love in a most unexpected place. . .

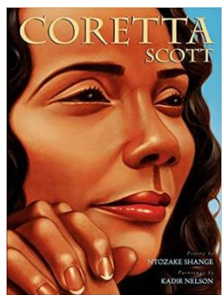
Once upon a time, in a kingdom far from here, there was a prince in line to take the throne, so his parents set out to find him a kind and worthy bride. The three of them traveled the land far and wide, but the prince didn't quite find what he was looking for in the princesses they met.

While they were away, a terrible dragon threatened their land, and all the soldiers fled. The prince rushed back to save his kingdom from the perilous beast and was met by a brave knight in a suit of brightly shining armor. Together they fought the dragon and discovered that special something the prince was looking for all along.”

2nd Grade: January 2022

Coretta Scott

By Ntozake Shange (Author), Kadir Nelson (Illustrator)



“Celebrated poet and playwright Ntozake Shange captures the spirit of Civil Rights pioneer Coretta Scott King in this picture book biography gorgeously illustrated by Caldecott Medal artist Kadir Nelson.

Walking many miles to school in the dusty road, young Coretta Scott knew the unfairness of life in the segregated south. A yearning for equality began to grow.

Together, with Martin Luther King, Jr., she helped lead change through nonviolent protest. It was the beginning of a journey--with dreams of freedom for all.”

2nd Grade: December 2021

Hello, Universe

By **Erin Entrada Kelly (Author)** and **Isabel Roxas (Illustrator)**



Told from four intertwining points of view—two boys and two girls—the novel celebrates bravery, being different, and finding your inner *bayani* (hero).

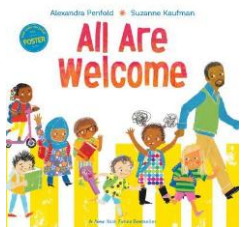
In one day, four lives weave together in unexpected ways. Virgil Salinas is shy and kind hearted and feels out of place in his crazy-about-sports family. Valencia Somerset, who is deaf, is smart, brave, and secretly lonely, and she loves everything about nature. Kaori Tanaka is a self-proclaimed psychic, whose little sister, Gen, is always following her around. And Chet Bullens wishes the weird kids would just stop being so different so he can concentrate on basketball.

They aren't friends, at least not until Chet pulls a prank that traps Virgil and his pet guinea pig at the bottom of a well. This disaster leads Kaori, Gen, and Valencia on an epic quest to find missing Virgil. Through luck, smarts, bravery, and a little help from the universe, a rescue is performed, a bully is put in his place, and friendship blooms.

2nd Grade: November 2021

All Are Welcome

By **Alexandra Penfold (Author)** and **Suzanne Kaufman (Illustrator)**



*In our classroom safe and sound.
Fears are lost and hope is found.*

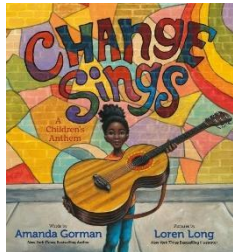
Discover a school where all young children have a place, have a space, and are loved and appreciated.

Readers will follow a group of children through a day in their school, where everyone is welcomed with open arms. A school where students from all backgrounds learn from and celebrate each other's traditions. A school that shows the world as we will make it to be.

2nd Grade: October 2021

Change Sings: A Children's Anthem

By Amanda Gorman (Author) and Loren Long (Illustrator)



A lyrical picture book debut from #1 New York Times bestselling author and presidential inaugural poet Amanda Gorman and #1 New York Times bestselling illustrator Loren Long

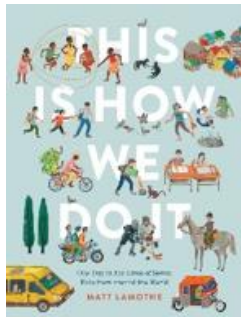
I can hear change humming
In its loudest, proudest song.
I don't fear change coming,
And so I sing along.

In this stirring, much-anticipated picture book by presidential inaugural poet and activist Amanda Gorman, anything is possible when our voices join together. As a young girl leads a cast of characters on a musical journey, they learn that they have the power to make changes—big or small—in the world, in their communities, and most importantly, in themselves.

2nd Grade: June 2021

This Is How We Do It

By Matt Lamothe



Follow one day in the real lives of seven kids from around the world--Italy, Japan, Iran, India, Peru, Uganda, and Russia!

In Japan, Kei plays Freeze Tag, while in Uganda, Daphine likes to jump rope. While the way they play may differ, the shared rhythm of their days--and this one world we all share--unites them.

This genuine exchange provides a window into traditions that may be different from our own as well as mirrors reflecting our common experiences. Inspired by his own travels, Matt Lamothe transports readers across the globe and back with this luminous and thoughtful picture book.

2nd Grade: May 2021

All the Way to Havana

By Margarita Engle (Author), Mike Curato (Illustrator)

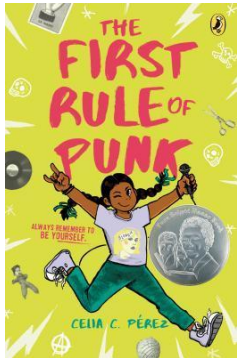


“So we purr, cara cara, and we glide, taka taka, and we zoom, zoom, ZOOM. Together, a boy and his parents drive to the city of Havana, Cuba, in their old family car. Along the way, they experience the sights and sounds of the streets—neighbors talking, musicians performing, and beautiful, colorful cars putt-putting and bumpety-bumping along. In the end, though, it's their old car, Cara Cara, that the boy loves best. A joyful celebration of the Cuban people and their resourceful innovation.”

2nd Grade: April 2021

The First Rule of Punk

By Celia C. Pérez



A 2018 Pura Belpré Author Honor Book

The First Rule of Punk is a wry and heartfelt exploration of friendship, finding your place, and learning to rock out like no one's watching.

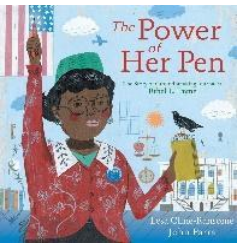
There are no shortcuts to surviving your first day at a new school--you can't fix it with duct tape like you would your Chuck Taylors. On Day One, twelve-year-old Mal (Mar a Luisa, if you want to annoy her) inadvertently upsets Posada Middle School's queen bee, violates the school's dress code with her punk rock look, and disappoints her college-professor mom in the process. Her dad, who now lives a thousand miles away, says things will get better as long as she remembers the first rule of punk: be yourself.

The real Mal loves rock music, skateboarding, zines, and Soyrizo (hold the cilantro, please). And when she assembles a group of like-minded misfits at school and starts a band, Mal finally begins to feel at home. She'll do anything to preserve this, which includes standing up to an anti-punk school administration to fight for her right to express herself.

2nd Grade: March 2021

The Power of Her Pen: The Story of Groundbreaking Journalist Ethel L. Payne

By **Lesla Cline-Ransome (Author), John Parra (Illustrator)**

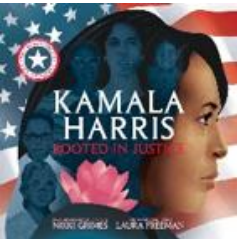


Ethel Payne always had an ear for stories. Seeking truth, justice, and equality, Ethel followed stories from her school newspaper in Chicago to Japan during World War II. It even led her to the White House briefing room, where she broke barriers as the only black female journalist. Ethel wasn't afraid to ask the tough questions of presidents, elected officials, or anyone else in charge, earning her the title, 'First Lady of the Black Press.' Fearless and determined, Ethel Payne shined a light on the darkest moments in history, and her ear for stories sought answers to the questions that mattered most in the fight for Civil Rights."

2nd Grade: February 2021

Kamala Harris: Rooted in Justice

By **Nikki Grimes (Author), Laura Freeman (Illustrator)**



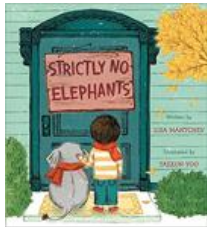
Discover the incredible story of a young daughter of immigrants who would grow up to be the first woman, first Black person, and first South Asian American ever elected Vice President of the United States in this moving picture book biography of Kamala Harris.

When Kamala Harris was young, she often accompanied her parents to civil rights marches--so many, in fact, that when her mother asked a frustrated Kamala what she wanted, the young girl responded with: "Freedom!" As Kamala grew from a small girl in Oakland to a senator running for president, it was this long-fostered belief in freedom and justice for all people that shaped her into the inspiring figure she is today. From fighting for the use of a soccer field in middle school to fighting for the people of her home state in Congress, Senator Harris used her voice to speak up for what she believed in and for those who were otherwise unheard. And now this dedication has led her all the way to being elected Vice President of the United States.

2nd Grade: January 2021

Strictly No Elephants

By Lisa Mantchev



Today is Pet Club day. There will be cats and dogs and fish, but strictly no elephants are allowed. The Pet Club doesn't understand that pets come in all shapes and sizes, just like friends. Now it is time for a boy and his tiny pet elephant to show them what it means to be a true friend.

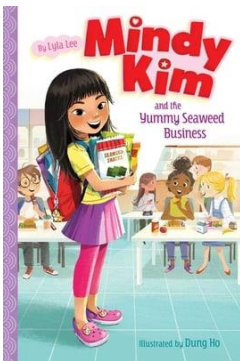
Strictly No Elephants has been sold around the world and is heralded as a pitch-perfect book about inclusion. Imaginative and lyrical, this sweet story captures the magic of friendship and the joy of having a pet.

Books for Third Graders

3rd Grade: September 2022

Mindy Kim and the Yummy Seaweed Business

By Lyla Lee (Author), Dung Ho (Illustrator)



"Mindy Kim just wants three things:

1. A puppy!
2. To fit in at her new school
3. For her dad to be happy again

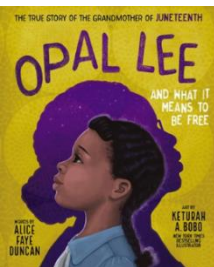
But, getting all three of the things on her list is a lot trickier than she thought it would be. On her first day of school, Mindy's school snack of dried seaweed isn't exactly popular at the lunch table. Luckily, her new friend, Sally, makes the snacks seem totally delicious to Mindy's new classmates, so they decide to start the Yummy Seaweed Business to try and raise money for that puppy!

When another student decides to try and sabotage their business, Mindy loses more than she bargained for--and wonders if she'll ever fit in. Will Mindy be able to overcome her uncertainty and find the courage to be herself?"

3rd Grade: June 2022

Opal Lee and What It Means to Be Free: The True Story of the Grandmother of Juneteenth

By **Alice Faye Duncan (Author), Keturah A. Bobo (Illustrator)**

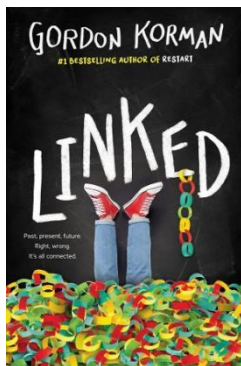


Black activist Opal Lee had a vision of Juneteenth as a holiday for everyone. This true story celebrates Black joy and inspires children to see their dreams blossom. Growing up in Texas, Opal knew the history of Juneteenth, but she soon discovered that many Americans had never heard of the holiday. Join Opal on her historic journey to recognize and celebrate freedom for all.

3rd Grade: May 2022

Linked

By **Gordon Korman (Author)**



Link, Michael, and Dana live in a quiet town. But it's woken up very quickly when someone sneaks into school and vandalizes it with a swastika. Nobody can believe it. How could such a symbol of hate end up in the middle of their school? Who would do such a thing?

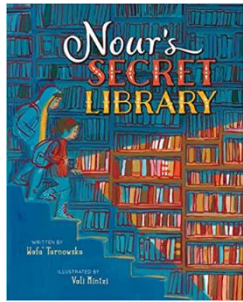
Because Michael was the first person to see it, he's the first suspect. Because Link is one of the most popular guys in school, everyone's looking to him to figure it out. And because Dana's the only Jewish girl in the whole town, everyone's treating her more like an outsider than ever.

The mystery deepens as more swastikas begin to appear. Some students decide to fight back and start a project to bring people together instead of dividing them further. The closer Link, Michael, and Dana get to the truth, the more there is to face-not just the crimes of the present, but the crimes of the past.

3rd Grade: April 2022

Nour's Secret Library

By **Wafa' Tarnowska (Author), Vali Mintzi (Illustrator)**

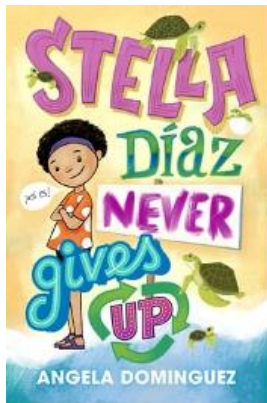


“Forced to take shelter when their Syrian city is plagued with bombings, young Nour and her cousin begin to bravely build a secret underground library. Based on the author's own life experience and inspired by a true story, Nour's Secret Library is about the power of books to heal, transport and create safe spaces during difficult times. Illustrations by Romanian artist Vali Mintzi superimpose the colorful world the children construct over black-and-white charcoal depictions of the battered city.”

3rd Grade: March 2022

Stella Díaz Never Gives Up

By **Angela Dominguez**

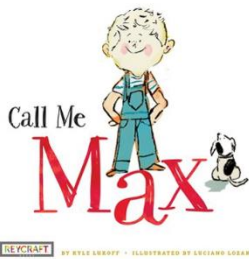


From award-winning author Angela the novel *Stella Díaz Never Gives Up*, a story about a shy Mexican-American girl who becomes an environmental activist and makes a difference in her community. Stella gets a big surprise when her mom plans a trip to visit their family in Mexico! Stella loves marine animals, and she can't wait to see the ocean for the first time . . . until she arrives and learns that the sea and its life forms are in danger due to pollution. Stella wants to save the ocean, but she knows she can't do it alone. It's going to take a lot of work and help from old and new friends to make a difference, but Stella Díaz never gives up!

3rd Grade: January 2022

Call Me Max

By **Kyle Lukoff**

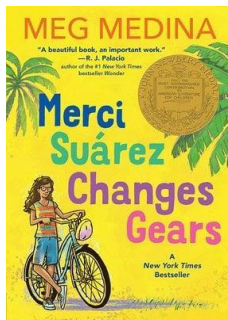


When Max starts school, the teacher hesitates to call out the name on the attendance sheet. Something doesn't seem to fit. Max lets her know the name he wants to be called by—a boy's name. This begins Max's journey as he makes new friends and reveals his feelings about his identity to his parents. Written with warmth and sensitivity by trans writer Kyle Lukoff, this book is a sweet and age-appropriate introduction to what it means to be transgender.

3rd Grade: December 2021

Merci Suárez Changes Gears

By **Meg Medina**



Winner of the Newbery Medal
A *New York Times* Bestseller

Merci Suárez knew that sixth grade would be different, but she had no idea just *how* different. For starters, as strong and thoughtful as Merci is, she has never been completely like the other kids at her private school in Florida, because she and her older brother, Roli, are scholarship students. They don't have a big house or a fancy boat, and they have to do extra community service to make up for their free tuition. So when bossy Edna Santos sets her sights on the new boy who happens to be Merci's school-assigned Sunshine Buddy, Merci becomes the target of Edna's jealousy. Things aren't going well at home, either: Merci's grandfather and most trusted ally, Lolo, has been acting strangely lately – forgetting important things, falling from his bike, and getting angry over nothing. And Merci is left to her own worries because no one in her family will tell her what's going on.

3rd Grade: November 2021

The Chance To Fly

By Ali Stroker



A heartfelt middle-grade novel about a theater-loving girl who uses a wheelchair for mobility and her quest to defy expectations—and gravity—from Tony award-winning actress Ali Stroker and Stacy Davidowitz

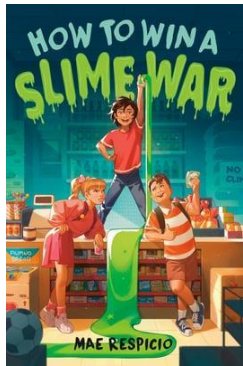
Thirteen-year-old Nat Beacon loves a lot of things: her dog Warbucks, her best friend Chloe, and competing on her wheelchair racing team, the Zoomers, to name a few. But there's one thing she's absolutely OBSESSED with: MUSICALS! From *Hamilton* to *Les Mis*, there's not a cast album she hasn't memorized and belted along to. She's never actually been in a musical though, or even seen an actor who uses a wheelchair for mobility on stage. Would someone like Nat ever get cast?

But when Nat's family moves from California to New Jersey, Nat stumbles upon auditions for a kids' production of *Wicked*, one of her favorite musicals ever! And she gets into the ensemble! The other cast members are super cool and inclusive (well, most of them) – especially Malik, the male lead and cutest boy Nat's ever seen. But when things go awry a week before opening night, will Nat be able to cast her fears and insecurities aside and "Defy Gravity" in every sense of the song title?

3rd Grade: October 2021

How To Win A Slime War

By Mae Respicio



Two kids face off in an epic battle to see who can sell the most slime, while navigating sticky situations with friends and family.

Alex Manalo and his dad have just moved back to Sacramento to help out with their extended family's struggling Filipino market. While Alex likes helping in the store, his true passion is making slime! He comes up with his own recipes and plays with ingredients, colors, and different bumpy or sparkly bits, which make his slime truly special. A new friend encourages Alex to sell his creations at school, which leads to a sell-off battle with a girl who previously had a slime-opoly. Winner gets bragging rights and the right to be the only slime game in town.

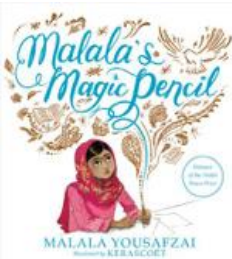
But Alex's dad thinks Alex should be focused more on traditional boy pastimes and less on slime. As the new soccer coach, Dad gets Alex to join the team. Even though he hates sports, Alex gives in.

Alex is battling on multiple fronts—with his new friends at school, and with his dad at home. It will be a sticky race to the finish to see who oozes out on top.

3rd Grade: June 2021

Malala's Magic Pencil

By Malala Yousafzai (Author), Kerascoët (Illustrator)



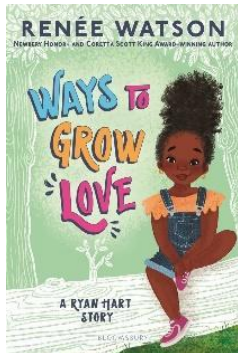
Nobel Peace Prize winner and New York Times bestselling author Malala Yousafzai's first picture book, inspired by her own childhood.

As a child in Pakistan, Malala made a wish for a magic pencil. She would use it to make everyone happy, to erase the smell of garbage from her city, to sleep an extra hour in the morning. But as she grew older, Malala saw that there were more important things to wish for. She saw a world that needed fixing. And even if she never found a magic pencil, Malala realized that she could still work hard every day to make her wishes come true. This beautifully illustrated volume tells Malala's story for a younger audience and shows them the worldview that allowed Malala to hold on to hope even in the most difficult of times.

3rd Grade: May 2021

Ways to Grow Love

By Renée Watson (Author), Nina Mata (Illustrator)



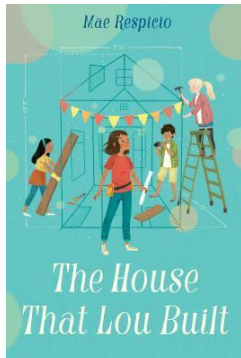
Ryan Hart loves her family and friends. She's looking forward to summer vacation, spending time with loved ones, and her first trip to sleepaway camp! But when an unexpected camper shows up, Ryan finds it's hard to share your best friend and harder to be a friend to someone who isn't a good friend to you. She's also waiting for her new sister to be born – and hoping the baby doesn't ruin everything. The Hart family is experiencing a lot of changes, and Ryan needs to grow her patience in many ways, find ways to share the love, meet new challenges, and grow into the leader her mom and dad named her to be. This summer and the start of fifth grade just might give Ryan the chance to show how she grows and glows!

A New York Times Best Children's Book of the Year – A Parents Magazine Best Book of the Year – A School Library Journal Best Book of the Year – A Kirkus Reviews Best Book of the Year – A Publishers Weekly Best Book of the Year – A WORLD Magazine Best Book of the Year – An Amazon Best Book of the Year

3rd Grade: April 2021

The House the Lou Built

By Mae Respicio



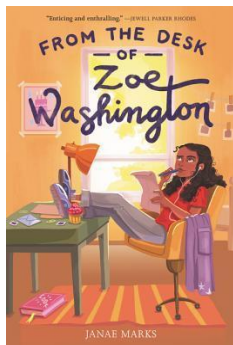
Lou Bulosan-Nelson has the ultimate summer DIY project. She's going to build her own tiny house, 100 square feet all her own. She shares a room with her mom in her grandmother's house, and longs for a place where she can escape her crazy but lovable extended Filipino family. Lou enjoys her woodshop class and creating projects, and she plans to build the house on land she inherited from her dad, who died before she was born. But then she finds out that the land may not be hers for much longer. Lou discovers it's not easy to save her land, or to build a house. But she won't give up; with the help of friends and relatives, her dream begins to take shape, and she learns the deeper meaning of home and family.

AN NPR BEST BOOK OF THE YEAR & A KIRKUS REVIEWS BEST BOOK OF THE YEAR

3rd Grade: March 2021

From the Desk of Zoe Washington

By Janae Marks

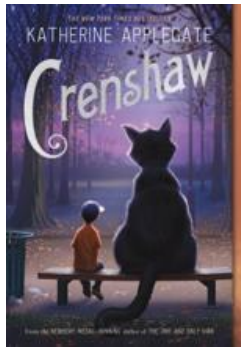


Zoe Washington isn't sure what to write. What does a girl say to the father she's never met, hadn't heard from until his letter arrived on her twelfth birthday, and who's been in prison for a terrible crime? A crime he says he never committed. Could Marcus really be innocent? Zoe is determined to uncover the truth. Even if it means hiding his letters and her investigation from the rest of her family. Everyone else thinks Zoe's worrying about doing a good job at her bakery internship and proving to her parents that she's worthy of auditioning for Food Network's Kids Bake Challenge. But with bakery confections on one part of her mind, and Marcus's conviction weighing heavily on the other, this is one recipe Zoe doesn't know how to balance. The only thing she knows to be true: Everyone lies. When Marcus tells Zoe he is innocent, and her grandmother agrees, Zoe begins to learn about inequality in the criminal justice system, and she sets out to find the alibi witness who can prove his innocence.

3rd Grade: February 2021

Crenshaw

By Katherine Applegate



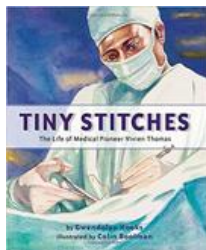
In her first novel since *The One and Only Ivan*, winner of the Newbery Medal, Katherine Applegate delivers an unforgettable and magical story about family, friendship and resilience.

Jackson and his family have fallen on hard times. There's no more money for rent. And not much for food, either. His parents, his little sister, and their dog may have to live in their minivan. Again. Crenshaw is a cat. He's large, he's outspoken, and he's imaginary. He has come back into Jackson's life to help him. But is an imaginary friend enough to save this family from losing everything? Beloved author Katherine Applegate proves in unexpected ways that friends matter, whether real or imaginary.

3rd Grade: January 2021

Tiny Stitches

By Gwendolyn Hooks (Author), Colin Bootman (Illustrator)



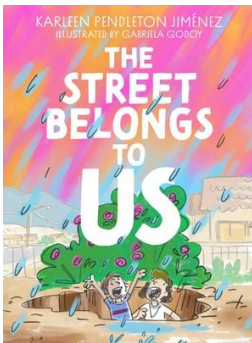
Vivien Thomas's greatest dream was to attend college to study medicine. But after the stock market crashed in 1929, Vivien lost all his savings. Then he heard about a job opening at the Vanderbilt University medical school under the supervision of Dr. Alfred Blalock. Vivien knew that the all-white school would never admit him as a student, but he hoped working there meant he was getting closer to his dream. As Dr. Blalock's research assistant, Vivien learned surgical techniques. In 1943, Vivien was asked to help Dr. Helen Taussig find a cure for children with a specific heart defect. After months of experimenting, Vivien developed a procedure that was used for the first successful open-heart surgery on a child. Afterward, Dr. Blalock and Dr. Taussig announced their innovative new surgical technique, the Blalock-Taussig shunt. Vivien's name did not appear in the report. Overcoming racism and resistance from his colleagues, Vivien ushered in a new era of medicine children's heart surgery. *Tiny Stitches* is the compelling story of this incredible pioneer in medicine.

Books for Fourth Graders

4th Grade: September 2022

The Streets Belong to Us

By Karleen Pendleton Jiménez (Author) and Gabriela Godoy (Illustrator)



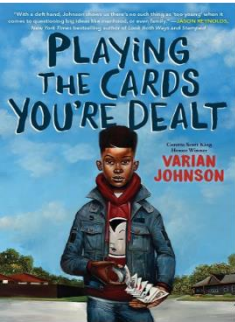
"In 1984 Los Angeles, Alex is a tomboy who would rather wear her hair short and her older brother's hand-me-downs, and Wolf is a troubled kid who's been wearing the same soldier's uniform ever since his mom died. They temporarily set their worries aside when their street is torn up by digging machines and transformed into a muddy wonderland with endless possibilities. . .

This exuberant novel perfectly captures the summers of youth, when anything feels possible and an adventure is always around the corner. Bursting with life and feeling, both the people and the land come alive in a tale interwoven with Mexican-American identity, experience, and history. *The Street Belongs to Us* is a story of family, friendship, and unconditional acceptance, even when it breaks your heart."

4th Grade: June 2022

Playing the Cards You're Dealt

By Varian Johnson



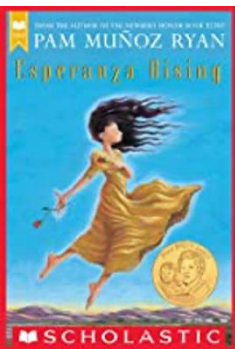
“Ten-year-old Anthony Joplin has made it to double digits! Which means he's finally old enough to play in the spades tournament every Joplin Man before him seems to have won. So while Ant's friends are stressing about fifth grade homework and girls, Ant only has one thing on his mind: how he'll measure up to his father's expectations at the card table.

Then Ant's best friend gets grounded, and he's forced to find another spades partner. And Shirley, the new girl in his class, isn't exactly who he has in mind. She talks a whole lot of trash -- way more than his old partner. Plus, he's not sure that his father wants him playing with a girl. But she's smart and tough and pretty, and knows every card trick in the book. So Ant decides to join forces with Shirley -- and keep his plans a secret. Only it turns out secrets are another Joplin Man tradition. And his father is hiding one so big it may tear their family apart...”

4th Grade: May 2022

Esperanza Rising

By Pam Muñoz Ryan (Author)

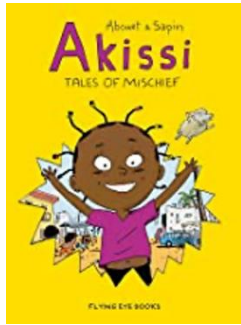


“Esperanza thought she'd always live a privileged life on her family's ranch in Mexico. She'd always have fancy dresses, a beautiful home filled with servants, and Mama, Papa, and Abuelita to care for her. But a sudden tragedy forces Esperanza and Mama to flee to California and settle in a Mexican farm labor camp. Esperanza isn't ready for the hard work, financial struggles brought on by the Great Depression, or lack of acceptance she now faces. When Mama gets sick and a strike for better working conditions threatens to uproot their new life, Esperanza must find a way to rise above her difficult circumstances-because Mama's life, and her own, depend on it.”

4th Grade: April 2022

Akissi: Tales of Mischief

By Marguerite Abouet (Author), Mathieu Sapin (Illustrator)



“Poor Akissi! The neighborhood cats are trying to steal her fish, her little monkey Boubou almost ends up in a frying pan, and she's nothing but a pest to her older brother Fofana. But Akissi is a true adventurer, and nothing scares her away from hilarious escapades in her modern African city.

Jump into the laugh-out-loud misadventures of Akissi in these girls-will-be-girls comics, based on author Marguerite Abouet's childhood on the Ivory Coast.”

4th Grade

Red, White, and Whole

By Rajani Laroocca



“Reha feels torn between two worlds: school, where she's the only Indian American student, and home, with her family's traditions and holidays. But Reha's parents don't understand why she's conflicted--they only notice when Reha doesn't meet their strict expectations. Reha feels disconnected from her mother, or Amma. Although their names are linked--Reha means "star" and Punam means "moon"--they are a universe apart. Then Reha finds out that her Amma is sick. Really sick. Reha, who dreams of becoming a doctor even though she can't stomach the sight of blood, is determined to make her Amma well again. She'll be the perfect daughter, if it means saving her Amma's life.”

* Walter Award Winner * New England Book Award Winner * An NCTE Notable Verse Novel * Golden Kite Award Winner * Crystal Kite Award Winner * Goodreads Choice Nominee * A Washington Post Best Children's Book of the Year * An SLJ Best Book of the Year * A BookPage Best Book of the Year * An NYPL Best Book of the Year * A Mighty Girl's Best Book of the Year * An ILA Notable Book for a Global Society * A Bank Street Best Book of the Year * Junior Library Guild Selection *

4th Grade: January 2022

Other Words for Home

By Jasmine Warga



New York Times bestseller and Newbery Honor Book!

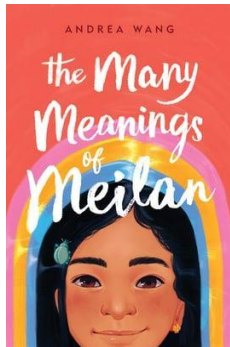
“Jude never thought she'd be leaving her beloved older brother and father behind, all the way across the ocean in Syria. But when things in her hometown start becoming volatile, Jude and her mother are sent to live in Cincinnati with relatives. At first, everything in America seems too fast and too loud. The American movies that Jude has always loved haven't quite prepared her for starting school in the US--and her new label of "Middle Eastern," an identity she's never known before. But this life also brings unexpected surprises--there are new friends, a whole new family, and a school musical that Jude might just try out for. Maybe America, too, is a place where Jude can be seen as she really is.

This lyrical, life-affirming story is about losing and finding home and, most importantly, finding yourself.”

4th Grade: December 2021

The Many Meanings of Meilan

By **Andrea Wang**



“A family feud before the start of seventh grade propels Meilan from Boston's Chinatown to rural Ohio, where she must tap into her inner strength and sense of justice to make a new place for herself in this resonant debut.

Meilan Hua's world is made up of a few key ingredients: her family's beloved matriarch, Nai Nai; the bakery her parents, aunts, and uncles own and run in Boston's Chinatown; and her favorite Chinese fairy tales.

After Nai Nai passes, the family has a falling-out that sends Meilan, her parents, and her grieving grandfather on the road in search of a new home. They take a winding path across the country before landing in Redbud, Ohio. Everything in Redbud is the opposite of Chinatown, and Meilan's not quite sure who she is—being renamed at school only makes it worse. She decides she is many Meilans, each inspired by a different Chinese character with the same pronunciation as her name. Sometimes she is Mist, cooling and invisible; other times, she's Basket, carrying her parents' hopes and dreams and her guilt of not living up to them; and occasionally she is bright Blue, the way she feels around her new friend Logan. Meilan keeps her facets separate until an injustice at school shows her the power of bringing her many selves together.”

4th Grade: November 2021

Princess Princess Ever After

By **K. O'Neill**



A sweet and positive fairy tale in which two princesses meet and embark on an adventure to overcome their own personal obstacles.

2014 Cybils Awards Finalist

2014 Autostraddle Comic Art Award for Favorite Graphic Novel

2017 ALA Rainbow Book List Top Ten

2018 Sakura Medal Nominee

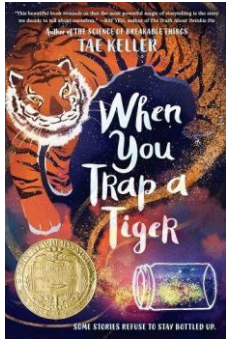
**"It's super cute, super queer, and feminist as all get out." –
*BookRiot***

“When the heroic princess Amira rescues the kind-hearted princess Sadie from her tower prison, neither expects to find a true friend in the bargain. Yet as they adventure across the kingdom, they discover that they bring out the very best in the other person. They'll need to join forces and use all the know-how, kindness, and bravery they have in order to defeat their greatest foe yet: a jealous sorceress, who wants to get rid of Sadie once and for all. Join Sadie and Amira, two very different princesses with very different strengths, on their journey to figure out what ‘happily ever after’ really means—and how they can find it with each other.”

4th Grade: October 2021

When You Trap a Tiger

By Tae Keller



WINNER OF THE NEWBERY MEDAL - NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER; WINNER OF THE ASIAN/PACIFIC AMERICAN AWARD FOR CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

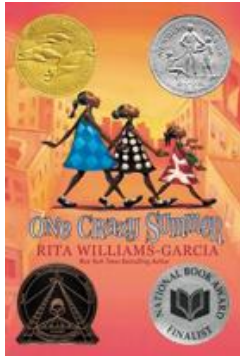
“Would you make a deal with a magical tiger? This uplifting story brings Korean folklore to life as a girl goes on a quest to unlock the power of stories and save her grandmother.

When Lily and her family move in with her sick grandmother, a magical tiger straight out of her halmoni's Korean folktales arrives, prompting Lily to unravel a secret family history. Long, long ago, Halmoni stole something from the tigers. Now they want it back. And when one of the tigers approaches Lily with a deal—return what her grandmother stole in exchange for Halmoni's health—Lily is tempted to agree. But deals with tigers are never what they seem! With the help of her sister and her new friend Ricky, Lily must find her voice...and the courage to face a tiger.”

4th Grade: June 2021

One Crazy Summer

By **Rita Williams-Garcia**



“In this Newbery Honor novel, New York Times bestselling author Rita Williams-Garcia tells the story of three sisters who travel to Oakland, California, in 1968 to meet the mother who abandoned them. A strong option for summer reading--take this book along on a family road trip or enjoy it at home.

In *One Crazy Summer*, eleven-year-old Delphine is like a mother to her two younger sisters, Vonetta and Fern. She's had to be, ever since their mother, Cecile, left them seven years ago for a radical new life in California. But when the sisters arrive from Brooklyn to spend the summer with their mother, Cecile is nothing like they imagined.

While the girls hope to go to Disneyland and meet Tinker Bell, their mother sends them to a day camp run by the Black Panthers. Unexpectedly, Delphine, Vonetta, and Fern learn much about their family, their country, and themselves during one truly crazy summer.”

4th Grade: May 2021

Hello Universe

By **Erin Entrada Kelly (Author), Isabel Roxas (Illustrator)**



Winner of the Newbery Medal

“Told from four intertwining points of view—two boys and two girls—the novel celebrates bravery, being different, and finding your inner *bayani* (hero).”

In one day, four lives weave together in unexpected ways. Virgil Salinas is shy and kindhearted and feels out of place in his crazy-about-sports family. Valencia Somerset, who is deaf, is smart, brave, and secretly lonely, and she loves everything about nature. Kaori Tanaka is a self-proclaimed psychic, whose little sister, Gen, is always following her around. And Chet Bullens wishes the weird kids would just stop being so different so he can concentrate on basketball.

They aren't friends, at least not until Chet pulls a prank that traps Virgil and his pet guinea pig at the bottom of a well. This disaster leads Kaori, Gen, and Valencia on an epic quest to find missing Virgil. Through luck, smarts, bravery, and a little help from the universe, a rescue is performed, a bully is put in his place, and friendship blooms.

The acclaimed and award-winning author of *Blackbird Fly* and *The Land of Forgotten Girls* writes with an authentic, humorous, and irresistible tween voice that will appeal to fans of Thanhha Lai and Rita Williams-Garcia.”

4th Grade: April 2021

Stella By Starlight

By **Sharon M. Draper**



“Jacqueline Woodson's National Book Award and Newbery Honor winner is a powerful memoir that tells the moving story of her childhood in mesmerizing verse.

Sharon M. Draper presents "storytelling at its finest" (School Library Journal, starred review) in this New York Times bestselling Depression-era novel about a young girl who must learn to be brave in the face of violent prejudice when the Ku Klux Klan reappears in her segregated southern town.

Stella lives in the segregated South--in Bumblebee, North Carolina, to be exact about it. Some stores she can go into. Some stores she can't. Some folks are right pleasant. Others are a lot less so. To Stella, it sort of evens out, and heck, the Klan hasn't bothered them for years. But one late night, later than she should ever be up, much less wandering around outside, Stella and her little brother see something they're never supposed to see, something that is the first flicker of change to come, unwelcome change by any stretch of the imagination. As Stella's community--her world--is upended, she decides to fight fire with fire. And she learns that ashes don't necessarily signify an end.”

4th Grade: March 2021

Girl Giant and the Monkey King

By **Van Hoang**



“Eleven-year-old Thom Ngho is keeping a secret: she's strong. Like suuuuper strong. Freakishly strong. And it's making it impossible for her to fit in at her new middle school.

In a desperate bid to get rid of her super strength, Thom makes a deal with the Monkey King, a powerful deity and legendary trickster she accidentally released from his 500-year prison sentence. Thom agrees to help the Monkey King get back his magical staff if he'll take away her strength.

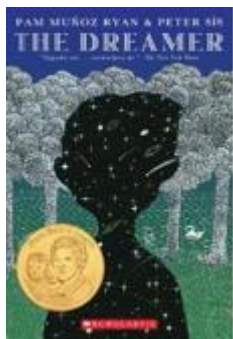
Soon Thom is swept up in an ancient and fantastical world where demons, dragons, and Jade princesses actually exist. But she quickly discovers that magic can't cure everything, and dealing with the trickster god might be more trouble than it's worth.”

Kirkus Best Book of 2020

4th Grade: February 2021

The Dreamer

By **Pam Muñoz Ryan (Author), Peter Sis (Illustrator)**



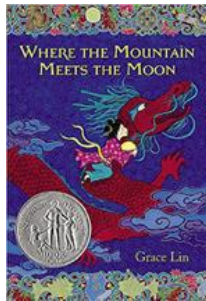
“From the time he is a young boy, Neftalí hears the call of a mysterious voice. Even when the neighborhood children taunt him, and when his harsh, authoritarian father ridicules him, and when he doubts himself, Neftalí knows he cannot ignore the call. He listens and follows as it leads him under the canopy of the lush rainforest, into the fearsome sea, and through the persistent Chilean rain on an inspiring voyage of self-discovery that will transform his life and, ultimately, the world.

Combining elements of magical realism with biography, poetry, literary fiction, and transporting illustrations, Pam Muñoz Ryan and Peter Sis take readers on a rare journey of the heart and imagination as they explore the inspiring early life of the poet who became Pablo Neruda.”

4th Grade: January 2021

Where the Mountain Meets the Moon

By [Grace Lin](#)



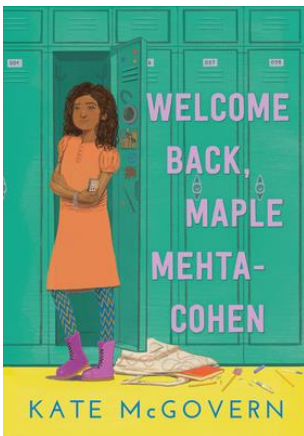
“Minli lives with her family in the valley of the Fruitless Mountain. In the evenings, her father tells folktales, including one about the Old Man on the Moon, who holds everyone’s destiny. Inspired by her father’s tales, Minli decides to go on a journey to find the Old Man on the Moon to ask him to change her family’s fortune. Along the way, Minli encounters magical creatures and makes new friends who accompany her on her adventure. Themes from Chinese folklore fuel this beautifully illustrated story.”

Books for Fifth Graders

5th Grade: September 2022

Welcome Back, Maple Mehta-Cohen

by **Kate McGovern** (Author)



"Maple is in fifth grade--again. Now everyone will find out she struggles with reading--or will they? An engaging read for anyone who has ever felt different.

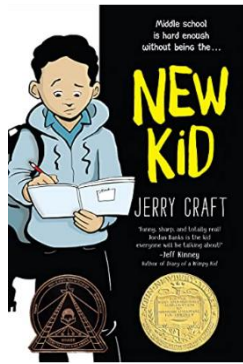
Maple Mehta-Cohen has been keeping a secret: she can't read all that well. She has an impressive vocabulary and loves dictating stories into her recorder--especially the adventures of a daring sleuth who's half Indian and half Jewish like Maple herself--but words on the page just don't seem to make sense to her. Despite all Maple's clever tricks to hide her troubles with reading, her teacher is on to her, and now Maple has to repeat fifth grade. Maple is devastated--what will her friends think? Will they forget about her?

She uses her storytelling skills to convince her classmates that she's staying back as a special teacher's assistant (because of budget cuts, you know). But as Maple navigates the loss of old friendships, the possibility of new ones, and facing her reading challenges head-on, her deception becomes harder to keep up. Can Maple begin to recognize her own strengths, and to love herself--and her brain--just the way she is? Readers who have faced their own trials with school and friendships will enjoy this heartwarming story and its bright, creative heroine."

5th Grade: June 2022

New Kid

By **Jerry Craft**



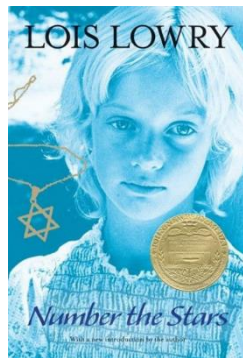
“Seventh grader Jordan Banks loves nothing more than drawing cartoons about his life. But instead of sending him to the art school of his dreams, his parents enroll him in a prestigious private school known for its academics, where Jordan is one of the few kids of color in his entire grade.

As he makes the daily trip from his Washington Heights apartment to the upscale Riverdale Academy Day School, Jordan soon finds himself torn between two worlds—and not really fitting into either one. Can Jordan learn to navigate his new school culture while keeping his neighborhood friends and staying true to himself?”

5th Grade: May 2022

Number the Stars

By **Lois Lowry**



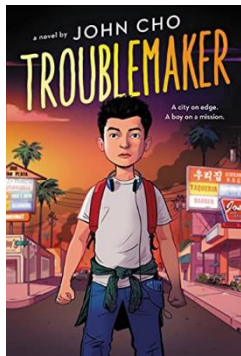
In Lois Lowry's unforgettable Newbery Medal-winning novel, a ten-year-old Danish girl's bravery is tested when her best friend is threatened by Nazis in 1943.

As the German troops begin their campaign to relocate all the Jews of Denmark, Annemarie Johansen's family takes in Annemarie's best friend, Ellen Rosen, and conceals her as part of the family. Through the eyes of ten-year-old Annemarie, we watch as the Danish Resistance smuggles almost the entire Jewish population of Denmark, nearly seven thousand people, across the sea to Sweden. The heroism of an entire nation reminds us that there was pride and human decency in the world even during a time of terror and war.

5th Grade: April 2022

Troublemaker

By John Cho

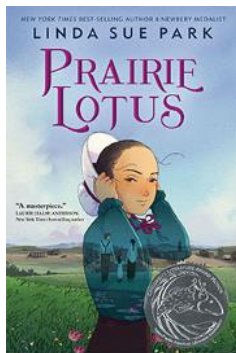


“Troublemaker follows the events of the LA Riots through the eyes of 12-year-old Jordan as he navigates school and family. This book will highlight the unique Korean American perspective.”

5th Grade: March 2022

Prairie Lotus

By Linda Sue Park



“*Prairie Lotus* is a powerful, touching, multilayered book about a girl determined to fit in and realize her dreams: getting an education, becoming a dressmaker in her father's shop, and making at least one friend. Acclaimed, award-winning author Linda Sue Park has placed a young half-Asian girl, Hanna, in a small town in America's heartland, in 1880. Hanna's adjustment to her new surroundings, which primarily means negotiating the townspeople's almost unanimous prejudice against Asians, is at the heart of the story.”

5th Grade: January 2022

We Dream of Space

By **Erin Entrada Kelly**



A Newbery Honor Book - BookPage Best Books - Chicago Public Library Best Fiction - Goodreads Choice Awards Nominee - Horn Book Fanfare - New York Times Notable Children's Book - School Library Journal Best Book - Today Show Pick - An ALA Notable Book

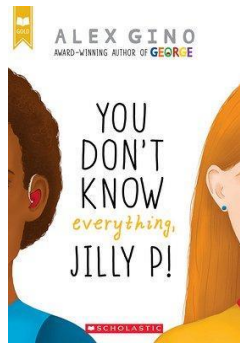
“Cash, Fitch, and Bird Nelson Thomas are three siblings in seventh grade together in Park, Delaware. In 1986, as the country waits expectantly for the launch of the space shuttle Challenger, they each struggle with their own personal anxieties. Cash, who loves basketball but has a newly broken wrist, is in danger of failing seventh grade for the second time. Fitch spends every afternoon playing Major Havoc at the arcade on Main and wrestles with an explosive temper that he doesn't understand. And Bird, his twelve-year-old twin, dreams of being NASA's first female shuttle commander, but feels like she's disappearing.

The Nelson Thomas children exist in their own orbits, circling a tense and unpredictable household, with little in common except an enthusiastic science teacher named Ms. Salonga. As the launch of the Challenger approaches, Ms. Salonga gives her students a project--they are separated into spacecraft crews and must create and complete a mission. When the fated day finally arrives, it changes all of their lives and brings them together in unexpected ways.”

5th Grade: December 2021

You Don't Know Everything, Jilly P!

By Alex Gino



“Alex Gino, the Lambda Literary Award-winning author of *George*, is back with another sensitive tale based on increasingly relevant social justice issues.

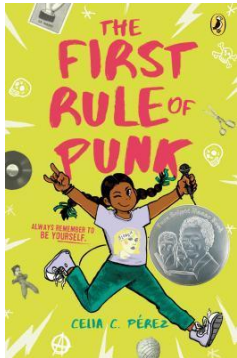
Jilly thinks she's figured out how life works. But when her sister, Emma, is born deaf, she realizes how much she still has to learn. The world is going to treat Jilly, who is white and hearing, differently from Emma, just as it will treat them both differently from their Black cousins. A big fantasy reader, Jilly makes a connection online with another fantasy fan, Derek, who is a Deaf, Black ASL user. She goes to Derek for help with Emma but doesn't always know the best way or time to ask for it. As she and Derek meet in person, have some really fun conversations, and become friends, Jilly makes some mistakes . . . but comes to understand that it's up to her, not Derek, to figure out how to do better next time – especially when she wants to be there for Derek the most. Within a world where kids like Derek and Emma aren't assured the same freedom or safety as kids like Jilly, Jilly is starting to learn all the things she doesn't know—and by doing that, she's also working to discover how to support her family and her friends.

With *You Don't Know Everything, Jilly P!*, award-winning author Alex Gino uses their trademark humor, heart, and humanity to show readers how being open to difference can make you a better person, and how being open to change can make you change in the best possible ways.”

5th Grade: November 2021

The First Rule of Punk

By Celia C. Pérez



A 2018 Pura Belpré Author Honor Book

The First Rule of Punk is a wry and heartfelt exploration of friendship, finding your place, and learning to rock out like no one's watching.

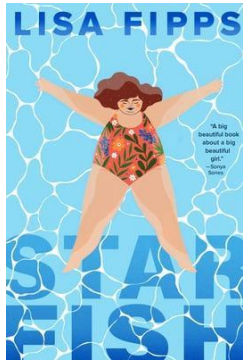
There are no shortcuts to surviving your first day at a new school--you can't fix it with duct tape like you would your Chuck Taylors. On Day One, twelve-year-old Mal (Mar a Luisa, if you want to annoy her) inadvertently upsets Posada Middle School's queen bee, violates the school's dress code with her punk rock look, and disappoints her college-professor mom in the process. Her dad, who now lives a thousand miles away, says things will get better as long as she remembers the first rule of punk: be yourself.

The real Mal loves rock music, skateboarding, zines, and Soyrizo (hold the cilantro, please). And when she assembles a group of like-minded misfits at school and starts a band, Mal finally begins to feel at home. She'll do anything to preserve this, which includes standing up to an anti-punk school administration to fight for her right to express herself.

5th Grade: October 2021

Star Fish

By **Lisa Fipps**



“Ellie is tired of being fat-shamed and does something about it in this poignant debut novel-in-verse.

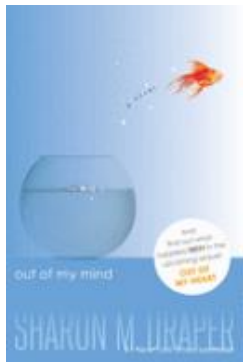
Ever since Ellie wore a whale swimsuit and made a big splash at her fifth birthday party, she's been bullied about her weight. To cope, she tries to live by the Fat Girl Rules—like no making waves, avoid eating in public, and don't move so fast that your body jiggles. And she's found her safe space—her swimming pool—where she feels weightless in a fat-obsessed world. In the water, she can stretch herself out like a starfish and take up all the room she wants. It's also where she can get away from her pushy mom, who thinks criticizing Ellie's weight will motivate her to diet.

Fortunately, Ellie has allies in her dad, her therapist, and her new neighbor, Catalina, who loves Ellie for who she is. With this support buoying her, Ellie might finally be able to cast aside the Fat Girl Rules and starfish in real life—by unapologetically being her own fabulous self.”

5th Grade: June 2021

Out of My Mind

By **Sharon M. Draper**



A New York Times bestseller for three years and counting! From award-winning author Sharon Draper comes a story that will forever change how we all look at anyone with a disability, perfect for fans of RJ Palacio's Wonder.

Eleven-year-old Melody is not like most people. She can't walk. She can't talk. She can't write. All because she has cerebral palsy. But she also has a photographic memory; she can remember every detail of everything she has ever experienced. She's the smartest kid in her whole school, but NO ONE knows it. Most people--her teachers, her doctors, her classmates--dismiss her as mentally challenged because she can't tell them otherwise. But Melody refuses to be defined by her disability. And she's determined to let everyone know it...somehow.

5th Grade: May 2021

George

By Alex Gino



GEORGE

ALEX GINO
SCHOLASTIC

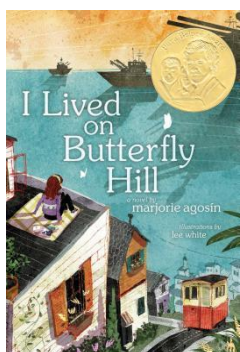
“The unforgettable debut from Stonewall Award Winner Alex Gino.

When people look at George, they think they see a boy. But she knows she's not a boy. She knows she's a girl. George thinks she'll have to keep this a secret forever. Then her teacher announces that their class play is going to be Charlotte's Web. George really, really, REALLY wants to play Charlotte. But the teacher says she can't even try out for the part... because she's a boy. With the help of her best friend, Kelly, George comes up with a plan. Not just so she can be Charlotte – but so everyone can know who she is, once and for all.”

5th Grade: April 2021

I Lived on Butterfly Hill

By Marjorie Agosin (Author), Lee White (Illustrator)

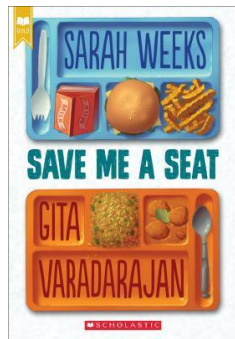


“Celeste Marconi is a dreamer. She lives peacefully among friends and neighbors and family in the idyllic town of Valparaiso, Chile--until one day when warships are spotted in the harbor and schoolmates start disappearing from class without a word. Celeste doesn't quite know what is happening, but one thing is clear: no one is safe, not anymore. The country has been taken over by a government that declares artists, protestors, and anyone who helps the needy to be considered "subversive" and dangerous to Chile's future. So Celeste's parents--her educated, generous, kind parents--must go into hiding before they, too, "disappear." Before they do, however, they send Celeste to America to protect her. As Celeste adapts to her new life in Maine, she never stops dreaming of Chile. But even after democracy is restored to her home country, questions remain: Will her parents re-emerge from hiding? Will she ever be truly safe again? Accented with interior artwork, steeped in the history of Pinochet's catastrophic takeover of Chile, and based on many true events, this multicultural ode to the power of revolution, words, and love is both indelibly brave and heart wrenchingly graceful.”

5th Grade: March 2021

Save Me A Seat

By Sarah Weeks and Gita Varadarajan



Save Me a Seat joins the Scholastic Gold line, which features award-winning and beloved novels. Includes exclusive bonus content!

Joe and Ravi might be from very different places, but they're both stuck in the same place: SCHOOL. Joe's lived in the same town all his life, and was doing just fine until his best friends moved away and left him on his own. Ravi's family just moved to America from India, and he's finding it pretty hard to figure out where he fits in. Joe and Ravi don't think they have anything in common -- but soon enough they have a common enemy (the biggest bully in their class) and a common mission: to take control of their lives over the course of a single crazy week.

5th Grade: February 2021

When Stars Are Scattered

By Omar Mohamed and Victoria Jamieson



Heartbreak and hope exist together in this remarkable graphic novel about growing up in a refugee camp, as told by a Somali refugee to the Newbery Honor-winning creator of Roller Girl. Omar and his younger brother, Hassan, have spent most of their lives in Dadaab, a refugee camp in Kenya. Life is hard there: never enough food, achingly dull, and without access to the medical care Omar knows his nonverbal brother needs. So when Omar has the opportunity to go to school, he knows it might be a chance to change their future . . . but it would also mean leaving his brother, the only family member he has left, every day.

Heartbreak, hope, and gentle humor exist together in this graphic novel about a childhood spent waiting, and a young man who is able to create a sense of family and home in the most difficult of settings. It's an intimate, important, unforgettable look at the day-to-day life of a refugee, as told to New York Times Bestselling author/artist Victoria Jamieson by Omar Mohamed, the Somali man who lived the story.

5th Grade: January 2021

Sal & Gabi Break the Universe

By Carlos Hernandez



Best-selling author Rick Riordan presents a brilliant sci-fi romp with Cuban influence that poses this question: What would you do if you had the power to reach through time and space and retrieve anything you want, including your mother, who is no longer living (in this universe, anyway)?

Special Selection of Children's Books in French

Maja's June 2021 Selection + Recording

Moi, je m'aime

By Karen Beaumont (Author), David Catrow (Illustrator)



Une fillette espiègle énumère tout ce qu'elle aime chez elle et les raisons pour lesquelles elle s'aime telle qu'elle est. Peu importe où elle va, ce que les autres pensent d'elle ou de quoi elle a l'air, cette fillette s'aime parce que, comme elle le dit, « Je suis moi! » Le dynamisme des illustrations de David Catrow insuffle un air de fraîcheur à cette charmante petite comptine sur l'estime de soi.



High on energy and imagination, this ode to self-esteem encourages kids to appreciate everything about themselves -- inside and out. Messy hair? Beaver breath? So what! Here's a little girl who knows what really matters. At once silly and serious, Karen Beaumont's joyous rhyming text and David Catrow's wild illustrations unite in a book that is sassy, soulful - and straight from the heart.

[Watch here](#) as Maja, a Burbank and Los Feliz campus mom, reads the book aloud and flips through the pages.

Maja's May 2021 Selection + Recording

Fatou du monde

By Angélique Thyssen (Author), Judith Gueyfier (Illustrator)



L'une est née sur les glaces polaires, l'autre sur les terres brûlantes d'Afrique ... Ces deux Fatou nous racontent comment la planète de leurs rêves d'enfants peut être la plus belle des terres de rencontres.

This is the tale of two girls both named Fatou growing up in very different environments, one coming from the polar ice of the North Pole and the other from the heat of the African continent. They meet through their dreams, and allow us to see our planet through their eyes.



[Watch here](#) as Maja, a Burbank and Los Feliz campus mom, reads the book aloud and flips through the pages.

Maja's April 2021 Selection + Recording

Le petit jardinier extraordinaire

By Sam Boughton (Author and Illustrator)



Joe est un petit garçon rêveur. Un jour, une graine d'idée germe dans son esprit... Avec patience et détermination, il va changer son monde gris et ordinaire en un endroit extraordinaire !

The Extraordinary Little Gardener

Joe is a boy just like any other, but with a bigger imagination. Joe lives in an ordinary apartment building in a rather ordinary city. His world is rather gray. But he spends his time imagining a wonderful, colorful world filled with exotic plants and unusual animals. One day, Joe decides to plant a seed on his balcony. He waits and waits, but nothing happens! Joe gives up and returns to his daily life, but when he least expects it, he sees that the seed has taken root and turned into the most beautiful tree.

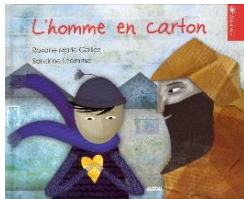


[Watch here](#) as Maja, a Burbank and Los Feliz campus mom, reads the book aloud and flips through the pages.

Maja's March 2021 Selection + Recording

L'homme en carton

By Roxane Marie Galliez and Sandrine Lhomme



Un petit garçon passe tous les matins devant un homme, assis sur le trottoir, et enseveli par les cartons. Ce petit garçon n'ose pas lever les yeux sur lui. Il a honte et se pose des questions, jusqu'au jour où il demandera à sa maman de préparer un paquet pour cet homme, du savon, une brosse à dent, des bonbons... Quand il offre le paquet, accompagné de ses parents, il voit l'homme se lever pour serrer la main de son papa. C'est un Homme, comme son papa, et le petit garçon se sent joyeux d'avoir rendu à l'homme sa dignité.

The Cardboard Man



Every day a little boy walks by a man sitting on the floor surrounded by cardboard boxes. The little boy doesn't dare to look at him. He feels ashamed and doesn't understand until the day he asks his mother to help him prepare a care package for this man. When he gives the package to the stranger, in company of his parents, he sees the man stand up to shake his father's hand. He is a man, like his father, and the little boy feels happy to have given the man his dignity back.

[Watch here](#) as Maja, a Burbank and Los Feliz campus mom, reads the book aloud and flips through the pages.

Maja's February 2021 Selection + Recording

La petite fille qui avait deux papas

By Melanie Elliott



Matilda est la meilleure amie de Lucie. Elles se ressemblent comme deux gouttes d'eau, sauf que Matilda a deux papas. Lucie est impatiente de les rencontrer, elle imagine que tout doit être complètement différent, mais elle se rend vite compte que c'est exactement la même chose que d'avoir une maman et un papa. Cet album apprend aux enfants que ce qui leur paraît lointain et différent peut en réalité être bien plus proche d'eux qu'ils ne l'imaginent. Un bel éloge de l'acceptation de l'autre. Recommandé à partir de 3 ans.



Matilda is a new girl at Pearl's school, but there's something really different and cool about her family. She has two dads. Pearl is sure that Matilda's family must be very different to her own but, as they become friends, she starts to discover that maybe Matilda's family isn't so different after all... A funny and heartwarming tale featuring a same-sex parent family. This light-hearted story will open up discussion and encourage children to be open minded and inclusive. This charming tale of friendship is all about celebrating what makes us different and similar to one another and is perfect for sharing with children 3 years and up.

[Watch here](#) as Maja, a Burbank and Los Feliz campus mom, reads the book aloud and flips through the pages.

Maja's January 2021 Selection + Recording

Les autres

By Orianne Lallemand



Un bel album aux couleurs vives sur les gens : les petits et les grands, les rouges et les jaunes, ceux qui n'ont pas de maisons et ceux qui en ont, ceux que l'on connaît et les autres que l'on ne connaît pas encore. Des gens tous différents mais tous pareils. Les très belles images de Servane Havette illustrent à merveille le texte simple et poétique d'Orianne Lallemand.



A beautiful picture book that talks about how we are all different but similar at the same time.

For ages 4 and up.

[Watch here](#) as Maja, a Burbank and Los Feliz campus mom, reads the book aloud and flips through the pages.