



Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

INTERACTIVE
CATALOG

Join us on the journey.



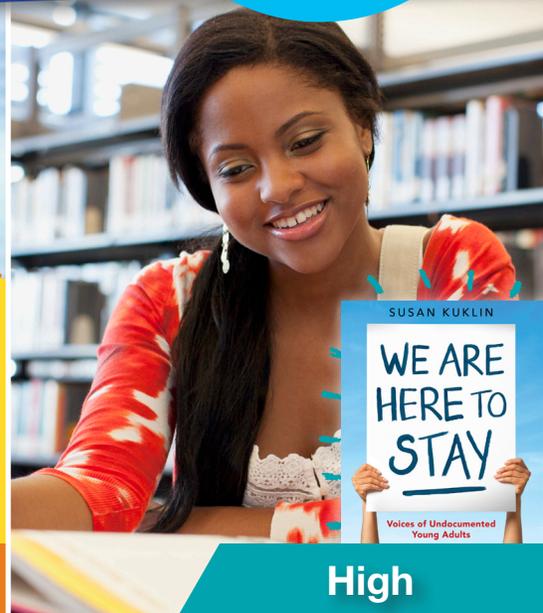
#AllBooksForAllKids™



Elementary



Middle



High

See What's Inside

Books

- Cultures
Elementary | Middle | High
- Holidays and Traditions
Elementary | Middle
- Global Awareness
Elementary | Middle | High
- Folktales
Elementary | Middle | High
- #OwnVoices
Elementary | Middle | High
- LGBTQ+
Elementary | Middle | High
- Social Justice
Elementary | Middle | High
- Families
Elementary | Middle | High
- Diversability
Elementary | Middle | High
- Native Languages
Elementary | Middle | High
- United Nations Sustainability
Elementary | Middle | High
- Professional Titles

Articles

- Representation Matters in Literature
- Author Interview – Mượn Thị Văn and Victo Ngai
- Author Interview – Areli Morales and Luisa Uribe
- Author Interview – Kwame Mbalia
- Book Diversity in the Classroom and Library
- Going Beyond Diverse Collections
- Read to Discuss; Read as Resistance
- Promote Equity in Your Classroom or Library
- Making History Part of the Conversation
- Author Interview – Brandy Colbert
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion:
Essential Work as We Create Future
Thought and Reform Leaders



**Clickable Text
Throughout!**

Webinars

- Why Your School Library Needs Mirror and Window Books
- Building Community: #ClassroomBookADay
- A Culture of Literacy: How the 20 Book Challenge Revolutionized Our School
- Ensuring Equity and Diversity in School Libraries
- The Language of Liberation: Books as Bridges
- True Equity and Diversity in the School Library

Author Videos

- Author Takeover – Vanessa Brantley-Newton
- Author Takeover – Mariama J. Lockington
- First Chapter Fridays – Alexandra Diaz
- First Chapter Fridays – Ryan La Sala



Visit [titlewave.com](https://www.titlewave.com) to find additional bindings. Published pricing (USD) and titles are subject to change. Always free shipping in the US and Canada.

Why Your Students Need Diverse Books

Your students and their needs are changing. How much?



In US schools:



The **majority** of the student population under the age of 15 is not White.

source



The number of homeless children has increased **70%** since 1991.

source



25% of students are from an immigrant household.

source



9.6% are English Language Learners (ELL).

source



9.2% of youth ages 13-17 identify as LGBTQ+.

source



7% are enrolled in gifted programs.

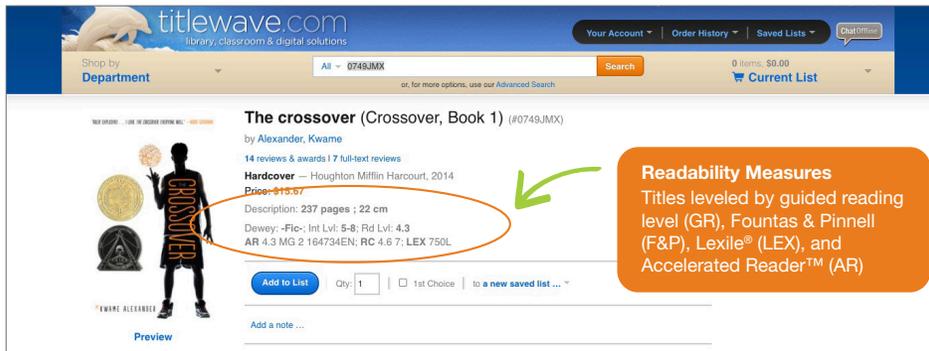
source



14% receive special education services.

source

Your Source for Inclusive Materials



The crossover (Crossover, Book 1) (#0749JMX)
by Alexander, Kwame

14 reviews & awards | 17 full-text reviews

Hardcover — Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2014
Price: \$15.57

Description: 237 pages ; 22 cm
Dewey: -Fic- Int Lvl: 5-8; Rd Lvl: 4.3
AR 4.3 MQ 2 164734EN; RC 4.6 7; LEX 750L

Readability Measures
Titles leveled by guided reading level (GR), Fountas & Pinnell (F&P), Lexile® (LEX), and Accelerated Reader™ (AR)

[Add to List](#) Qty: 1 1st Choice | to a new saved list ...

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Titlewave is the most powerful curriculum support and ordering site for PreK-12 educators.

- Authentic, diverse literature with characters and stories representing all walks of life
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- Hundreds of book lists created by licensed teachers and certified librarians to help you find exactly what you're looking for

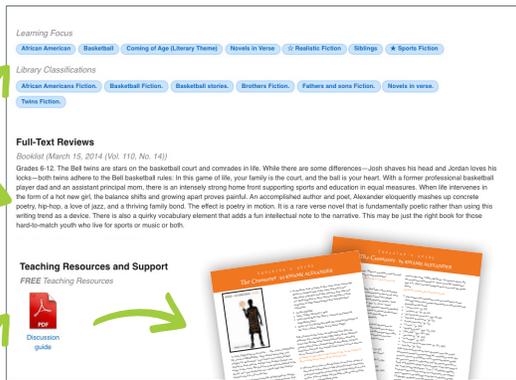
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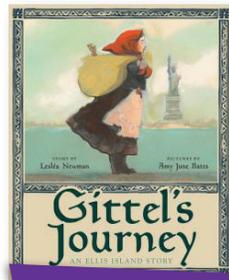
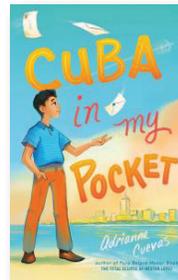
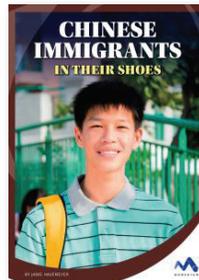
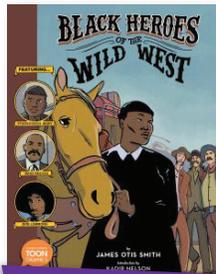
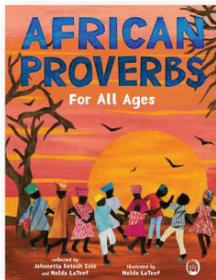
Learning Focus
African American | Basketball | Coming of Age/Library Theme | Novels in Verse | Realistic Fiction | Settings | & Sports Fiction

Library Classifications
African American Fiction, Basketball Fiction, Basketball stories, Brothers Fiction, Fathers and sons Fiction, Novels in verse, Twins Fiction

Full-Text Reviews
Booklist (March 15, 2014) (Vol. 110, No. 14)
Grades 6-12 The Bell twins are stars on the basketball court and comrades in life. While there are some differences—Josh shaves his head and Jordan loves his locks—both twins adhere to the Bell basketball rules. In this game of life, your family is the court, and the ball is your heart. With a former professional basketball player dad and an assistant principal mom, there is an intensity strong home front supporting sports and education in equal measure. When life intervenes in the form of a hot new girl, the balance shifts and growing apart proves painful. An accomplished author and poet, Alexander expertly matches up concrete poetry, hip-hop, a love of jazz, and a thriving family bond. The effect is poetry in motion. It is a rare verse novel that is fundamentally poetic rather than using this writing trend as a device. There is also a quality vocabulary element that adds a fun intellectual note to the narrative. This may be just the right book for those hard-to-match youth who live for sports or music or both.

Teaching Resources and Support
FREE Teaching Resources
PDF Discussion guide

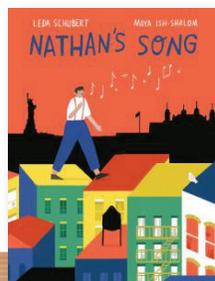
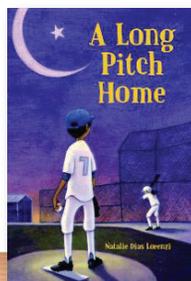
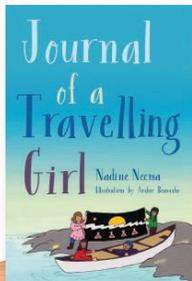
Restrictions apply. Open to US residents only. See full contest rules. >>
See an alternate method of entry. >>



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African Proverbs: For All Ages Johnnetta Betsch Cole and Nelda LaTeef • **Black Heroes of the Wild West** James Otis Smith
Chinese Immigrants: In Their Shoes Janie Havemeyer • **Cuba in My Pocket** Adrianna Cuevas • **Gittel's Journey: An Ellis Island Story** Lesléa Newman



FREE RESOURCES
AVAILABLE

Journal of a Travelling Girl Nadine Neema • **A Long Pitch Home** Natalie Dias Lorenzi • **Nathan's Song** Leda Schubert
The Proudest Blue: A Story of Hijab and Family Ibtihaj Muhammad • **When We Are Kind** Monique Gray Smith

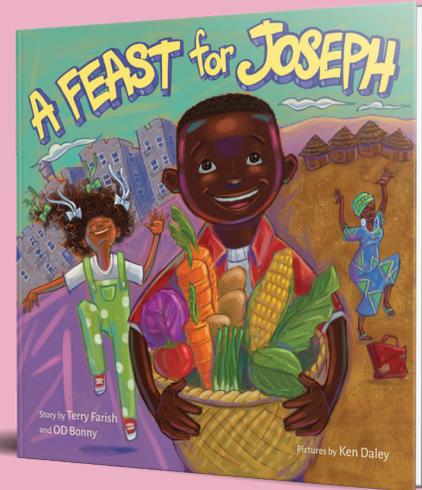
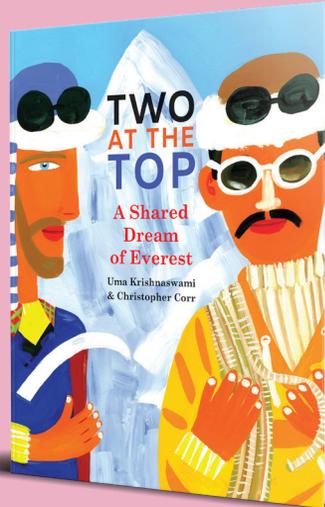
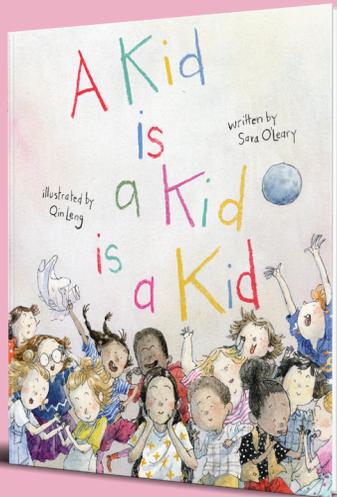
Elementary School: Cultures



▶ See full list.

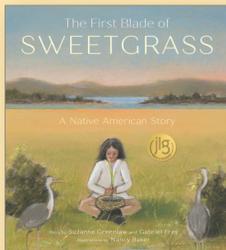
NEW BOOKS FOR KIDS

and other discerning readers



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BOOKS THAT SPEAK WITH MANY VOICES

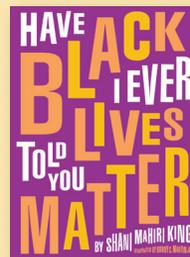


The First Blade of Sweetgrass

A Native American Story

- ★ "A sweet story, deeply personal, thoughtfully detailed."
—Publishers Weekly starred

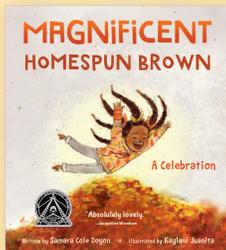
ISBN 978-0-88448-760-9



Have I Ever Told You Black Lives Matter

- ★ "A must-purchase that will empower Black children."
—School Library Journal starred
- ★ "Black history and culture come alive."
—Booklist starred

ISBN 978-0-88448-889-7



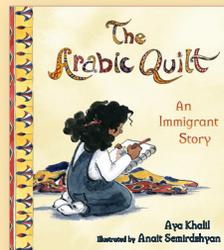
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Magnificent Hometown Brown

A Celebration

- ★ "This celebration makes magic." —Kirkus starred
- ★ "A magnificent paean to a varied hue."
—Publishers Weekly starred
- ★ "A must-read." —School Library Journal starred

ISBN 978-0-88448-797-5



The Arabic Quilt

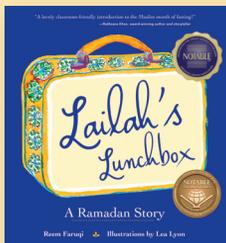
An Immigrant Story

2021 Arab American Book Award

- ★ "A timely, heart-warming story."
—School Library Journal starred

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TEACHER'S GUIDE AVAILABLE



Lailah's Lunchbox

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Representation Matters in Literature

Dwayne Reed

Representation matters. This phrase has become widely popular in just about every sector of our culture within the last decade. From movies and television shows to politics, and of course, throughout literature, the gospel truth is that representation does matter. It's this idea that people like to see and hear stories about people who look, sound, and live just like them.

I am no different. As an African American, an avid reader, and an educator, not only do I want to read books about other awe-inspiring Black people, but I also want opportunities for my students to experience the same. Just as much as my kids can turn on the local radio and literally hear their stories being sung across the airwaves, I want them to be able to see themselves mirrored throughout the stories on the pages they choose to read.

This is why representation matters.

And this is why I selected [these](#) books! I wanted

to string together a list of works that could easily captivate the minds of young readers, and also resonate with them on a personal level. I figured these books might draw reluctant readers out of their shell and into a world they never imagined they'd actually see themselves in.

"It's this idea that people like to see and hear stories about people who look, sound, and live just like them."

But the question remains, "Why books?" And more importantly, "Why do children need to read books about things they already know?"

Here's my answer: If through reading kids can

transport themselves into a world they're already familiar with, it will almost feel as if they're no longer reading about being in someone else's shoes, but instead, they are walking in them. This is why readers will often admit that they've gotten "lost in a book." The words coming from the pages completely snatch them up!

So, when my kids from the west side of Chicago read Kwame Alexander's basketball book, *The Crossover*, they aren't just walking in Filthy McNasty's Jordan brand shoes, they're running and dunking in them!

This is what we want, ya'all – for our kids to see themselves in action!

In class, I'll often share funny stories from childhood with my scholars. These stories are usually pretty common among Black families and speak to the average Black experience in America. All throughout my storytelling, my kids are nodding in agreement, laughing their heads off, and literally

Continued...

Representation Matters in Literature

Dwayne Reed

screaming phrases like “YAAAS! I know exactly what you talkin’ ‘bout!” They’re familiar with the stories and feel a sense of belonging as they engage with their own reality.

“The phrase *representation matters* is not just a buzzword to me. It’s a must, a reality that I am constantly fighting for.”

We want books to do this to and for our readers.

I want books like *Big Hair, Don’t Care* and *Crown* to show my little Black girls and boys that their hair is beautiful, no matter how kinky, curly, or nappy it might be. I want books like *Nelson Mandela*, *The Undeclared*, and *March* to inspire their young minds and challenge them to take action in fighting for what they know to be true!

I want my girls to read *Dancing in the Wings* and truly believe they can make something of themselves by expressing the passion and rhythm and heart they have within. And for my fellas, I want them to feel motivated to work hard, to discipline themselves, and

to shoot for the stars after reading sports books like *Home Court*, *The Crossover*, and *Ghost*.

The phrase *representation matters* is not just a buzzword to me. It’s a must, a reality that I am constantly fighting for. I want my students, and students everywhere, to have the chance at seeing themselves in the books they have around them. I want every reader, regardless of their circumstances, life experiences, or reading ability, to have at least one opportunity to nod, laugh, and say, “YAAAS! I know exactly what you talkin’ ‘bout!”

This is why representation matters. Happy reading, ya’all!

Mr. Reed



DWAYNE REED
Dean of Students
Chicago, IL
tmreed.com

You probably know Dwayne from his viral music video, “**Welcome to the 4th Grade.**” Dwayne’s mission is to reach students – sometimes through music, but always with purpose and enthusiasm.

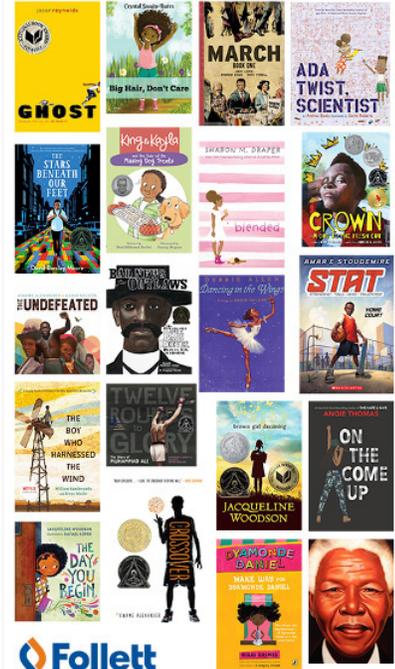
@TeachMrReed



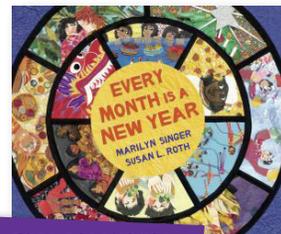
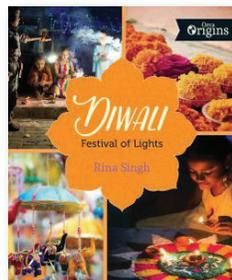
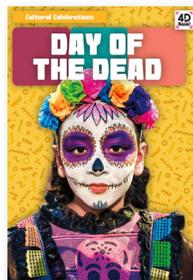
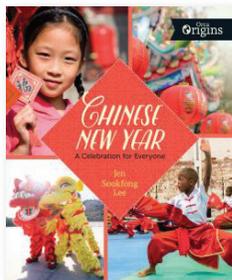
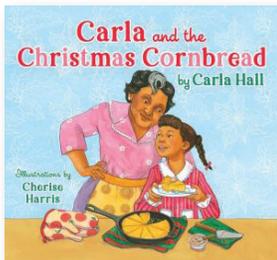
Mr. Reed



REPRESENTATION MATTERS BOOK LIST

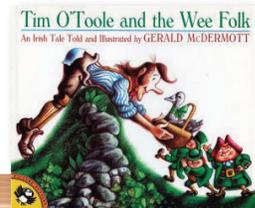
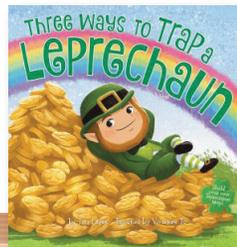
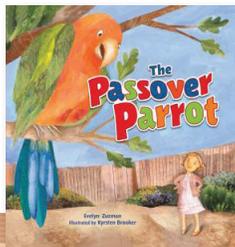
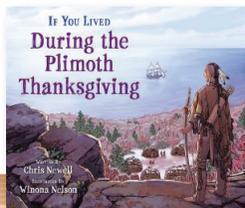
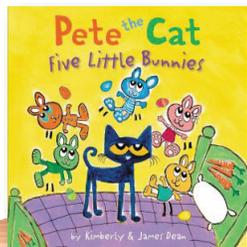


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FREE RESOURCES
AVAILABLE

Carla and the Christmas Cornbread Carla Hall • **Chinese New Year: A Celebration for Everyone** Jen Sookfong Lee
Day of the Dead Patricia Hutchison • **Diwali: Festival of Lights** Rina Singh • **Every Month is a New Year: Celebrations Around the World** Marilyn Singer



Pete the Cat: Five Little Bunnies Kimberly and James Dean • **If You Lived During the Plimoth Thanksgiving** Chris Newell
The Passover Parrot Evelyn Zusman • **Three Ways to Trap a Leprechaun** Tara Lazar • **Tim O'Toole and the Wee Folk: An Irish Tale** Gerald McDermott

Elementary School: Holidays and Traditions



▶ See full list.



Insights at a Glance

Follett Tags help you quickly find the best, most relevant materials, handpicked by our team of educators. Explore by **genre** or by cross-curricular topics around diversity and inclusion.

Explore Follett Tags

The proudest blue : a story of hijab and family (#1137QW0)
by Muhammad Iqbal; illustrated by Ali Hatem

Best of Titlewave

6 reviews & awards | 4 full-text reviews

Hardcover — Little, Brown and Company, 2019
Price: \$16.06

Description: 1 volume (unpaged) : color illustrations ; 27 cm
Dewey: -E- Int Lvl: K-3; Rd Lvl: 1-6
AR 2.3 LG .5 505347EN; LEX 500L

View Larger

Add to List Qty: 1 1st Choice to a new saved list ...

Support Your Learning Objectives

Learning Focus

Butlying Family Stories Includes Back Matter Multicultural Picture Book Self-Awareness

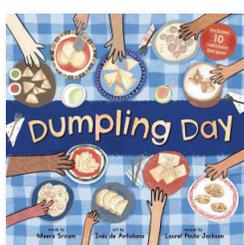
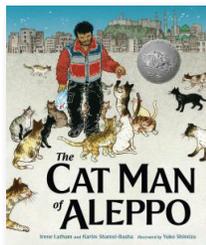
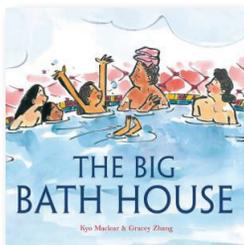
Library Classifications

First day of school Fiction Hijab (Islamic clothing) Fiction Islam Customs and practices Fiction Muslims Fiction Picture books Schools Fiction Sisters Fiction

Common Genres & Topics

Clothing & Dress (Juvenile Fiction) Juvenile Fiction Muslim School & Education (Juvenile Fiction) Siblings (Juvenile Fiction)

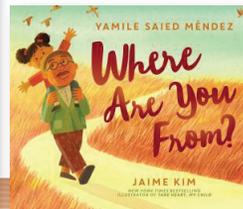
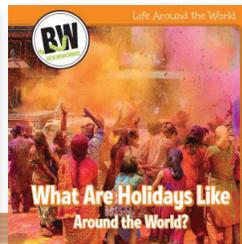
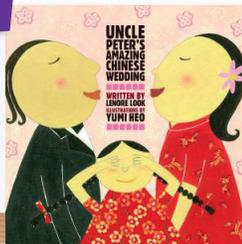
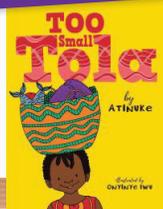
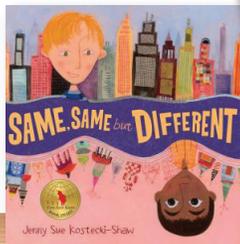
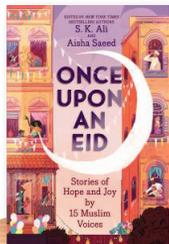
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FREE RESOURCES
AVAILABLE

Auma's Long Run Eucabeth Odhiambo • **The Big Bath House** Kyo Maclear • **The Cat Man of Aleppo** Irene Latham and Karim Shamsi-Basha
Dumpling Day Meera Sriram • **Holi Hai!** Chitra Soundar • **My Fate According to the Butterfly** Gail D. Villanueva

FREE RESOURCES
AVAILABLE

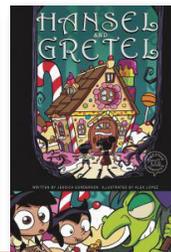
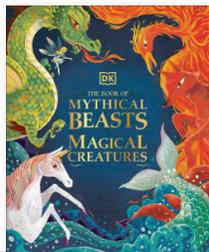
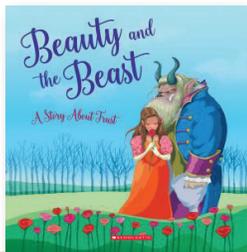
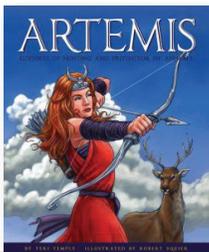


Once Upon an Eid: Stories of Hope and Joy By 15 Muslim Voices S.K. Ali and Aisha Saeed • **Same, Same but Different** Jenny Sue Kostecki-Shaw
Too Small Tola Atinuke • **Uncle Peter's Amazing Chinese Wedding** Lenore Look • **What Are Holidays Like Around the World?** Kathleen Connors
Where Are You From? Yamile Saied Méndez

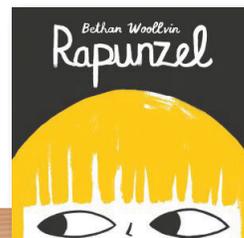
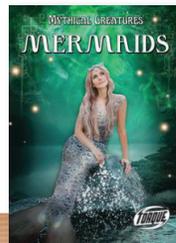
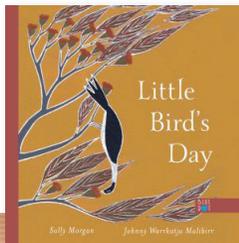
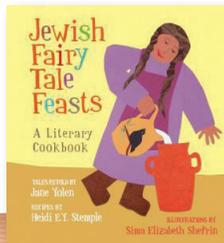
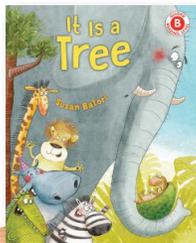
Elementary School: Global Awareness



▶ See full list.



Artemis: Goddess of Hunting and Protector of Animals Teri Temple • **Beauty and the Beast: A Story About Trust** Meredith Rusu
The Book of Mythical Beasts & Magical Creatures Stephen Krensky
Feathered Serpent and the Five Suns: A Mesoamerican Creation Myth Duncan Tonatiuh
Folktales for Fearless Girls: The Stories We Were Never Told Myriam Sayalero • **Hansel and Gretel** Jessica Gunderson



It Is a Tree Susan Batori • **Jewish Fairy Tale Feasts: A Literary Cookbook** Jane Yolen • **Little Bird's Day** Sally Morgan
Mythical Creatures: Mermaids Lisa Owings • **Rapunzel** Bethan Woollvin • **The Star Festival** Moni Ritchie Hadley

Elementary School: Folktales



▶ See full list.



Find out how the team helped Albuquerque Public Schools bring culturally relevant and bilingual books into student homes.

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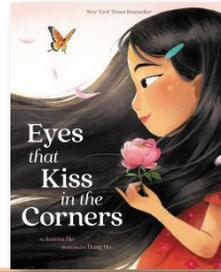
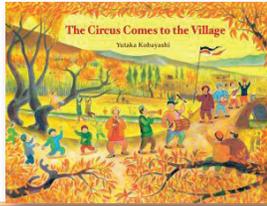
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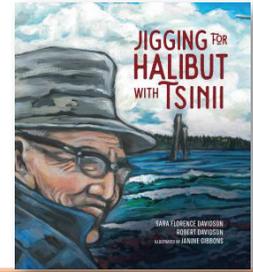
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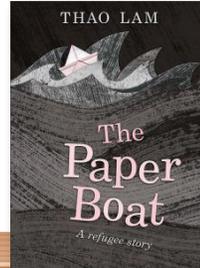
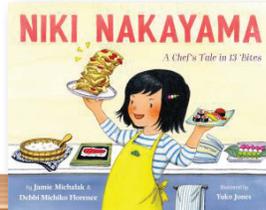
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GEORGE

ALEX GINO



The Circus Comes to the Village Yutaka Kobayashi • **Book Uncle and Me** Julianna Swaney • **Eyes That Kiss in the Corners** Joanna Ho
George Alex Gino • **Jigging for Halibut with Tsinii** Sara Florence Davidson and Robert Davidson



Jo Jo Makoons: The Used-to-Be Best Friend Dawn Quigley • **Niki Nakayama: Chef's Tale in 13 Bites** Debbi Michiko Florence and Jamie Michalak
The Paper Boat: A Refugee Story Thao Lam • **Stef Soto, Taco Queen** Jennifer Torres • **My Fate According to the Butterfly** Gail D. Villanueva

Elementary School: #OwnVoices



▶ See full list.

AUTHOR TAKEOVER



Vanessa Brantley-Newton

Watch Vanessa Brantley-Newton, author and illustrator of *Just Like Me*, *Grandma's Purse*, and other inclusive works, discuss her inspiration for storytelling and illustrating. She also provides activity ideas to help children celebrate diversity and what makes them each unique.

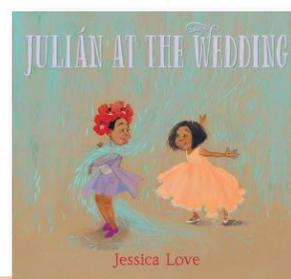
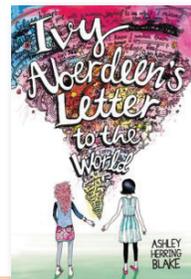
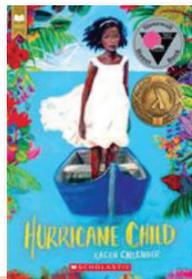
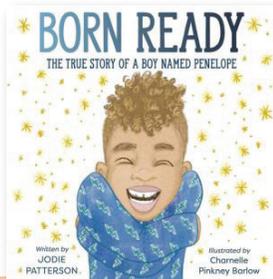
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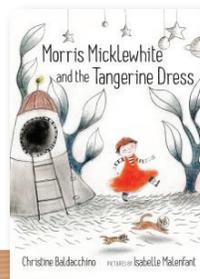
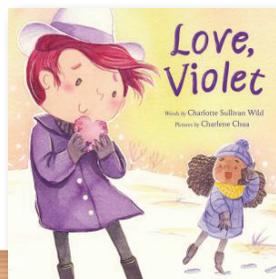
Popular authors discuss their books and share how to incorporate them into classroom plans.

[Explore more Author Takeovers.](#) >>





Born Ready: The True Story of a Boy Named Penelope Jodie Patterson • **Hurricane Child** Kacen Callender
It Feels Good to Be Yourself: A Book About Gender Identity Theresa Thorn
Ivy Aberdeen's Letter to the World Ashley Herring Blake • **Julián at the Wedding** Jessica Love



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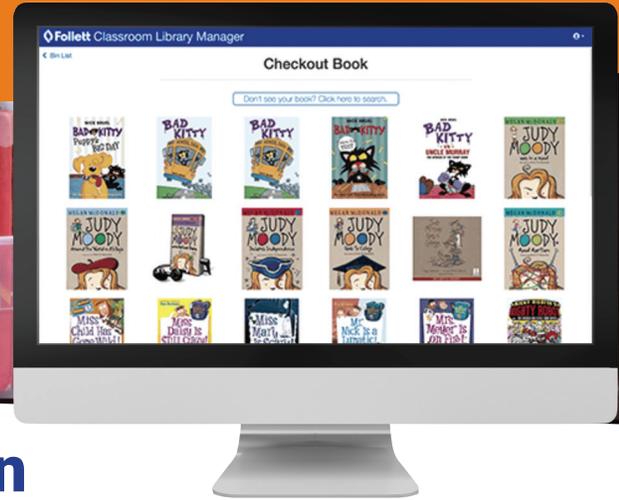


Kenzie Kickstarts a Team (The Derby Daredevils, Book 1) Kit Rosewater • **Love, Violet** Charlotte Sullivan Wild
The Mighty Heart of Sunny St. James Ashley Herring Blake • **Morris Micklewhite and the Tangerine Dress** Christine Baldacchino
The Remarkable Journey of Coyote Sunrise Dan Gemeinhart

Elementary School: LGBTQ+



▶ See full list.



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Keep your library organized around diverse and inclusive topics, such as global celebrations, diverse family structure, or different abilities, with Classroom Library Manager. You'll encourage students to strengthen not only their reading skills but also their emotional literacy.



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An Interview with Author

Mư ợn Thị V ần

and Illustrator

Victo Ngai



Based on events that occurred in the author's life, *Wishes* [Orchard Books (Scholastic), May 2021] is a poetic telling of the story of a Vietnamese family's search for a new home. Written by Mư ợn Thị V ần and illustrated by Victo Ngai, the story is told through the eyes of a young girl who accompanies her family as they must pack their belongings and leave loved ones behind.

What inspired you to write *Wishes*?

Mư ợn Thị V ần: I wrote this story after the Muslim travel ban went into effect in 2017, a ban that has now put the lives of many thousands of refugees in limbo. Many Americans were outraged and saddened by this ban when it was first announced. But there were many others

who supported it or who were indifferent to it and who were very suspicious of all migrants in general. Because of this, I wanted to write a story where the reader could see and feel the story from the inside – from inside a family of refugees and from inside the heart of a refugee.

continued...

How is the story intertwined with your family's experiences?

Murong Thi Văn: The story is based on my family's journey as refugees and migrants from Việt Nam nearly 40 years ago, when I was just a baby. Like many others in our small and close-knit village, we fled to Hong Kong to escape political persecution, poverty, and oppression. I grew up listening to my parents and relatives tell stories of their journeys, and I tried to capture and distill their experiences with these words. Lines like, "The dream wished it was longer" and "The heart wished it was stronger" were written with specific consequential moments in mind, while others like, "The light wished it was brighter" turned out to be more deeply connected than I had thought (a faint light in the distance saved us after we encountered a terrible storm that nearly took our lives).

Tell us about the emotions you were looking to evoke from readers with your illustrations.

Victo Ngai: Home is a central theme in *Wishes* – being uprooted from it and the wish to build another one somewhere else, somewhere safe. I hope the readers can, for however brief a moment, feel the sense of displacement, loss, fear, and hope as our protagonist does. In order to achieve this, the pages need to carry the warmth, tactility, and beautiful imperfections of home.

A couple winters ago, I went back to China to visit my grandma, who has been living in the same house for decades, the same house where I have spent countless summers as a kid. I took photos of the peeled paint, the cracked walls, the bubbled glass and the rusted doorframes, which eventually found their ways into this book. As my grandma lost her sight and hearing, her favorite pastime has become sunbathing on her patio. I sat there with her one afternoon, quietly watching the sunlight dance across surfaces. Its hazy, transient quality is not unlike memories – despite our effort to hold on to them, their corners soften and their details blur. In the end what's left is an impression, a feeling, and a temperature. I decided this is the kind of mood and tone I would like to achieve with my art for *Wishes*.



Wishes

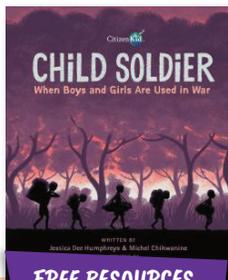
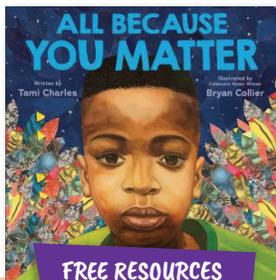
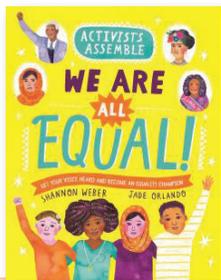
Murong Thi Văn
Scholastic Inc. • 2021 • IL K-3

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 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 Murong Thi Văn, thoughtful back matter about the author's connection to the story, and luminous, stunning illustrations from Victo Ngai, *Wishes* tells a powerful story in a gentle and approachable way for young children and their families. *Wishes* is a must-have book for every child's bookshelf.

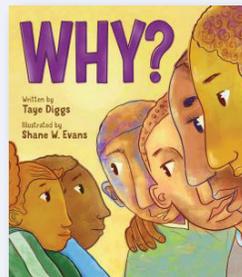
Interview courtesy of Scholastic Inc.





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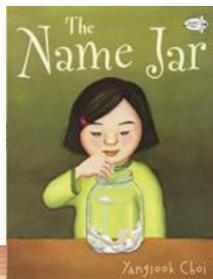
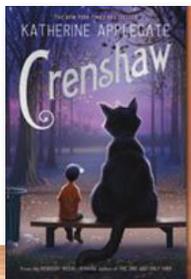


Why? A Conversation About Race

*Taye Diggs
Feiwei & Friends
2021 • IL K-3*

Why? is a question asked by children daily, and in this striking and timely story, it begins a straightforward and challenging conversation between children of color and the adults in their lives.

Activists Assemble: We Are All Equal! Shannon Weber • **All Because You Matter** Tami Charles
Child Soldier: When Boys and Girls Are Used in War Jessica Dee Humphreys



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Crenshaw Katherine Applegate • **The Name Jar** Yangsook Choi • **On Our Street: Our First Talk About Poverty** Jillian Roberts and Jaime Casap
Paper Wishes Lois Sepahban • **The Racial Justice Movement (The Black American Journey)** Kara L. Laughlin

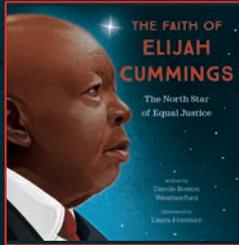
Elementary School: Social Justice



▶ See full list.

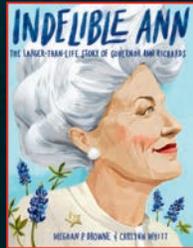
TODAY'S READERS ARE TOMORROW'S LEADERS

Engage young readers with these stories of trailblazers.



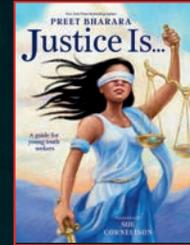
★ “Weatherford and Freeman paint a tender picture of the leader that shows his sensitivity and concern for others, rooted in his religion, that spanned his entire life.”

—Kirkus Reviews, starred review

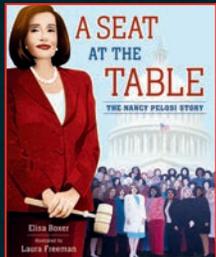


★ “An undeniably indelible woman inspiring readers to reach their own heights.”

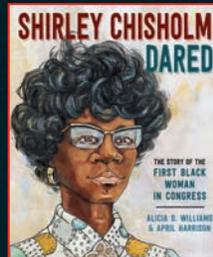
—Kirkus Reviews, starred review



Inspire young readers to fight for justice and to remain hopeful that it can triumph.



Nancy Pelosi smashed the marble ceiling and forged a path for so many other women to join her “at the table.”



“A timely and inspiring biography of a great woman who broke barriers and used her voice to elevate those around her.”

—Kirkus Reviews



A powerful memoir that reveals the struggles, joys, love, and ongoing resilience it took to grow up Black in segregated America.

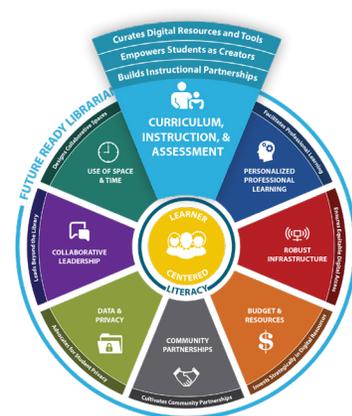


Michelle Easley has served as a teacher and as a media specialist at all levels: elementary, middle, and high school.

Why Your School Library Needs Mirror and Window Books

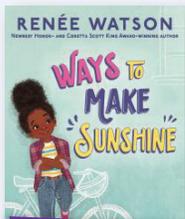
Watch our recorded webinar exploring Dr. Rudine Sims Bishop's concept of mirror and window books, how to analyze your collection for diversity, and ways to incorporate instructional technology, hosted by Michelle Easley.

[Watch Video](#)





New Titles from Renée Watson



Ways to Make Sunshine

Renée Watson • Bloomsbury
Children's Books
2021 • IL 3-6

The Hart family of Portland, Oregon, faces many setbacks after Ryan's father loses his job, but no matter what, Ryan tries to bring sunshine to her loved ones.

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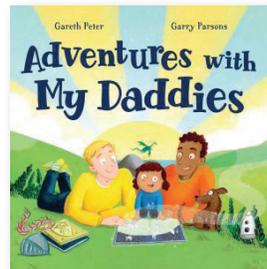


Ways to Grow Love

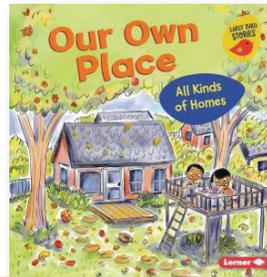
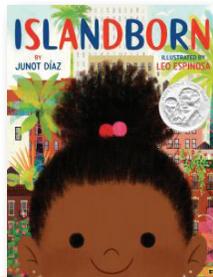
Renée Watson • Bloomsbury
Children's Books
2021 • IL 3-6

In the summer before fifth grade, Ryan Hart continues to grow through changes and challenges, such as waiting for a new baby sister to be born, a summer camp trip, and more.

Photo credit: Shawnte Sims



Adventures with My Daddies Gareth Peter



Islandborn Junot Díaz • Our Own Place: All Kinds of Homes Lisa Bullard

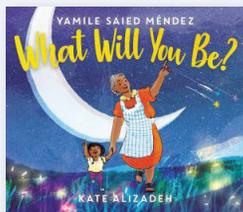
Elementary School: Families

▶ See full list.





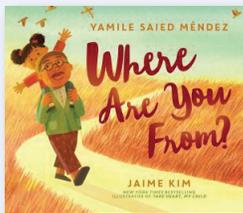
New Titles from Yamile Saied Méndez



What Will You Be?

Yamile Saied Méndez • Harper
2021 • IL K-3

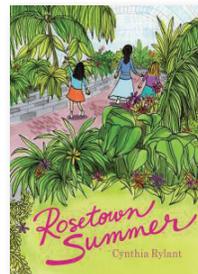
What will you be when you grow up? A young girl dreams about all the endless possibilities, sparking a sense of wonder, curiosity, and growth. With her abuela's loving guidance, she learns her potential is limitless.



Where Are You From?

Yamile Saied Méndez • Harper
2019 • IL K-3

With themes of self-acceptance, identity, and home, this powerful, lyrical picture book tells the story of one girl who constantly gets asked where she's from – where she's really from – but none of her answers seems to be the right one.



Rosetown Summer Cynthia Rylant



Thank You, Omu! Oge Mora • What's Life Like with a Single Parent? Patty Swinton



Elementary School: Families

AUTHOR TAKEOVER



Mariama J. Lockington

Watch author Mariama J. Lockington discuss her highly reviewed debut novel, *For Black Girls Like Me*. This #OwnVoices novel about a Black girl adopted into a white family explores themes of identity, family, friendship, bullying, and mental health.

[Watch Video](#)

Popular authors discuss their books and share how to incorporate them into classroom plans.

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[Download the discussion guide. >>](#)



An Interview with *Areli Is a Dreamer* Author

Areli Morales

and Illustrator

Luisa Uribe

In the first picture book written by a DACA Dreamer, Areli Morales tells her own powerful immigration story, resonating with millions of immigrants who make up the fabric of our country, of moving from a quiet town in Mexico to the bustling metropolis of New York City.

What inspired you to write and illustrate *Areli is a Dreamer*?

Areli: *Areli Is a Dreamer* was inspired by my own immigration story and my experience being a child of two worlds. Through this personal book, I wanted to share all the complexities that come along when one leaves their home country to pursue a better life in a new place. Through my story, I want immigrant children and adults to feel seen, be heard, and know that their stories matter too.

Luisa: I was inspired by Areli's words. Her story resonated with me because I knew that it was a story shared by many others. And I knew that the book would find a home with many families that have gone through the same thing. I also loved the opportunity to show how hard and brave it is to leave loved ones behind in search of something better.

continued...

What was the most difficult part about writing and illustrating *Areli Is a Dreamer*? What part was the easiest?

Areli: I became fully aware of my undocumented status at a very young age and was struck with fear when I realized that everything could be taken away at any moment if I spoke about my first home. For many years I kept my status a secret because I thought my silence would keep my family safe and united. It was a challenge to find the courage to break out of that silence and write my story down on paper. It feels liberating to share my true story and meet new people that share similar experiences. Sometimes, I did not have the right words to communicate my experience to a younger audience through the perspective of a child. Thankfully I had the support of my agent, Brenda Bowen, who is also a talented children's book author. She helped me find the right words to address the complex emotions and circumstances. The easiest part was writing about my relationship with my family. This book is proof that their support, love, and sacrifices made a difference.

Luisa: Getting the moments of emotion were hard for me. I felt that I had to do justice to the sad but hopeful points in the story. When Areli leaves her grandma and arrives in New York, her being so small making such a hard journey, and the embrace of her parents afterward – those images were hard. The easiest drawings were the happy and hopeful moments. Drawing the pictures of Areli thriving was exciting and motivating after drawing her struggles earlier in the book.

For Areli: How do you feel about seeing your story in a picture book? Is there any part of your personal journey that you wished could be included but didn't work for a picture-book audience or length?

Areli: It feels absolutely magical and surreal to see my story documented in a picture book gorgeously illustrated by Luisa Uribe. The pairing of my words and Luisa's illustrations beautifully captures the hardships, lessons, and triumphs of my immigration story. I also feel privileged to share my story with the world because so many undocumented immigrants still don't have that privilege.

In the book, I focused on my relationship with my abuela, my brother, and my parents. However, there are so many wonderful relatives and friends that cared for me and nurtured my growth. I wish I could have included these people and the special moments I shared with them but couldn't due to the length of the picture book. The famous phrase "it takes a village to raise a child" rings true in my childhood both in Mexico and New York. One day, I hope to write about my lovely aunt Rocío, who brought me lunch every day in kindergarten. My friend Rose, the owner of my first home in New York City who treated my family like her own family, and my late grandfather Jorge, who took my brother and me on rides in his old red pickup truck around our small town in Puebla.

For Luisa: What character or element of the story do you identify with the most and why? Do you approach visual depictions of a living person and current events differently from fictional stories and characters?

Luisa: My sister left Colombia years ago and now lives in the US, and many relatives and good friends live far away – some halfway around the world. They are all looking for a better life for themselves and their families, and I miss them, but I'm happy for them. Coming from a country where opportunities to grow and live well are scarce, I understand the need to look for something better and to make sacrifices so that your family can have a better future.

As for the challenges of depicting a living person's story, it is a process that requires a lot of research. It's obviously important to get the characters, the setting, and all details of the story as accurate as possible so that it feels authentic. It was also a challenge to maintain the accuracy of the details, but also be able to add poetry and magic to the images, because it's something that I like to do. Some of the choices are already made for you, in a way, which is an interesting challenge. And it was helpful to have Areli, who lived the story, to let me know if anything didn't feel exactly right.

What do you want kids to take away from this story?

Areli: I want this book to be a mirror for immigrant children so they can see themselves reflected in my story and connect with others going through similar experiences. I want this to be a window to those who don't share this experience but feel encouraged to uplift immigrant voices.

Luisa: Areli said it perfectly. I want immigrant kids and kids who come from immigrant families to have a story that is about them and for them, with characters that look like them, and for other kids to understand what this experience is like so they can be allies in the future.

What books are you currently reading or inspired by?

Areli: I'm currently reading *Miles Morales: Spider-Man* by Jason Reynolds with a student I'm tutoring, and *In the Country We Love: My Family Divided* by Diane Guerrero and Michelle Burford. I will always reread and be inspired by *The House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros.

Luisa: I just finished reading *Cry, Heart, but Never Break* by Glenn Ringtved and illustrated by Charlotte Pardi, and I am getting ready to start on *Can We All Be Feminists?* edited by June Eric-Udorie. I read a lot of science fiction last year, and Ursula K. Le Guin is a great inspiration.

What would be your dream project to work on?

Areli: I would love to work on a project focused on the experiences of children and youth who were born or raised in the US and returned to Mexico with their parents. I would love to meet them and hopefully collaborate on a children's book that talks about their experiences living between two countries, cultures, and languages.

Luisa: I'd love to work on a project for children about climate change, which would underline the urgent changes we need to make while being hopeful for the future.



FREE RESOURCES
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Areli Is a Dreamer

Areli Morales
Random House Studio • 2021 • IL K-3

When Areli was just a baby, her mama and papa moved from Mexico to New York with her brother, Alex, to make a better life for the family – and when she was in kindergarten, they sent for her, too.

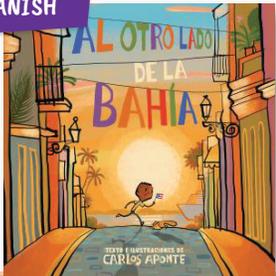
Everything in New York was different. Gone were the Saturdays at Abuela's house, filled with cousins and sunshine. Instead, things were busy and fast and noisy. Areli's limited English came out wrong, and schoolmates accused her of being illegal. But with time, America became her home. And she saw it as a land of opportunity, where millions of immigrants who came before her paved their own paths. She knew she would, too.

This is a moving story – one that resonates with millions of immigrants who make up the fabric of our country – about one girl living in two worlds, a girl whose DACA application was eventually approved and who is now living her American dream.

Interview courtesy of Random House Children's Books



SPANISH



CHINESE



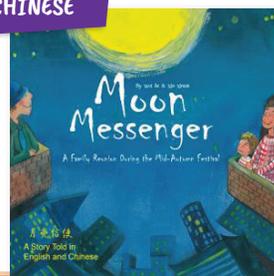
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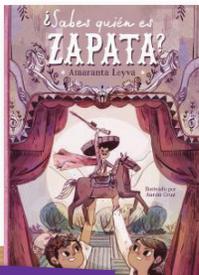
Al otro lado de la bahía (Across the Bay) Carlos Aponte • **Jiu Ge 101 Nian Tong Hua Xuan 2012 (101 Fairy Tales 2012)** Jiankun Xu
Mi abuela, la loca (My Crazy Grandma) José Ignacio Valenzuela • **Mi familia es especial (My Family Is Special)** Anna Rayo
Moon Messenger: A Family Reunion During the Mid-Autumn Festival Jie Wei



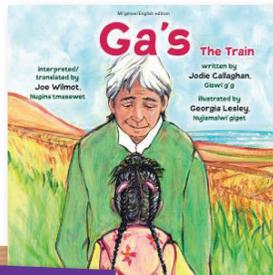
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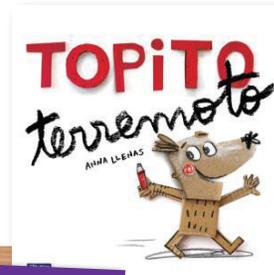
GERMAN



SPANISH



MI'GMAQ



SPANISH

¡Primera Caida! El enmascarado de terciopelo (First Fall! The Velvet-Masked Wrestler) Diego Mejía Eguiluz
Der Regenbogenfisch (The Rainbow Fish) Marcus Pfister • **¿Sabes quién es Zapata? (Do You Know Who Zapata Is?)** Amaranta Leyva
Ga's (The Train) Jodie Callaghan • **Topito Terremoto (Little Mole Quake)** Anna Lienas

Elementary School: Native Languages

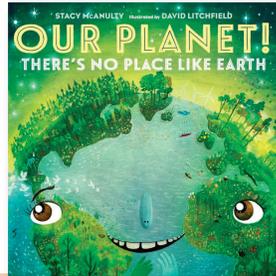
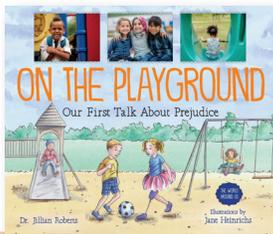
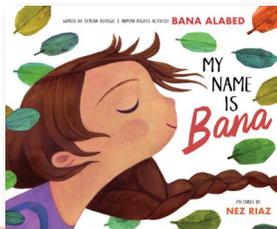


▶ See full list.



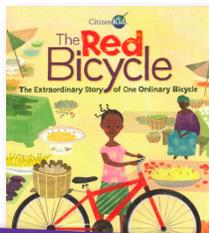
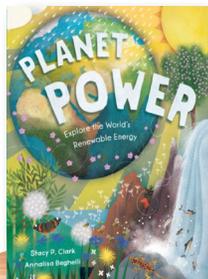
Grab & Go Literacy Kits

Our Grab & Go Literacy Kits can be customized to fit your needs with the help of our team. You can customize your kits by choosing books with stories featuring a variety of characters, such as those who are differently abled, LGBTQ+, from nontraditional families, and more. You'll get to customize the sets of books, and we'll add activity journals and home-to-school activities, sealed in a bag and ready to go. [Explore options now. >>](#)

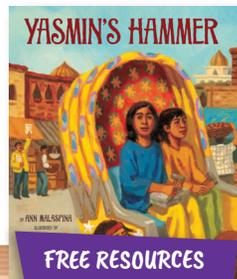
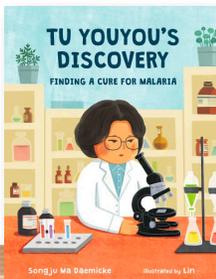
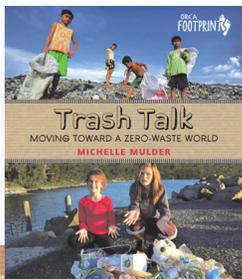


FREE RESOURCES
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The Land of Forgotten Girls Erin Entrada Kelly • **My Name Is Bana** Bana Alabed • **On the Playground: Our First Talk About Prejudice** Dr. Jillian Roberts
One Hen: How One Small Loan Made a Big Difference Katie Smith Milway • **Our Planet! There's No Place Like Earth** Stacy McAnulty



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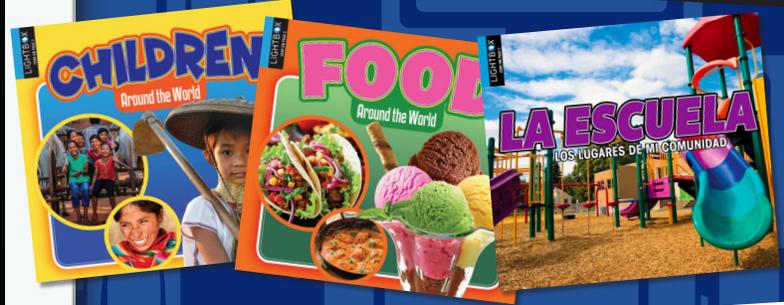
Planet Power: Explore the World's Renewable Energy Stacy P. Clark • **The Red Bicycle: The Extraordinary Story of One Ordinary Bicycle** Jude Isabella
Trash Talk: Moving Toward a Zero-Waste World Michelle Mulder • **Tu Youyou's Discovery: Finding a Cure for Malaria** Songju Ma Daemicke
Yasmin's Hammer Ann Malaspina

Elementary School: United Nations Sustainability



▶ See full list.

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Jillian Heise is a Grades K-5 library media teacher in southeastern Wisconsin and is a passionate advocate for student choice in reading and the power of shared stories through picture book read-alouds.

Building Community: #ClassroomBookADay

Jillian Heise, founder of #ClassroomBookADay, shares how to use daily picture book read-alouds to build classroom community.

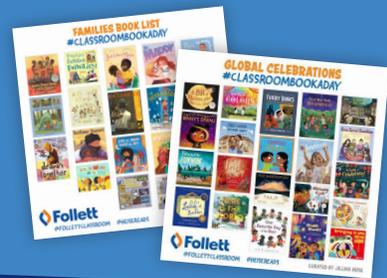
[Watch Video](#)

Featured Book Lists

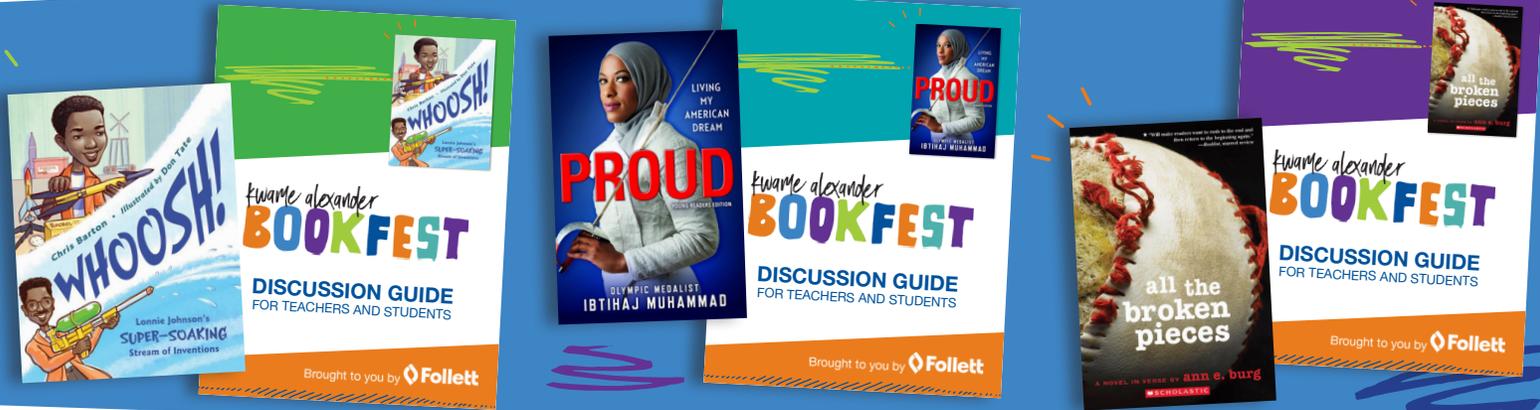
Check out some of Jillian's book recommendations!

- [Honoring Voices of Native Nations >>](#)
- [Rethinking How We Define Family >>](#)
- [Make Your Read-Alouds a Feast for the Senses >>](#)
- [Celebrations Around the World >>](#)

View all #ClassroomBookADay book lists on Titlewave®. >>



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Kwame Alexander, *New York Times* best-selling author, put together a variety of books to choose from so every student will see themselves reflected on the pages. Teachers can set up a book club focused on creative and expressive opportunities that provide engagement and fun.

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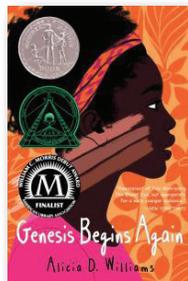
Broken Strings

Eric Walters and Kathy Kacer



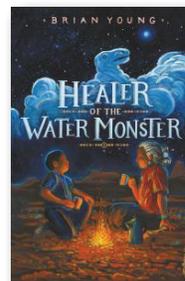
Finding Junie Kim

Ellen Oh



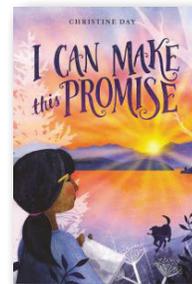
Genesis Begins Again

Alicia D. Williams



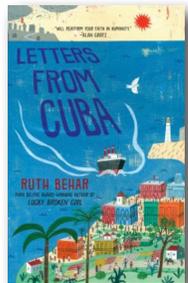
Healer of the Water Monster

Brian Young



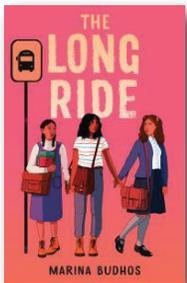
I Can Make This Promise

Christine Day



Letters from Cuba

Ruth Behar



The Long Ride

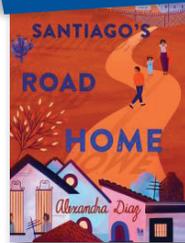
Marina Budhos



A Place to Belong

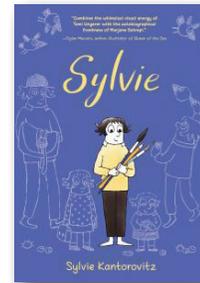
Cynthia Kadohata

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Santiago's Road Home

Alexandra Diaz



Sylvie

Sylvie Kantorovitz

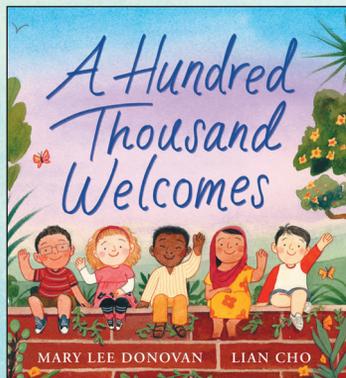
Middle School: Cultures

▶ See full list.

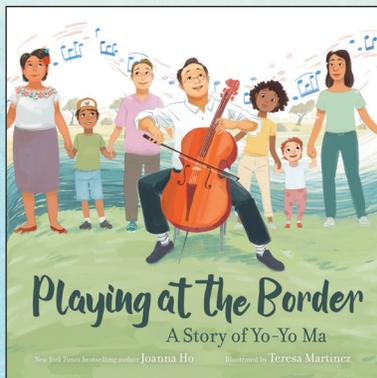
SHAKE UP YOUR SHELVES

Diverse books give teachers, librarians, and booksellers the opportunity to help young people understand themselves and others. We encourage you to look critically at the books you're sharing with your students and patrons.

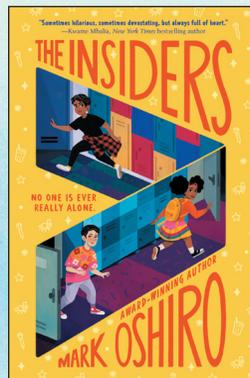
AVAILABLE FALL 2021



A Hundred Thousand Welcomes
by Mary Lee Donovan
Illustrated by Lian Cho



Playing at the Border
A Story of Yo-Yo Ma
by Joanna Ho
Illustrated by Teresa Martinez



The Insiders
by Mark Oshiro



A Soft Place to Land
by Janae Marks



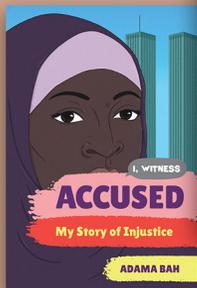
*Yusuf Azeem
Is Not a Hero*
by Saadia Faruqi

 HarperCollins *Children's Books*

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★“Eye-opening, thought-provoking history.” —*Kirkus*, starred

I, Witness: Accused
978-1-324-01663-2

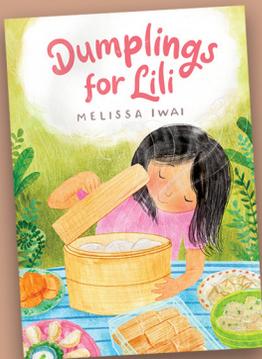


★“A fantastic way of connecting teens with activism and current events.” —*Booklist*, starred
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★“Radiates warmth and charm.” —*Booklist*, starred

★“A resonant portrait.”

—*Publishers Weekly*, starred
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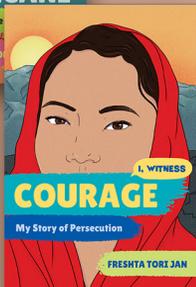
★“Richly saturated, dynamic paintings showcase expressive, inclusive community.”

—*Publishers Weekly*, starred

★“Full of quiet moments of joy and affirmation.”

—*Kirkus*, starred

Dad Bakes • 978-1-324-01541-3

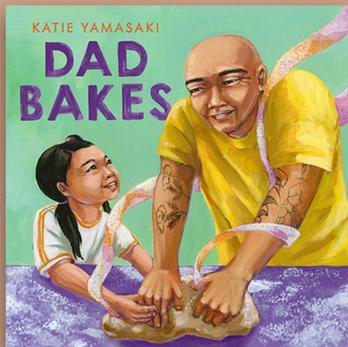


I, Witness: Courage
February 2022
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NORTON YOUNG READERS

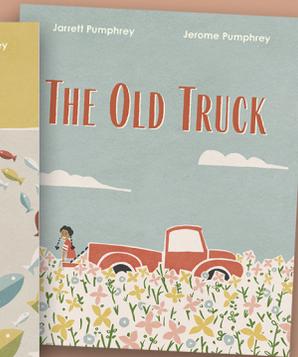
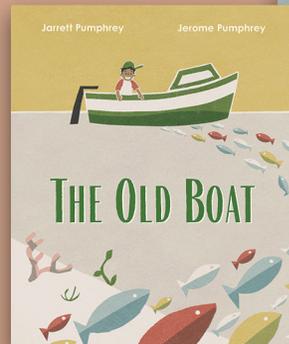
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★“Affectionate, pithy, and eloquent.” —*Booklist*, starred
The Old Truck • 978-1-324-00519-3

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★“A fully fleshed, sensorially detailed narrative.”
—*Publishers Weekly*, starred
Crossing the Stream
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“An entertaining picture of a boy’s life between social classes.” —*Kirkus*
Playing a Dangerous Game
978-1324-01913-8



An Interview with Author Kwame Mbalia

Kwame Mbalia, the *New York Times* best-selling author and editor of *Black Boy Joy*, shares with us what went into this anthology and what he wants readers to take away. Receiving five starred reviews, this collection of stories, comics, and poems from 17 acclaimed Black male and non-binary authors celebrates the power of joy and the wonders of Black boyhood.

What gave you the idea to create this anthology? How did you go about choosing which contributors you wanted to participate?

This idea came about in part due to my wish to work with a lot of the amazing contributors, and also in part due to the constant barrage of negative labels assigned to Black children by the media. This was my attempt to say to those children – and especially those boys like myself when I was younger – that we recognize their happiness, their achievements, and their joy.

What was the most difficult part about writing your story *The Griot of Grover Street*? What part was the easiest?

The hardest part of my story was trying to make sure each part had its own energy, and didn't require readers to flip back to Parts One and Two to remember what was happening. The easiest part was embellishing Gary the Griot's (Mr. G) wardrobe. It's my wardrobe.

continued...

Aside from your short story, is there another short story that you identify with the most, and why?

I think I connected on some level with each of the 16 other stories. Getting dressed for school, relying on my grandmothers/elders for support and encouragement, trying to kickflip, etc. Each of them provided some harmony with my memories of growing up.

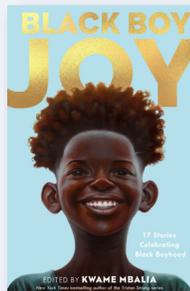
What do you want young readers today to take away from this anthology?

I hope they take away a favorite story that they reread over and over. I hope they take away inspiration to find their own joyful safe spaces. I hope they take away an appreciation for short stories, and how they can be about anything, from fantasy to sci-fi to contemporary fiction. I hope they take the book away from the library repeatedly, checking it out over and over because it brings them joy.

What are you currently reading?

I am currently reading *The Black Jacobins* by C.L.R. James, a book about the Haitian revolution and the events leading up to it.

Interview courtesy of Random House Children's Books



Black Boy Joy Kwame Mbalia • Delacorte Press 2021 • YA

Black boy joy is:

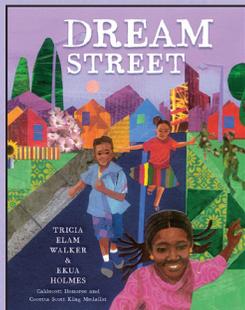
- Picking out a fresh first-day-of-school outfit.
- Saving the universe in an epic intergalactic race.
- Finding your voice – and your rhymes – during tough times.
- Flying on your skateboard like nobody's watching.
- And more!

From 17 acclaimed Black male and non-binary authors comes a vibrant collection of stories, comics, and poems about the power of joy and the wonders of Black boyhood.

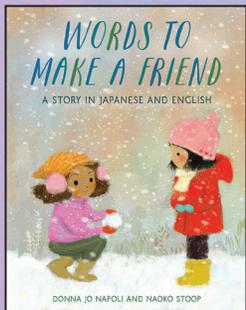
Hear a special message from some of the anthology contributors.

[Listen](#)

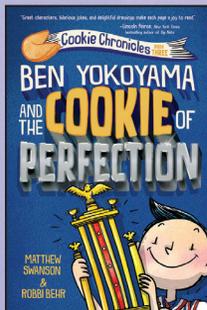
New books that promote culturally inclusive thinking



Celebrate a street where love is powerful and a nurturing community can make anything possible.



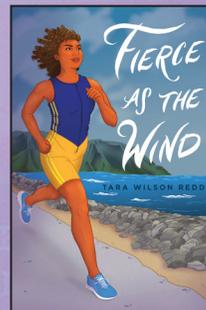
A bilingual story in English and Japanese that shows speaking the same language isn't a prerequisite to making a new friend.



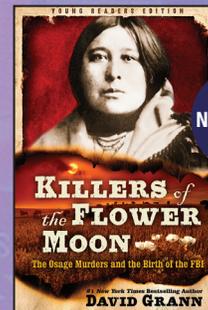
The pursuit of perfection is thrilling until Ben is forced to give up the things he loves most.



A magical adventure that explores the notion of free will in a world where fate holds all the cards.



Heartbreak pushes a teenager to find her strongest self in this story of personal transformation.



This essential book introduces young readers to the reign of terror against the Osage people in Oklahoma.

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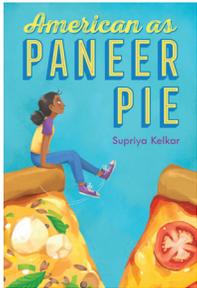


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Education

OPEN THEIR EYES TO ALL READING HAS TO OFFER

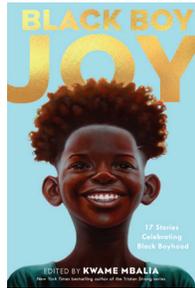
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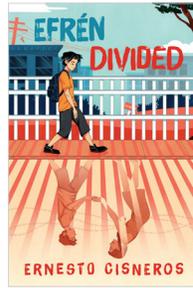
American as Paneer Pie
Supriya Kelkar
9781432890087



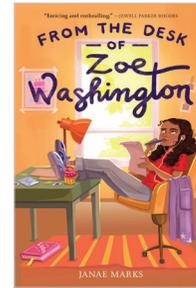
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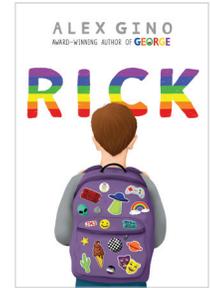
Black Boy Joy
Kwame Mbalia
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Efrén Divided
Ernesto Cisneros
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**From the Desk of
Zoe Washington**
Janae Marks
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Alex Gino
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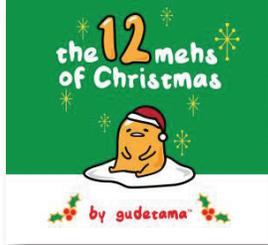
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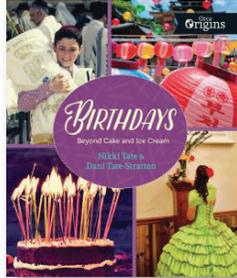
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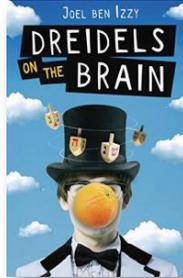
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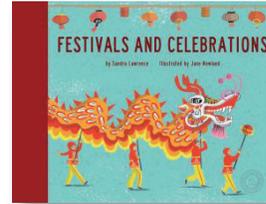
The 12 Meh's of Christmas
by Gudetama
Max Bisantz and
Francesco Sedita



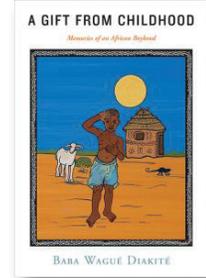
Birthdays: Beyond Cake and Ice Cream
Nikki Tate and
Dani Tate-Stratton



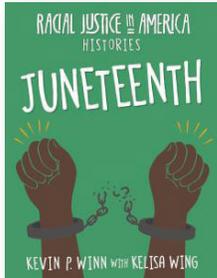
Dreidels on the Brain
Joel Ben Izzy



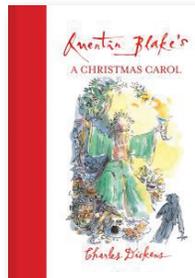
Festivals and Celebrations
Sandra Lawrence



A Gift from Childhood: Memories of an African Boyhood
Baba Wagué Diakité



Juneteenth
(Racial Justice in America: Histories)
Kevin P. Winn



Quentin Blake's A Christmas Carol
Quentin Blake



Rachel's Valentine Crush
(Crush, Book #5)
Angela Darling

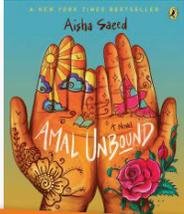


Saving Kabul Corner
N.H. Senzai



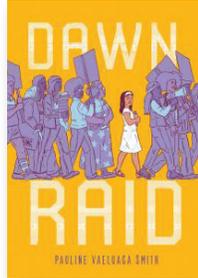
Young Scrooge: A Very Scary Christmas Story
R.L. Stine

Middle School: Holidays and Traditions



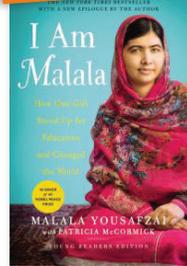
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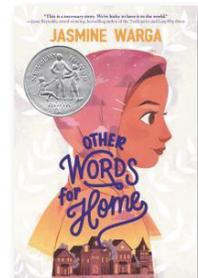
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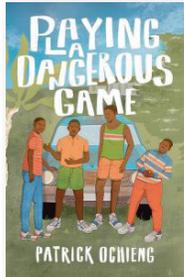
**I Am Malala: How One Girl
Stood Up for Education
and Changed the World**
Malala Yousafzai



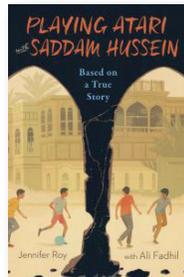
**In the Land of Happy Tears:
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Other Words for Home
Jasmine Warga



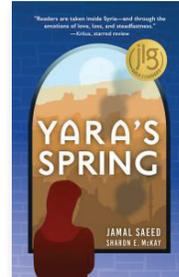
Playing a Dangerous Game
Patrick Ochieng



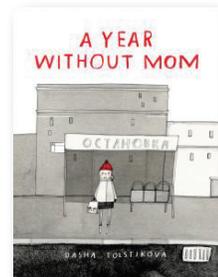
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Jennifer Roy



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Valentina Giannella

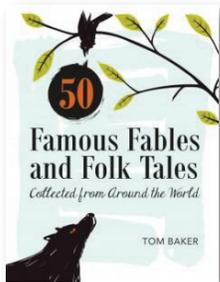


Yara's Spring
Jamal Saeed and
Sharon E. McKay

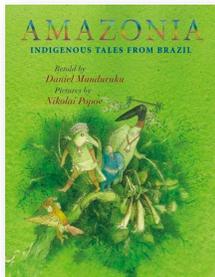


A Year Without Mom
Dasha Tolstikova

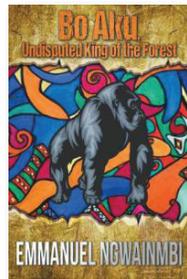
Middle School: Global Awareness



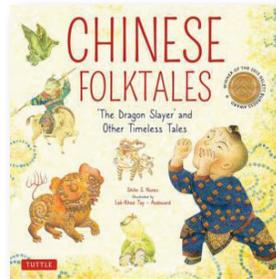
50 Famous Fables and Folk Tales: Collected from Around the World
Tom Baker



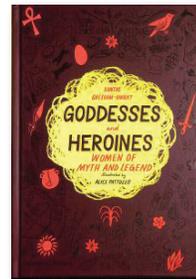
Amazonia: Indigenous Tales from Brazil
Daniel Mundurucu



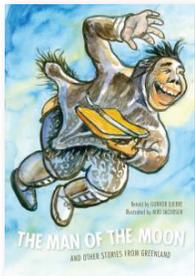
Bo Aku: Undisputed King of the Forest
Emmanuel Ngwainmbi



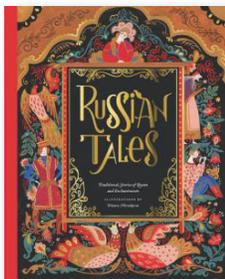
Chinese Folktales: The Dragon Slayer and Other Timeless Tales
Shihō S. Nunes



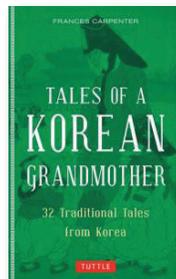
Goddesses and Heroines: Women of Myth and Legend
Xanthe Gresham-Knight



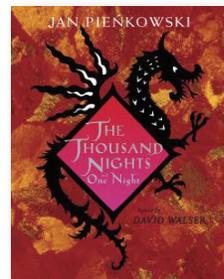
The Man of the Moon and Other Stories from Greenland
Gunvor Bjerre



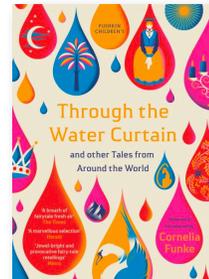
Russian Tales: Traditional Stories of Quests and Enchantments
Dinara Mirtalipova



Tales of a Korean Grandmother: 32 Traditional Tales from Korea
Frances Carpenter



The Thousand Nights and One Night
David Walser



Through the Water Curtain and Other Tales from Around the World
Cornelia Funke

Middle School: Folktales

▶ See full list.



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 **Follett** Destiny Discover®



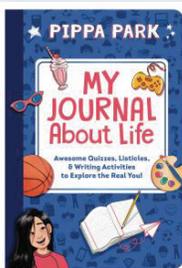
New Titles from Erin Yun



Pippa Park Raises Her Game Erin Yun • Fabled Films Press 2021 • IL 3-6

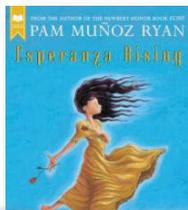
Readers will cheer on Korean American Pippa Park in this wonderful middle school book about identity, friendships, bullying, crushes, and family. In this relatable story, Pippa discovers who she really is and how to stay true to herself on and off the basketball court.

**FREE RESOURCES
AVAILABLE**



My Journal About Life Erin Yun • Fabled Films Press 2021 • IL 3-6

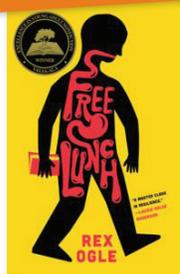
An interactive journal of awesome quizzes, listicles, and writing prompts inspired by Pippa Park that helps tweens celebrate their individuality. The book is packed with over a dozen different writing activities that are inspired by tween obsessions including family, friends, school, and themselves.



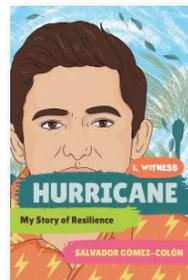
**FREE RESOURCES
AVAILABLE**

Esperanza Rising Pam Muñoz Ryan

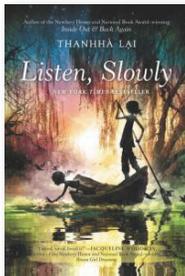
**FREE RESOURCES
AVAILABLE**



Free Lunch Rex Ogle



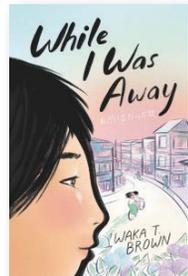
Hurricane: **My Story of Resilience** Salvador Gómez-Colón



Listen, Slowly Thanhà Lạ



On the Horizon Lois Lowry



While I Was Away Waka T. Brown

Middle School: #OwnVoices



▶ See full list.



Carrie Friday is the media specialist at Southwest Middle School in Palm Bay, Florida, and a 2018-2019 Teacher of the Year Finalist for Brevard Public Schools.

A Culture of Literacy: How the 20 Book Challenge Revolutionized Our School

Media Specialist Carrie Friday's 20 Book Challenge is a great way to intentionally read more diverse books, whether your focus is on authors who tell stories from a variety of backgrounds, inclusive characters, or books from a variety of genres.

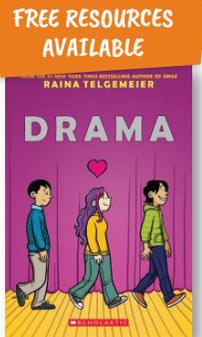
[Watch Video](#)

Download free resources. >>

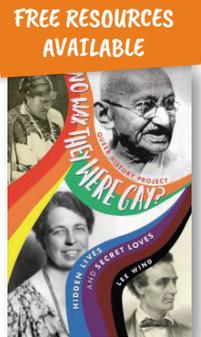




Both Can Be True
Jules Machias



Drama
Raina Telgemeier



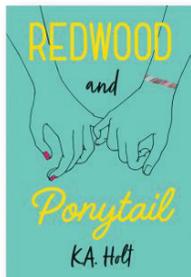
**No Way, They Were Gay?
Hidden Lives and Secret Loves**
Lee Wind



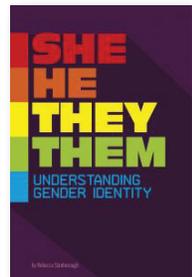
Obie Is Man Enough
Schuyler Bailar



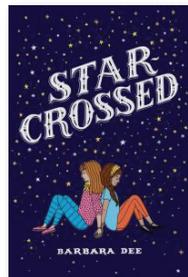
One True Way
Shannon Hitchcock



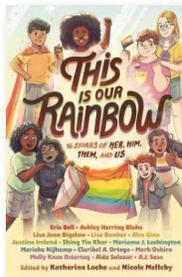
Redwood and Ponytail
K.A. Holt



**She, He, They, Them:
Understanding Gender Identity**
Rebecca Stanborough



Star-Crossed
Barbara Dee



**This Is Our Rainbow: 16 Stories
of Her, Him, Them, and Us**
Katherine Locke and Nicole Melleby



The Whispers
Greg Howard

Middle School: LGBTQ+

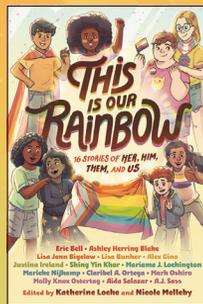
▶ See full list.

NEW LGBTQIA+ BOOKS

THAT HONOR LOVE AND IDENTITY



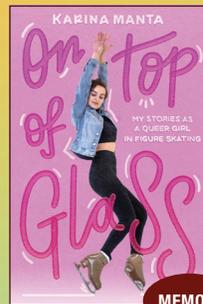
A coming-of-age story about transgender tween Obie, who didn't think being himself would cause such a splash.



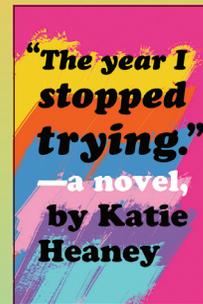
The first LGBTQIA+ anthology for middle-graders, including realistic, fantasy, and sci-fi stories.



A graphic novel about young love and how it can grow into something strong no matter what obstacles get in the way.



An insightful memoir from a figure skating champion, Karina Manta, about her life as a bisexual professional athlete.



A stunning YA novel that sprints full-force into the big questions our teen years beg—and adeptly unravels their web.



Broken by abuse but connected by love, siblings Ezra and Bea must learn to trust themselves before they can find a way back to each other.





Shauntee Burns-Simpson (MLIS) currently serves as the 2020-2022 president of BCALA.



Tamela Chambers currently serves as the public library committee chair of the BCALA Services to Children and Families of African Descent.



Donna N. Gray is a library operations and instructional coordinator for the New York City School Library System.

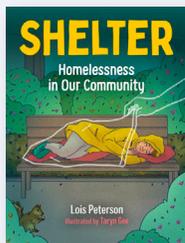
Ensuring Equity and Diversity in School Libraries

Watch our free recorded webinar with experts from the Black Caucus of the American Library Association (BCALA), as they share their *Best of the Best Booklist* for books written and illustrated by Black authors and artists.

Watch Video

Download the book list. >>

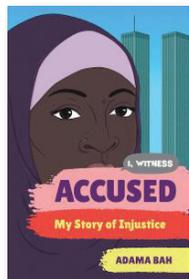




Shelter: Homelessness in Our Community

Lois Peterson • Orca Book Publishers
2021 • IL 5-8

Readers will hear stories from people living on the street, learn about the root causes of homelessness and its effects, and discover some of things happening around the world to ensure everyone has a safe, permanent place to call home. Orca Think introduces us to the issues making headlines in the world today. It encourages us to question, connect, and take action for a better future. With those tools we can all become better citizens.



Accused:
My Story of Injustice
Adama Bah



Burying the Moon
Andrée Poulin



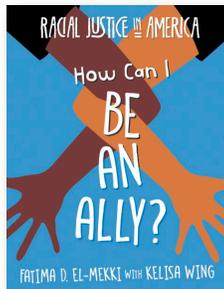
Full Cicada Moon
Marilyn Hilton



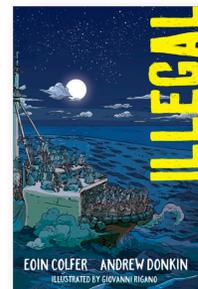
Read Woke Books: Issues in Action Book Set

Elliott Smith • Lerner Publications
2022 • IL 3-6

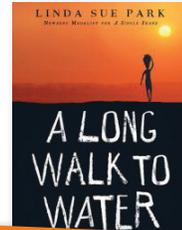
The *Issues in Action* series from *Read Woke™ Books* helps readers Grades 4-8 examine hard topics facing our society – from gun violence to immigration. Learn how problems developed and hear from underrepresented persons involved in these struggles. Reflection questions help readers challenge their perspectives, while an activism toolkit and a *Read Woke* reading list empower readers to make a difference.



How Can I Be An Ally?
(Racial Justice in America)
Fatima D. El-Mekki



Illegal
Eoin Colfer and Andrew Donkin



A Long Walk to Water:
Based on a True Story
Linda Sue Park

**FREE RESOURCES
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Middle School: Social Justice

Book Diversity in the Classroom and Library

Carrie Friday

Take a moment and think about your student population. How many of your students come from diverse backgrounds? How many kiddos speak English as a second language? How many students are homeless or have blended families? How many students are struggling with their identity? How many of your students practice a religion that is less common? How many students have a disability?

Now think about the books on your shelf. Think about the books you spotlight. Do the titles and authors you share reflect the backgrounds of your students and your community?

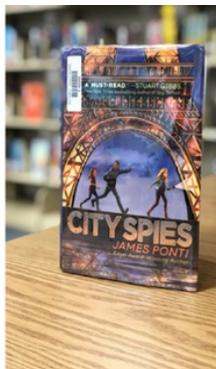
Years ago, one of my favorite teacher friends and I were having a conversation about books and the importance of representation, and she told me that she was twenty-two years old the first time she ever saw someone like herself as a main character in a book. She said that growing up, Black characters were only included as minor characters in the books she had access to.

This really crushed me because the first time I saw myself in a book with a main character I identified with was when I was in second grade. All our students should have the latter experience, not the former.

As a school media specialist of a diverse school, I have really had to step back and evaluate our collection to make sure that it reflects what matters to my students and is representative of our community. This means:

“Now think about the books on your shelf. Think about the books you spotlight. Do the titles and authors you share reflect the backgrounds of your students and your community?”

- Thoughtful placement of books that are displayed
- Thoughtful choices for book-club titles or spotlight books
- Bumping our over-represented groups down a few shelves so that the others can have a turn to shine
- Always having a focus on diversity – not just for a specific month – always



Book Diversity in the Classroom and Library

Carrie Friday

Having a diverse book collection for a school library or classroom library is essential, not just for our students who need to see themselves in the book, but for us to see others – to really see them. To see the struggles and the joy. To walk in their shoes for just a little while so we can become more empathetic and aware. So we can all be better humans.

Sometimes spotlighting books that reflect diversity can be controversial. How do you handle that? What happens when a parent complains? Here are the things I do to make sure that I'm covered but still show my students that they **all** matter:

I check the reviews in [Titlewave](#)® of books I'm purchasing or using to make sure they are age-appropriate and supported. *If you don't have a Titlewave account, you'll definitely want one. It's free and takes two minutes to set up. You get teacher- and librarian-created book lists, professional reviews to help get insight into the title (including if it's inclusive), free educator guides, and reading-levels information – plus you can use [Follett Tags](#)!*

I read them myself. This seems like a given, but many people skip this step. Yes, it's a lot of reading, but it's worth it.

If it's a class-wide read, I always have a backup book that students can read if their parents are uncomfortable, but I suggest that the parents read the book first.

I have age-appropriate options for book clubs that address the same issues so that students and families have a choice.

I invite the community to join us for our book clubs, which may seem like asking for trouble, but it has been a beautiful thing.

You may experience some pushback from parents. But if you do, I'd suggest following your school or district challenge procedures and moving forward. Encourage parents to read the book in its entirety and then chat again. Be respectful of their wishes. Be a voice for the people who need you.

This isn't just a quick change. This change takes work. It takes constant evaluation of your books and your curriculum. It means moving things around. It means you stop teaching the same book you've taught for 20 years so another group can shine. It means not just having books that show the struggle but books that show the joy and happiness of others. It means putting yourself aside to make sure every kid is seen and valued.

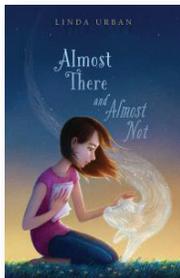
You want a beautiful school community where students respect each other and learn to be open-minded? This is how it is done.



CARRIE FRIDAY
Media Specialist
Southwest
Middle School
Palm Bay, Florida

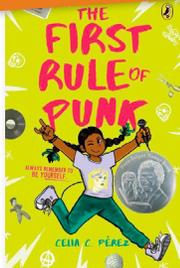
Carrie Friday is the media specialist at Southwest Middle School in Palm Bay, Florida, and a 2018-2019 Teacher of the Year Finalist for Brevard Public Schools. She is one of the cofounders of the #SWMS20BookChallenge and a total YA author fangirl. She is a chapter leader of her school's Project Lit Community chapter, a committee member for the Florida SSYRA 6-8 selection committee, and on the Florida Association for Media in Education (FAME) nominations committee. You can connect with her through email at friday.carrie@brevardschools.org or on Twitter. You can also follow along with her adventures in the Media Center at [alwaysfridaylibrary.blogspot.com](https://www.alwaysfridaylibrary.blogspot.com).





**Almost There
and Almost Not**
Linda Urban

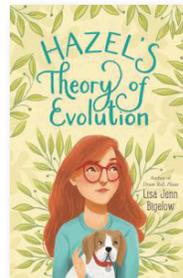
FREE RESOURCES
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The First Rule of Punk
Celia C. Pérez



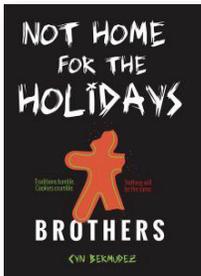
**Forever, or a
Long, Long Time**
Caela Carter



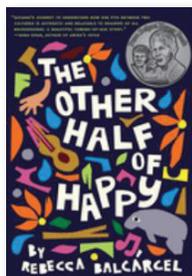
Hazel's Theory of Evolution
Lisa Jenn Bigelow



**The Most Important Thing:
Stories About Sons, Fathers,
& Grandfathers**
Avi



**Not Home for the Holidays
(Brothers)**
Cyn Bermudez

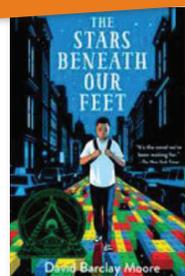


The Other Half of Happy
Rebecca Balcárcel

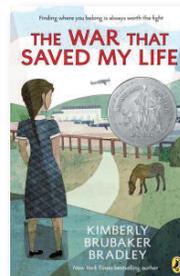


Parked
Danielle Svetcov

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The Stars Beneath Our Feet
David Barclay Moore



The War That Saved My Life
Kimberly Brubaker Bradley

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Resources



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Use the book lists, lessons and activities, websites, articles and videos to help in discussions with peers and students.



Websites & Articles

83 Pins



Lessons & Activities

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Check out our Pinterest board with educational resources for teaching diversity and inclusion. We have book lists, lessons, and activities, and we're always adding more.



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Born Just Right
Jordan Reeves
and Jen Lee Reeves



Can You See Me?
Libby Scott and
Rebecca Westcott



Dog Driven
Terry Lynn Johnson

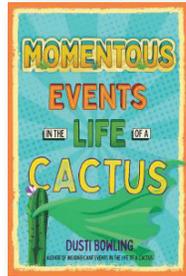
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AVAILABLE



Every Shiny Thing
Cordelia Jensen
and Laurie Morrison



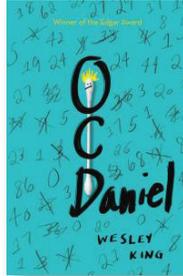
**Gabe & Izzy: Standing
Up for America's Bullied**
Gabrielle Ford



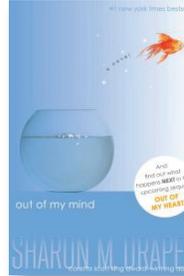
**Momentous Events
in the Life of a Cactus**
Dusti Bowling



Muffled
Jennifer Gennari



OCDaniel
Wesley King



Out of My Mind
Sharon M. Draper



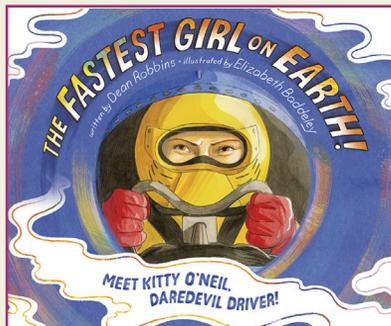
FREE RESOURCES
AVAILABLE

Wonderstruck
Brian Selznick

Middle School: Diversability

DIVERSABILITY

EMPOWERING BOOKS TO CELEBRATE ALL ABILITIES



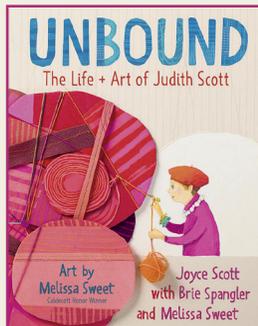
★ “This thrilling biography provides excellent representation of the deaf community as well as of a woman in sports.”

—*School Library Journal*, starred review



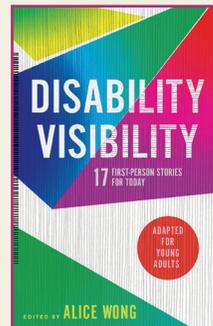
“A heartfelt story about personal courage that shows it is never too late to express kindness and empathy.”

—*Kirkus Reviews*

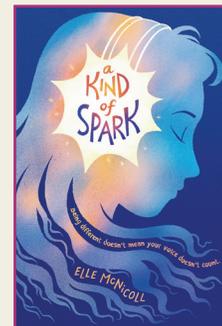


★ “A personal story of love, nurture, and individual gifts.”

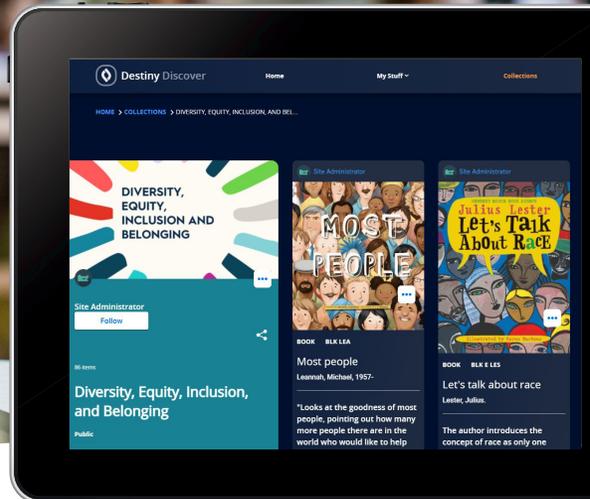
—*Publishers Weekly*, starred review



Seventeen eye-opening essays that offer perspectives on the history, culture, and diverse identities of the diversability community.



A stirring debut that draws parallels between the ignorance surrounding autism and the fear that fueled European witch trials.



Making Collaboration Possible Anywhere

When planning how to provide your students with the stories and voices of many cultures, abilities, and identities, Collections by Destiny® and Classroom Ready Collections allow you to organize and access your educational materials and resources by topic. Create a space that is dedicated to the topics you want to access frequently.

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RUSSIAN



BCĚ O ФАИТА-ЗĚПАХ
(All About the Dreamers)
N. Nosov

SPANISH



Cartas de Cuba
(Letters from Cuba)
Ruth Behar

SPANISH



Como pez en el Árbol
(Fish in a Tree)
Lynda Mullaly Hunt

FRENCH



Cyrus 1: l'encyclopédie
qui raconte (Cyrus, Book 1)
Christiane Duchesne
and Carmen Marois

SPANISH

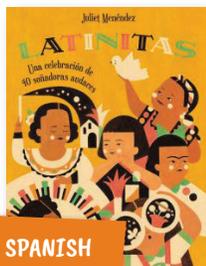


El épico fracaso de
Arturo Zamora (The Epic
Fail of Arturo Zamora)
Pablo Cartaya



SPANISH

Había una vez: Mexicanas
que hicieron historia
(Once Upon a Time: Mexican
Women Who Made History)
Pedro J. Fernández



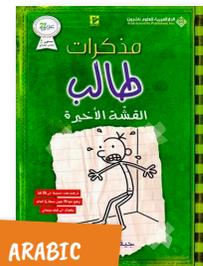
SPANISH

Latinitas: Una celebración
de 40 soñadoras audaces
(Latinitas: Celebrating
40 Big Dreamers)
Juliet Menéndez



GERMAN

Level 4 - Die Stadt der Kinder
(Level 4 - The City of Children)
Andreas Schlüter



ARABIC

al-Qashshah al-akhirah
(Diary of a Wimpy Kid, Book 3)
Jeff Kinney

POLISH



Nela: I Wyprawa
Do Serca Dżungli
(Nela and the Trip to the
Heart of the Jungle)
Mała Reporterka Nela

Middle School: Native Languages



▶ See full list.

FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAYS

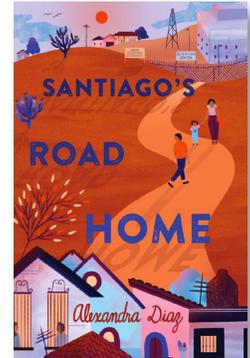


Alexandra Diaz

Santiago's Road Home is the heart-wrenching yet hopeful story of a young boy who flees abuse and poverty in Mexico only to get detained by ICE at the United States border. Themes include equality, immigration, social justice, and courage. Watch award-winning author Alexandra Diaz read the first chapter.

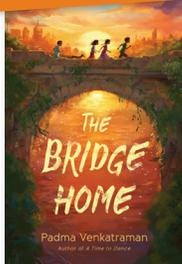
[Watch Video \(English\)](#)

[Watch Video \(Spanish\)](#)



[Need First Chapter Friday tips? Read our blog. >>](#)

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The Bridge Home
Padma Venkatraman

FREE RESOURCES
AVAILABLE



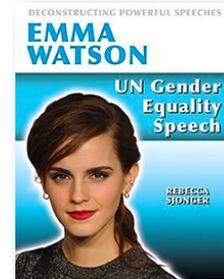
Paper Things
Jennifer Richard Jacobson



**Cast Away:
Poems for Our Time**
Naomi Shihab Nye

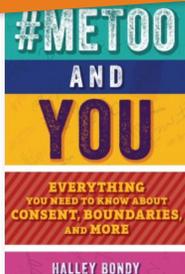


Crossing the Stream
Elizabeth-Irene Baitie

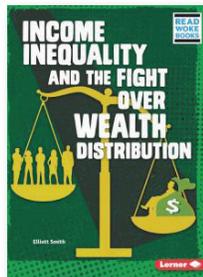


**Emma Watson:
UN Gender Equality Speech**
Rebecca Sjonger

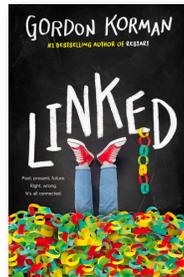
FREE RESOURCES
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**#MeToo and You:
Everything You Need to Know About Consent, Boundaries, and More**
Halley Bondy

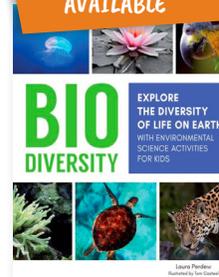


**Income Inequality and the
Fight Over Wealth Distribution**
Elliott Smith

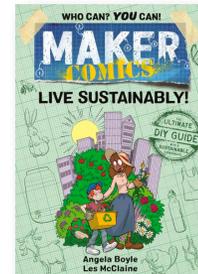


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Biodiversity
Laura Perdue



**Maker Comics:
Live Sustainably!**
Angela Boyle

Middle School: United Nations Sustainability

Going Beyond Diverse Collections

Jillian Heise and Julia E. Torres

It is a moral imperative of our work with children that we ensure that all children can be affirmed and seen in the books that we read to them. These are what Dr. Rudine Sims Bishop calls “mirrors.”

“The decisions we make about which texts to include in our classroom communities must serve a purpose of supporting all students and all of our society.”

It is also a moral imperative of the work we do with children to ensure that they are able to see others who are not like themselves and understand their place within the larger global society. This is what Dr. Rudine Sims Bishop calls “windows.”

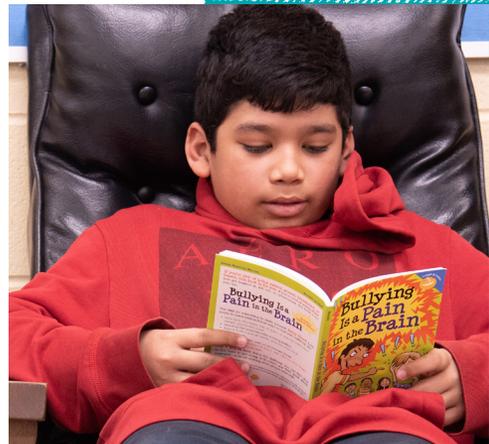
Curating inclusive collections and making decisions on what books to include and exclude

must take into consideration these two moral imperatives of our work as educators. It also must be recognized as a keystone of our obligation as educators to first do no harm. The decisions we make about which texts to include in our classroom communities must serve a purpose of supporting *all* students and *all* of our society.

Children deserve to be seen and recognized for their full humanity, and they deserve to have their lived experiences affirmed on the pages of the books that we purchase, promote, highlight, recommend, read aloud, put into curriculum, and share with them. This is the beauty and honor, and obligation, of the work that we do with young people. Using books to build community also strengthens our relationships with one another, enables students to empathize, and provides them with the tools they will need to thrive in a rapidly changing and expanding world.

One of the first steps to curating inclusive collections is to ensure that we move beyond the mindset that says having a [diverse book collection](#) is

enough. In order to offer stories with a wide range of linguistic, cultural, and ethnic representation to students, educators must learn about what makes some texts authentic representations of cultures outside their own.



Continued...

Going Beyond Diverse Collections

Jillian Heise and Julia E. Torres

It is still true that many books are published that misrepresent historically marginalized or erased identities and lived realities, which can do harm, reversing the goal of building an inclusive collection. Hence the importance of planning and purchasing with an antibiased and actively inclusive mindset to ensure that we actively promote books that affirm all identities. The best way to do this is to become knowledgeable about authors, publishers, and book distributors that specialize in promoting [#OwnVoices](#) stories.

An important part of this work requires that all educators continually work to develop a critical consciousness to ensure we are providing not just representation, but representation that is free of problematic elements that perpetuate negative stereotypes. We must continuously and actively work to become aware of erasure and marginalization in young people's literature, and of the harm that it causes both to those whose stories are erased and those who see their own lived realities and identities overrepresented, continuously centered, or glorified.

Some of our go-to resources to support us in these efforts:

- Lee and Low – [Classroom Library Questionnaire](#)
- Teaching for Change – [Ten Quick Ways to Analyze Childrens Books for Sexism and Racism](#)
- Teaching Tolerance – [Reading Diversity Lite Tool](#)
- Social Justice Books – [Guide for Selecting Anti-Bias Children's Books](#)
- We Are Kid Lit Collective – [Summer Reading Lists](#)
- Titlewave® – [Classroom Diversity Book Lists](#)

In [our webinar](#), we talked about approaching educational communities by asking questions, building connections, and being intentional in our text selections. We hope these resources, and what we shared in the webinar, will support your efforts to provide a welcoming and affirming space for all of your students in your classroom and school communities.

“An important part of this work requires that all educators continually work to develop a critical consciousness to ensure that we are providing not just representation, but representation that is free of problematic elements that perpetuate negative stereotypes.”

There is no one way to approach the work of curating inclusive collections, but we hope to provide you with some steps that will make the work more approachable in your community.

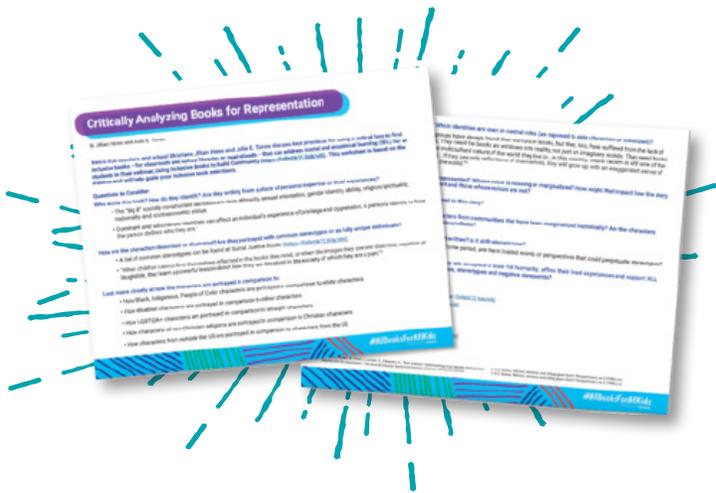
Watch our free [webinar](#), then download the free [guide](#) on how to critically analyze books for representation.



Continued...

Going Beyond Diverse Collections

Jillian Heise and Julia E. Torres



“Perhaps one of the most important things to remember is that educators should work together with students and parents to have conversations about topics like censorship and erasure so that we can all grow as we strive to create a more healing and inclusive approach to the educational experience.”



JULIA E. TORRES
 ELA Teacher
 and Grades 6-12
 Librarian
 Denver Public
 Schools

Julia E. Torres is a veteran language arts teacher and librarian within the Far Northeast Region of Denver Public Schools. As a teacher/activist committed to education as a practice of freedom, her work is grounded in the work of empowering students to use literacy to fuel resistance and positive social transformation. In cooperation with The Educator Collaborative, Julia facilitates workshops and professional conversations about antibias/antiracist education, social justice, and culturally sustaining pedagogies in language arts, as well as digital literacy and librarianship. Her work has been featured in several publications, including NCTE's *The Council Chronicle*, NPR, Al Jazeera's *The Stream*, PBS Education, KQED *MindShift*, *The New York Times* The Learning Network, the *Chicago Tribune*, ASCD's Education Update, *School Library Journal*, and many more.



JILLIAN HEISE
 Grades K-5
 Library Media
 Teacher

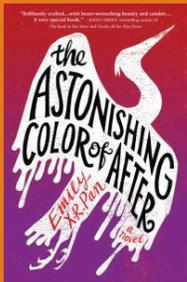
Jillian Heise, NBCT & MLIS, is currently a Grades K-5 library media teacher in southeastern Wisconsin. She previously taught English Language Arts to Grades 7-8 in the Milwaukee area for 11 years. Jillian is the founder of #ClassroomBookADay, Heise Reads & Recommends, and dedicated to supporting all student identities and lived experiences through access to inclusive literature. She brings her literacy expertise and knowledge of kid lit to her role as chair of the WSRA Children's Literature Committee.



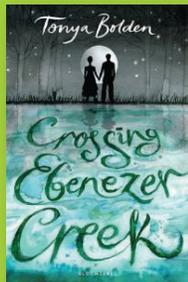
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The Astonishing Color of After: A Novel
Emily X.R. Pan

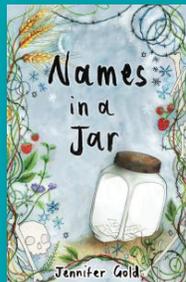


Crossing Ebenezer Creek
Tonya Bolden

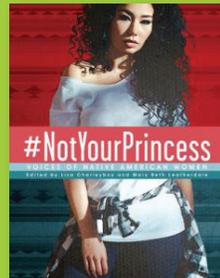
LISTEN TO FIRST CHAPTER
▶ READ BY AUTHOR



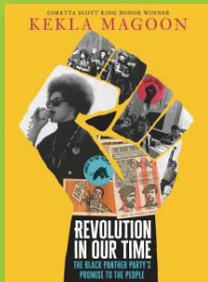
Heiress Apparently
Diana Ma



Names in a Jar
Jennifer Gold



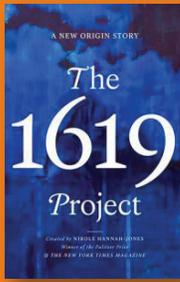
#NotYourPrincess: Voices of Native American Women
Lisa Charleyboy



Revolution in Our Time: The Black Panther Party's Promise to the People
Kekla Magoon

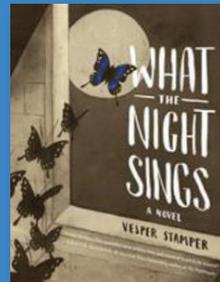


Sanctuary
Paola Mendoza and Abby Sher



The 1619 Project: A New Origin Story
Nikole Hannah-Jones • One World 2021 • IL AD

The *New York Times Magazine's* award-winning *1619 Project* issue reframed our understanding of American history by placing slavery and its continuing legacy at the center of our national narrative. This book expands on that work, weaving together essays, poems, and works of fiction that explore the legacy of slavery in present-day America and illuminate key moments of oppression, struggle, and resistance. They show how the inheritance of 1619 reaches into every part of contemporary American society.



What the Night Sings: A Novel
Vesper Stamper

FREE RESOURCES
AVAILABLE

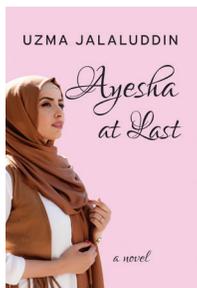
High School: Cultures

▶ See full list.

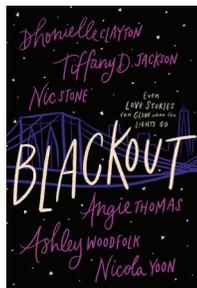


TURN READING ANGST INTO WIDE-EYED CURIOSITY

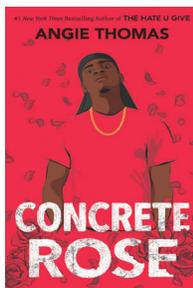
Choice can be a powerful motivator for older students. Letting them self-select what they read in the format they prefer is part of that. Large print is a format proven to build strong literacy skills. Stock your shelves with today's top titles in a format that is easier to read.



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Uzma Jalaluddin
9781432870812



Blackout
Dhonielle Clayton, et. al
9781432888176



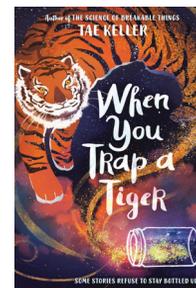
Concrete Rose
Angie Thomas
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One of the Good Ones
Maika Moulite & Maritza Moulite
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Tae Keller
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Read to Discuss; Read as Resistance

Julia E. Torres

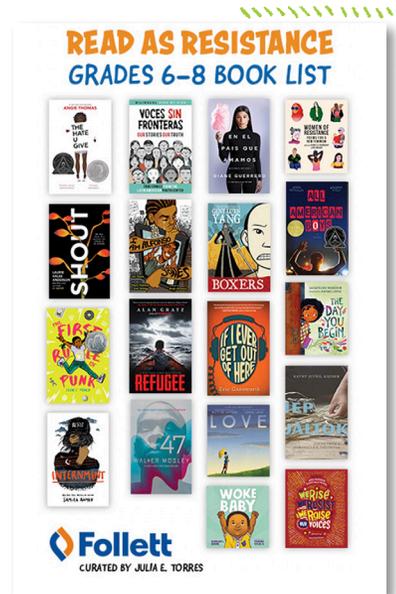
Stories of resistance remain embedded in the collective consciousness of all those who have experienced the aftermath of colonization. This includes most civilizations on our planet. The United States has called itself a “great melting pot” or “salad bowl” of cultures and ethnicities. It is worth noting that we carry within us both subconscious memories of the colonization of this land and the experiences of pre-existing people. We also carry the experiences embedded within the groups of those who came here – by choice or through bondage.

The collection of books shown below weaves together past and present and takes a look at a

potential future where children and adults read, discuss, and write about literature that decolonizes notions of what we think is real in the active pursuit of a more inclusive future. In Matt de la Peña’s *Love*, we see how redefining love is a form of resistance. Samira Ahmed’s *Internment* confronts Islamophobia in the present day by imagining an alternative reality. Jason Reynolds, Brendan Kiely, and Angie Thomas place young people at the center of collective action when they explore what it really means to resist the status quo on behalf of those you love in *All American Boys* and *The Hate U Give*.

What can we gain by including stories of resistance within our classroom and central libraries? We know that in order to see forward progress with regard to so many of society’s structures that function as means of oppression, we have to support students in the development of a critical consciousness. In order to evaluate and critique different forms of oppression, we have to equip them with the tools to read and engage

“Language arts teachers and librarians can work together to support students in their development as change agents by including titles representative of the entire human experience, not just the parts that are easy or familiar with which to engage.”



Read to Discuss; Read as Resistance

Julia E. Torres

with texts that depict the realities of oppressed people in a way that is as accurate as possible. Furthermore, we have to make sure our students have the language to encounter the text and process their own responses to these encounters in ways that result in personal and communal growth. Language arts teachers and librarians can work together to support students in their development as change agents by including titles representative of the entire human experience, not just the parts that are easy or familiar with which to engage.

So, how do we build bridges between curiosity and empathy in order to make space for activism? Transformational resistance is a method used to empower students to change the world around them for good. It involves learning to evaluate systemic oppression, identify root causes, and a process of becoming empowered to create change for the betterment of all of society.

These are just a few of the titles curated to propel classrooms and communities forward into a future where we learn together to face root causes of deep pain and celebrate moments of triumphant courage together, as a truly inclusive society. Whether these texts are read as a whole class or part of small-group discussions, among these pages, there will be conversations started that carry far beyond the individuals who read them.

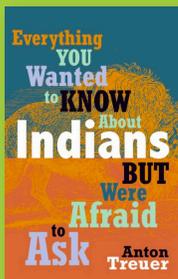
Read to discuss, read as resistance, and come together to re-envision our collective past, present, and future.

[Shop the book list now.](#) Sign up for a free [Titlewave®](#) account.

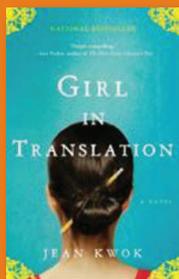


JULIA E. TORRES
 ELA Teacher
 and Grades 6-12
 Librarian
 Denver Public
 Schools

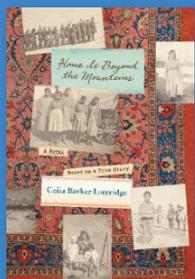
Julia is a veteran language arts educator. Currently, she serves as a librarian for five schools in Denver. As a teacher/activist committed to education as a practice of freedom, her work is grounded in empowering students to use literacy as fuel for resistance and positive social transformation. Ms. Torres facilitates workshops and professional conversations about antibias/antiracist education, social justice, and culturally sustaining pedagogies. She serves on several local and national boards and committees promoting educational equity and progressivism, and is a cofounder of [disrupttexts.org](#). You can find her on [The Educator Collaborative](#).



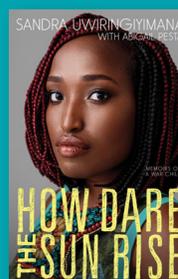
Everything You Wanted to Know About Indians but Were Afraid to Ask
Anton Treuer



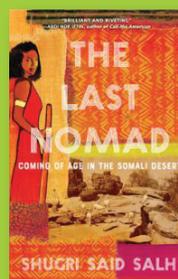
Girl in Translation: A Novel
Jean Kwok



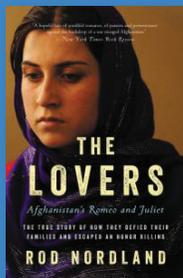
Home Is Beyond the Mountains
Celia Barker Lottridge



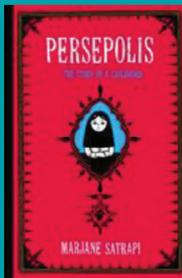
How Dare the Sun Rise:
Memoirs of a War Child
Sandra Uwiringiyimana



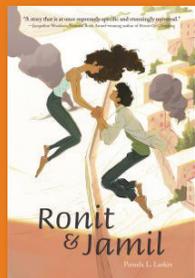
The Last Nomad:
Coming of Age in the
Somali Desert
Shugri Said Salh



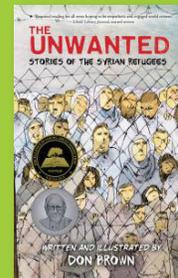
The Lovers: Afghanistan's
Romeo & Juliet
Rod Nordland



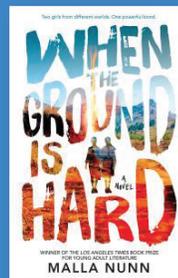
Persepolis: The Story
of a Childhood
Marjane Satrapi



Ronit & Jamil
Pamela L. Laskin



The Unwanted: Stories of
the Syrian Refugees
Don Brown



When the Ground Is Hard
Malla Nunn

High School: Global Awareness



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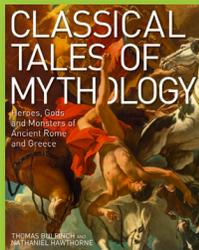
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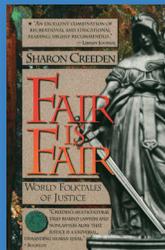




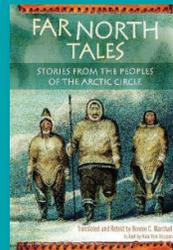
Campfire Stories: Tales from America's National Parks
Dave and Ilyssa Kyu



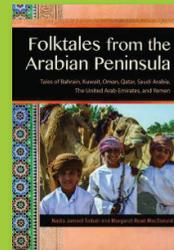
Classical Tales of Mythology: Heroes, Gods and Monsters of Ancient Rome and Greece
Thomas Bulfinch and Nathaniel Hawthorne



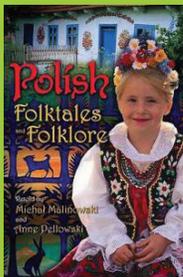
Fair Is Fair: World Folktales of Justice
Sharon Creeden



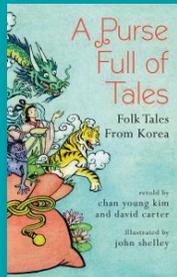
Far North Tales: Stories from the Peoples of the Arctic Circle
Bonnie C. Marshall



Folktales from the Arabian Peninsula
Nadia Jameel Taibah and Margaret Read MacDonald



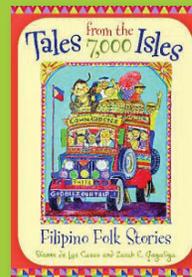
Polish Folktales and Folklore
Michal Malinowski and Anne Pellowski



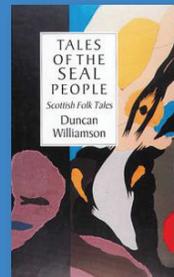
A Purse Full of Tales: Folk Tales from Korea
Chan Young Kim and David Carter



The Singing Bones
Shaun Tan



Tales from the 7,000 Isles: Filipino Folk Stories
Dianne de Las Casas and Sarah C. Gagatiga

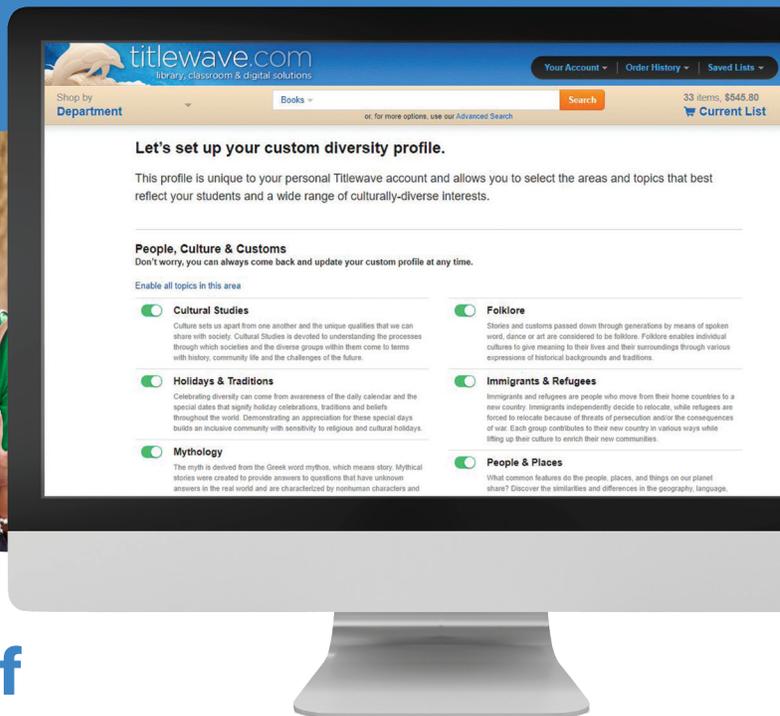


Tales of the Seal People: Scottish Folk Tales
Duncan Williamson

High School: Folktales



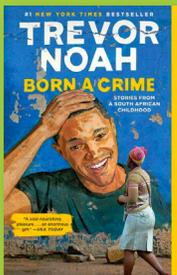
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Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood
Trevor Noah



Cemetery Boys
Aiden Thomas



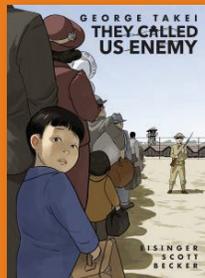
Chlorine Sky
Mahogany L. Browne



Eliza and Her Monsters
Francesca Zappia



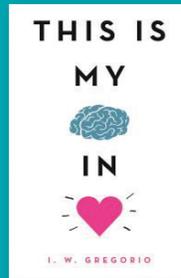
Patron Saints of Nothing
Randy Ribay



They Called Us Enemy
George Takei, Justin Eisinger, Steven Scott and Harmony Becker
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Winner of the American Book Award, Eisner Award, Asian/Pacific American Award for Young Adult Literature, and many more. In a stunning graphic memoir, actor/author/activist George Takei revisits his haunting childhood in American concentration camps, as one of 120,000 Japanese Americans imprisoned by the US government during World War II. Experience the forces that shaped an American icon – and America itself – in this gripping tale of courage, country, loyalty, and love.



Sasha Masha
Agnes Borinsky



This Is My Brain in Love
I.W. Gregorio



When Dimple Met Rishi
Sandhya Menon

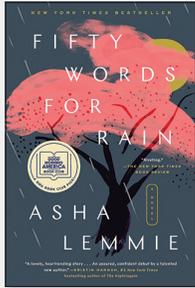
High School: #OwnVoices



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Diverse Lives, Diverse Writers, Diverse Books

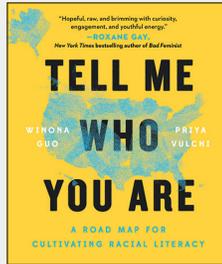
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Fifty Words For Rain A Novel

ASHA LEMMIE

Japan, 1948. Eight-year-old Noriko is the child of a Japanese aristocrat and her African American GI lover. Her grandparents conceal her at their estate, where she forms a bond with her half-brother.



Tell Me Who You Are A Road Map for Cultivating Racial Literacy

WINONA GUO and
PRIYA VULCHI

An exploration of race in America as the authors recount their experiences talking to people from all walks of life on a cross-country tour of America.



Transcendent Kingdom A Novel

YAA GYASI

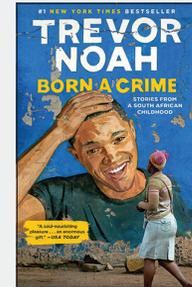
Gifty studies neuroscience at Stanford while dealing with a suicidal mother and the loss of her brother. She finds herself torn between science and faith.



Sword Stone Table Old Legends, New Voices

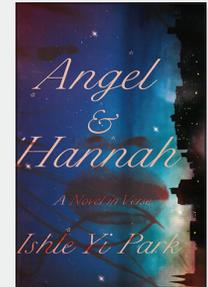
Edited by SWAPNA KRISHNA and JENN NORTHINGTON

An all star anthology of stories retelling the vast lore surrounding the Knights of the Round Table from a gender-bent, race-bent, LGBTQIA+ inclusive perspective.



Born A Crime Stories from a South African Childhood

The compelling, inspiring, and comically sublime story of one man's coming-of-age, set during the twilight of apartheid and the tumultuous days of freedom that followed



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Jason Reynolds is an award-winning and #1 *New York Times* best-selling author.



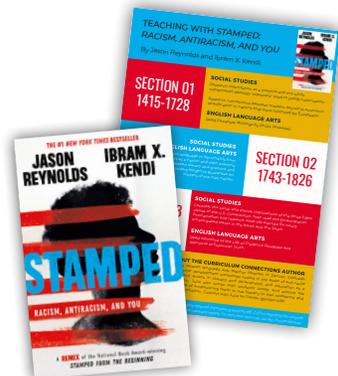
Julia E. Torres is a veteran teacher and librarian, as well as an activist committed to education as a practice of freedom.

The Language of Liberation: Books as Bridges

In this special Author Takeover, participants will explore inclusive literature as a tool for transformation and liberation.

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[Download the free educator guide for *Stamped* by Julia E. Torres. >>](#)





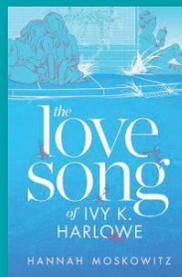
Be Dazzled
Ryan La Sala



Here's to Us
Becky Albertalli
and Adam Silvera



If This Gets Out: A Novel
Sophie Gonzales
and Cale Dietrich



**The Love Song
of Ivy K. Harlowe**
Hannah Moskowitz



**October Mourning: A Song
for Matthew Shepard**
Lesléa Newman



Loveless
Alice Oseman

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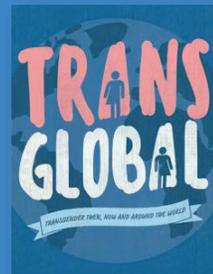
Pet
Akwaeke Emezi



Ruinsong
Julia Ember



Tonight We Rule the World
Zack Smedley



**Trans Global:
Transgender Then, Now and
Around the World**
Honor Head

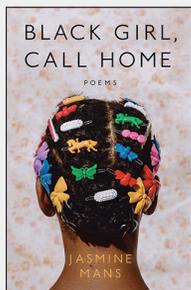
High School: LGBTQ+



▶ See full list.

LGBTQ+ Stories from Around the World

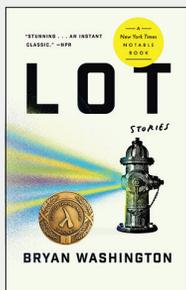
GREAT BOOKS from PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE



Black Girl, Call Home

JASMINE MANS

A love letter to the wandering Black girl and a vital companion to any woman on a journey to find truth, belonging, and healing.

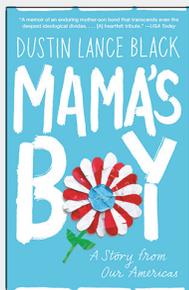


Lot

Stories

BRYAN WASHINGTON

In Houston, the son of a black mother and a Latino father is coming of age. He's working at his family's restaurant, weathering his brother's blows, and discovering he likes boys.



Mama's Boy

A Story from Our Americas
DUSTIN LANCE BLACK

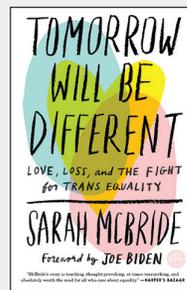
An Oscar-winning screenwriter and LGBTQ activist relates his origins of being raised by a single mother in a conservative Mormon household in Texas.



My Brother's Husband, Vols 1 & 2

GENGOROH TAGAME;
Translated by Anne Ishii

The Eisner-award winning manga about the largely still-closeted Japanese gay culture and how the next generation can change the prejudices against it.



Tomorrow Will Be Different

Love, Loss, and the Fight for Trans Equality

SARAH MCBRIDE;
Foreword by President Joe Biden

A powerful memoir from the activist elected as the first openly transgender state senator in U.S. history.



The Heart's Invisible Furies

A Novel

JOHN BOYNE

Adoptee Cyril Avery is haunted by not knowing where he comes from. He will spend a lifetime struggling to discover an identity, a home, and much more.



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FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAYS

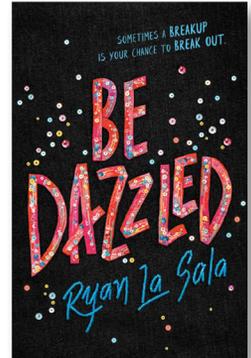


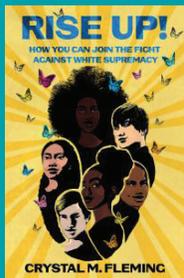
Ryan La Sala

Project Runway goes to Comic Con in this epic queer love story about creativity, passion, and finding the courage to be your most authentic self. Watch author Ryan La Sala read the first chapter of *Be Dazzled*, a book that celebrates diversity, inclusion, and authenticity.

[Watch Video](#)

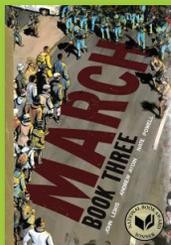
[Need First Chapter Friday tips? Read our blog. >>](#)





Rise Up! How You Can Join the Fight Against White Supremacy
Crystal M. Fleming • Henry Holt and Co. 2020 • IL 5-8

Perfect for fans of *Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and you: A Remix of the National Book Award-Winning Stamped from the Beginning*, this eye-opening nonfiction book for young people explores the roots of racism and its legacy in the modern day, all while empowering readers with actionable ways they can help foster equality.



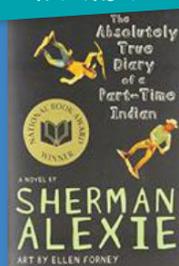
March Trilogy

John Lewis, Andrew Aydin, and Nate Powell
Top Shelf Productions • 2013-2016 • IL YA

This graphic novel trilogy is a firsthand account of Congressman John Lewis's lifelong struggle for civil and human rights. Among the praise this trilogy has received:

- #1 *New York Times* and *Washington Post* best-seller
- National Book Award for Young People's Literature
- ALA's Printz Award, Coretta Scott King Award, Sibert Medal, and YALSA Nonfiction Award
- Will Eisner Award

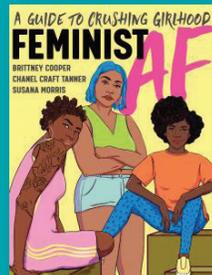
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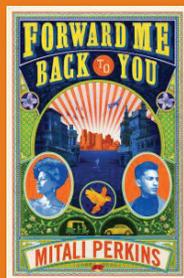
The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian
Sherman Alexie



Being Toffee
Sarah Crossan

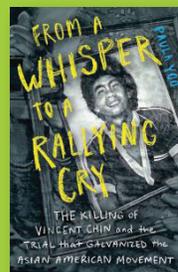


Feminist AF: A Guide to Crushing Girlhood
Brittney Cooper et al.

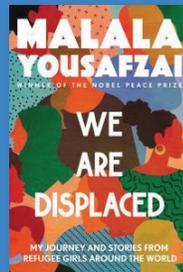


Forward Me Back to You
Mitali Perkins

FREE RESOURCES
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From a Whisper to a Rallying Cry
Paula Yoo



We Are Displaced
Malala Yousafzai

High School: Social Justice

▶ See full list.



Hear Our Voices

from PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE



Ceremony

LESLIE MARMON SILKO

The great Native American Novel of a battered veteran returning home from World War II to heal his mind and spirit.

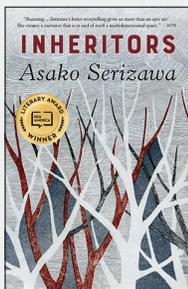


The Joy Luck Club

A Novel

AMY TAN

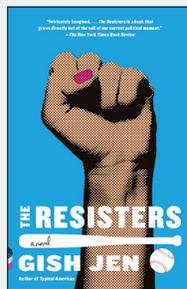
The beloved classic about four mothers, four daughters, four families whose histories shift with the four winds depending on who's "saying" the stories.



Inheritors

ASAKO SERIZAWA

A kaleidoscopic portrait of five generations of a Japanese family scattered across Asia and the United States by World War II.

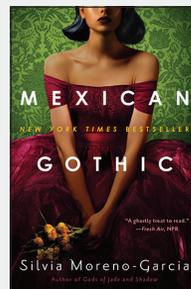


The Resisters

A Novel

GISH JEN

In the not too distant future, a daughter plays baseball in the Olympics as her mother challenges their apartheid-like society in the court.



Mexican Gothic

SILVIA MORENO-GARCIA

Noemi travels to a distant house in the Mexican countryside to help her finds herself caught in a supernatural mystery.



Sabrina & Corina

Stories

KALI FAJARDO-ANSTINE

Latinas of Indigenous descent living in the American West take center stage in this story collection—a meditation on friendship, family, and the truths of our homelands.



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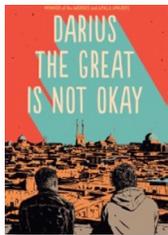
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Promote Equity in Your Classroom or Library

Follett admires the teachers and librarians who are at the forefront of infusing social justice and equality into their teaching. To ensure you have what you need to support your students and make sure they feel affirmed and included, we've partnered with Penguin Young Readers Group to offer digital access to culturally responsive titles and educator guides.* You will find our essential reading list and free downloadable resources below.

Watch our virtual panel discussion featuring four of these popular authors: [Speaking Up & Speaking Out: Using Your Voice to Demand Justice](#).



Darius the Great Is Not Okay (Darius the Great, Book 1)
by Adib Khorram

Curriculum Tie-Ins: Family History, Biracial Identity, Coming of Age, Social and Emotional Learning, Mental Health

Darius Kellner speaks better Klingon than Farsi, and he knows more about Hobbit social cues than Persian ones. He's about to take his first-ever trip to Iran, and it's pretty overwhelming – especially when he's also dealing with clinical depression, a disapproving dad, and a chronically anemic social life. In Iran, he gets to know his ailing but

still formidable grandfather, his loving grandmother, and the rest of his mom's family for the first time. And he meets Sohrab, the boy next door who changes everything.

[Download your free eBook for curriculum consideration.](#)

[Download your discussion guide.](#)

[Watch Adib Khorram's Author Takeover.](#)



Dig.
by A.S. King

Curriculum Tie-Ins: White Privilege, Racism, Class and Gender, Coming of Age, Social and Emotional Learning, Mental Health

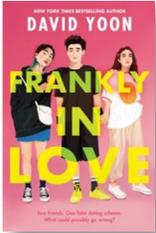
Five estranged cousins are lost in a maze of their family's tangled secrets. Their grandparents, former potato farmers Gottfried and Marla Hemmings, managed to trade digging spuds for developing subdivisions, and now they sit atop a million-dollar bank account – wealth they've refused to pass on to their adult children or their five teenage grandchildren.

"Because we want them to thrive," Marla always says. But for the Hemmings cousins, "thriving" feels a lot like slowly dying of a poison they started taking the moment they were born. As the rot beneath the surface of the Hemmings' white suburban respectability destroys the family from within, the cousins find their ways back to one another, just in time to uncover the terrible cost of maintaining the family name.

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[Download your educator guide.](#)

Promote Equity in Your Classroom and Library



Frankly in Love

by David Yoon

Curriculum Tie-Ins: Racism, Class and Gender, Coming of Age, Social and Emotional Learning, Parental Expectations

Frank Li has two names. There's Frank Li, his American name. Then there's Sung-Min Li, his Korean name. No one

uses his Korean name, not even his parents. Frank was born and raised in Southern California and barely speaks any Korean. Even so, his parents still expect him to end up with a nice Korean girl. As Frank falls in love with the girl of his dreams, who is white, he's forced to confront the fact that while his parents sacrificed everything to raise him in the land of opportunity, their traditional expectations don't leave a lot of room for him to be a regular American teen. Just when Frank thinks he's found the solution to all his problems, life throws him a curveball, and he's left wondering whether he ever really knew anything about love or himself.

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[Download educator guide.](#)
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Patron Saints of Nothing

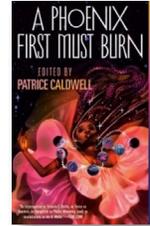
by Randy Ribay

Curriculum Tie-Ins: Family History, Biracial Identity, Coming of Age, Drug Addiction, Toxic Masculinity

Jay Reguero plans to spend the last semester of his senior year playing video games before heading to the University of

Michigan in the fall. But when he discovers that his Filipino cousin Jun was murdered as part of President Duterte's war on drugs, and no one in the family wants to talk about what happened, Jay travels to the Philippines to find out the real story. Hoping to uncover more about Jun and the events that led to his death, Jay is forced to reckon with the many sides of his cousin before he can face the whole horrible truth and the part he played in it.

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A Phoenix First Must Burn: Sixteen Stories of Black Girl Magic, Resistance, and Hope

Edited by Patrice Caldwell

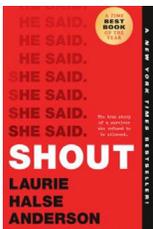
Curriculum Tie-Ins: Racism, Class and Gender, Coming of Age, Social and Emotional Learning, Mental Health

A Phoenix First Must Burn will take you on a journey

from folktales retold to futuristic societies and everything in between. Filled with stories of love and betrayal, strength and resistance, this collection contains an array of complex and true-to-life characters in which you cannot help but see yourself reflected. This book features sixteen tales by best-selling and award-winning authors that explore the Black experience through fantasy, science fiction, and magic.

[Download FREE eBook for curriculum consideration.](#)
[Download discussion guide.](#)
[Watch author video.](#)

Promote Equity in Your Classroom and Library



Shout

by Laurie Halse Anderson

Curriculum Tie-Ins: Racism, Class and Gender, Consent, Poetry, Social and Emotional Learning, Mental Health

Best-selling author Laurie Halse Anderson is known for the unflinching way she writes about and advocates

for survivors of sexual assault. Now, inspired by her fans and enraged by how little in our culture has changed since her groundbreaking novel *Speak* was first published twenty years ago, she has written a poetry memoir that is as vulnerable as it is rallying, as timely as it is timeless. In free verse, Anderson shares reflections, rants, and calls to action woven between deeply personal stories from her life that she's never written about before. Searing and soul-searching, this important memoir is a denouncement of society's failures and a love letter to all the people with the courage to say #MeToo and #TimesUp, whether aloud, online, or only in their own hearts.

[Download FREE eBook for curriculum consideration.](#)
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[Watch Laurie Halse Anderson's Author Takeover.](#)

Change Begins with You

As you strive to promote equity in your classroom or library, consider adding some or all of the featured titles to your curriculum. While resources for building a diverse and inclusive library can be scarce, Follett offers essential titles and educator resources to help you develop the minds of young adults, impacting society for the better. Shop [Titlewave](#)® today to purchase the titles listed above and other curated books.

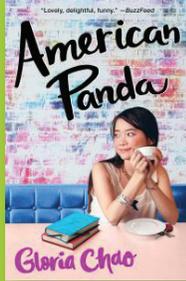


**Digital access to the specially curated lists of essential titles uses the NetGalley platform, which will expire December 31, 2021.*

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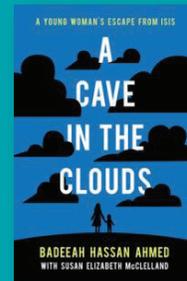
All in Pieces
Suzanne Young



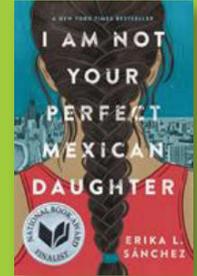
American Panda
Gloria Chao



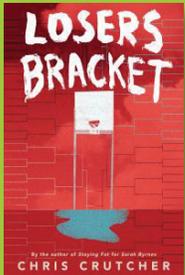
Americanized: Rebel Without a Greencard
Sara Saedi



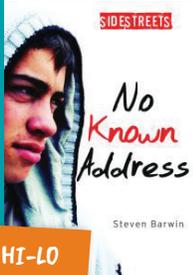
A Cave in the Clouds: A Young Woman's Escape from ISIS
Badeeah Hassan Ahmed



I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter
Erika L. Sánchez



Losers Bracket
Chris Crutcher



HI-LO

No Known Address
Steven Barwin

FREE RESOURCES
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Swing
Kwame Alexander



This One Summer
Mariko Tamaki



With the Fire on High
Elizabeth Acevedo

High School: Families



▶ See full list.

Making History Part of the Conversation

Courtesy of Nomad Press

Parents, guardians, and educators across the country have been having some pretty tough conversations with kids about social unrest for the past year. For the past few years. For the past decade. For the past...century?

“It might seem like the protests and political activity of today are new and fresh, but when kids start looking a little deeper at the past, they find layers and layers of activist history.”

Social protest isn't new. Cultural upheaval isn't new. Political differences have been around since ancient times, and the struggle for economic power is as old as currency. When young people ask about protest events happening in the United

States and around the world, one of the answers they need to hear is: Let's take a look at history.

Learning about the people, events, and even music of the Civil Rights Era is one terrific way of offering kids a context for today's struggles. Before we had Black Lives Matter marches in Washington, DC, and other cities around the world, we had the March on Washington in 1963 and the Selma to Montgomery March in 1965. Before we had lie-ins to protest the killing of George Floyd in the summer of 2020, we had sit-ins at diners across the South in 1960, when Black people took seats at segregated lunch counters in protest of racist policies.

It might seem like the protests and political activity of today are new and fresh, but when kids start looking a little deeper at the past, they find layers and layers of activist history.

What does that mean for today's young people who are interested in moving toward a fully inclusive and equitable society? They have a lot

of tools! By learning the history of what came before, young activists can better understand their own roles in the ongoing march toward truth and justice for all. They have a wealth of speeches, quotes, writings, and interviews from leaders who have done this work before. And some of those leaders are still alive to provide encouragement and support as new generations make their own way through a politically active life.



Continued...

Making History Part of the Conversation

Courtesy of Nomad Press

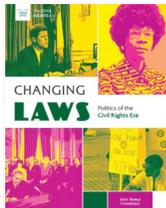
They also have a renewed mission – to do it better. Every generation can learn from the stumbles of the previous generations. How can we do better today, knowing what we know and using the tools people didn't have 60 years ago, such as social media and easier access to public documents?

In the case of four books from the *Civil Rights Era* set from Nomad Press, they even have activities that help them structure their plans and brainstorm ways of achieving their goals. Each book pairs deep discussions of various people and topics – such as the work of John Lewis and Fannie Lou Hamer, school segregation, and the Fair Housing Act of 1968 – with timelines, research activities, and fast facts. Plus, essential questions placed strategically throughout the books encourage readers to compare and contrast our world today with the world of the 1950s, '60s, and '70s. QR code links to relevant online resources, including many primary sources, round out the learning experience.

It can feel like we are facing challenges that have never before been tackled. But as we strive for a diverse and equitable society that welcomes all people to all tables, young activists don't have to feel alone. The foundation of history is solidly beneath them.

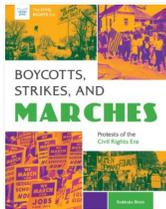
Nomad Press books in The Civil Rights Era series integrate content with participation. Combining engaging narrative with inquiry-based projects stimulates learning and makes it active and alive. Nomad's unique approach simultaneously grounds kids in factual knowledge while allowing them the space to be curious, creative, and critical thinkers.

The **Civil Rights Era** series includes these books:



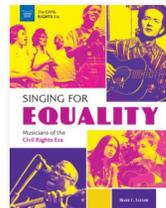
Changing Laws: Politics of the Civil Rights Era

Explores the key legislative and judicial victories of the civil rights era spanning from 1954 to the early 1970s, including *Brown v. the Board of Education*, the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and the Fair Housing Act of 1968.



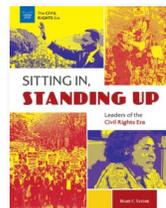
Boycotts, Strikes, and Marches: Protests of the Civil Rights Era

Looks at five different marches, protests, and boycotts of the Civil Rights era.



Singing for Equality: Musicians of the Civil Rights Era

Looks at how the music of Bob Dylan, Mavis Staples and the Staple Singers, Nina Simone, Sam Cooke, and James Brown influenced the Civil Rights Movement.



Sitting In, Standing Up: Leaders of the Civil Rights Era

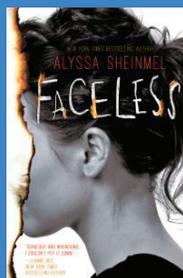
Tells the story of one of the most tumultuous and important eras in American history through the lives of five major figures of the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 1960s.



A Face for Picasso: Coming of Age with Crouzon Syndrome

Ariel Henley • Farrar, Straus and Giroux
2021 • IL YA

At only eight months old, identical twin sisters Ariel and Zan were diagnosed with Crouzon syndrome – a rare condition where the bones in the head fuse prematurely. They were the first twins known to survive it. In this unflinching and powerful memoir, Ariel explores beauty and identity in her young-adult memoir about resilience, sisterhood, and the strength it takes to put your life, and yourself, back together time and time again.



Faceless
Alyssa Sheinmel



Finding Grace
Kim Sigafus



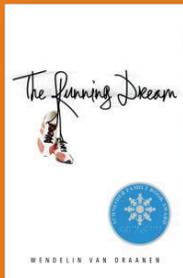
The Lucky Ones
Liz Lawson



Pantomime

Christopher Sebela
Mad Cave Studios, Inc.
2021 • IL YA

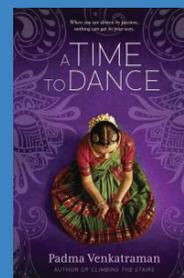
Haley and her brother, alone after their mother's death, are sent to Wayfair Academy, a special-needs boarding school. Eventually, they find family among other deaf children. One night the group decides to dip their toes into crime...the thrill is too much to leave behind. They soon find stealing from the wrong person has its consequences. With no one to turn to but each other, they must make a difficult choice.



The Running Dream
Wendelin Van Draanen



Sitting Pretty:
The View from My Ordinary Resilient Disabled Body
Rebekah Taussig

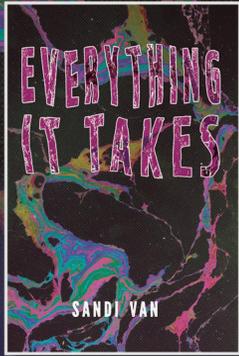


A Time to Dance
Padma Venkatraman

High School: Diversability

GRIPPING AND RELATABLE YA STORIES TOLD
WITH DIVERSE AND AUTHENTIC VOICES

EVERYTHING IT TAKES



HC: 978-1-9785-9566-8
PB: 978-1-9785-9554-5

When Lily Landon joins her school's environmental club she meets Fiona, a passionate activist who will do everything it takes to protect the planet. How can Lily save the Earth without destroying her future?

Rising Out



HC: 978-1-9785-9542-2
PB: 978-1-9785-9543-9

Anaya knows going to college means leaving behind her best friend, Eri. The two decide to take a cross-country road trip, where Eri is finally able to open up to who she is, and Anaya finds out that she might be in love with her best friend.

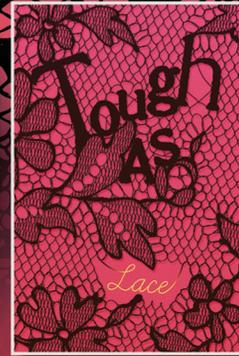
Sick Girl Secrets



HC: 978-1-9785-9563-7
PB: 978-1-9785-9545-3

Natalie has a disability that causes chaos to her body on the inside but leaves her unmarked on the outside. After having surgery, Natalie has to decide if the painful consequences of pretending to be healthy are worth keeping the last of her sick girl secrets.

Tough as Lacey



HC: 978-1-9785-9565-1
PB: 978-1-9785-9551-4

Lacey "Lacey" Stewart knows who she is. She's the star of her high school's lacrosse team, she's confident and brash, and she doesn't seem to worry about what other people think. But underneath her brave face, she's battling deep-seated anxiety, and she's one panic attack away from losing it all.



Craig Seasholes has served for a decade as a teacher librarian in culturally rich, high-poverty Seattle elementary schools.

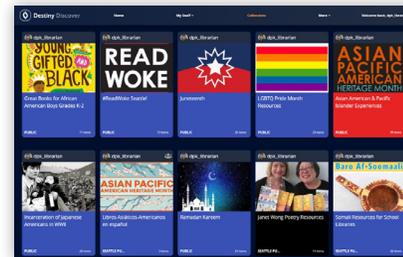


K.C. Boyd is currently a school librarian with the Washington, DC, public school system.

True Equity and Diversity in the School Library

Is your library truly diverse? Reading and literacy experiences that open readers up to new perspectives and possibilities are essential. Watch as experts share ways to take an unflinching look at your library to ensure diversity and equity in this recorded webinar.

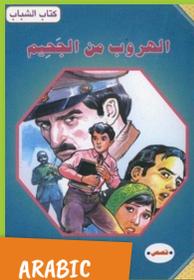
Watch Video





SPANISH

Adolescente (Adolescence)
Núria Parera



ARABIC

**al-Harub Min Al-Jahim
(Wars From Hell)**
Ahmed Abdel Salam Bakali

SPANISH



**Aquí Estuvimos
(We Were Here)**
Matt de la Peña



FRENCH

Cachés (Annexed)
Sharon Dogar

SPANISH



**Las fuentes del silencio
(The Fountains of Silence)**
Ruta Sepetys



SPANISH

Invisible (Invisible)
Eloy Moreno



SPANISH

**El joven Poe: El misterio
de la calle Morgue
(Young Poe: The Mystery
of Morgue Street)**
Cuca Canals



JAPANESE

**The Surprise of Haruhi
Suzumiya: Volume 2**
Nagaru Tanigawa



SPANISH

**Tomboy: Una chica ruda
(Tomboy: A Graphic Memoir)**
Liz Prince



GERMAN

**Yıldız Heisst Stern
(Yıldız Means Star)**
Isolde Heyne

High School: Native Languages



▶ See full list.



An Interview with Author Brandy Colbert

Brandy Colbert is the critically acclaimed author of the young adult novels *Pointe*, *The Voting Booth*, *Finding Yvonne*, *The Revolution of Birdie Randolph*, and Stonewall Award winner *Little & Lion*, as well as the middle grade novel *The Only Black Girls in Town*.

Her new book, *Black Birds in the Sky: The Story and Legacy of the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre*, explores the ways in which the story of the Tulsa Race Massacre is the story of America – and by showing us who we are, points to a way forward.

Most readers likely know you as an award-winning writer of novels for kids and teens. What drew you to the idea of writing original nonfiction, and to the story of the Tulsa Race Massacre in particular?

I have a journalism degree, and I've been writing and editing shorter-form nonfiction for many years now. After coauthoring and coadapting two works of nonfiction for young readers, I had the itch to work

on my own project. I've grown especially interested in learning about Black history in the past few years, especially lesser-known people and events that weren't taught in school. I was particularly drawn to the Tulsa Race Massacre because it occurred only three hours away from where I grew up – so as soon as the idea of writing a nonfiction book about it came to mind, I knew I had to challenge myself.

continued...

This would be a thrilling and challenging book to write at any time, but you did it in 2020 – a year defined by the COVID-19 pandemic and historic calls for justice and accountability for Black Americans. Can you tell us a bit about your research and writing process?

I've always felt the best way for me to use my voice is through my writing, so although several parts of the book were quite difficult, it seemed like the perfect time to work on a narrative that delves into aspects of American history that have contributed to where we are today. I wanted to tell not only the story of the Tulsa Race Massacre but the events that led up to it, from the complex history of Oklahoma to the gains and failures of Reconstruction to the significant role newspapers played in the early twentieth century. I utilized several sources that were instrumental in crafting *Black Birds in the Sky*: books, newspaper articles, accounts and quotes from survivors, old photographs, and a detailed report from the Oklahoma legislature, among others.

The story of the Tulsa Race Massacre occurs at the intersection of so many defining aspects of American history, and yet few people are even aware of it. Why do you believe this event was erased and forgotten for most of the last century?

From city and state officials to Tulsa residents, many people actively tried to hide what happened in 1921. Some were ashamed and didn't want to harm Oklahoma's reputation, as it was still a relatively new state at the time that was looking to attract new people. Others, especially those who lost family and friends in the massacre, were afraid that if they spoke about it, it might happen again. In reality, it was just one in a long line of massacres targeting Black people that occurred throughout the United States and were rebranded as "race riots," which falsely placed the blame on Black communities who were defending themselves. We often hear the sentiment that if we don't know our history we're bound to repeat it, and I found that especially resonant as I researched this book. The United States has a long history of glossing over or simply ignoring the ugly parts of its past, but knowledge is power; people deserve to know the history of their country so they can do better and educate future generations that will, hopefully, help enact meaningful change.

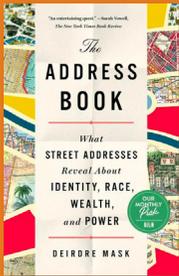
You speak in your foreword about dreading your high school history classes because of the way in which Black history was taught in your mostly white school. What would it have meant to you to have had a book like *Black Birds in the Sky* when you were young?

It would have meant the world to me to have a book like this, which is honest about both the triumphs and failures of our country. Most Black Americans first experience some form of racism, prejudice, or microaggressions as children, and it is a disservice to give such a scant overview of the achievements and contributions Black people have made over the centuries. It's important for non-Black children to soak in this information as well, which would help break the cycle of centering one type of story and work toward a more just, educated, and empathetic society overall.



Black Birds in the Sky:
The Story and Legacy of the
1921 Tulsa Race Massacre
 Brandy Colbert • Balzer + Bray
 2021 • YA

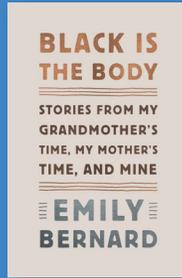
A searing work of nonfiction about the history and legacy of one of the most deadly and destructive acts of racial violence in American history: the Tulsa Race Massacre. This book, ambitious and intimate in turn, explores the ways in which the story of the Tulsa Race Massacre is the story of America – and by showing us who we are, points to a way forward.



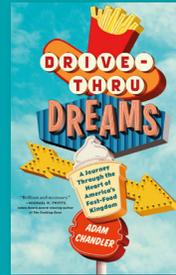
The Address Book
Deirdre Mask



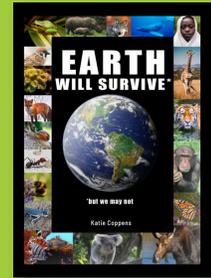
Black Girl Unlimited: The Remarkable Story of a Teenage Wizard
Echo Brown



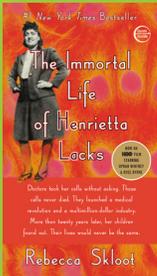
Black Is the Body: Stories from My Grandmother's Time, My Mother's Time, and Mine
Emily Bernard



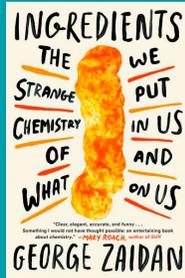
Drive-Thru Dreams: A Journey Through the Heart of America's Fast-Food Kingdom
Adam Chandler



Earth Will Survive (But We May Not)
Katie Coppens



The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks
Rebecca Skloot

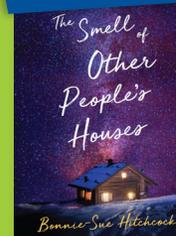


Ingredients: The Strange Chemistry of What We Put in Us and on Us
George Zaidan



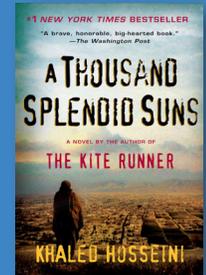
The Prince of Venice Beach
Blake Nelson

FREE RESOURCES AVAILABLE



The Smell of Other People's Houses
Bonnie-Sue Hitchcock

FREE RESOURCES AVAILABLE



A Thousand Splendid Suns
Khaled Hosseini

FREE RESOURCES AVAILABLE

High School: United Nations Sustainability



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Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: Essential Work as We Create Future Thought and Reform Leaders

Tamela Chambers

Recent events in our country have pulled back the curtains on deeply ingrained systemic and belief systems that have misgided the institutions (and the people in them) that are supposed to serve all.

A global pandemic, civic unrest, and divisive rhetoric have unraveled the frayed illusion of a diverse, equitable, and just society, and there is no time like the present to begin the work of healing. To heal the rifts that divide, the concept of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) must move beyond buzzword status to true integration in the systems and institutions that serve the people. To achieve this end, DEI work must be present in the educational institutions tasked with creating the next wave of thought and reform leaders.

There is a constantly growing and evolving body of literature and research that suggests that a great story or a well-researched and written nonfiction title can foster empathy, encourage tolerance, and cultivate appreciation for the rich diversity in the

lived experiences of others. School and public libraries are uniquely positioned to lead the charge of empowering the future leaders and healers, one book at a time. This empowerment starts with a commitment to building collections that support and pay homage to the diverse cultures, traditions, and voices in our country while honoring the shared humanity that links us all.

“School and public libraries are uniquely positioned to lead the charge of empowering the future leaders and healers, one book at a time.”



Continued...

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: Essential Work as We Create Future Thought and Reform Leaders

Tamela Chambers

DIVERSITY

In an era in which the cries of Black Lives Matter are often met with the response All Lives Matter, there is more work to be done on the path to true equity and inclusion. To this end, the Black Caucus of the American Library Association (BCALA), one of the National Associations of Librarians of Color (NALCo) of the American Library Association (ALA), has created a book list with the principles of DEI in mind. The titles selected for the inaugural *Best of the Best* list were chosen based on the following criteria:

- Celebrate and honor the diversity of the Black experience (cultural traditions/customs)
- Reflect the triumphs of well and lesser-known African American leaders
- Cover topics relevant to the Black experience (social justice, self-esteem, etc.)

Watch school and public librarians from BCALA discuss these topics in our recorded webinar. You'll be able to download the *Best of the Best* book list and other helpful resources, and you will learn how you can use the list as a tool for building an inclusive collection and integrate these titles into your curriculum and programming.



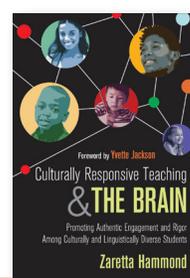
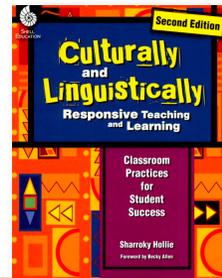
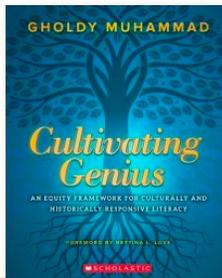
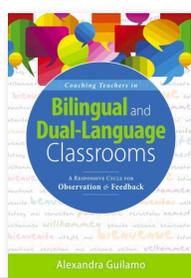
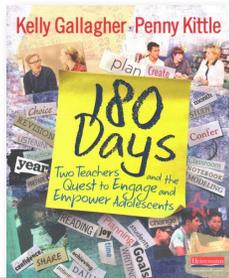
TAMELA CHAMBERS
librarian and manager of children's services – Woodson Regional Library – Chicago committee chair – BCALA services to children and families of African descent

Tamela Chambers currently serves as the public library committee chair of the BCALA services to children and families of African descent and is the children's department manager at Woodson Regional Library. She is a lifelong learner who found her place in libraries 20 years ago as a children's library associate at the Chicago Public Library. Tamela's decades-long career has afforded her the opportunity to work with children, teens, and their families as both a school and public librarian. She has dedicated herself to fostering a love of literacy and inquiry in those she serves. Tamela is a graduate of the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign with a BS in advertising and an MS in library science. She is also a graduate of National Louis University with an EdM in early childhood curriculum and instruction and certificate of advanced studies in education technology.



"This empowerment starts with a commitment to building collections that support and pay homage to the diverse cultures, traditions, and voices in our country while honoring the shared humanity that links us all."



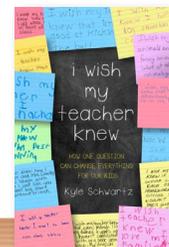
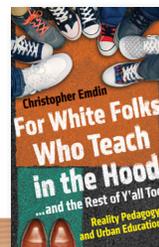
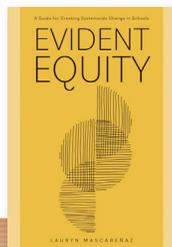
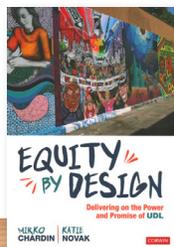
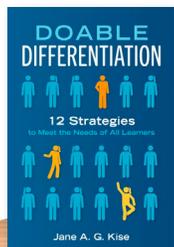


180 Days: Two Teachers and the Quest to Engage and Empower Adolescents Kelly Gallagher and Penny Kittle
Coaching Teachers in Bilingual and Dual-Language Classrooms Alexandra Guilamo

Cultivating Genius: An Equity Framework for Culturally and Historically Responsive Literacy Gholdy Muhammad

Culturally and Linguistically Responsive Teaching and Learning: Classroom Practices for Student Success Sharroky Hollie

Culturally Responsive Teaching & the Brain Zaretta Hammond



Doable Differentiation: 12 Strategies to Meet the Needs of All Learners Jane A. G. Kise

Equity by Design: Delivering on the Power and Promise of UDL Mirko Chardin • **Evident Equity** Lauryn Mascarenaz

For White Folks Who Teach in the Hood...and the Rest of Y'all Too: Reality Pedagogy and Urban Education Christopher Emdin

I Wish My Teacher Knew: How One Question Can Change Everything for Our Kids Kyle Schwartz

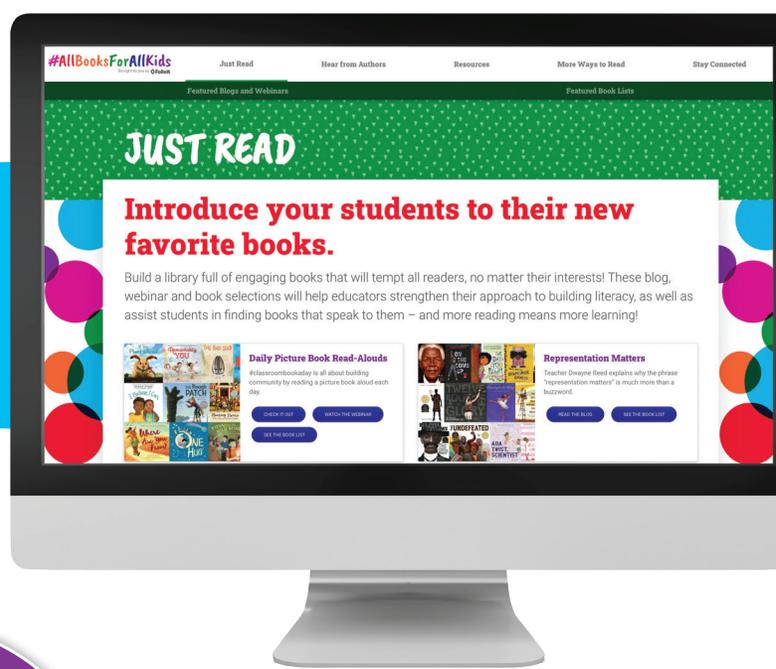
Professional Titles

▶ See full list.

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