

Worlds of Words 2026

Grade 2-3 Recommended Global Fiction Books

Themes	Global Books	Genre Date	Level Info	Global Context	Themes/Plot of Global Books
Everyday Adventures	<i>Adventures with Waffles</i> , Maria Parr	RF 2015	720 L (R) 232 pp.	Norway Tr	Two friends in a small town in Norway share rollicking adventures and poignant moments.
	Anna Hibiscus, Atinuke	RF 2022	540-680L 112 pp	Nigeria	Series of 8 chapter books include episodes from Anna Hibiscus's life in a warm family in contemporary Nigeria.
	<i>Ashimpa: The Mysterious Word</i> , Catarina Sobrat	RF 2025	32 pp	Portugal Tr	When researchers uncover a new word in a library, everyone starts to use the word in different ways.
	<i>Beti and the Little Round House</i> , Atinuke & E. Hughes	RF 2024	119 pp RL 3.6	Wales (UK)	4 short stories about everyday life and adventures in a rural area of Wales for Beti and her family and friends.
	<i>A Chest Full of Words</i> , Rebecca Gugger & Simon Rothlisberger	FAN 2025	32 pp	Switzerland German Tr	A boy find a treasure chest full of words that come alive and discovers how to use words to change his world.
	<i>Count on Me</i> , Miguel Tanco	RF/PB 2019	RL 2.3 32 pp	Italy Tr	A girl sees the beauty of the world through math and geometric shapes, keeping detailed notes in a journal.
	<i>A Daydreamy Child Takes a Walk</i> , Gianni Rodari & Beatrice Alemagna	FAN PB 2023	32 pp	Italy Tr	Despite best intentions, Giovanni is distracted as he walks, gradually losing body parts, which neighbors return, saying "that's just the way children are."
	<i>The Herd Boy</i> , Niki Daly	RF/PB 2020	750 L(Q) 32 pp	South Africa	A boy has adventures caring for grandfather's sheep but has bigger dreams for his life.

	<i>The Invisible Elephant</i> , Anna Anisimova	RF 2023	100 pp 490 L	Finland Tr	A blind girl joyfully explores her environment, using her senses and vivid imagination in 4 short stories.
	<i>Juana & Lucas</i> , Juana Medina	RF 2019	870 (P) 88 pp	Colombia	Friendship of girl and her dog as she struggles to learn a new language. Also <i>Juana & Lucas: Big Problemas</i>
	<i>Little Shrew</i> , Akiko Miyakoshi	FAN 2024	70 pp 640 L	Japan Tr	A collection of 3 stories in the life of Little Shrew as he goes about his everyday activities and his joys and dreams.
	<i>Marcel, Martello, Marshmallow</i> , Ruth Rocha	RF 2024	32 pp	Brazil Tr Portuguese	Marcelo is an inventive boy who asks questions about the origins of words and creates his own words.
	<i>My Beijing</i> , Nie Jun	RF/GN 2018	RL 4.0 128 pp	China Tr	4 stories in a child's life in Beijing whose grandfather finds ways to overcome her physical challenges.
	<i>My First Day</i> by Nguyen Q. Phung & Kim L. Huynh	RF/PB 2021	680L 32p RL 3.3 (N)	Vietnam Tr	A young boy sets out alone in a boat for his first day of school in the Mekong Delta on a journey of fear and imagination. Visually stunning illustrations.
	<i>The No. 1 Car Spotter</i> , Atinuke	RF 2021	550 L 93 pp	Nigeria	Humorous adventures of a young boy who makes mistakes and saves the day in his village. 6 books
	<i>Odds and Ends</i> , Maija Hurme. Mia Spangenberg, Tr.	RF 2026	32 pp	Finland Tr	A child makes a scrapbook of her last moments in everyday life, collecting cyclical lasts, reversible lasts, lasts that are firsts, and many more.
	<i>Out of the Blue</i> , Rebecca Bach-Lauritsen & Anna M. Kjærgaard	FAN 2024	32 pp	Denmark Tr	A boy's life is full of routine until he steps outside his comfort zone and opens himself to possibility when a bear appears out of the blue in his house.
	<i>Picking Tea with Baba</i> , Bin Xu & Yin Yu. Shan Chen, Tr	RF 2025	32 pp	China Tr.	A family travels together up the hillside to their tea garden to work for the day, enjoying nature and work.

	<i>Ratty's Big Adventure</i> , Lara Hawthorne	FAN 2022	RL 3.1 32 pp	Papua New Guinea	Ratty, an enormous rat, lives deep inside an extinct volcano in the rain forest. When he ventures outside, he realizes that there is no place like home.
	<i>Sato the Rabbit, Sato the Rabbit: The Moon, Sato the Rabbit: Morning Light</i> Yuki Aino	FA/PB 2021 2025	RL 3.4 58 pp	Japan Tr	Each book contains 7 vignettes about the imaginative play of a boy in a rabbit costume. Highlights imaginative adventures in nature.
	<i>Seasons by the Lake</i> , Naja Aparico & Alex Nees	RF 2026	32 pp	Greenland Inuit	A year of everyday adventures in the life of an Inuit family across the seasons.
	<i>A Story about Afiya</i> , James Berry	FA/PB 2020	670 L 32 pp	Jamaica	Afiya's dress records childhood memories from roses to pigeons to tigers at the zoo.
	<i>There Must Be More Than That?</i> Shinsuke Yoshitake	RF/PB 2020	RL 2.8 32 pp	Japan Tr	When her brother tells her the future of Earth is bleak, a girl's grandmother assures her that there are many possible futures and encourages her imagination.
	<i>Too Small Tola</i> , Atinuke & Onyinye Iwu	RF 2021	88 pp RL 3.7	Lagos, Nigeria	Three adventures of Tola who lives in an apartment in Lagos with her sister, brother, and grandmother.
	<i>Too Small Tola and the Three Fine Girls</i>	RF 2022	88 pp RL 3.5		Three adventures of a little girl with a mighty will as she helps her family and figures out how to be fancy.
	<i>Too Small Tola Makes It Count</i>	RF 2024	86 pp RL 3.5		Tola finds creative solutions to her neighbor's difficulties, but her own problem is being called a liar.
	<i>Too Small Tola Gets Tough</i>	RF 2023	89 pp		A virus separates Tola's family, so she must go to work.
	<i>Why Do We Cry?</i> Fran Pintadera & Ana Sender	RF/PB 2020	590 L 32 pp	Spain Tr	A mother explains the different reasons why people cry in response to her son's questions. Evocative imagery.

	<i>Why Are We Afraid?</i> By Fran Pintadera & Ana Sender	RF/PB 2023	540 L 32 pp		A father says that everyone is afraid sometimes and explains the many reasons people feel fear. Surreal images
Strength through Relationship	<i>Across the Bay</i> Carlos Aponte	RF/PB 2019	570 L (N) RL 2.8 32 pp	Puerto Rico	Carlitos lives happily with his mother and abuela but wonders about his father. He goes to San Juan, across the bay, to search for him.
	<i>Angela's Glacier</i> , Jordan Scott & Diana Sudyka	RF/PB 2024	32 pp	Iceland	A girl grows up in the shadow of a glacier that is always there to listen. Respect for nature. Climate change.
	<i>Agnes's Place</i> , Marit Larsen & Jenny Lovlie	RF/PB 2021	32 pp RL 3.1	Norway, Tr	A child rejects an invitation for friendship from a newcomer who makes small changes in her building.
	<i>All the Families in My Town</i> , Ophelie Celier & A. Caldin	RF/PB 2022	RL 2.8 32 pp	French Tr Canada	Each of the 9 houses in a village contain a family – introduces a range of family structures and characteristics.
	<i>Alone Like Me</i> , Rebecca Evans	RF/PB 2022	RL 2.6 (P) 560 L 32 pp	China	Liling moves to a city where her parents cannot afford school. She spots a possible friend in another building and tries to reach out to her. Includes Mandarin.
	<i>At the Drop of a Cat</i> , Elise Fontenaille & Violeta Lopez	RF/PB 2023	RL 2.3	France Tr	A young boy loves spending time with his grandfather, an immigrant who loves nature and playful language.
	<i>Bibi</i> , Jo Weaver	FA/PB 2023	32 pp RL 2.9	Tanzania	An elderly flamingo looks out for the flock, especially babies, until one day she falls behind and they help her.
	<i>The Caiman</i> , Maria E. Manrique & Ramon Paris	RF/PB 2021	32 pp RL 3.8	Venezuela, Tr	Fabio the clockmaker adopts a baby alligator who becomes a beloved part of the community. True story.
	<i>Coffee, Rabbit, Snowdrop, Lost</i> , Betina Birkjaer	RF/PB 2021	32 pp RL 2.3	Denmark Tr	Stump has a special relationship with his grandfather, who is struggling with forgetting things, so Stump gathers objects to help his grandfather remember.

	<i>Comet & Star</i> , Jack Lee & Chin-hui Yi. Stine An, Tr.	FAN 2024	32 pp	S. Korea Tr.	A lonely star encounters a passing comet, and the duo form a friendship, meeting every 76 years.
	<i>Each Peach is a Story</i> , David & Nikko Masumoto & Lauren Tamaki	RF 2025	32 pp RL 2.3	Japan/US	Grandfather teaches a young girl about the family's connection to the land and that a peach, like a story, needs time to grow just like their immigration story.
	<i>From Salam to Yalla Bye! A Guide to Middle Eastern Gatherings</i> , Leila Boukarim	RF 2026	32 pp	Lebanon	A girl explains how to survive a huge family party, especially the never-ending goodbye. A humorous step by step on how to navigate the gathering.
	<i>A Gift from Abuela</i> , Cecilia Ruiz	RF/PB 2018	520L 32p RL 2.2	Mexico	A grandmother saves money for a special gift for Niña but her savings are worthless due to a currency change.
	<i>Griso: The One and Only</i> , Roger Mello	FAN 2024	23 pp	Brazil Tr Portuguese	A unicorn searches in vain for another of his kind, longing for community, finding another unique being.
	<i>Here & There</i> , Thea Lu.	RF 2024	32 pp	China Tr.	The parallel stories of a café owner who lives Here and a sailor who lives There, constantly sailing to new places and their connections with others.
	<i>The Hare-Shaped Hole</i> , John & Thomas Dougherty	FA/PB 2024	32 pp	UK	Hertle has a hole in his life when a friend dies, but Gerda the bear explains the hole can be filled with memories.
	<i>Home of the Wild</i> , Louise Greig & Julia Moscardo	RF/PB 2021	32 pp RL 2.5	Scotland	A boy finds an orphaned fawn and cares for her, developing a bond, but she must return to the wild.
	<i>The House of Lost and Found</i> , Martin Widmark	RF/PB 2018	RL 1.9 40 pp	Sweden, Tr	Niles lives alone in an old house that comes alive with hope when a young boy asks him to care for his plant.
	<i>How We Share Cake</i> , Hyn-un Kim	RF 2024	530 L 32 pp	Korea, Tr	5 siblings struggle to equally divide a cake so that everyone gets their faire share. Family dynamics and math concepts.

	<i>Hundred Years of Happiness</i> , Thanhha Lai & Nguyen Quang	RF/PB 2022	32 pp RL 3.5	Vietnam	An and her grandfather help her grandmother remember her wedding wish for a hundred years of happiness. Integrates Vietnamese words.
	<i>In the Neighborhood</i> , Rocio Bonilla	FA/PB 2022	32 pp RL 3.9 760 L	Spain Tr	The animals who all live on the same street never talk to one another until one day Mrs. Paquita asks for help and starts a chain reaction of connections across neighbors.
	<i>The Legend of Tiger and Tail-Flower</i> , Chi-un Yi	FAN 2024	32 pp	Korea Tr	A grumpy Tiger gains a talking Dandelion on his tail, and become the best of friends over time, growing old together
	<i>Letters from Bear</i> , David Gauthier & Marie Gauthier	FA/PB 2020	610 L (P) RL 2.4	France Tr	Bear misses Bird who has gone south and sets out to visit, sending updates on adventures through letters.
	<i>Lolo's Sari-Sari Store</i> . Sophie Le & Christine Almeda	RF/PB 2023	RL 3.6 32 pp	Philippines	Recalling how his grandfather made everyone feel welcome, a boy reaches out in his new community.
	<i>Mama's Special Wonton Soup</i> , Wai Mei Wong & Xin Yue Zhu	RF 2025	32 pp	China	When a girl heads to market to purchase meat, each person she meets shares their bounties. So, she shares her mother's wonderful soup with them. Chinese lang.
	<i>Mii maanda ezhi-gkendmaanh/This Is How I Know</i> . Brittany Luby & Joshua M. Pawis-Steckley	RF/PB 2021	600 L RL 3.8 (N)	Canada Indigenous Ojibwe	Bilingual in Anishinaabemowin and English. A grandmother teaches a child how to observe the natural world to know when seasons change from one to the next.
	<i>Mommy's Hometown</i> , Hope Lim & Jaime Kim	RF/PB 2022	RL 3.5 32 pp	S. Korea	When a young boy and his mother travel to visit her hometown in Korea, the town has become a city, and they search for the places of her happy memories.
	<i>The Moon is a Ball</i> , Ed Franck & Tjong Khing	FAN 2023	77 pp RL 2.3	Belgium Dutch Tr	Short stories about friends Panda and Squirrel as they try to capture the moon and figure out friendship.
	<i>My Grandfather's Song</i> , Nguyen Quang Phung	RF/PB 2023	RL 2.2 630 L	Vietnam	A grandfather teaches his grandson nature's song to appreciate and conserve the beauty of the lush land.

	<i>My Happy Life</i> , Rose Lagercrantz	RF 2013	500 L 134 pp	Sweden Tr	Short, illustrated chapters on a girl's experiences of family and friendship. Also, <i>My Heart is Laughing</i> , <i>When I am Happiest</i> , <i>Life According to Dani</i> , <i>See You When I See You</i> .
	<i>On the Edge of the World</i> , Anna Desnitskaya	RF/PB 2023	RL 3.4 32 pp	Russia Tr	Mirroring stories set in Russia and Chile about two children who each long for a friend to share adventures. Flip book.
	<i>On the Other Side of the Garden</i> , Jairo Buitrago	RF/PB 2018	32 pp RL 2.0	Mexico Tr	A young girl experiences confusion and fear when her father leaves her with her grandmother.
	<i>One Day</i> , Lee Juck	RF/PB 2021	48 pp	S. Korea Tr	"Grandpa is gone" – a child explores feelings of grief as he searches for his grandfather, finding comfort in objects that connect to memories of his grandfather.
	<i>The Phone Booth in Mr. Hirota's Garden</i> , Heather Smith	RF/PB 2019	490 L (R) RL 2.2	Japan	Mr. Hirota puts a phone booth on a hill so villagers can talk "in the wind" to family members lost in a tsunami. Grief
	<i>The Remembering Stone</i> , Carey Sookocheff	RF/PB 2023	RL 2.2	Canada	Alice loses a skipping stone, kept as a memory of her grandfather, but her friends help her find another way.
	<i>The Runaways</i> , Ulf Stark	RF 2019	480 L RL 2.2 129 pp	Sweden Tr	A boy helps his grandfather run away from the hospital so he can visit his home on an island one last time.
	<i>The Secret Elephant</i> , Ellen Rankin	HF PB 2024	590 L 32 pp	N. Ireland, WWII	During WWII, a baby elephant in Belfast is comforted by her keeper, who spends nights at the zoo with her.
	<i>Something about Grandma</i> , Tania De Regil	RF PB 2022	32 pp RL 3.6	Mexico	Staying with her Grandma for the first time in Mexico City, Julia discovers what makes Grandma so special.

<i>Sona Sharma, Very Best Big Sister?</i> Chitra Soundar	RF 2021	102 pp RL 3.3	India	Sona enjoys being an only child and is not sure about the new baby in her family until the naming ceremony.
<i>The Song that Called Them Home</i> , David Robertson & Maya McKibbin	PB FAN 2023	RL 3.6 630 L	Cree Canada	Two Cree children are pulled through a portal in the lake and must resist the lure of the Meemekwesawak to hear the songs that will pull them home.
<i>The Speckled Feather</i> , Johanna Reis	FA/PB 2020	32 pp RL 2.2	E. Africa German Tr	Three birds live on an elephant's back, each helping the other, until a speckled feather leads to quarreling.
<i>The Stray and the Strangers</i> , Steven Heighton	RF 2020	107 pp 780 L RL 4.5	Greece	A stray dog befriends an orphan boy in a refugee camp on the Greek island of Lesbos, comforting him when he has nightmares. Based on a true story.
<i>Tiger Boy</i> , Mitali Perkins	RF 2015	770 L 140 pp	Island near India	Environmental adventure as a boy rescues a tiger cub from the black market. Sunderbans of Bengal.
<i>Two Green Birds</i> , Geraldo Valerio	RF 2023	RL 3.5 84 pp	Brazil	A child and his grandmother can't get their two new parakeets to eat, until they realize their need to be free.
<i>We are Lions!</i> Jens Mattson & Jenny Lucander	RF/PB 2023	RL 2.2 32 pp	Sweden Tr	When his big brother gets sick in the hospital, the narrator transforms their game of lions to comfort him.
<i>Weekend Dad</i> , Naseem Hrab & Frank Viva	RF/PB 2020	540 L (M) 32 pp RL 3.3	Canada	Confused and sad by his parents' separation, a boy visits his father, unsure of their new relationship and two homes.
<i>Who Will Make the Snow?</i> Mar'iana Prokhas'ko	FAN 2023	79 pp	Ukraine Tr	The two newest moles learn to dig themselves out of their comfort zones and experience the world around them.
<i>Zamzam for Everyone</i> , Gazeena Omar Gutta & Bassent Dawoud	RF 2024	32 pp	Saudi Arabia	As Mariam begins her Haff to Makkah, she shares blessed Zamzam water with everyone she meets, and others in turn help her when she needs it.

Family Stories and Cultural Traditions	<i>The Amazing and True Story of Tooth Mouse</i> Perez, Ana C. Herreros & Violeta Perez	FAN PB 2023	RL 3.7	Spain Tr	An origin story of both the Tooth Mouse and the Tooth Fairy tracing the changing habits to the forces of urbanization, migration, and capitalism.
	<i>Benjamin's Thunderstorm</i> , Melanie Florence & Hawlil Pichette	RF/PB 2023	RL 3.0 560 L 32 pp	Cree Canada	Playing in the rain and thunder reminds Benjamin of the drum his grandfather plays at powwow as he imagines himself as a powwow dancer.
	<i>Birdsong</i> , Julie Flett	RF/PB 2019	560 L RL 3.0	Cree Canada	A lonely young girl meets an elderly woman who shares her love of nature. Cree.
	<i>Bisa's Carnaval</i> , Joana Pastro & Carolina Coroa	RF/PB 2021	32p 630L RL 2.9	Brazil Tr	Clara's great-grandmother is too old to follow the Carnaval parade even though she makes everyone's costumes, so Clara must find a way to bring the parade to her Bisa.
	<i>Big Red Lollipop</i> , Rukhsana Khan	RF/PB 2010	410L 32 pp	Canada	Rubina's Pakistani mother forces her to take her little sister to a birthday party, not realizing differences in cultural expectations.
	<i>The Boy Who Tried to Shrink His Name</i> , Sandhya Parappukkaran	RF/PB 2022	32 pp RL 3.8	India/ Australia	Zimdalamashkermishkada is going to a new school and knows his long name will cause problems, so decides to shrink it to Zim—but it just doesn't feel right.
	<i>Cora Cooks Pancit</i> , Dorina Lazo Gilmore & Kristi Valient	RF/PB 2014	RL 3.0 32 pp	Philippines	When her older siblings are away, Cora's mother lets her help make pancit, a Filipino noodle dish.
	<i>A Dog Named Haku</i> , Margarita Engle	RF/PB 2018	32 pp	Nepal	2 brothers in Nepal search for a dog they can honor with gratitude and food for a Hindu festival.
	<i>Eighteen Vats of Water</i> , Ji-li Jiang and Nadia Hsieh	RF/PB 2022	RL 3.5 960 L	China	Xian wants to be a great calligrapher, like his father, and begins his long years of practice when he turns six.

	<i>Empanadas for Everyone.</i> Jackie A. Kramer & L. Wen	RF/PB 2023	RL 2.7 32 pp	Global	Carina visits her Tia to make empanadas, but realizes neighbors have related foods from their cultures
	<i>Faruq and the Wiri Wiri,</i> Sophia Payne & S. Prabhat	RF/PB 2025	32 pp	Caribbean	Faruq longs to cook, but his family expects him to be a doctor, until he finally gets a chance. Indo-Caribbean.
	<i>A Feast for Joseph,</i> Terry Farish & Ken Daley	RF/PB 2021	32 pp (N) 580 L. RL 2.2	E. Africa Canada	Joseph misses cooking and eating together in the refugee camp and so invites everyone he knows in the hopes of serving a feast with new friends in Canada.
	<i>Freedom Soup,</i> Tami Charles	RF/PB 2021	RL 3.1 32 pp	Haiti	Belle learns how to make Freedom Soup, a New Year's tradition based in Haitian history.
	<i>Goodnight Ganesha,</i> Nadia Salomon & Poonam Mistry	RF/PB 2021	32 pp, RL 3.1, 510 L	India	Goodnight story celebrating nighttime rituals of young children visiting grandparents in India. Hinduism
	<i>Grandpa Cacao</i> Elizabeth Zunon	RF/PB 2019	820 L RL 4.5	Ivory Coast	A father tells his daughter the story of her grandfather harvesting cacao beans in Ivory Coast as they bake.
	<i>Heart Berry Bling,</i> Jenny Kay Dupuis	RF 2023	720 L 32 pp	Canada Indigenous	A grandmother teaches her granddaughter about Anishinaabe culture through beading and also shares her story of gender discrimination.
	<i>The Heart Never Forgets,</i> Ana Otani & H. Goodman	RF 2024	32 pp	Nigeria	A girl pays tribute to the memory of her grandfather during a West African masquerade festival.
	<i>Hidden: A Child's Story of the Holocaust,</i> Loic Dauvillier	RF/HF GN 2014	530L 76 pp	France Tr.	Dounia tell her granddaughter the story of her childhood in Paris and how she was hidden to save her life during the Holocaust. Graphic Novel.
	<i>Home is In Between,</i> Mitali Perkins & Lavanya Naidu	RF/PB 2021	32 pp	India/U.S.	A Bengali immigrant navigates between her family's traditions and the culture of her new country, wishing for a space where she would not have to choose between them.

	<i>I'll Go and Come Back</i> , Rajani LaRocca & Sara Palacios	RF/PB 2022	32 pp RL 2.3	India/U.S.	Jyoti visits her grandmother in India, forming a bond even though she does not speak Tamil, her grandmother's language. Later, her grandmother later visits her in the U.S.
	<i>Kamishibai Man</i> , Allen Say	HF/PB 2005	690L (Q) 32 pp	Japan	After many years of retirement, an old Kamishibai man decides to make his rounds once more.
	<i>The Katha Chest</i> , Radhiah Chowhury & Lavanya Naidu	RF/PB 2022	32 pp	Bangladesh	At Nanu's house, Asiya explores the Katha chest with quilts that tell stories of the brave women in her family.
	<i>Kwesi and Nana Ruby Learn to Swim</i> , Kobina Commeh & Barbara Quintino	RF 2025	560 L 32 pp	Ghana/US	Kwesi discovers that his grandmother also does not know how to swim so they turn to the West African tale of Mami Wata to face their fears.
	<i>A Land of Books: Dreams of Young Mexihcah Word Painters</i> , Duncan Tonatiuh	HF/PB 2022	RL 3.7 32 pp	Mexico Indigenous	A Mexihcah girl tells her brother how her parents create beautiful manuscripts/codices to record their history and culture long before European colonizers. Nahuatl words.
	<i>Leila in Saffron</i> , Rukhsanna Guidroz	RF/PB 2019	32p 550L RL 2.7	Pakistan	Shy and unsure, Leila's Naani helps her discover and celebrate her cultural identity.
	<i>Magic Candies</i> , Heena Baek	FA/PB 2021	RL 2.3 32 pp	S. Korea, Tr	A young boy discovers hard candies give him magical powers, allowing him to hear everyone's thoughts.
	<i>Malaika's Winter Carnival</i> , Nadia Hohn	RF/PB 2017	32 pp 530 L RL 2.3	Jamaica	Malaika has difficulty adjusting to cold Quebec when her family moves from her warm island. Also <i>Malaika's Costume</i> about celebrating Carnival in Jamaica. And <i>Malaika, Carnival Queen</i> is on her late father.
	<i>Mama Shamsi at the Bazaar</i> , Mojdeh Hassani & Maya Fidawi	RF/PB 2022	520 L RL 2.2 32 pp	Iran	A child hides under her grandmother's chador as they visit a bazaar in Tehran, afraid of the bustling city, but reassured by her grandmother she will keep her safe.

	<i>Mango Memories</i> , Sita Singh & Nabi Ali	RF 2024	560 L 32 pp	India	A young girl is old enough to help her family harvest mangoes and to listen to their memories of past years.
	<i>The Monster in the Bathhouse</i> , Sina Merabian	RF/PB 2022	32 pp	Iran	On the eve of Persian New Year, Nowruz, 3 boys go to an Iranian bathhouse, but something is causing havoc.
	<i>My Dadima Wears a Sari</i> , Kashmira Sheth	RF/PB 2022	600L (M) 32 pp	India	Two young sisters learn about the beauty and art of wearing a sari from their grandmother. Soft watercolor illustrations with sari borders.
	<i>My Paati's Saris</i> , Jyoti Rajan Gopal & Art Twink	RF/PB 2022	RL 5.3 780L 32p	India	A Tamil boy explore his love for grandmother and her saris as they prepare for a party. Gender expression.
	<i>Nana Akua Goes to School</i> , Tricia E. Walker	RF/PB 2020	(O) 32 pp	Ghana/U.S.	Zura is worried about her grandmother's visit to school because of the Inbal tribal markings on her face.
	<i>A New Year's Day Reunion</i> , Li-Qiong Yu	RF/PB 2013	490 L 32 pp	China Tr	A young girl's father, who works far away, returns to celebrate Chinese New Year with the family.
	<i>Noodles on a Bicycle</i> , Kyo Maclear & Gracey Zhang	HF 2024	32 pp	Japan 1970s	Children watch as bicycle deliverers in Tokyo balance bowls of steaming noodles on crowded streets.
	<i>The Ocean Calls: A Haenyeo Mermaid Story</i> , Tina Cho and Jess Snow	RF/PB 2020	32 pp RL 2.7	S. Korea	A young girl trains to be a haenyeo diver but needs to find the courage to dive deep into the sea for shellfish as her family has done for generations.
	<i>Plátanos are Love</i> , Alyssa Reynoso-Morris & Mariyahd Rahman	RF/PB 2023	RL 3.6 630 L 32 pp	Puerto Rico	An Afro-Latinx girl cooks a beloved comfort food with her grandmother, learning about her family history and writing down the recipes. Integrates Spanish words.
	<i>Playing Loteria</i> , Rene Colato Lainez	RF/PB 2006	530 L 32 pp	Mexico	A boy learns to play Loteria with his grandmother in Mexico by communicating across languages. Bilingual.

	<i>Playing with Lanterns.</i> Yage Wang & Cheng-Liang Zhu	RF/PB 2021	32 pp RL 3.6	China Tr	A group of friends go out at night with paper lanterns to celebrate Chinese New Year in rural northern China.
	<i>Runs with the Stars,</i> Darcy Whitecrow	RF/PB 2022	32 pp RL 2.4	Canada Indigenous	A grandfather teaches a child about Ojibwe horses that roamed Ontario and his role in keeping them alive.
	<i>Sankofa: A Culinary Story of Resilience and Belonging,</i> Eric Adjepong & L. Watkins	RF PB 2023	RL 2.8 720 L	Ghana US	Tasked to bring a dish to school that represents his family's culture, Kofi is unsure about bringing Ghanaian food until his grandfather connects food to his history.
	<i>Saudade,</i> Ana Crespo	RF 2024	32 pp	Brazil	Saudade is a Portuguese word for a longing for something you once had. A girl and her mother reflect on what makes them feel saudade--memories of Brazil.
	<i>A Spoonful of the Sea,</i> Hyewon Yum	RF 2025	32 pp	Korea	A girl is disappointed with seaweed soup for her birthday, miyeokguk, until her mother shares the tradition and stories of the haenyeo, women divers.
	<i>Stolen Words,</i> Melanie Florence	RF/PB 2017	32 pp RL 2.1	Canada Indigenous	A young girl helps her grandfather remember his native Cree language, lost in residential school.
	<i>The Story of Chopsticks/ Kuai Zi De Gu Shi,</i> Ying Chang Compestine	HF/PB 2016	RL 2.2 32 pp	China	When Kuia cannot get enough to eat, he uses sticks to grab food too hot for his hands, and soon all of China is using chopsticks.
	<i>The Truth about Dragons,</i> Julie Leung & Hanna Cha	RF/PB 2023	RL 4.6 910 L	China/US	A mother tells her biracial child the story of two forests inhabited by two different dragons, pulling from the Eastern and Western mythologies of the grandmothers.
	<i>Under My Hijab,</i> Hena Khan	RF/PB 2019	710 L (K) RL 3.4	Muslim world	A young girl observes that each of the women in her life wears her hijab and hair in a different way.
	<i>Upside Down Iftar,</i> Maysa Odeh & Nadine Issa	RF 2026	32 pp	Palestine US	Malak and her grandmother are making iftar together, but everyone wants to add their favorite ingredient.

	<i>A Vaisakhi to Remember</i> , Simran Singh & J. Kaur	RF 2025	32 pp 630 L	Sikh/India	After moving to a new country, a Sikh girl finds comfort in celebrating the spring harvest festival.
	<i>When the Sakura Bloom</i> , Narisa Togo	RF/PB 2022	RL 2.9 32 pp	Japan Tr	As people rush by, the bare branches of the sakura, flowering cherry trees, come into bloom.
	<i>Why We Eat Fried Peanuts</i> , Mengyi Zha & Sian James	RF 2025	610 L 32 pp	China	Ancestral stories help Meng understand why her family eats certain foods during Lunar New Year.
	<i>Wisdom Weavers</i> , James V. Kaagegaabaw & M. Trujillo	RF 2024	660 L 32 pp	Canada Ojibwe	As a father and son go about their day, they introduce the Ojibwe language and meaning of dream catchers.
	<i>Wrestlers of the Grassland</i> , Liu Hau	RF 2025	32 pp	Mongolia Dutch Tr	The wrestlers of the grassland gather everyday and Anand trains every day to become a brave warrior.
	<i>The Yellow Áo Dài</i> , Hanh Bui & Minnie Phan	RF/PB 2023	RL 3.1 600 L	Vietnam/ US	Naliah accidentally tears her grandmother's special Vietnamese yellow áo dài and comes to understand honoring memories as well as creating new traditions.
	<i>Zahra's Blessing: A Ramadan Story</i> . Shirin Shamsi & Manal Mirza	RF/PB 2022	32 pp RL 2.5	Muslim Pakistan US	Zahara, who wishes for a sister, finds one while volunteering at a refugee center during Ramadan. Importance of sharing in Islamic traditions.
Forced and Chosen Journeys	<i>189 Canaries</i> , Dieter Boge & Elsa Klever	HF/PB 2021	32 pp RL 2.9 (P)	Germany US, 1800s Tr	Caged canaries travel from the Harz Mountains in Germany to a new home in New York. Includes a history of canaries and their use in mines.
	<i>9 Kilometers</i> , Claudio Aguilera & Gabriela Lyon	RF/PB 2023	560 L 32 pp	Chile Tr	A boy leaves his house at dawn, counting his steps on his long journey to school. Includes info on distances children around the world take to school. Detailed illustrations.

	<i>Along the Tapajos,</i> Fernando Vilela	RF/PB 2019	RL 2.8 32 pp	Brazil Tr	Children go to higher ground along the Tapajos River during flooding but return for their pet.
	<i>Anita and the Dragons,</i> Hannah Carmona & Anna Cunha	RF/PB 2021	800 L 32 pp	Dominican Republic	A young girl faces her fears of the dragon that will fly her to a distant land and her anxiety over the many things she will miss in her beautiful life on her island.
	<i>Baba's Peach Tree,</i> Marie Tang & Seo Kim	RF 2024	32 pp	China	Tao and her father, a migrant worker, find hope in an old peach tree, but are forced to move to the city.
	<i>Chidori: A Story of One Thousand Birds,</i> Jennifer Maruno & Miki Sato	RF 2025	32 pp 650 L	Japan 2011	Hana is at school when a devastating tsunami hits her village, taking away her mother. To cope with her grief, she paints chidori, a thousand birds.
	<i>Comings and Goings,</i> Anna Kontoleon & Fotini Tikkou	RF/PB 2021	32p (M) 640 L RL 202	Greece, Tr	Alex and his parents prepare for his trip to visit family and his extended family eagerly prepare for his arrival.
	<i>The Day Saida Arrived,</i> Susana Redondo Gomez & Sonja Wimmer	RF/PB 2020	32 pp	Spain Tr	Saida, a refugee from Morocco, and a classmate teach each other words in Arabic and English (Spanish in original book). Values each child's knowledge.
	<i>The Day War Came,</i> Nicola Davies	RF/PB 2018	RL 2.0 32 pp	Middle East/UK	A child fleeing war finally finds refuge but is told there is no room at school. Children act by bringing chairs.
	<i>Desert Girl, Monsoon Boy</i> Tara Daiman	RF/PB 2020	32 pp	India	Two families in different places flee extreme weather and come together on a mountaintop. Climate change.
	<i>Dounia and the Magic Seeds,</i> Marya Zarif	RF/FA 2023	860 L 32 pp	Syria French Tr	Dounia and her family flee Aleppo on a journey in which baraka seeds provide magic at critical moments.

	<i>Dreams of Near and Far</i> , Martin Widmark	RF/PB 2022	32 pp	Swedish, Tr	Parallel stories intersect at the end of the book. Noah grieves for his dog, while Mia and her cat search for food and safety as they move from place to place.
	<i>Empty and Me: A Tale of Friendship and Loss</i> . Azam Mahdavi & M.Tahmasebi	FAN PB 2023	32 pp RL 2.6	Iran Tr	After the death of her mother, a girl learns to live with a figure named Empty that personifies her journey of grief. Bilingual in Persian/English
	<i>The Endless Sea</i> , Chi Thai & Linh Dao	HF 2025	32 pp	Vietnam 1970s	The author's refugee journey with her family from Vietnam to the UK through the jungle to board a tiny, overcrowded boat.
	<i>Finding Papa</i> , Angela Pham Krans & Thi Bui	HF PB 2023	32 pp RL 2.2	Vietnam Late 1970s	Mai and her mother embark on a long dangerous journey to find Papa who left early to find a new home.
	<i>From the Tops of the Trees</i> , Kao Kalia Yang & Rachel Wada	RF/PB 2021	32 pp 601L (R)	Thailand/ Hmong	A young Hmong girl has never known life outside a refugee camp in Thailand. Her father is determined to help her dream beyond the fences that confine them.
	<i>Ga's/The Train</i> , Jodie Callaghan & Georgia Lesley	HF/PB 2021	32 pp RL 3.3	Canada M'gmaq	Uncle tells of the day that he and other children were forced to board a train for a residential school that took them from their M'gmaq community. Bilingual.
	<i>Home is a Door We Carry</i> . Constantin Satupo	RF 2026	32 pp	Global	Two boys flee to find a safer place to live, wishing they could shrink their houses to carry and protect them.
	<i>I am the Subway</i> , Kim Hyo-un	RF/PB 2021	RL 2.9 700 L	S. Korea, Tr	A subway tells stories about the lives of the people who travel on the train from dawn to dusk in Seoul.
	<i>I Talk Like a River</i> , Jordan Scott & Sydney Smith	RF/PB 2020	RL 2.4 (O) 32 pp	Canada	A boy describes how it feels to stutter and how his father's words help him through a "bad speech day."

<i>The Journey</i> , Francesca Sanna	RF/PB 2016	630 L 32 pp	Middle East/Syria	A mother and two young children are forced to flee from danger, facing fear and hope (see also, <i>Me and My Fear</i>).
<i>The Lady with the Books</i> , Kelly Stinson & Marie Lafrance	HF/PB 2020	620 L RL 2.8 32 pp	Germany 1945	After WWII, two German children in search of food find a hall filled with books in Munich. Inspired by true events and the work of Jella Lepman.
<i>Leaf</i> , Sandra Dieckmann	FAN 2017	RL 3.6 32 pp	UK	Animals fear a polar bear who arrives in the woods, until they watch as he attempts to fly with leaves to go home.
<i>A Light for Lucinda</i> , Olga Herrera.	HF 2026	32 pp	Cuba 1950s	During the Cuban Revolution, violence erupts in the streets while Lucinda's family joins together inside their home to cook and comfort each other.
<i>Loose Threads</i> , Isol	FAN 2024	32 pp	Argentina Tr	Living in a village where everything has its place, Lailah visits The Other Side, a messy world of lost things.
<i>Lost Words: An Armenian Story of Survival and Hope</i> , Leila Boukarim & S. Avedikian	RF 2024	32 pp 490 L	Armenia Turkey Lebanon	When asked by his grandchildren where they are from, a grandfather finds words to share fleeing as a child from the Armenian genocide to Lebanon, losing his parents and eventually coming to the U.S.
<i>Marwan's Journey</i> , Patricia Arias	RF/PB 2018	520L 32p RL 3.3	Syria Tr	A child walks across the desert fleeing conflict and promising to return someday.
<i>Meanwhile Back on Earth</i> , Oliver Jeffers	FA/PB 2022	RL 4.1 850 L	Global	A father and his children blast into space to look back at Earth and the conflictse since the beginning of time. A guide to history and to the universe.
<i>Mexique: A Refugee Story from the Spanish Civil War</i> , Maria Jose Ferrada & Ana Penyas	HF/PB 2020	500 L RL 2.4 32 pp	Mexico Tr Spain, 1937	456 children were sent to Mexico from Spain by their families during the Spanish Civil War on what was supposed to be a short stay but stretched into years.

	<i>Mishka</i> , Edward van de Vendel & Annel Schaap	RF 2024	151 pp	Afghanistan Netherlands Tr	A refugee family from Afghanistan adopt a pet rabbit, each person telling him different perspectives on their journey to the Netherlands.
	<i>Mnoomin maan'gowing/The Gift of Mnoomin</i> . Brittany Luby & J. M. Pawis-Steckley	RF/PB 2023	RL 3.3 32 pp	Canada Anishinaabe	Journey of a precious mnoomin seed and the circle of life that seed sustains. Explores the cultural and ecological importance of mnoomin. Authors note. Bilingual.
	<i>Molly & Mae: A Friendship Journey</i> , Danny Parker	RF/PB 2017	32 pp 470 L RL 2.8	Australia	Two girls experience the highs and lows of friendship on a train journey. Railways signs are metaphors for stages of their journey.
	<i>The Moon from Dehradun</i> , Shirin Shamsi & Tarun Lak	HF 2022	530 L 32 pp	India Pakistan 1947	A young girl accidentally leaves her doll behind when she is forced from India to Pakistan due to their partition by the British government. Farsi words
	<i>My Home is in My Backpack</i> , Eugenia Perrella & Angela Salerno	RF 2025	32 pp	Uruguay	Clara and her family are forced to leave home on a long journey, taking only their backpacks with them as she struggles with home as family, not a house.
	<i>My Name is a Blessing</i> , Eric Walters	RF/PB 2013	630 L 32 pp	Kenya	Muthini's grandmother sends him to a school when she cannot help him due to a physical disability.
	<i>My Two Border Towns</i> . David Bowles & Erika Meza	RF/PB 2021	32 pp RL 3.1 680 L	Mexico US	A boy and his father travel across the border on Saturdays to visit favorite places and family and to care for those unable to enter the U.S. Integrates Spanish.
	<i>My Words Flew Away</i> , Debra Pearson & Shrija Jain	RF/PB 2021	RL 2.7 530 L 32 pp	Canada	A refugee finds that her words fly away when she goes to live in an English-speaking country. She gradually learns to live in a new language. Refugee perspective.

	<i>A New Home</i> , Tania De Regil	RF/PB 2019	RL 3.2 (K) 32 pp	Mexico US	A boy moving to Mexico City and a girl moving to New York City express their fears about living in an unfamiliar place.
	<i>The Notebook Keeper</i> , Stephen Biseno & Magdalena Mora	RF/PB 2022	RL 1.7 32 pp	Mexico US	A family from Mexico is denied entry at the border and must find the refugee in charge of the notebook with a list of those waiting to cross into the U.S. Spanish Ed.
	<i>Nya's Long Walk: A Step at a Time</i> , Linda Sue Park	HF/PB 2019	530 L (O) 32 pp	Sudan	Nya's little sister becomes sick when returning from the water hole and Nya must carry her and the water.
	<i>Paloma Flies Away</i> , Maria Guarda. M. Cordova, Tr.	RF 2025	32 pp	Chile Spanish Tr	Paloma's family flees a dictator to a new home but return when it's safe to a place she no longer knows.
	<i>The Paper Boat</i> , Thao Lam	HF/VN 2020	32 pp Wordless	Vietnam	A family flees war-torn Vietnam on a small boat, with ants taking a parallel journey.
	<i>The Peanut Man</i> , Carmen Agra Deedy & Raul Colon	HF/PB 2025	32 pp	Cuba 1960s	A Cuban refugee misses the peanut man from her Havana community, until a baseball vendor connects her to home.
	<i>The Pebble: An Allegory of the Holocaust</i> , Marius Marcinkevicius & I. Dagile	HF/PB 2023	32 pp RL 2.3	Lithuania Tr 1943	A boy describes love and devastating loss who are enclosed by walls in a ghetto, from which people disappear to never come home. Allegory.
	<i>Pilgrim Codex</i> , Vivian Manzur & E. Valtierra	RF 2025	32 pp RL 3.7	Mexico Tr	An immigrant family's journey north is told by a child, illustrated in an ancient codex and drawing upon Mesoamerican mythology.
	<i>Pina</i> , Elif Yemenici	FAN, 2022	32 pp 630 L RL 2.2	Turkey Tr	A puppet-like figure is extremely anxious about stepping outside his place of safety, his home, until he ventures out to find a favorite food. Techniques to overcome fear.

	<i>Powerful Like a Dragon</i> , Christopher Cheng & A. Tam	HF 2025	32 pp	Hong Kong 1941	The Japanese invasion sends a group of children on a long journey from Hong Kong to reach safety in the mountains.
	<i>The Real Boat</i> , Marina Aromshtam	FA/PB 2019	RL 2.3 32 pp	Russia Tr	Modern fable of a paper boat on a dangerous journey to the ocean. Striving to go beyond your comfort zone.
	<i>Sadako</i> , Eleanor Coerr and Ed Young	HF/PB 1997	500L 48 pp	Japan 1950s	Hospitalized with leukemia after Hiroshima, a girl races to fold one thousand paper cranes.
	<i>Saving the Butterfly</i> , Helen Cooper and Gill Smith	RF 2022	RL 2.0	UK	Two siblings rescued from the sea begin a new life, but the sister is depressed and afraid to go outside until her brother finds a way to help her gain courage.
	<i>Simone</i> . Viet Thanh Nguyen & Minnie Phan	RF/PB 2024	32 pp	Vietnam US	Climate change brings wildfires that force a mother and her daughter to flee and memories of floods in Vietnam.
	<i>Sleeping with the Lights On</i> , David Unger	HF 2020	RL 3.6 620L 93p	Guatemala 1950s	David and his family enjoy their life running a restaurant but are forced to leave when violence and war erupts.
	<i>Some Days</i> , Maria Wernicke	RF/PB 2020	RL 2.0 32 pp	Argentina Tr	A girl tells her mother about a passageway in their yard where, some days, she glimpses the father she is grieving.
	<i>A Star Shines Through</i> , Anna Desnitskaya	RF/PB 2024	32 pp 430 L	Russia Tr	As war begins, a girl and her mother leave to a new home, feeling displaced but finding home in a cardboard star light.
	<i>Stepping Stones: A Refugee Family's Journey</i> , Margriet Ruurs	RF/PB 2016	660 L (S) 32 pp.	Syria	A young girl and her family are forced to flee to escape civil war, encountering both danger and support. Beach stone collages by Syrian artist. Arabic/English.

	<i>Still Dreaming/Seguimos sonando</i> , Claudia Martinez & Magdalena Mora	HF/PB 2022	RL 3.5 32 pp	Mexico/US 1930s	A child dreams of a life without borders when the family is forced to leave the U.S. for Mexico during the Mexican Repatriation in the 1930s.
	<i>Story Boat</i> , Kyo Maclear & Rashin Kheiriyeh	FA/PB 2020	RL 2.3 32 pp	Middle East	As a family flees, children find hope in small items, like a cup and a flower, to hold dreams.
	<i>A Stronger Home</i> , Katrina Chen & D. Cote-Lacroix	RF 2025	32 pp 510 L	Canada	A boy and his mother flee their home due to family violence, moving from place to place to find safety until it is safe to return home.
	<i>Sugar in Milk</i> , Thrifty Umrigar & Khoa Le	RF 2020	RL 2.3 740 L	Persia	An immigrant girl is lonely and sad, until her aunt tells her an ancient Persian tale about how immigrants can sweeten lives just as sugar added to milk.
	<i>The Sunflowers Babushka Planted</i> , Beatrice Rendon & Olga Baumert	HF 2024	860 L RL 4.4	Ukraine WWII	Tania flees with her parents from Ukraine, settling in a refugee camp in Europe, where her mother paints sunflowers to create a connection to home and hope.
	<i>Taking Flight</i> , Kashmira Sheth & Nicola Carozzi	RF 2026	32 p	Tibet, Syria, Ukraine	Families from Tibet, Syria, and Ukraine leave the homes, facing uncertainty and hoping for a safe place.
	<i>These Olive Trees</i> , Aya Ghanameh	RF/PB 2023	RL 2.7 32 pp	Palestine	Oraib loves the olive trees outside her refugee camp that are left behind when war forces the family to flee.
	<i>Thread by Thread</i> , Alice Briere-Haquet & M. Eccli	FAN 2025	32 pp 690 L	French Tr.	A family of mice watch their nest unravel and flee, searching for a place to knit a new life.
	<i>Tomorrow</i> , Nadine Kaadan	RF/PB 2018	540 L RL 2.7	Syria Arabic Tr	Yazan is no longer allowed to play outside due to war and questions why his world has changed.

	<i>The Ugly Place</i> , Laura Deal & Emma Pedersen	RF 2022	RL 3.0 32 pp	Canada Indigenous	A child walks along the Arctic shoreline seeing everything as ugly as their mood until the child closes their eyes and breathes, transforming the world to one of beauty.
	<i>Veena and the Red Roti</i> , Namia M. Mehra & B. Mistry	HF 2024	32 pp 650 L	Pakistan & India, 1947	During the Partition, a family ends up in refugee camp in India, where Veena makes roti as a taste of home.
	<i>Wall</i> , Tom Clohosy Cole	HF/PB 2014	480L (Q) 32 pp	Germany	When a wall suddenly divides Berlin, a boy searches for a way to reunite his now separated family.
	<i>The Wall: A Timeless Tale</i> , Giancarlo Macri	FA/PB 2019	510 L RL 2.8	Italy	A king banishes anyone who is different from him to the other side of a wall. Pop-up wall.
	<i>Where Butterflies Fill the Sky</i> , Zahra Marwan	RF/PB 2022	RL 2.2 32 pp	Kuwait/ US	Fictionalized memoir of a child whose family is forced to leave the home of her heart, Kuwait, but who eventually comes to love her new home and traditions.
	<i>Wishes</i> , Muon Van & Victo Ngai	HF/PB 2021	32 pp	Vietnam 1980s	Stunning illustrations and poetic text tell the story of a family packing to embark on a dangerous voyage. Told through a series of wishes by inanimate objects.
	<i>Wolf Girl</i> , Jo Loring-Fisher	FA/PB 2022	32 pp RL 2.4	UK	A shy girl struggles, hiding in her wolf suit, until she goes on a magical adventure with a real wolf and discovers her inner confidence. Pair with <i>Where the Wild Things Are</i> .
	<i>Yellow Butterfly: A Story from Ukraine</i> , Oleksandr Shatokhin	VN/PB 2023	32 pp	Ukraine Tr	A child's eye view of military conflict is viewed through dark images of barbed wire and missiles disrupted by a girl following a yellow butterfly signaling hope.

	<i>The Yellow Hats</i> , Kelly Matathia-Covo.	FAN 2026	32 pp	Greek Tr.	Inspired by the Holocaust, families of animals live together happily until whispers of wild things lead to fear and a community solution to provide safety.
Taking Action	<i>100 Rooms</i> , Haya Shenhav & Yimi Pinkus	FAN 2024	32 pp	Israel Tr	A man who lives in a house of 100 rooms, with each room for one purpose, realizes how much is enough.
	<i>Abuelita and Me</i> , Leonardo Carranza & Rafael Mayani	RF 2022	530 L RL 3.9 32 pp	Canada	A young girl decides not to leave home to go into the city with her grandmother after they experience racism. She finds the courage to face a racist world.
	<i>Afloat</i> , Kirli Saunders & Freya Blackwood	RF 2025	32 pp	Australia Aboriginal	In a time of climate crisis, an Elder shares her People's knowledge and the use of weaving to create hope.
	<i>Azizi and the Little Blue Bird</i> , Laila Koubaa & Marrias de Leeuw. D. Colmer, Tr	FAN 2025	32 pp	Tunisia Flemish Tr	Azizi lives in a country ruled by fear where rulers have gathered blue birds in cages. One day a blue bird escapes and Azizi and the bird set out on a journey to free the people. Based on Jasmine Rev. in Tunisia.
	<i>Beatrice's Goat</i> , Page McBriar	RF/PB 2004	640L 33 pp	Uganda	A young girl's dream of attending school is fulfilled after her family is given an income-producing goat.
	<i>The Best Tailor in Pinbaue</i> , Eymard Toledo	RF/PB 2017	660 L (P) RL 3.6	Brazil, Tr	A town is ruined by a factory that puts his uncle out of work until a boy finds a way to give the town hope.
	<i>The Big Bad Wolf in My House</i> , Valerie Fountaine	FA/PB 2021	32 pp, 510 L (Z)	French Canadian	Her mom's new friend is a big bad wolf who gets angry and abusive without warning. Fable on domestic violence that ends with the mother acting to get them to a safe house.
	<i>Bittersweet</i> , Christy Mandin	HF 2025	32 pp	Germany 1948	Based on the true story of how one airman inspired a movement to drop candy to children trapped in occupied Berlin at the end of WWII.

	<i>Book Uncle and Me</i> , Uma Krishnaswami	RF 2016	580 L 149 pp	India	Yasmin takes action when Book Uncle's stand, her source of free books, is closed by the city.
	<i>Birds on the Brain</i>	RF 2024	180 pp 620 L	India	Reeni and Yasmin advocate for their city to participate in a global bird count to document threats to birds.
	<i>The Sunshine Project</i>	RF 2025	239 pp	India	Anil faces a dilemma when the city decides to build a solar panel factory on the site of mangrove trees.
	<i>The Cat Man of Aleppo</i> , Irene Lathan	RF/PB 2020	32 pp	Syria	Based on the true story of a man who took care of Aleppo's abandoned cats during the Syrian War.
	<i>Colorful Mondays: A Bookmobile Spreads Hope</i> , Nelson Rodriguez & R. Faria	RF/PB 2023	32 pp	Honduras Spanish Tr	A bookmobile arrives on Mondays in a remote village, bringing stories that burst with life, laughter, and color. Every Monday brings joy and stories.
	<i>A Dream of Birds</i> , Shenaz Pael & E. Tchoukriel.	RF/PB 2022	RL 3.4 32 pp	Mauritius French Tr	A girl who shares a love of birds with her grandfather sets caged parakeets free, risking punishment.
	<i>The Duel: A Story About Peace</i> , Ines V. Oliveira	FAN 2024	32 pp	Russia Portugal Tr	When two men stand back-to-back for a duel, one continues walking, rejecting violence and finding peace.
	<i>Drum Dream Girl</i> , Margarita Engle & Rafael Lopez	HF/PB 2015	RL 3.8 32 pp	Cuba 1920a	A multiracial girl in the 1920s strives to be a drummer, despite being reminded that only boys play the drums.
	<i>The Fig Tree</i> , Costantia Manoli & Leah Giles	FN/PB 2025	32 pp	Cyprus	A fig tree brings together children on the divided island of Cyprus to create a future where sharing is a bridge.
	<i>The Firekeeper's Son</i> , Linda Sue Park	HF/PB 2009	490L (O) 37 pp	Korea 1800s	A boy takes on the task of lighting the evening fire which signals to the palace that all is well.

	<i>First Come the Zebra</i> , Lynne Barasch	RF/PB 2013	600L 32 pp	Kenya	Two boys become friends despite the feud between the Kikuyu and the Maasai people of Kenya
	<i>Flowers for Sarajevo</i> , John McCutcheon	HF/PB 2017	570 (W) 32 pp	Bosnia 1992	A boy discovers the power of music upon witnessing a cellist's actions after the bombing of Sarajevo.
	<i>Freedom Braids</i> , Monique Duncan & Oboh Moses	HF/PB 2024	32 pp (S)	Colombia	An enslaved Black child finds out that the map to freedom is hidden in braids created by a secret group of women.
	<i>The Green Maowusu</i> , Xuefei Duan	RF 2025	32 pp	Mongolia Dutch Tr	Living in the Maowusu Desert is very difficult, but one woman believes that the desert can bloom again.
	<i>A Hero Like Me</i> , Angela Joy & Leire Salaberria	RF/PB 2023	32 pp	UK	A girl takes a stand for justice after witnessing the 2020 toppling of the statue of a slave trader in Bristol, UK.
	<i>It's So Difficult</i> , Raul Nieto Guridi	RF/PB 2022	RL 2.7 500 L	Spain Tr	A boy who experiences severe anxiety tries to navigate the outside world. Emotionally chaotic drawings
	<i>Kozo the Sparrow</i> , Allen Say	RF/PB 2023	RL 2.2 34 pp	Japan	A young boy saves a baby bird from bullies and keeps it alive but realizes it must fly free to truly be safe.
	<i>Letters in Charcoal</i> , Irene Vasco & Juan Palomino	RF/PB 2023	780 L 32 pp	Colombia Tr	No one in a remote village can read, but two sisters gradually teach themselves to read love letters sent to the older sister. Historical context of enslavement.
	<i>The Library Bus</i> , Bahram Rahman & G. Grimard	RF/PB 2020	32p 560L RL 2.9	Afghani- stan	Pati and her mother drive a library bus to a refugee camp to provide lessons and books to teach girls to read.
	<i>The Light Keeper</i> , Sheila Baslaw & Alice Priestley	HF/PB 2024	32 pp 680 L	Russia 1900s	In a poor Jewish village, a boy figures out how to help his family when he learns how to fix the new electric lights.

	<i>Little Monk Writes Rain</i> , Hsu-Kung Liu	Fic 2026	32 pp	China Tr	A monk is only able to write the character for rain, but that ability brings life-saving rain to his community.
	<i>Madani's Best Game</i> , Fran Pintadera & R. Catalina	RF/PB 2022	RL 3.8 730 L	Syria/Spain Tr	An immigrant who is the best soccer player in the neighborhood saves money, not for shoes but a sewing machine so his mother can come to games.
	<i>A Map for Falasteen</i> , Maysa Odeh & Aliaa Betawi	RF 2024	590 L 32 pp	US Palestine	A Palestini girl is told that her homeland does not exist on a map at school and so turns to her family who share their memories and help her draw her own map.
	<i>Message in the Mooncake</i> , Sapphire Chow & X. Liu	HF 2024	32 pp 640 L	China 1300s	The village is planning a rebellion against Mongolian invaders and Su-Ling must deliver a secret message.
	<i>Night Market Rescue</i> , Charlotte Cheng & A. Ren	FAN PB 2023	RL 4.2 710 L	Taiwan	A stray dog comes upon a little girl separated from her parents in a bustling night market, leading both home.
	<i>One Hen and Then</i> , Katie S. Milway & T. Andrews	Info 2024	32 pp 620 L	Ghana	A boy in Ghana finds his way out of poverty and helps others do the same with a small loan to buy a hen.
	<i>The Promise</i> , Nicola Davies	RF/PB 2017	32 pp RL3.6 (O)	UK	A young girl who tries to snatch an old woman's bag instead goes on a journey of change and hope.
	<i>Pufflings Fly Free!</i> Colleen Paeff & Linda Olafsdottir	RF 2026	32 pp	Iceland	A girl saves a baby puffin in a late-night rescue mission with her family on the Icelandic Westman Islands.
	<i>Ruby's Wish</i> , Shirin Yim Bridges	HF/PB 2015	600L 32 pp	China	Ruby perseveres in her dreams, even though girls are not allowed to go to the university.
	<i>Sami and the Time of the Troubles</i> , Florence Parry Heide and Ted Lewin	HF/PB 1995	600L 33 pp	Lebanon	A Lebanese boy deals with his life in a war-torn city and considers his responsibility to speak for peace.

	<i>A Sky-Blue Bench</i> , Bahram Rahman & Peggy Collins	RF/PB 2021	32 pp 690 L RL 3.9	Afghanistan	A young amputee figures out how to remove a barrier to her education by building a bench so she can sit in school with her “helper-leg.”
	<i>The Soul of the Violin</i> , Nivola Uya	FAN 2024	32 pp	Spain Tr Balkans	A man is determined to make the world’s best violin, finding an ancient tree that is too precious to cut down, selecting another tree to make his violin.
	<i>Sunflower Sisters</i> , Monika Singh Gangotra	RF/PB 2022	32 pp	India/UK	Amitra’s relatives provide advice on how to lighten her dark skin, but her parents reassure her that she is beautiful as she is. Issues of colorism in Indian and African cultures.
	<i>Threads: Zlata’s Ukrainian Shirt</i> , Lina Maslo	HF/PB 2024	32 pp	Ukraine	Zlata faces starvation and oppression in 1930s Ukraine from Stalin but refuses to give up her Ukrainian culture.
	<i>The Young Teacher and the Great Serpent</i> , Irene Vasco & Juan Palomino	RF/PB 2023	32 pp	Amazon Spanish Tr.	A young teacher arrives in the Amazon rainforest, eager to share her books and knowledge, doubting children’s tales of a great serpent, until she discovers their wisdom.
	<i>Yulu’s Linen</i> . Wenxuan Cao & Suzy Lee. Helen Wang, Tr	FAN 2026	32 pp	China Tr	A girl wants to paint the perfect self-portrait but the canvas rejects her attempts but she refuses to give up.
	<i>The Wanting Monster</i> , Martine Murray	FA/PB 2024	32 pp	Australia	A monster spreads greed and envy wherever it goes, almost causing the destruction of a village.
	<i>What the Kite Saw</i> , Anne L. Carter & Alan Duzakin	RF/PB 2021	600L 32p RL 3.4	Palestine	Children living under the threat of military occupation fly kites as a symbol of resistance and hope.
	<i>The Words We Share</i> , Jack Wong	RF/PB 2023	RL 2.6 720 L	Canada	Angie is an English translator for her Chinese community and father, but realizes he also has valuable language skills.

	<i>Zandi's Song</i> , Zandile Ndhlova & Katlego Keokgale	FAN 2024	32 pp 640 L	South Africa	The ocean calls to a Black South African girl to become a mermaid and protect the ocean from pollution.
Folklore	<i>Almost True</i> , Clarice Lispector	Fable 2026	32 pp	Brazil Tr	Tall tale about a talking dog, his owner, a rooster, a hen and a greedy fig tree that explains a mystery.
	<i>Animal Tales from India</i> , Nikita Gill & Chaaya Prabhat	2024	95 pp	India	Ten animal stories from the Panchatantra in the form of fables with moral messages. Stunning illustrations.
	<i>Bahar the Lucky</i> , Rashin Kheiriyeh	PB 2021	RL 790 32 pp	Iran	Original tale of a girl who decides to become a fortune teller but finds herself in trouble with the king.
	<i>The Boy Who Drew Cats</i> , Lafcadio Hearn & Anita Kreituse	Folktale 2026	47 pp	Japan	A folktale from Japan about a boy who is obsessed by drawing cats that come alive to defend their creator. Illustrated by a Latvian artist.
	<i>Brush of the Gods</i> , Lenore Look	PB 2013	580L 34 pp	China	During the Tang dynasty, master painter Wu Daozi creates an extraordinary mural for the emperor.
	<i>Chicken in the Kitchen</i> , Nnedi Okorafor	PB 2017	560L 32p RL 2.3	Nigeria	An Igbo girl must trick the chicken spirit who eats food her family prepares for New Yam Festival of harvest.
	<i>Children of the Sun</i> , Micaela Chirif & Juan Palomino. L. Schmiel Tr.	Legend 2026	32 pp	South America Spanish Tr	The birth of human civilization is recounted in this Incan legend by a Peruvian poet in telling how the Sun gave birth to a young man and woman.
	<i>The Cloud Kingdom</i> , Maire Zepf	Original tales, 2026	88 pp	Ireland	Original tales that read like fairy tales about the art of storytelling and themes of kindness and empathy.

	<i>Coyote Tales</i> , Thomas King	TradLit 2019	59 pp 570 L	Canada Indigenous	Two tales about Coyote's vanity, one involving singing to the moon and the other focuses on his new suit.
	<i>The Dragon Slayer</i> , Jaime Hernandez	GN 2018	40 pp 570L	Latin America	Graphic novel retellings of 3 Latin American folktales -- Dragon Slayer, Cucarachita Martinez, Tup and the Ants.
	<i>El niño de maiz: The Boy of Maize</i> . Mario Bencastro	PB 2022	32 pp	Maya Central Am	A child born of maize travels to a village on a large turtle preceded by animals announcing his arrival. Bilingual.
	<i>The Fairy Queen</i> , Chrissy D. Ward & Monika Mitkute	Folklore 2025	32 pp	Ireland	Irish travelers' tale on the origin of leprechauns as a way to protect Travelers from a bad king and queen.
	<i>Feathered Serpent and the Five Suns</i> , Duncan Tonatiuh	PB 2020	32 pp RL 3.8	Mexico	Mesoamerican myth about the creation of human beings by Quetzalcoatl, the god of knowledge.
	<i>The First Peoples</i> , Maika Harper & Kaja Kajlez.	Myth 2025	32 pp	Canada Inuit	An Inuit origin story about the appearance of the first humans on earth and from whom all peoples emerged.
	<i>The Game</i> , Henry Charles & Shoshannah Greene	Folktale 2025	32 pp 640 L	Canada Indigenous	The origins of hockey through a Musqueam lens based on an argument between Killer Whale and Brown Bear.
	<i>The Girl with a Brave Heart</i> , Rita Jahan Foruz	PB 2013	620L (M) 40 pp	Iran	Shiraz receives a gift of beauty through her kindness to an old woman, but her unkind stepsister has a different fate.
	<i>Glass Slipper, Gold Sandal</i> , Paul Fleischman	PB 2017	32 pp 700 L	Global	Cinderella retelling integrating elements from many global cultures into one story. Folk-style art identifies each culture. Also, <i>First Light</i> , <i>First Life</i> , a world-wide creation story, and <i>Fearsome Giant</i> , <i>Fearless Child</i> , a worldwide Jack and the Beanstalk story.

	<i>Itzel and the Ocelot</i> , Rachel Katstaller	PB 2022	32 pp 710 L RL 3.6	El Salvador Indigenous	Itzel searches for a giant snake that must be awakened to bring the rain desperately needed in the jungle and her village. Includes Nawat words. Environmental themes.
	<i>The Little Regent</i> , Yewande Daniel-Ayoade & Ken Daley	Fable 2024	32 pp 640 620	W. Africa Yoruba	A fable in which a girl is named temporary ruler after her father dies, later becoming the first female King.
	<i>Lon Po Po: A Red Riding Hood Story</i> , Ed Young	PB 2016	670L (S) 32 pp	China	Three sisters are endangered by a hungry wolf who is disguised as their grandmother.
	<i>Mangoes, Mischief and Tales of Friendship</i> , Chitra Soundar	COL 2021	600 L RL 2.2 179 pp	India	8 traditional Indian folktales are retold in new original settings as a young prince attempts to solve the villager's problems by dispensing wisdom when his father falls ill.
	<i>Martina, The Beautiful Cockroach</i> , Carmen Agra Deedy	PB 2014	32 pp 610 L (P) RL 3.1	Cuba	Humorous Cuban folktale about a cockroach who interviews prospective suitors to decide who to marry. Spanish ed.
	<i>Montezuma's Tantrum</i> , Nura, Gomez Benel	PB 2024	32 pp 550 L	Mexico Tr Aztec	Emperor Montezuma's court tries to cure his bad mood, shares symbols of Aztec life and chocolate.
	<i>Moon Pops</i> , Heena Paek	PB 2021	32 pp RL 2.9 540 L	S. Korea Tr	On a hot night, Granny catches the melting moon to make popsicles, moon pops, for neighbors. But the rabbits on the moon have lost their home.
	<i>Nasreddine</i> , Odile Weulersse	PB 2021	680 L (O) 32 pp	Middle East	Traditional fool's tale of a boy who listens to criticism of his father and their donkey and makes foolish decisions.
	<i>The Nian Monster</i> , Andrea Wang	PB 2016	32 pp 550 L	China	A girl outsmarts the legendary Nian monster who returns at Chinese New Year to devour Shanghai.

	<i>The Parrot and the Merchant</i> , Marjan Vafaeian	PB 2019	RL 3.2 32 pp	Iran Tr	Based on an ancient tale by Rumi, the famous Persian poet and Sufi mystic, about a rich merchant who learns a lesson about putting parrots in cages and the desire for freedom.
	<i>The Princess and the Grain of Rice</i> , Tina Cho & Honee Jang	Folktale 2026	32 pp	Korea	Retelling of the princess and the pea tale that draws on history and a real monarch in 18 th century Korea.
	<i>Ronan and the Mermaid: A Tale of Old Ireland</i> , Marianna McShane	PB 2020	32 pp	Ireland	A boy is washed up to shore with a story of being carried by a mermaid. He grows up to be a musician by the seaside. An ode to music and mermaids.
	<i>The Rooster Who Would Not Be Quiet</i> , Carmen Agra Deedy & Eugene Yelchin	PB 2017	550 L 32 pp	Cuba/ Latin America	Allegorical tale about courage and voices that cannot be silenced. A mayor, who forbids noise, is challenged by a brave rooster who sings, despite punishment.
	<i>The Shade Tree</i> , Suzy Lee	PB 2023	570 L	S. Korea Tr	Retelling of a folk tale about a young traveler who outwits a rich selfish man so villagers can rest in the shade of a tree.
	<i>Tajin and the Twelve Thunders</i> , Magaly Morales	Myth 2026	32 pp	Mexico	A pre-Columbian myth about the origins of hurricanes due to a mischievous Tajin whom even the thunder gods cannot tame.
	<i>Take a Walk with the Wind</i> , Kim Xionig. C. Roberts Tr	2025	32 pp	China Tr.	A small mythical being, a treeing from the ancient forests, wanders with the wind
	<i>Tiny Feet Between the Mountains</i> , Hanna Cha	PB 2019	RL 2.4 32 pp	Korea	A tiny girl is ridiculed in her village, but when the sun disappears, she goes on a quest to find the spirit tiger.
	<i>The Tooth Mouse</i> , Susan Hood	PB 2012	580 L 32 pp	France	Sophie must prove she is brave, honest, and wise to be the next Tooth Mouse, France's version of the tooth fairy.

	<i>The Tortoise's Gift</i> Lari Don	PB 2012	630L 32p RL 2.8	Zambia	A drought sends hungry animals in search of a magical tree that they must name to get food.
	<i>The Turtle Ship</i> , Helena Rhee & C. Kong-Savage	Folklore 2018	RL 4.0 32 pp	Korea 16 th Century	A tale about a battleship design based on turtle shells, based partly in history and partly in folklore.
	<i>The Very True Legend of the Mongolian Death Worms</i> , Sandra Fay	PB 2021	RL 3.6 32 pp	Mongolia	A family of death worms attempts to right their reputation as terrifying creatures found in the Gobi Desert. But do these creatures actually exist?
	<i>Welcome, Uncle Nowruz! Persian New Year's Story:</i> Rashin Kheiriyeh	RF 2026	32 pp	Iran	Nane Sarma is winter herself and eagerly awaits the arrival of Uncle Nowruz whose job is to announce the beginning of spring but has fallen asleep.
	<i>Wrath of the Rain God</i> , Karla Arenas Valenti	Myth 2024	144 pp	Mexico	Legendarios is a series based in Mexican myth and history about twins who are swept back in time to the legends in their book. Book 1 involves the god of rain and thunder.
	<i>Yaffa and Fatima</i> , Fawzia Gilani-Williams	PB 2017	530 L RL 2.0, 32 pp	Jerusalem	Retelling in which two friends, one Jewish and one Muslim, find ways to support each other in hard times.
	<i>Yeh-Shen: A Cinderella Story</i> , Ai-Ling Louie & Ed Young	PB 1996	840L 32 pp	China	A young girl overcomes the wickedness of her stepsister and stepmother to become the bride of a prince.
Series books and transitional chapter books	<i>Detective Gordon: The First Case</i> , Ulf Nilsson	FAN 2015	500 L 92 pp	Norway Tr	Detective Gordon, a toad, takes on a new assistant to track down who is stealing the squirrel's nuts. Series
	Dodsworth in ... series, Tim Egan	FAN 2014	500 L (L) 48 pp	London Paris Rome Tokyo	Each book features an adventure of Dodsworth and his friend duck in a different city. Humorous

	<i>Alina in the Deep</i> , Shenaaz Nanji	RF 2025	111 pp 650 L	Canada Kenya	Alina, who is Indian Canadian, is excited by a visit from a cousin from Kenya, but finds they are very different. Series
	<i>Duck's Backyard</i> , Ulrich Hub & Jorg Muhle	FAN 2022	RL 2.3 540 L 82 pp	German Tr	A duck on crutches and a blind chicken find a place where their wishes come true, discovering that their own backyard offers as much adventure as the world.
	<i>Isla of Adventure</i> , Dela Costa and Ana Sebastian	FAN 2022	540 L RL 2.9 115 pp	Caribbean island	A series set on a Caribbean island, Sol, in which Isla Verde lives an adventurous life and has a secret—she can talk to animals. 6 books.
	<i>Little Animal Rescue series</i> Rachel Delahaye & Jo Anne Davies	FAN 2020-2021	680-720L 120 pp RL 2-3	Global	A time travel series where Callie goes on magical global adventures to rescue wild animals in danger. <i>Little Tiger Rescue</i> – Flood in rainforest in India <i>Little Lion Rescue</i> – Lost cub in Serengeti <i>Little Penguin Rescue</i> – Lost penguin in Antarctic
	<i>Ms. Frogbottom's Field Trips</i> Nancy Krulik & Harry Briggs	FAN 2021	510 L (M) 138 pp	Global	Ms. Frogbottom has a magic map that takes students all over the world to battle with mythical monsters. Book 1 goes to Egypt and Book 2 to Scotland.
	<i>Nguyen Kids</i> , Linda Trinh & Clayton Nguyen	FAN 2022	107 pp RL 3.4 530 L	Canada	A series in which a girl receives a gift from her Vietnamese grandmother, a jade bangle, that provides cultural connection and strength to stand up to racism.
	<i>Surviving the World series</i> by Remy Lai <i>Rainbow the Koala</i> <i>Star the Elephant</i>	RF/GN 2022	105 pp RL 3.4	 Australia Malaysia	Graphic novel adventure series featuring heroic animals and environmental issues. Rainbow the Koala is ready to live on his own but gets caught in a huge bush fire (2019 Australian bushfires) Star is separated from his mother as they search for food due to deforestation and tries to avoid capture by humans.

	<i>Yours Sincerely, Giraffe.</i> Megumi Iwasa	FAN 2017	510 L RL 4.3 102 pp	Japan Tr.	Short stories that involve letters between a lonely giraffe and a penguin. See also, <i>Dear Professor Whale</i> .
Easy-to-Read Wonder Tales and Easy-to-Read Spooky Tales, by Veronkia Martenova Charles (Tundra Books)	RL 2.9-3.3 56 pp	Global	Easy-to-read books that involve a conversation among a group of children from different global cultures about a situation that leads each to share their version of a familiar folktale. Spooky Tales include titles such as <i>Don't Go In There!</i> , <i>Don't Talk to Strangers!</i> , and <i>Don't Open the Door!</i> 9 different titles. Wonder Tales include <i>It's Not About the Beanstalk!</i> , <i>It's Not about the Straw!</i> , and <i>It's Not about the Tiny Girl!</i> 9 different titles		

Examples of Possible Pairings of Classic Novels with Global Literature

Theme	Classic Novel	Global Literature
Children taking action in their families and everyday lives	<i>Sarah Plain and Tall</i> , Patricia MacLachlan	<i>Book Uncle and Me</i> and <i>Bird on the Brain</i> , Uma Krishnasawami <i>My Happy Life</i> , Rose Lagercrantz <i>The Runaways</i> , Ulf Stark
Children telling stories about their lives	<i>The Stories that Julian Tells</i> , Ann Cameron	Anna Hibiscus series, Atinuke <i>The No. 1 Car Spotter and the Firebird</i> , Atinuke <i>Juana & Lucas</i> , Juana Medina <i>Too Small Tola</i> , Atinuke
Children rescuing an animal	<i>My Father's Dragon</i> , Ruth Garnett	<i>Tiger Boy</i> , Mitali Perkins <i>Mikis and the Donkey</i> , Bibi Tak Dumon

Tr = translated from that language and country into English

Under Levels, the letters, e.g. (O), in parentheses are Fountas and Pinnell levels

Note: There are many global books for read-alouds to Grade 2-3 children listed under the 4-5 grade level

8/23/2026