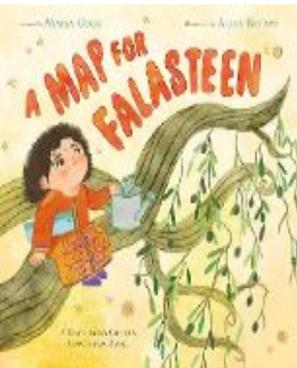


Notable Books for a Global Society Award 2025 List of Winners

Children's Literature and Reading Special Interest Group (CL/R SIG) of the International Literacy Association (ILA) at

www.clrsig.org Each year the NBGS Committee selects 25 books as winners of the NBGS Award. These books, for all levels (PK-12), reflect diversity in the broadest sense, celebrating a variety of voices and topics. Please look for a comprehensive article about these books with useful teaching tips in the Spring 2025 issue of *The Dragon Lode*, free to CL/R SIG members.



A Map for Falasteen

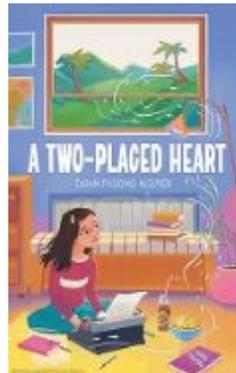
By Maysa Odeh

Illus. Aliaa Betawi

Henry Holt and Company

34pp GR1-3 Picturebook

When Falasteen's class is tasked with locating their family's country of origin on a map, Falasteen "found nothing." Probing her teacher for why Palestine isn't on the map, she responds, "I think there's no such place." Perplexed by this response, Falasteen seeks an answer from her family and learns the rich history of her Palestinian heritage.



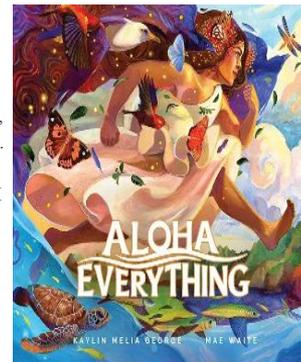
A Two Placed Heart

By Nguyen, D.P.

Lee and Low Books.

352 pp GR 3-6 Novel

Bom and Bo, sisters born in Vietnam, have differing memories of their past. While Bom remembers life in Vietnam, younger sister Bo insists, "I am American." To help Bo connect with their roots, Bom writes poetic letters sharing stories from Vietnam and their journey to the U.S.



Aloha Everything

By George, K.M.

Illus. Waite, M.

Red Comet Press

40pp GR K-3 Picturebook

This poetic story, inspired by traditional folklore and the Hawaiian language, pays tribute to Hawaiian culture. It follows a young girl on a journey of discovery as she learns hula, a storytelling dance that connects her to her roots. Through hula, she expresses tales of history, genealogy, and nature.



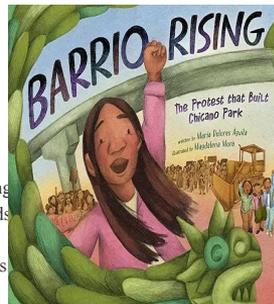
And Then Boom

By Fipps, L.

Nancy Paulsen Books

356pp GR 3-7 Novel

Eleven-year-old Joe is forced to grow up fast when his mom abandons him and his grandmum, leaving them unhoused. Battling hunger, displacement, and poverty, Joe finds strength in small acts of kindness and the resilience of his beloved comic book heroes. This novel-in-verse is an unforgettable story, shedding light on the hidden struggles many children quietly endure.



Barrio Rising: The Protest that Built Chicano Park

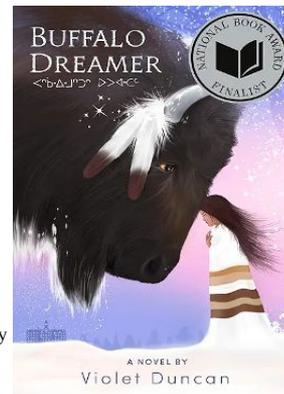
By Maria Dolores Aguilera

Illus. Magdalena Mora

Dial Books

40 pp GR K-3 Picturebook

In April 1970, Elena and her Mexican-American community in San Diego advocate for the construction of a park on land they were promised. When the city unveils plans to build a police station instead, the community comes together to peacefully protest and occupy the building site. This story details their ultimately successful efforts.



Buffalo Dreamer

By Violet Duncan

Nancy Paulsen Books

128 pp GR 3-6 Novel

Summer, a 12-year-old Cree and Apache girl, has vivid dreams depicting her escape from a residential school at the same time a plot of unmarked graves are uncovered near her mother's Cree reservation in Canada. Summer learns of the forced assimilation of the schools and whose dreams she is really seeing. Summer also connects to her Cree heritage by listening to her grandfather's previously untold stories of life in a residential school.

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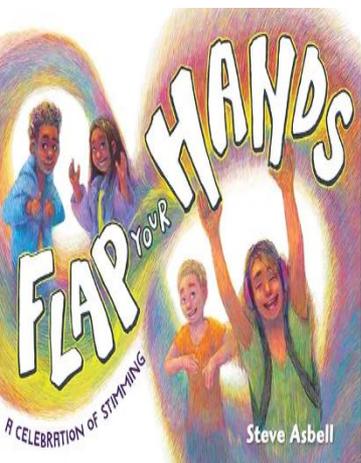
Do You Know Them? Families Lost after the Civil War

By Shana Keller

Illus. Laura Freeman

Atheneum Books for Young Readers
40 pp GR K-3 Picturebook

In the post-Civil War South, Lettie searches for her displaced family after emancipation. By saving every penny to pay for a lost and found ad in the newspaper, she hopes for the day she is reunited with her family. The advertisements are historical, according to research-informed backmatter, making this a heart-wrenching, often-forgotten story of Reconstruction.



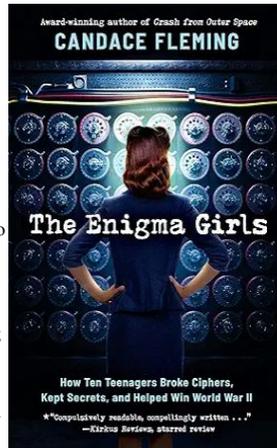
Flap Your Hands: A Celebration of Stimming

By Steve Asbel

Lee & Low Books

40 pp GR K-4 Picturebook

Flap Your Hands is a vibrantly illustrated letter of acceptance to children with autism, specifically those who engage in self-stimulation--also known as stimming--to calm them when they are feeling overwhelmed. The reader is presented with physical and vocal ways autistic children use stimming to calm themselves in stressful situations. The book emphasizes the beauty, magic, and ubiquitousness of stimming.



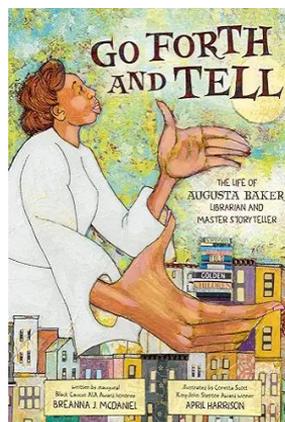
The Enigma Girls: How Ten Teenagers Broke Ciphers, Kept Secrets, and Helped Win World War II

By Candace Fleming

Scholastic Focus

343 pp GR 3-6 Nonfiction

This is a powerful and fascinating story of the brave and dedicated young women who helped turn the tides of World War II for the Allies, with their hard work and determination at Bletchley Park. Primary sources such as photographs and interviews are used to authenticate this true story.



Go Forth and Tell: The Life of Augusta Baker, Librarian and Master Storyteller

By Breanna J. McDaniel

Illus. April Harrison

Dial Books

40 pp GR K-3 Picturebook

Augusta, a master storyteller and children's librarian, dedicated her life to empowering young readers, particularly Black children, by providing heroes who resembled them. As a coordinator at the New York Public Library, she influenced generations through her work, radio shows, and TV appearances. April Harrison's collage illustrations bring Augusta's legacy to life.

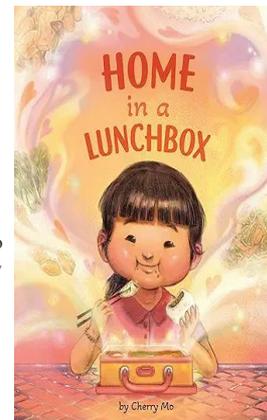


Everything We Never Had

By Randy Ribay
Penguin Group

286 pp GR 9-12 Novel

This book follows three generations of the Maghabol family including Enzo, Chris (Enzo's father), and Francisco (Enzo's grandfather). Set against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic, Enzo gains understanding of his father and abrasive grandfather, offering readers a valuable perspective on Filipino American experiences and history. Told in beautiful prose, this story explores multiple perspectives on Filipino American history and identity.



Home in a Lunchbox

By Cherry Mo

Penguin Workshop

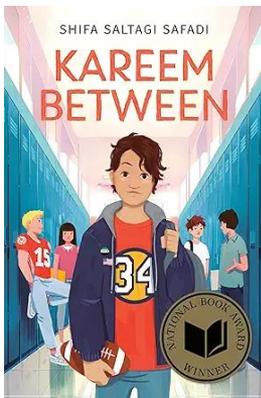
40 pp GR K-3 Picturebook

Home in a Lunchbox immerses readers in the experiences and feelings of learning a new language in a new school and country, while being comforted with one's own food from home. Beautifully illustrated scenes portray the power of food to connect us to our family and build new friendships. Told with minimal text, this story provides children an opportunity to translate their own experiences into the story.

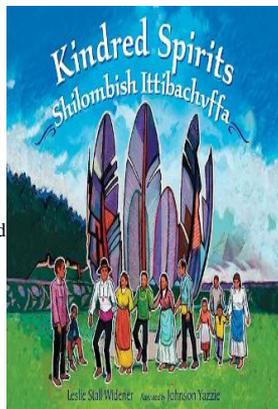
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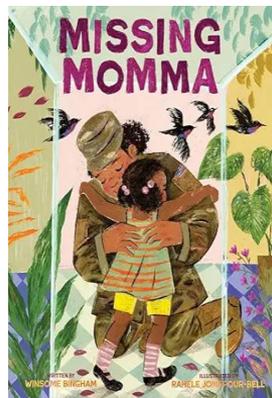
Notable Books for a Global Society Award 2025 List of Winners



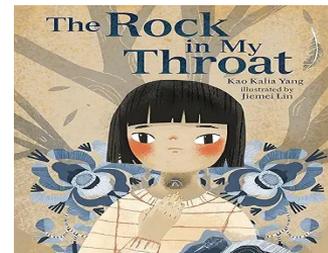
Kareem Between
By Shifa Saltagi Safadi
G.P. Putnam's Sons Books for Young Readers
336 pp GR 4-8 Novel
Kareem Between depicts the poignant story of one adolescent boy as he navigates the challenges of growing up between cultures and the real-life effect of the Syrian travel ban. This riveting novel in verse highlights Kareem's quest to find acceptance with his peers and make the school football team, while being true to his family and heritage.



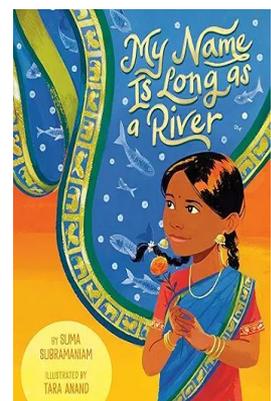
Kindred Spirits: Shilombish Hibachuffa
By Leslie Stall Widener
Illus. Johnson Yazzie
Charlesbridge Publisher
32 pp GR K-4 Picturebook
In 1847, the Choctaw people, recalling their Trail of Tears hardships, empathized with Ireland's potato famine and sent aid. In 2017, the Irish honored the Choctaw people with the *Kindred Spirits* sculpture. During the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic, the Irish sent money to the Hopi and Navajo Nations as gratitude for the Choctaw's earlier kindness.



Missing Momma
By Winsome Bingham
Illus. Rahele Jomepour Bell
Abrams Books for Young Readers
48 pp GR K-3 Novel
Momma served her country, and when she returned home, she was not the same. A young girl seeks to reconnect with Momma, who has selflessly sacrificed to improve the world. This sensitively, tenderly written story explores how a child navigates their "Momma" coming home with PTSD. It celebrates women who do so much for their families and country.



The Rock in My Throat
By Kao Kalia Yang
Illus. Jiemel Lin
Carolrhoda Books
32 pp GR K-4 Picturebook
Kao Kalia Yang draws upon personal experiences as a young Hmong refugee and tells a powerful story about learning a second language. Kao sees her mom being mistreated for speaking her first language, and as a result, she shuts off her ability to speak, ultimately impacting her in school. This book vividly shows the unseen challenges of learning a second language.



My Name is Long as a River
By Suma Subramaniam
Illus. Tara Anand
Penguin Workshop
48 pp GR K-3 Picturebook
Kaveri Thanjavur Jayalakshmi Ganesan grew up in a loving South Indian home. She begins to question the length of her name. Paati reminds Kaveri about the beauty of her name including the history of her family's heritage and imagery of the river they travel across for the Pushkaram Festival. She learns to appreciate the richness of her unique, long name.



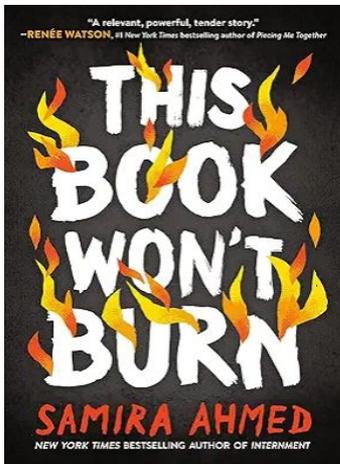
Puzzled: A Memoir Growing Up with OCD
By Pan Cooke
Rocky Pond Books
224 pp GR 7-12 Graphic Novel
Pan Cooke presents a compelling personal narrative of living with Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD) in *Puzzled*. Using the analogy of a puzzle being solved, this graphic novel (memoir) sheds light on the challenges and determination of those with OCD, making it a relatable read for understanding this often-misunderstood and hidden condition.



The Color of a Lie
By Kim Johnson
Random House
325 pp GR 7-12 Historical Fiction/Novel
Set in 1955, this riveting novel reveals the ugly systemic plots and schemes designed to preserve segregation. Johnson has integrally woven together historic events to disclose the atrocities against Black people, and why some "passed for white" to escape and have a chance to attain the American Dream.

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Notable Books for a Global Society Award 2025 List of Winners

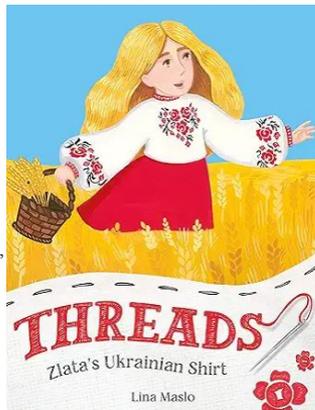


This Book Won't Burn

By Samira Ahmed

Little Brown Books for Young Readers
384 pp GR 9-12 Novel

This Book Won't Burn is a timely story that focuses on one girl's response to book banning in the town she has recently moved to. The story beautifully addresses themes of family relationships, mental health, student activism and voice, risk-taking for your rights, the freedom read, the freedom to be seen in what you read, and much more.

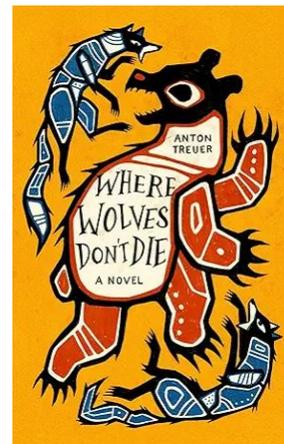


Threads: Zlata's Ukrainian Skirt

By Lima Maslo

Farrar, Straus and Giroux
40 pp GR K-3 Picturebook

This picturebook examines Ukraine's 1930s famine-genocide through eight-year-old Zlata's cherished embroidered blouse, symbolizing Ukrainian resilience and cultural identity. Rooted in the author's family history, *Threads* links past suffering to Ukraine's present struggles, inspiring readers to reflect on kindness, hope, and human perseverance in the face of oppression.



Where Wolves Don't Die

By Anton Treuer
Levine Querido

320 pp GR 7-12 Novel

A fight, a fire, and a parent's fear for his son's safety prompt Ezra to spend the winter on Nigigoosimikaaning tribal lands in Canada running a trap line with his grandfather. Steeped in suspense and intertwined with cultural teachings, Truer's debut novel is a coming-of-age story addressing the continual racism towards Indigenous peoples.



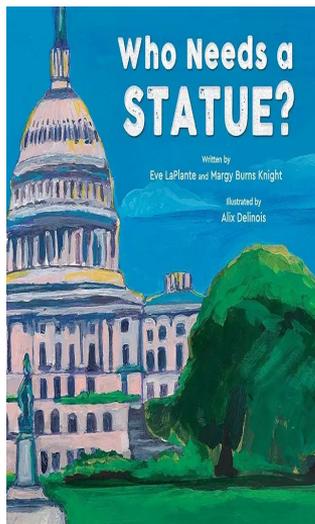
Wild Greens, Beautiful Girl

By Erica Lee Schlaikjer

Illus. Cinyee Chiu

Translator Shan Li Bannai Serasis
Sleeping Bear Press
40 pp GR K-3 Picturebook

A young girl and her mother gather wild greens from their garden, embracing the joy of belonging, beauty of nature, and connection to their heritage. Told in English with Chinese and Pinyin translations, this story explores how indigenous Amis traditions are integrated into modern culture. An exquisitely illustrated narrative about one of the first tribes of Taiwan.

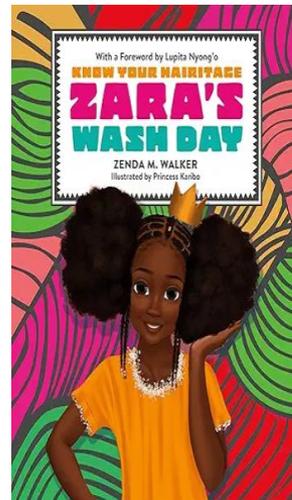


Who Needs a Statue?

By Eve Laplante & Margy Burns Knight
Illus. Alix Delinois

Tilbury House Publishers
40 pp GR 3-6 Picturebook

Prominent historical figures are depicted in statues across our country. But who is chosen to represent this nation? Why are they chosen? And, do they really represent our diverse and multifaceted country? Through artistic depictions of the historical figures and descriptive backmatter, these questions are explored and answered.



Zara's Wash Day: (Know Your Hairitage)

By Zenda Walker
Illus. Princess Karibo

Running Press Kids
40 pp GR K-3 Picturebook

Zara's Wash Day is a beautifully illustrated story exploring acceptance of African hair texture while explaining the peoples and cultures behind the styles. Through Zara, readers are introduced to historic Black hairstyles and their African country of origin. It finishes with an illustrated how-to guide of Zara's finished hairstyle--a Fulani inspired braids and puff ball combo.

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