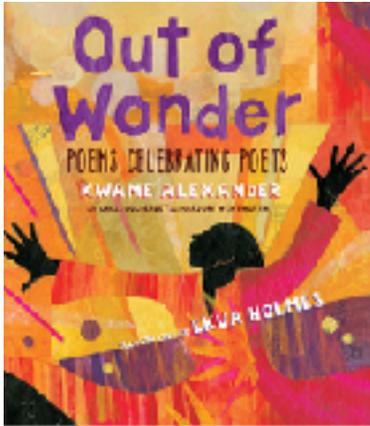


# Notable Books for a Global Society - 2018 list of winners

Children's Literature and Reading Special Interest Group (CL/R SIG) of the International Literacy Association [www.clrsig.org](http://www.clrsig.org)

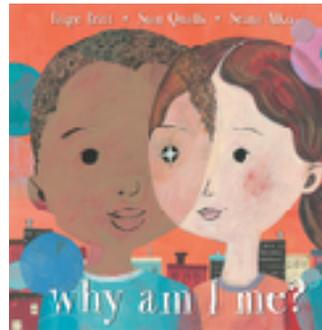
Each year the NBGS Committee chooses 25 winners. These books for all levels (preK-12) reflect diversity in the broadest sense, celebrating a wide variety of voices and topics. Please look for a comprehensive article about these books (published in 2017) plus useful teaching tips in the Spring 2018 issue of *The Dragon Lode*, free to CL/R SIG members. Join today at [clrsig.org](http://clrsig.org), where you can also find NBGS winners



## OUT OF WONDER: POEMS CELEBRATING POETS

Edited by Kwame Alexander.  
Illus. by Ekoa Holmes  
Candlewick.  
56 pp. GR 3 and up. Poetry.

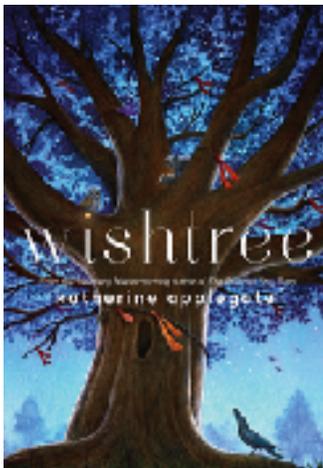
Beyond knowledge, a sacred place of wonder exists where rests a world of poetry deep within us. Alexander and coauthors reverently usher us into that world with their poems taken from twenty famous diverse poets' works, bringing us a fresh collection to savor.



## WHY AM I ME?

By Paige Britt, Sean Qualls,  
and Selina Alko  
Scholastic.  
40 pp. GR PreK and up. Picturebook.

People of different races, ethnicities, genders, and ages, ranging from babies, children, and young people to elders in an urban setting illustrate society's multiculturalism. People wait for trains at the platform, play sports, walk the dog, bike at the park, and dance to music at a festival. The book invites readers of all ages to explore and discuss issues related to race, ethnicity, gender, religion, and family.



## WISHTREE

By Katherine Applegate. Illus.  
by Charles Santoso.  
Feiwel & Friends.  
224 pp. GR 3 and up. Fiction.

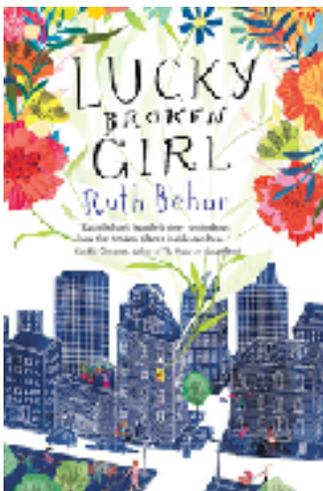
Red, a personified 216-year-old oak tree, is home to a host of animals in a neighborhood with historical roots, and it also serves as a fountain for wishes from many generations. A plan devised by Red develops into a bond of friendship that allows for a better understanding of cultures.



## WALKING WITH MISS MILLIE

By Tamara Bundy.  
Penguin Group /Nancy  
Paulsen Books.  
240 pp. GR 5 and up. Historical  
Fiction.

Alice and Miss Millie form a powerful friendship as they walk together through Rainbow, Georgia, in the 1960s with the dog, Clarence. Both characters share their heartaches of family and societal struggles from their own diverse perspectives as a young adolescent (Alice) and an elderly African-American woman (Miss Millie).



## LUCKY BROKEN GIRL

By Ruth Behar.  
Penguin Group/Nancy  
Paulsen Books.  
256 pp. GR 5 and up.  
Historical Fiction.

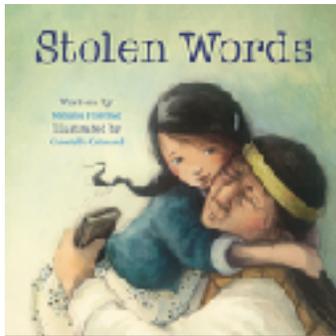
Ruthie is a young, Cuban-Jewish immigrant in 1960s New York whose world is upended after a tragic car accident with her family. Confined to bed in a body cast, she comes to realize through interactions with her family, friends, and teacher that even though she is broken, she is lucky.



## #NOT YOUR PRINCESS: Voices of Native American Women

Edited by Lisa Charleyboy and Mary  
Beth Leatherdale.  
Annick Press.  
112 pp. GR 9 and up. Nonfiction.

In this eclectic collection of poems, essays, interviews, and art, the powerful voices of Indigenous women across North America speak out about the experience of being a Native woman. Women ask for change and demand to no longer remain invisible.



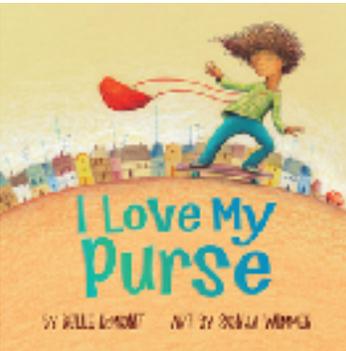
**STOLEN WORDS**

By Melanie Florence. Illus. by Gabrielle Grimard.  
Second Story Press.  
24 pp. GR 1 and up. Picturebook.

How can words be lost? A young girl discovers her grandfather can no longer remember his Cree language. This tender story of healing shares a granddaughter's search to help her grandfather regain this language that was prohibited and forgotten when he was sent to a residential school as a boy.

**I LOVE MY PURSE**

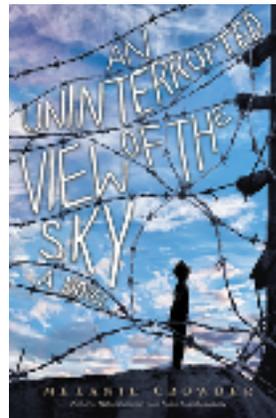
By Belle DeMont.  
Illus. by Sonja Wimmer.  
Annick Press.  
32 pp. GR K and up. Picturebook.



At first, people discourage Charlie from wearing the red purse his grandmother gave him. But, as they witness his wonder and joy in being himself and wearing his purse, they are encouraged to wear or do something they love. The structure and humor makes this book a good read-aloud.

**An Uninterrupted View of the Sky**

By Melanie Crowder.  
Penguin Group/Philomel.  
304 pp. Young Adult. Historical Fiction.



Francisco's father, a taxi driver, is falsely arrested in 1999, Cochabamba, Bolivia. Without money to pay for a lawyer, the impoverished family has no resources and when his mother abandons them, Francisco and his sister, Pilar, continue school but live in dire conditions in the overcrowded prison where having the safety of a cell with a locking door requires payment.



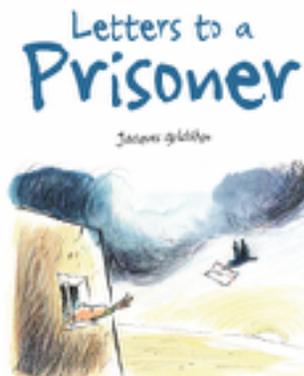
**MY BEAUTIFUL BIRDS**

By Suzanne Del Rizzo.  
Pajama Press. 32 pp.  
GR 1 and up. Picturebook.

Bombs fall. Sami's family joins the line of people fleeing Syria for safety in a refugee camp. Sami worries about the pigeons that he left behind. While people begin making new lives for themselves, Sami struggles to overcome his loss. Beautiful clay dimensional illustrations help tell this story of healing.

**LETTERS TO A PRISONER**

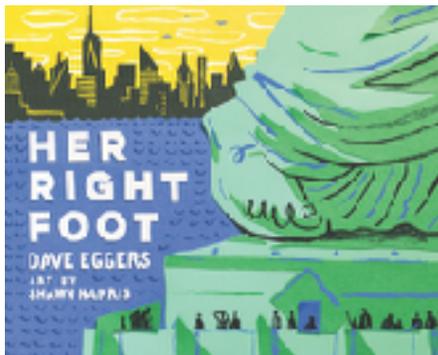
By Jacques Goldskyn.  
Owlkids Books.  
32 pp. GR 3 and up. Picturebook.



What irony! This exquisite, wordless picture book shows the power of words. Images show a parent and child protesting. The parent is arrested, jailed, and placed in solitary confinement; but letters allow the prisoner's spirit to escape confinement.

**HER RIGHT FOOT**

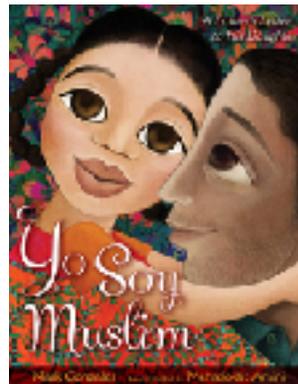
By Dave Eggers.  
Illus. by Shawn Harris.  
Chronicle Books.  
104 pp. GR 1 and up.  
Nonfiction.



You think you know about the Statue of Liberty, but this nonfiction picture book is filled with a new perspective on this American Icon. It will have children and adults yearning to look beyond the surface into the meaning behind historical monuments.

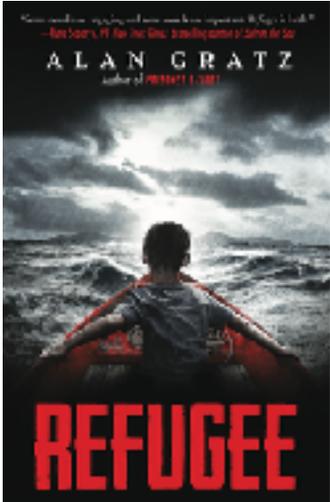
**YO SOY MUSLIM: A FATHER'S LETTER TO HIS DAUGHTER**

By Mark Gonzalez.  
Illus. by Mehrdokht Amini.  
Simon & Schuster Books. 32 pp.  
PK and up. Picturebook.



This lyrical picture book inspires all readers to celebrate the intricacies of identity: "No matter what they say, know you are wondrous" (n.p.). Gonzalez specifically highlights the variations within the Muslim community as seen in the illustrations of settings and characters, as well as references to Mayan and Muslim ancestors.

## Notable Books for a Global Society - 2018 List



### REFUGEE

By Alan Gratz.  
Scholastic.

352 pp. GR 5 and up.  
Historical and Contemporary  
Fiction.

Gratz tells compelling tales of three refugee children's forced journeys, as they search for peace and a place to live in safety. The chapters move from Josef, living in Nazi Germany in 1938, to Isabel, living in Cuba in 1994, to Mahmoud in Syria in 2015 and then repeat the sequence. The three main characters are fictional, but their stories are based on true events.

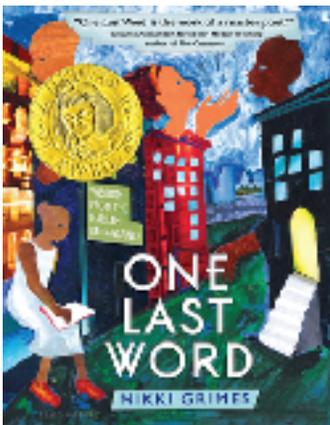


### STORMY SEAS: STORIES OF YOUNG BOAT REFUGEES

By Mary Beth Leatherdale and  
Eleanor Shakespeare.  
Annick Press.

64 pp. GR 4 and up. Nonfiction.

The four sections, illustrated with photographs, depict the harrowing twentieth-century migration of four young people and their families, fleeing from life-threatening conditions in four different countries around the world. Their accounts convey the suffering and hope of people who have lost everything and risk their lives in their migration by boat.



### ONE LAST WORD

By Nikki Grimes.  
Bloomsbury.

128 pp. GR 5 and up. Poetry.

Bestselling author, Nikki Grimes, provides a thought-provoking and timely anthology of poems inspired by the Harlem Renaissance juxtaposing classic poems with her own original work. Grimes uses the Golden Shovel poetic form and weaves in narratives that reflect the themes evident today.

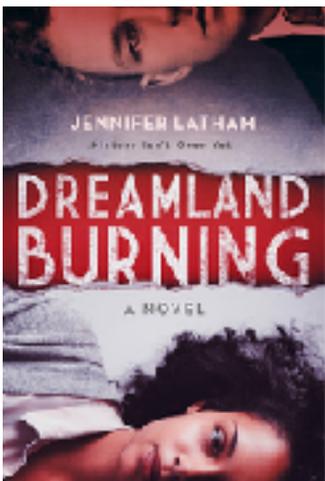


### TRELL

By Dick Lehr.  
Candlewick Press.  
320 pp. Young Adult.

Contemporary Realistic Fiction.

In a time when adults and children alike struggle to trust police, Lehr writes *Trell*. Based on a true story, Trell's father was imprisoned for murder when she was just a baby. She knows he was wrongfully convicted, but how can she prove it? This story is filled with mystery and determination that is sure to lead to meaningful discussions.



### DREAMLAND BURNING

By Jennifer Latham.  
Little Brown.

384 pp. Young Adult. Historical  
Fiction/Mystery.

Two teens who live a century apart explore the terror of the 1921 Tulsa race riots. After 17-year-old Rowan Chase finds a skeleton on her family's property, her investigation leads her to the story of another 17-year-old named Will Tillman. Will's story and Rowan's converge to inform us about a terrible and little known period in American history.



### WHERE WILL I LIVE?

By Rosemary McCarney.  
Second Story Press.  
24 pp. K and up.  
Picturebook.

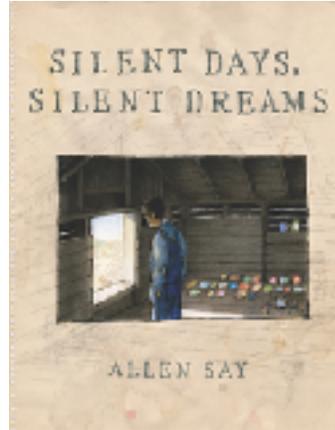
Every day war and conflict forces families to leave their homes in search of safety. The photographs along with questions posed in the text raise awareness of the plight of refugees as well as their hopes of finding new places where they will be welcomed to make their homes.



**FLYING LESSONS**

Edited by Ellen Oh.  
Crown. 240 pp.  
GR 3 and up. Short Stories.

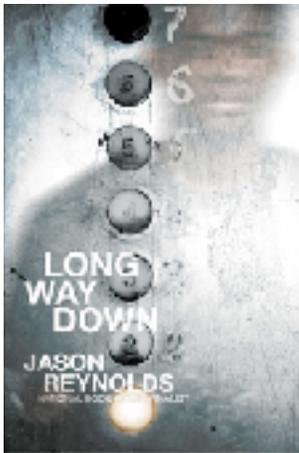
This collection of diverse short stories by a wide array of popular authors is one of a kind for intermediate readers. Walter Dean Myers, Matt de la Pena, and Jacqueline Woodson, just to name a few, will entertain readers with stories of friendship, crushes, and other challenges that school can bring.



**SILENT DAYS, SILENT DREAMS**

By Allen Say.  
Arthur A. Levine Books.  
64 pp. GR 3 and up. Biography.

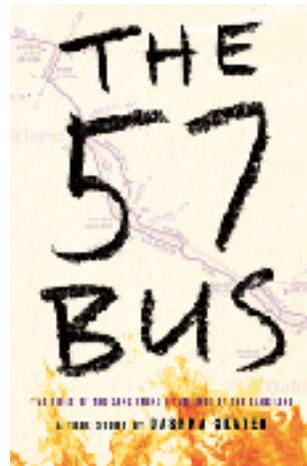
James Castle was born deaf, mute, and autistic in late 19<sup>th</sup> century Idaho. Although he never learned to read, write, or sign, he was an artist whose work has been displayed in major museums and exhibits. Say's illustrations honor the many styles of Castle and provide insight into the life of an extraordinary artist.



**LONG WAY DOWN**

By Jason Reynolds.  
Simon & Schuster.  
306 pp. Young Adult.  
Contemporary Realistic Novel in verse.

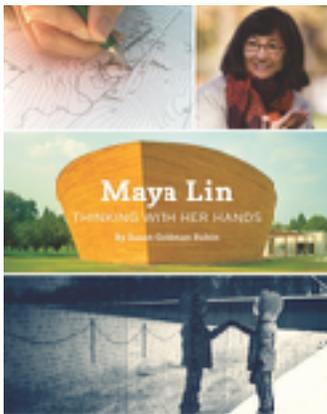
Will just witnessed the murder of his brother Shawn and, as The Rules state, he plans to seek revenge. On the elevator with Shawn's gun in his pants he meets ghosts who died by gun violence related to The Rules. Will he become one of them?



**THE 57 BUS**

By Dashka Slater.  
Farrar, Strauss, Giroux.  
320 pp. Young Adult. Nonfiction.

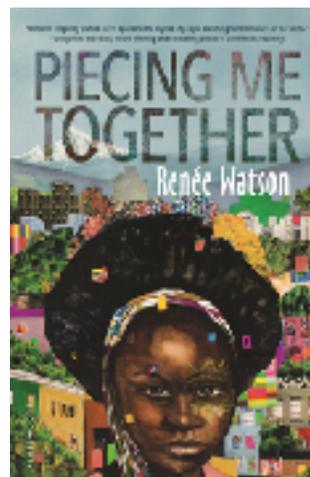
One teenager was wearing a skirt. The other teenager had a lighter. They intersected in one brief moment that changed their lives forever. Slater tells the true, unbelievable tale of two teenagers who were in a crime that changed their lives through their only connection, the 57 bus.



**MAYA LIN: THINKING WITH HER HANDS**

By Susan Goldman Rubin.  
Chronicle Books.  
112 pp. GR 4 and up. Biography.

Noted for her Vietnam Memorial on the Washington Mall that she created while a student at Yale University, Maya Lin has spent her life as an architect and artist creating and building monuments that celebrate unsung individuals and historical events. In describing Lin's work Rubin includes many photographs that show Lin's integration of materials and environment in sculpture.



**PIECING ME TOGETHER**

by Renée Watson.  
Bloomsbury.  
272 pp. Young Adult. Contemporary Realistic Fiction.

Jade believes that she must leave her poor neighborhood if she wants to succeed. She attends a private school, though feels like an outsider. However, when she is invited to the mentor program Woman to Woman, she does not understand why. Through her challenges, Jade pieces herself together.