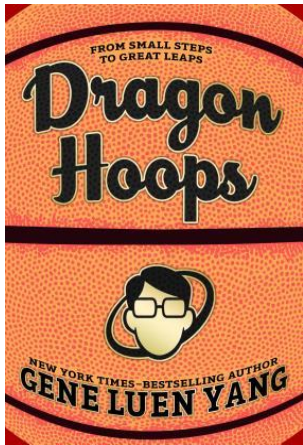


Notable Books for a Global Society Award 2021 List of Winners

Children's Literature and Reading Special Interest Group (CLR SIG) of the International Literacy Association (ILA) at www.clrsig.org

Print and Share

Each year the NBGS Committee selects 25 books as winners of the NBGS Award. These books, for all levels (preK-12), reflect diversity in the broadest sense, celebrating a variety of voices and topics. Please look for a comprehensive article about these books plus useful teaching tips in the Spring 2021 issue of *The Dragon Lode*, free to CLR SIG members. Join today at ILA.org. You can find lists of NBGS winners from previous years on the web site: www.clrsig.org



Dragon Hoops

By Gene Luen Yang

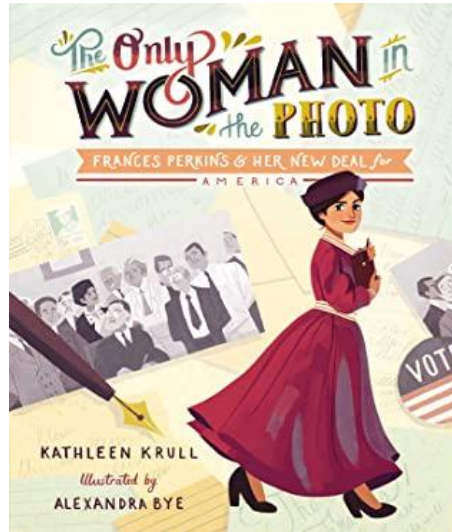
Color by Lark Pien

Roaring Brook Press/First Second

446 pp. GR 8-12 and Up

Memoir Graphic Novel

The 2014-2015 basketball season for the Dragons of Bishop O'Dowd High School is full of promise. Yang sheds his disinterest in the sport to shadow the team. As the season progresses, he comes to understand the game, its history and culture, and appreciates sacrifices players and coaches make to play the game.



The Only Woman in the Photo: Frances Perkins & Her New Deal for America

By Kathleen Krull

Illus. Alexandra Bye

Simon & Schuster/Atheneum Books

48 pp. GR K-4 and Up Biography

This narrative biography introduces young readers to Frances Perkins. As the first female U.S. Secretary of Labor (and the first female presidential cabinet member), Perkins used her passion and determination to fight injustice and pull people out of the Great Depression with her design of the New Deal.



Land of the Cranes

By Aida Salazar

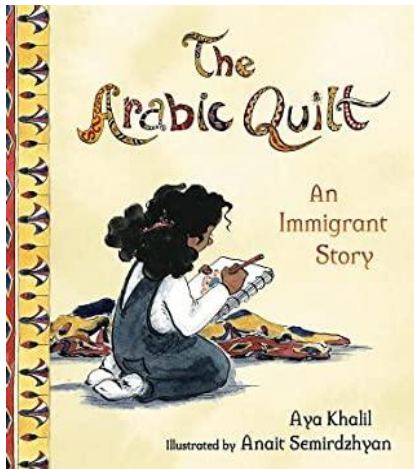
Scholastic/

Scholastic Press

256 pp. GR 3-8 and Up

Realistic Fiction

After fleeing cartel violence in Mexico for Los Angeles, Betita's father is deported and she and her mother learn to survive in a family detention center. This heart-wrenching story in verse explores how Betita, inspired by her papa's ancestral stories, finds strength and hope by writing her own picture poems.



The Arabic Quilt: An Immigrant Story

By Aya Khalil

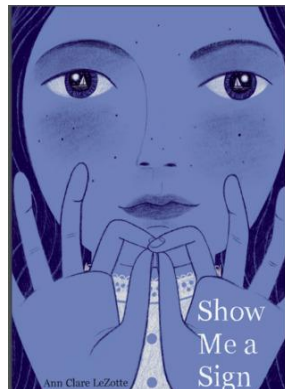
Illus. Anait Semirdzhyan

Tilbury House

32 pp. GR 1-5 and Up

Realistic Fiction

Wanting to fit in, yet embarrassed by her mother's arrival at school, Kanzi wraps herself in the Arabic quilt her tieta (grandmother) made. Learning of the quilt, her teacher invites Kanzi's mother to lead an art lesson. The project, depicting names in Arabic, promotes acceptance and inspires other classrooms to create similar collages.



Show Me a Sign

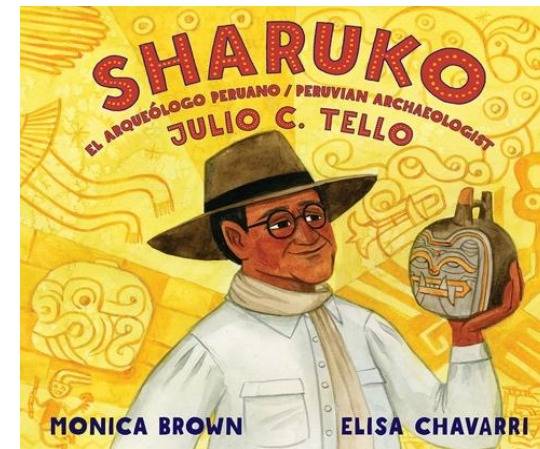
By Ann Clare LeZotte

Scholastic/Scholastic Press

288 pp. GR 3-7 and Up

Historical Fiction

Based on the true history of a deaf community on Martha's Vineyard in the early 19th century, LeZotte pushes readers to examine their understandings of ability and disability. The main character, Mary, who is deaf, must reconcile her own worth with how she is perceived by those outside her community on the mainland.



Sharuko: El Arqueólogo Peruano/ Peruvian Archaeologist Julio C. Tello

By Monica Brown

Illus. Elisa Chavarri

Lee & Low Books/

Children's Book Press

40 pp. GR 1-6 and Up Biography

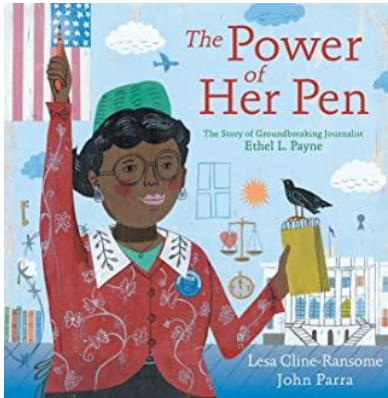
Written in Spanish and English, this colorful biography shows a young boy's curiosity, which leads him to unearth the truth about contributions to science, medicine, and history of his Native Peruvian ancestors. Disproving previously held beliefs about the Native people of Peru, Sharuko lives up to his Quechuan name.

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Notable Books for a Global Society Award 2021 List of Winners

Children's Literature and Reading Special Interest Group (CLR SIG) of the International Literacy Association (ILA) at www.clrsig.org

Print and Share



The Power of Her Pen: The Story of Groundbreaking Journalist Ethel L. Payne
By Lesa Cline-Ransome
Illus. John Parra
Simon & Schuster
48 pp. GR 2-5 and Up Biography

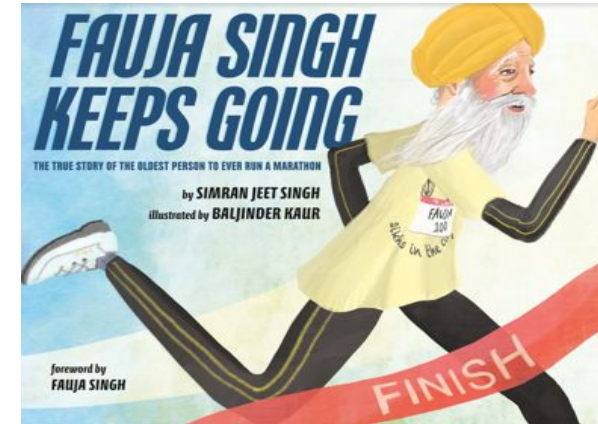
As a young girl, Ethel L. Payne collected stories and wrote for the school newspaper. This biography with folk-art style illustrations depicts Ethel's trailblazing work in her fight for equality, from reporting experiences of Black soldiers on a US military base in Japan, to serving as one of the first African American White House press correspondents.



She Was the First! The Trailblazing Life of Shirley Chisholm

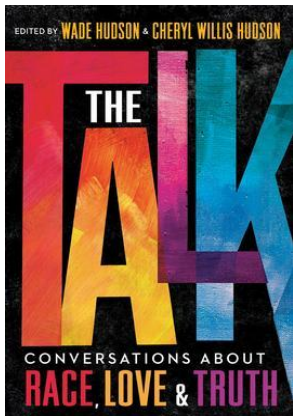
By Kathryn Russell-Brown
Illus. Eric Velasquez
Lee & Low Books
40 pp. GR 2-5 and Up Biography

Her childhood spent in Brooklyn and Barbados shaped Shirley Chisholm into a determined leader. This biography details Chisholm's journey from teacher and community activist to politics, where she served as an instrument of change as the first Black woman elected to Congress and the first Black person to seek the United States presidency. An Author's Note includes details and photographs from her life.



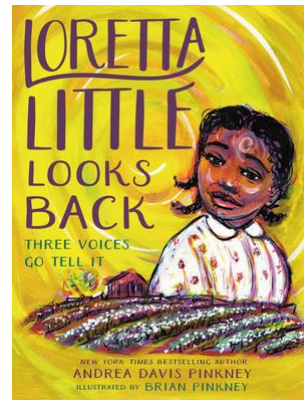
Fauja Singh Keeps Going: The True Story of the Oldest Person to Ever Run a Marathon
By Simran Jeet Singh Illus. Baljinder Kaur
Penguin Random House/ Penguin for Young Readers/ Kokila 48 pp. GR PK-4 and Up Biography

Fauja was born in Punjab, India. Because his legs were weak, people said he would never walk. He didn't listen and when he was five years old, he took his first step. At 81 Fauja moved to London and ran every day. When he was 89, he completed the London Marathon and for 100 years he has kept going.



The Talk: Conversations About Race, Love & Truth
By Wade Hudson and Cheryl Willis Hudson (Eds.)
Penguin Random House/ Random House/Crown
160 pp. GR 5-8 and Up Essay Collection

Thirty diverse authors and illustrators discuss their version of the talk, a conversation between parents and children in preparation for the challenges of racism, gender-identity, and self-esteem they face in their lives. The essays are candid, authentic, and heartfelt as they cross all human conditions.



Loretta Little Looks Back: Three Voices Go Tell It
By Andrea Davis Pinkney
Illus. Brian Pinkney
Hachette Book Group/ Little, Brown and Company
269 pp. GR 5-8 and Up Historical Fiction

In narrative and poetry, Loretta, Roly, and Aggie B. tell their life stories and struggles across three generations. Loretta, a sharecropper's daughter, Roly, a farmer in 1940's Mississippi, and Aggie B., a Civil Rights activist, reminisce through monologue. Its stage-like presence helps the reader imagine their words as theatre performance.



Efrén Divided
By Ernesto Cisneros
HarperCollins/Quill Tree Books
272 pp. GR 3-7 and Up Realistic Fiction

An insightful, stunning, and timely debut novel that teaches empathy. Forced to abandon his sense of comfort and normalcy after his Amá is deported Efrén assumes her responsibilities. He rises to every challenge he faces, redefining the meaning of being brave to save one's family.



This is My America
By Kim Johnson
Penguin Random House/ Random House
416 pp. GR 7-9 and Up Realistic Fiction

With her father on death row and her older brother accused of murder, 17-year-old Tracy works against the clock to discover the truth of both crimes in Johnson's debut novel. This timely and suspenseful novel examines racist injustices within the U.S. justice system.

Notable Books for a Global Society Award 2021 List of Winners

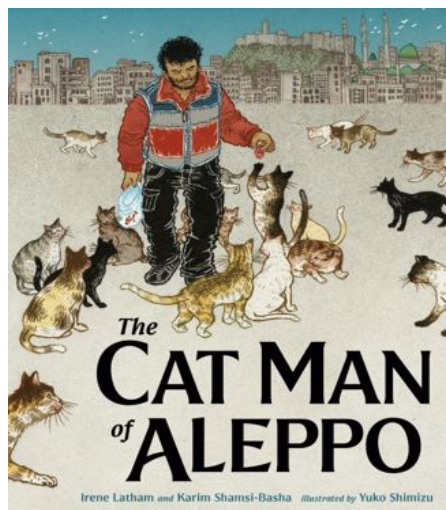
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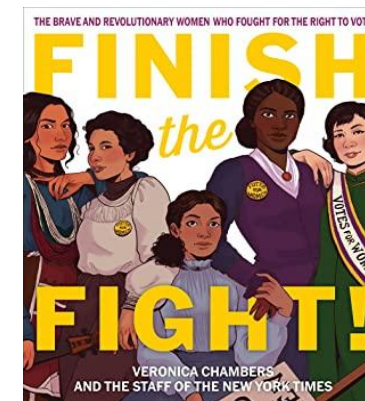
We Are the Water Protectors
By Carole Lindstrom
Illus. Michaela Goade
Roaring Brook Press
36 pp. GR PK-4 and Up
Picture Book

Imagine a world without clean water; yet, people take clean water for granted. Written in protest to the Dakota Pipeline, the powerful language and full-page illustrations are a call to action. Embedded in this story, is the urgency to be “Water Protectors” for clean water, a necessity in sustaining life on the planet.



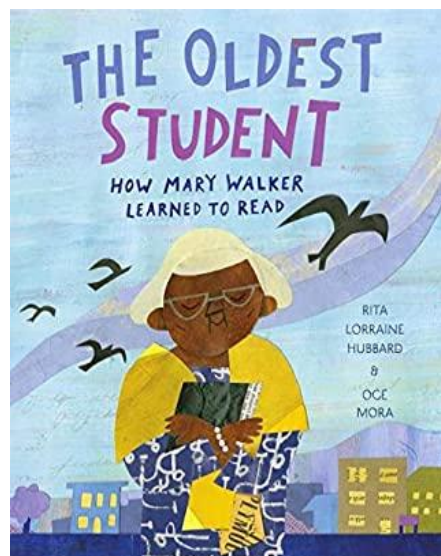
The Cat Man of Aleppo
By Karim Shamsi-Basha and
Irene Latham
Illus. Yuko Shimizu
Penguin Random House/Penguin for
Young Readers/G. P. Putnam's Sons
40 pp. GR PK-3 and Up Nonfiction

As war destroys Alla's beloved Aleppo, he recalls memories of a beautiful, bustling city filled with sights, sounds, and smells. Alla's love extends to the abandoned, hungry cats in need of care and food. This heartwarming, and heartbreaking, book illustrates community, connection, and the universal belief that love endures.



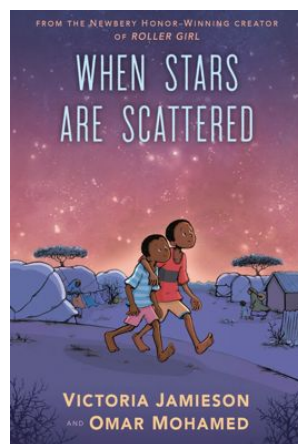
Finish the Fight: The Brave and Revolutionary Women who Fought for the Right to Vote
By Veronica Chambers and the staff of
The New York Times
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt/Versify
144 pp. GR 5-8 and Up Nonfiction

Presented chronologically from the early 19th century, these biographies show the inspired and pioneering work of American Indian and African American women readers may not know and their tireless advocacy of women's rights in the suffrage movement. Back matter includes additional biographies of brave women, an extensive timeline, and author's note.



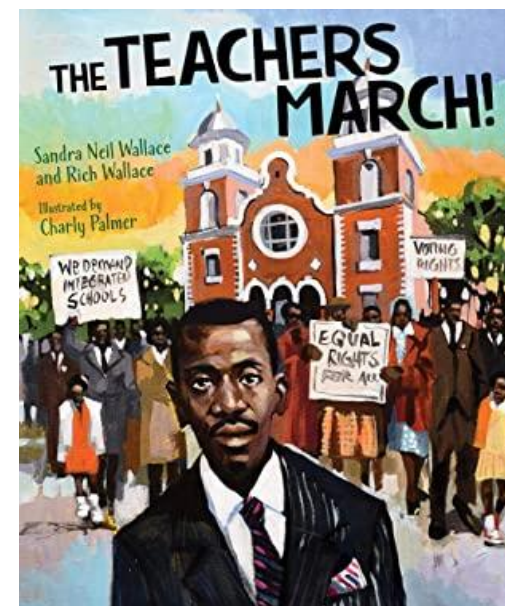
The Oldest Student: How Mary Walker Learned to Read
By Rita Lorraine Hubbard
Illus. Oge Mora
Penguin Random House/
Random House/
Schwartz & Wade Books
GR PK-4 and Up Biography

Born into slavery Mary had two rules: Keep bus, and slaves are not allowed to read and write. At 114, surviving two husbands and three sons, Mary fulfilled her “forever” desire to be able to read. Yearning to understand what squiggly marks meant, Mary took a reading class at the community center to fulfil that dream.



When Stars are Scattered
By Victoria Jamieson and
Omar Mohamed
Illus. Victoria Jamieson
Color by Iman Geddy
Penguin Random House/Penguin for
Young Readers/Dial Books
264 pp. GR 4-7 and Up Nonfiction
Graphic Novel

“We're all waiting in this camp. Waiting. Waiting for something better.” In this engaging memoir based on author Omar Mohamed's childhood, a Somali boy experiences trauma and uncertainty while growing up in a Kenyan refugee camp. Brotherhood, friendship, and community are beautifully illustrated in this story of hope and perseverance.



The Teachers March!: How Selma's Teachers Changed History
By Sandra Neil Wallace and
Rich Wallace
Illus. Charly Palmer
Boyd's Mill & Kane/Calkins Creek
44 pp. GR 2-5 and Up Nonfiction

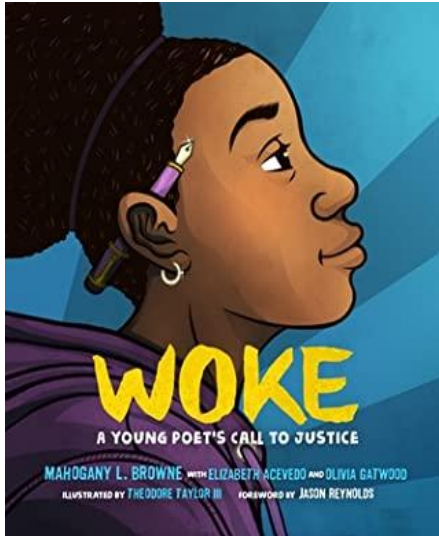
Reverend F. D. Reese, a teacher in Alabama loved to teach about freedom, but amid the civil rights movement segregation kept African Americans from voting. The 1965 Teachers' March, in stories and interviews, depicts the activism and courage of educators who won the right to vote through peaceful activism. An introduction for all readers.

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Print and Share



Woke: A Young Poet's Call to Justice

By Mahogany L. Browne, Elizabeth Acevedo,
& Olivia Gatwood
Illus. Theodore Taylor III
Macmillan/
Roaring Brook Press
55 pp. GR 3-7 and Up Poetry

The authors' poetry is an instrument in the fight for social justice. The poems focus on the concept of Woke, being aware of the current social climate. Illustrations convey a message that equality and justice for some is not an accurate definition of equality and justice for all.



The Eagle Huntress: The True Story of the Girl Who Soared Beyond Expectations

By Aisholpan Nurgaiv
with Liz Welch
Hachette Book Group/
Little, Brown and Company
198 pp. GR 3-7 and Up Nonfiction

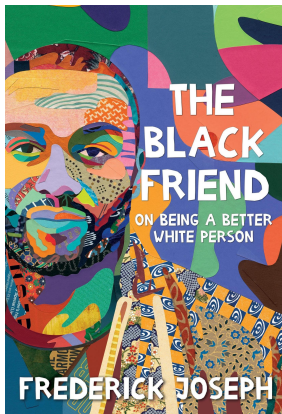
Aisholpan, a young girl from Mongolia, insists that she be trained as an eagle hunter, even though it is a tradition passed down from father to son. With determination and hard work, she becomes the first woman, and the youngest person ever, to win the Golden Eagle Festival in Olgii, Mongolia.



We Are Not Free

By Traci Chee
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt/
HMH Books
400 pp. GR 7-12 and Up Historical Fiction

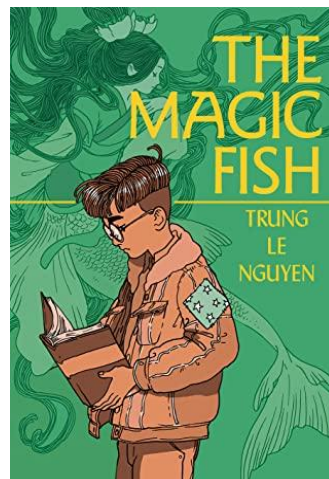
Fourteen voices recount their lives in World War II when Japanese American citizens were rounded up and incarcerated. Focusing on the lives of Japanese in California the voices recount events in multiple camps and their brave involvement on the European war front, providing readers insight into a period of uncertainty, betrayal, courage, and community.



The Black Friend: On Being a Better White Person

By Frederick Joseph
Candlewick Press
272 pp. GR 7-9 and Up Nonfiction

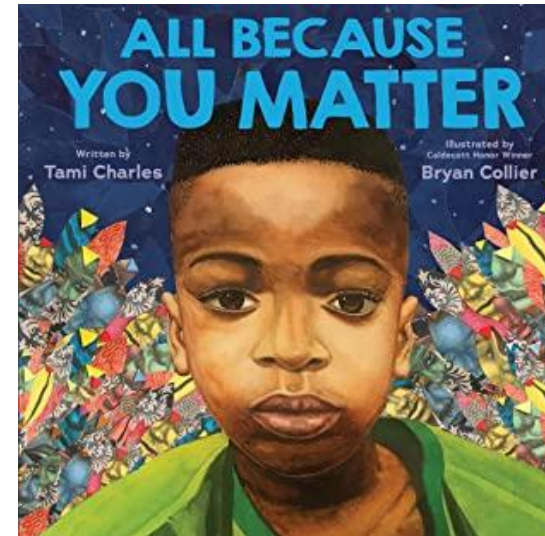
Through his anecdotes, Frederick reaches out to young adult readers inspiring their anti-racist activism. He creates a connection with the reader and challenges such comments as "I don't see race," "That's reverse racism," and "I was only joking," in addressing racism many people experience, daily. Back matter includes an Encyclopedia of Racism and a suggested music playlist.



The Magic Fish

By Trung Le Nguyen
Penguin Random House/
RH Graphic
256 pp. GR 7-9 and Up
Fantasy Graphic Novel

Tien loves folklore; his mother is learning English. Tien longs for friendship and belonging as he questions his identity. His mother works to recast her family history and relationship with her mother. They read fairy tales in seeking comfort and insight for their lives. The different stories appear in different colors in this novel of stories.



All Because You Matter

By Tami Charles
Illus. Bryan Collier
Scholastic/ Orchard Books
40 pp. GR PK-3 and Up Realistic fiction

In this beautifully illustrated and lyrical book Tami Charles and Bryan Collier create a profound love letter to black and brown children everywhere with the message: you matter. A timely treasure that addresses the injustices brown and black people face yet provides overwhelming hope. This book is essential reading for everyone.