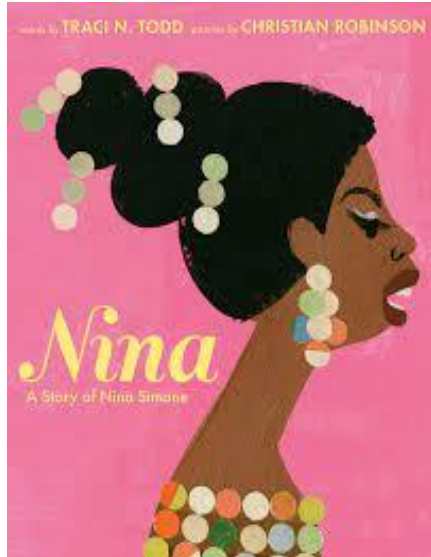


## Notable Books for a Global Society Award 2022 List of Winners

Children's Literature and Reading Special Interest Group (CLR SIG) of the International Literacy Association (ILA) at [www.clrsig.org](http://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 (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 2022 issue of *The Dragon Lode*, free to CLR SIG members. Join today at [ILA.org](http://ILA.org). You can find lists of NBGS winners from previous years on the web site: [www.clrsig.org](http://www.clrsig.org)



### ***Nina: A Story of Nina Simone***

By Traci N. Todd  
Illus. Christian Robinson  
Penguin Random House/G. P. Putnam's  
Sons  
GR 3-5 Biography

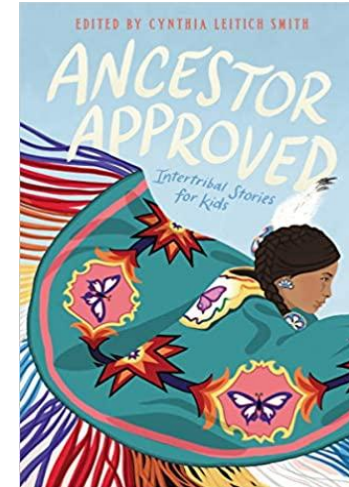
Shaped by her father's jazz and her mother's church songs, Nina, born Eunice Waymon, became an accomplished musician. The vibrant, collage illustrations show how resisting segregation and prejudice inspired her as an African-American musician to find her own distinctive voice in the pursuit of social justice.



### ***World in Between***

By Kenan Trebinčević and Susan Shapiro  
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt/ Clarion Books  
375 pp. GR 5-8  
Memoir

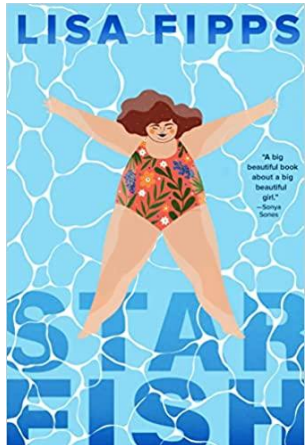
Kenan enjoys soccer, friends, and life in Yugoslavia until the day the Bosnian War suddenly begins. Shared with unwavering authenticity, the author details wartime trauma, seeking refuge in Austria and the US, and transitioning to a new lifestyle. Author's note states the book originated from a middle school writing assignment.



### ***Ancestor Approved: Intertribal Stories for Kids***

Edited by Cynthia Leitich Smith  
HarperCollins/Hear drum  
312 pp. GR 5 Up  
Realistic Fiction Collection

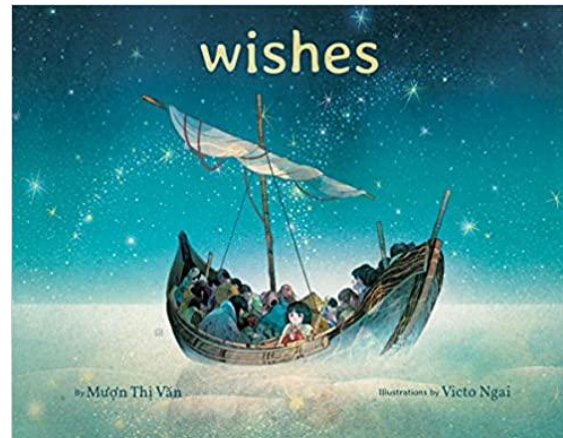
In this anthology by Native authors, families share intertribal stories about their gathering for the Dance for Earth Powwow in Ann Arbor, Michigan. The diversity of experiences and commonalities among the people are testimony to the power of the powwow honoring ancestors, family, friends, laughter, healing, strength, and resilience.



### ***Starfish***

By Lisa Fipps  
Penguin Random House/Nancy  
Paulsen Books  
256 pp. GR 5-8 Novel in Verse

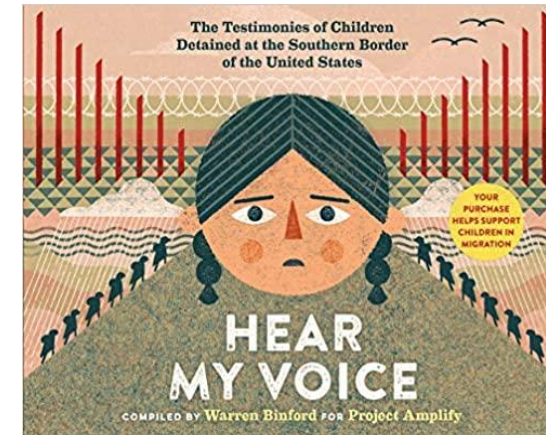
Ellie is an intelligent sixth grader who struggles to find her voice as she learns to deal with her 'zeftig' or pleasantly plump status. She is relentlessly confronted with intense verbal bullying in and outside of her home. This fictional story of resourcefulness and courage is based upon the author's experiences.



### ***Wishes***

By Mượn Thị Văn  
Illus. Victo Ngai  
Scholastic/Orchard Books  
GR PK Up  
Realistic Fiction

A young girl narrates the powerful story of her family's journey to pursue a new life and new wishes. Stunning illustrations capture the grief and despair of being forced to leave home. This story was based upon the author's personal escape from Vietnam. Back matter includes extensive author and illustrator notes.



### ***Escucha Mi Voz/ Hear My Voice: The Testimonies of Children Detained at the Southern Border of the United States***

Compiled by Warren Binford  
for Project Amplify  
Illus. Cecilia Ruiz et al.  
Workman  
GR 3 Up Nonfiction

"We sleep stacked on top of each other, shoulder to shoulder." This statement is a detail of a personal story in the heart-wrenching Spanish and English picture book compiled by international children's advocate, Warren Binford, working with Project Amplify. The testimonies highlight the mistreatment of migrant children separated from their families at the US/Mexico border.

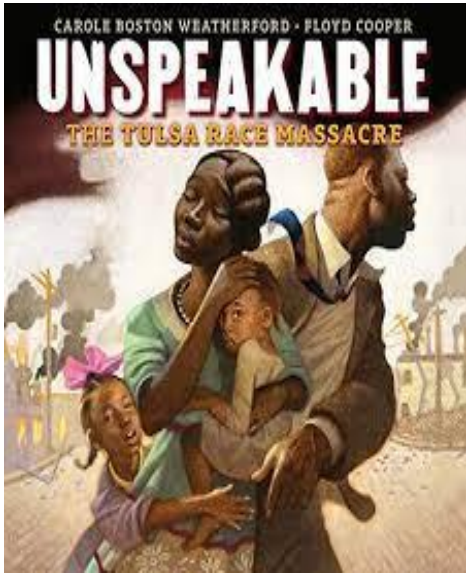
Find more detailed reviews, teaching suggestions, web resources, and related books in the spring 2022 issue of *The Dragon Lode*. For lists of previous years go to [www.clrsig.org](http://www.clrsig.org)



## Notable Books for a Global Society Award 2022 List of Winners

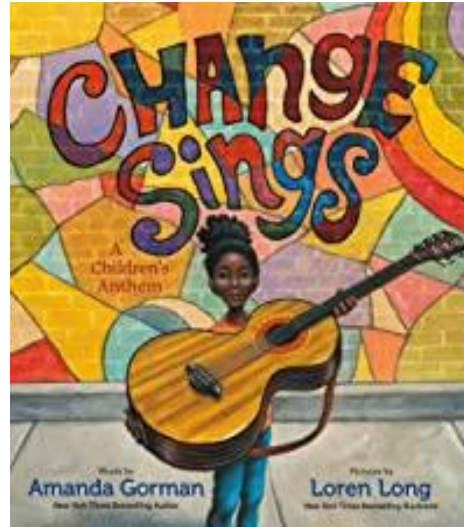
Children's Literature and Reading Special Interest Group (CLR SIG) of the International Literacy Association (ILA) at [www.clrsig.org](http://www.clrsig.org)

Print and Share



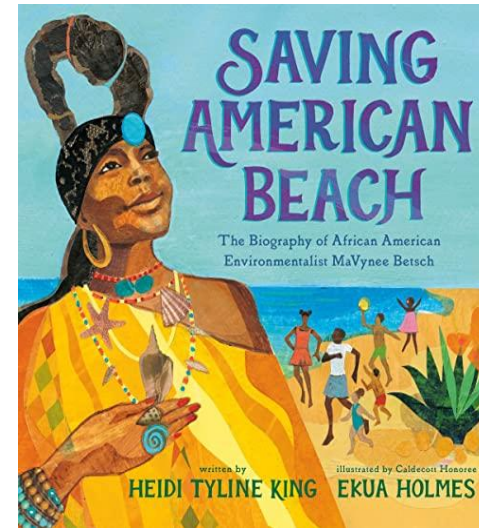
**Unspeakable:**  
**The Tulsa Race Massacre**  
By Carole Boston Weatherford  
Illus. Floyd Cooper  
Lerner/Carolrhoda  
GR 2 Up Nonfiction

Step back in time to 1921 and the Black Wall Street of America, in the Greenwood District of Tulsa, Oklahoma. The writing and vivid illustrations describe the racial violence perpetrated on this thriving African-American community by a white mob who burned and destroyed everything the residents had worked to build.



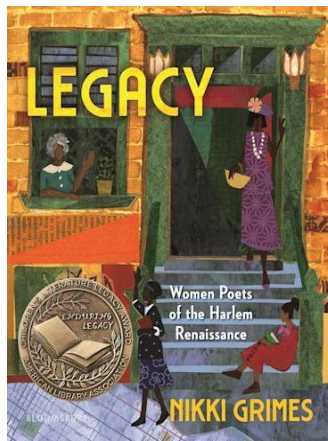
**Change Sings:**  
**A Children's Anthem**  
By Amanda Gorman  
Illus. Loren Long  
Penguin Random House/Viking  
GR PK Up Poetry

National Youth Poet Laureate of the United States, Amanda Gorman, calls children to sing praises for change. Through her lyrical couplets and quatrains, Gorman inspires the reader to become part of the movement. Long's illustrations are inclusive and portray children in action as they participate in the change-making parade.



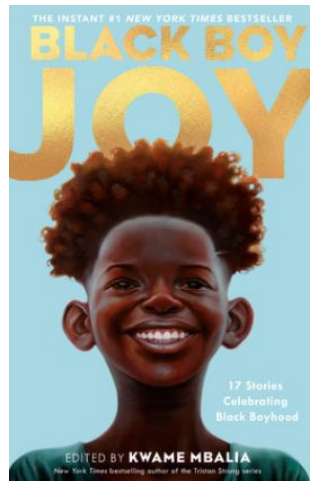
**Saving American Beach: The Biography of African American Environmentalist MaVynne Betsch**  
By Heidi Tyline King  
Illus. Ekua Holmes  
Penguin Random House/ Putman GR 2 Up Biography

A childhood spent on the beach her great-grandfather purchased for African Americans near Jacksonville, Florida shaped MaVynne's future as an environmentalist. This beautifully illustrated biography details her journey from international opera singer back to American Beach, and her work as activist preserving the beach. Back matter includes author and illustrator notes.



**Legacy: Women Poets of the Harlem Renaissance**  
By Nikki Grimes  
Bloomsbury  
134 pp. GR 3 Up Poetry

In this beautiful anthology of voices of gifted women poets of the Harlem Renaissance, Grimes takes lines to create poetry. She uses the golden shovel form. Each poem is accompanied by an illustration of a different artist. Front matter includes information on the poets and the poetic form.



**Black Boy Joy**  
Edited by Kwame Mbalia  
Penguin Random House/  
Delacorte Press  
310 pp. GR 4 Up  
Fiction Collection

In this collection of seventeen realistic and science fiction stories by celebrated authors, boys, aged 10-12, find their joy in sometimes surprising ways. Stories, poems, and comics of friends, family, school, community, and being cool highlight nurturing relationships possible between younger and older generations and among children.



**Red, White, and Whole**  
By Rajani LaRocca  
HarperCollins/Quill Tree Books  
217 pp. GR 5-8  
Realistic Fiction

Being thirteen in 1983 is hard enough, but Reha also feels the burden of being the only Indian American in her school and living up to her immigrant parents' high expectations. When her mother falls ill, Reha must reflect on how red and white blood cells work together to heal her family and her personal relationships.



**The Last Cuentista**  
By Donna Barba Higuera  
Levine Querido/  
An Arthur A. Levine Book  
336 pp. GR 9-12  
Science Fiction

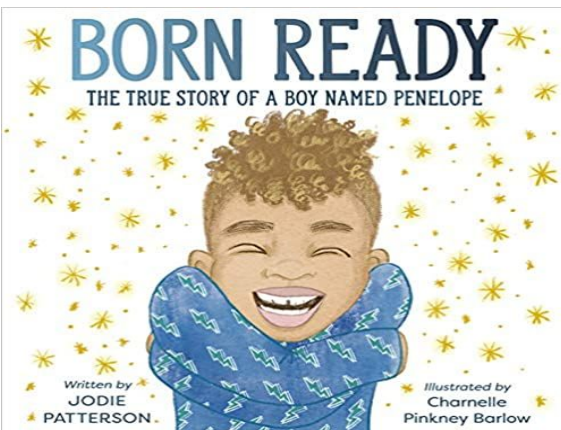
With a comet coming to destroy Earth, Petra and her family are among the few people chosen to travel to a new planet with their scientific knowledge and stories. During the several hundred-year journey, a rogue group called the Collective erases their memories and Petra awakes as the only remaining storyteller.



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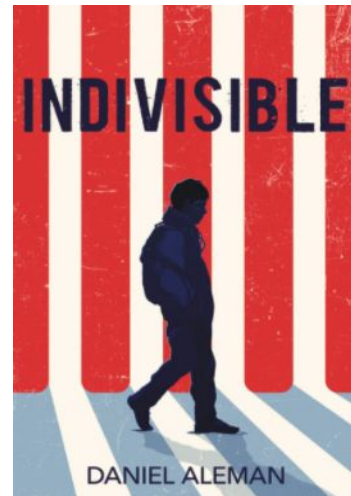
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***Born Ready:***  
***The True Story of a Boy Named Penelope***

by Jodie Patterson  
Illus. Charnelle Pinkney Barlow  
Penguin Random House/ Crown  
Books GR PK-2  
Picture book/Biography

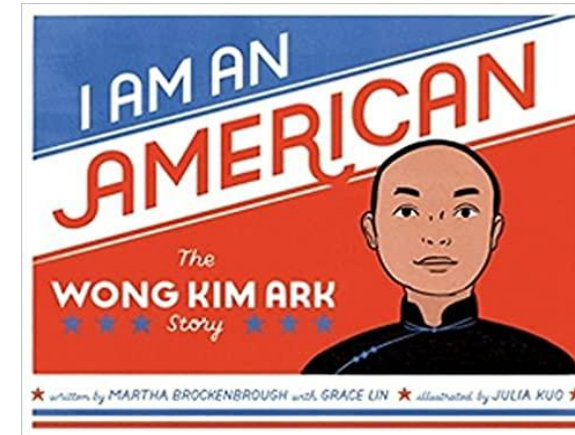
"Ah! Chale! In my language of Twi, gender isn't such a big deal," says Penelope who knows exactly who he is. He wonders whether his family will understand that, named Penelope, he is a boy inside. When he finds the courage to share his truth, he discovers the support of his community.



***Indivisible***

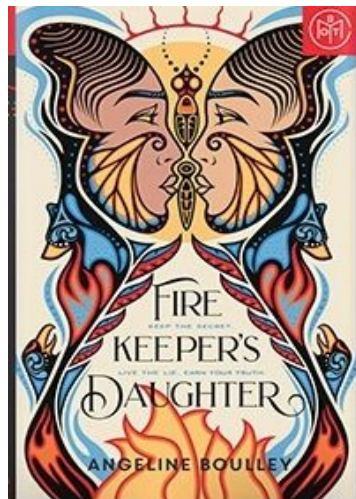
By Daniel Aleman  
Little Brown  
400 pp. GR 9-12 Realistic Fiction

Mateo works hard, studies hard, and has dreams of Broadway, but he lives in constant fear of ICE and deportation. This powerful and remarkable novel tells of the daily fears and uncertainties of undocumented families in the US. It shares a deeply authentic and intimate exploration of family, sacrifice, and immigration.



***I am an American:***  
***The Wong Kim Ark Story***  
by Martha Brockenbrough  
with Grace Lin  
Illus. Julia Kuo  
Little Brown  
GR 3-5 Biography

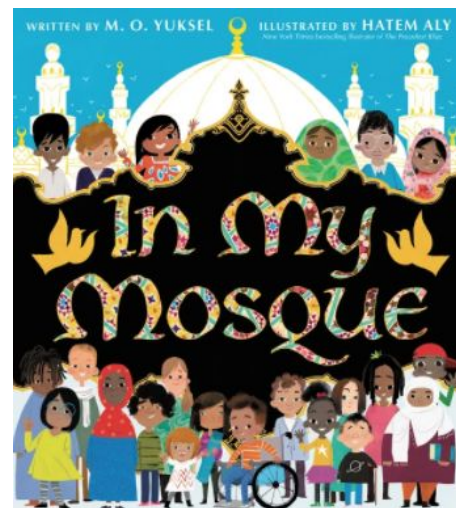
Wong's 1898 US Supreme Court-winning case clarified the definition of American citizenship under the Fourteenth Amendment. In this biography, Wong's journey to the landmark decision is depicted through Brockenbrough and Lin's chronicle of his life. Kuo's predominantly red and black, bold illustrations illuminate Wong's emotional experience from various perspectives.



***The Firekeeper's Daughter***

By Angeline Boulley  
MacMillan/Henry Holt  
496 pp. GR 9-12 Realistic Fiction

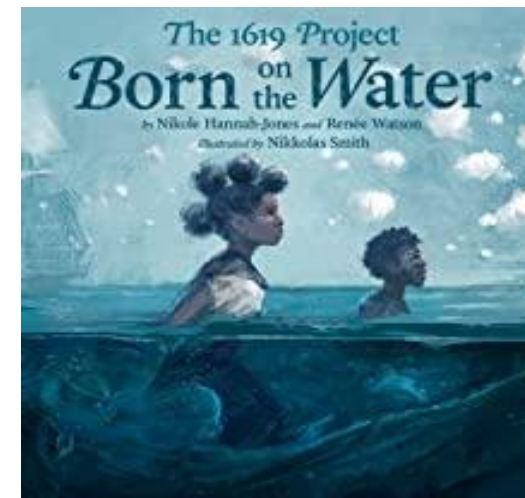
Daunis, a biracial, unenrolled tribal member, faces dualities in her heritage, country, family, friends, and development. Written by member of the Sault St. Marie Chippewa tribe, this novel tackles the consequences of inaction and tensions between government and tribal authority. This coming-of-age story mirrors many adolescent experiences. A timely and authentic exploration of complex, indigenous experiences.



***In My Mosque***

By M. O. Yuksel  
Illus. Hatem Aly  
HarperCollins/Harper  
GR PK-2 Nonfiction

Readers are joyfully welcomed to this introduction of Islam, Muslims, and mosques around the world. The writing and bright illustrations show how mosques are houses of worship and community centers where traditions, prayer, friendship, and generosity are celebrated. All are welcome with the greeting "as-salaamu alaykum" (peace be upon you). Back matter include information on mosques, author's note and glossary.



***Born on the Water: The 1619 Project***

By Nikole Hannah-Jones  
and Renée Watson  
Illus. Nikkolas Smith  
Penguin Random House/Kokila  
GR 2 Up Nonfiction in verse

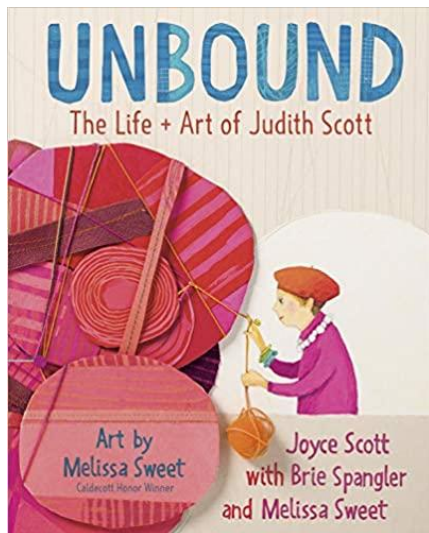
A grandmother shares her family's life before slavery and explains the determination, imagination, and faith that people sustained to survive in their forced journey to make a new land, home. This "not an immigration story" told in lyrical verse describes how homes, language, skills, and freedom were stolen from African people in 1619.



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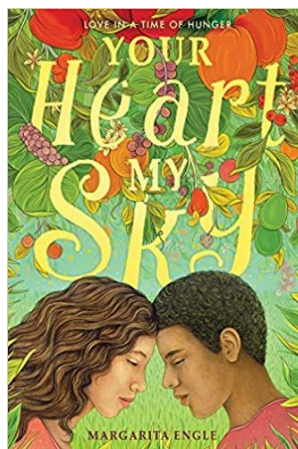


### ***Unbound:***

#### ***The Life + Art of Judith Scott***

By Joyce Scott with Brie Spangler and Melissa Sweet  
Illus. Melissa Sweet  
Penguin Random House/  
Alfred A. Knopf  
GR 2 Up Biography

After growing up in an institution, as a person with Down Syndrome and profound deafness, Judith reunites with her sister, who enrolls her in an art center program. Judith flourishes, becoming a talented fiber artist, overcoming perceived limitations to find her voice. Back matter includes photographs, Author and Illustrator Notes, timeline, and resources.

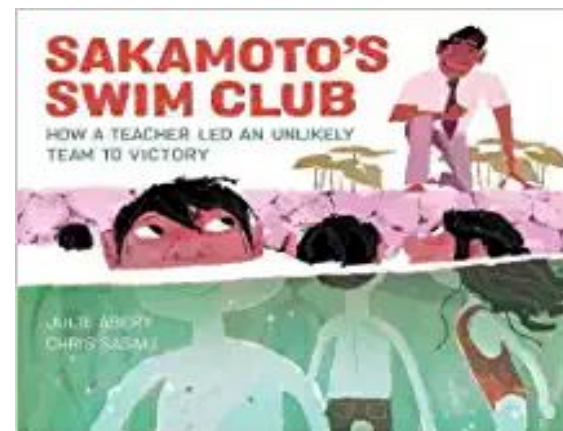


### ***Your Heart My Sky***

by Margarita Engle

Simon & Schuster/Atheneum  
224 pp. GR 4 Up Novel in verse

Set during the 1991 Havana Pan-Am Games, Engle portrays the Cuban government's self-image of the island nation against the starvation of its citizens. Desperate for hope, young lovers Liana and Amado devise a plan to escape their life of hunger; however, they each must decide if they are brave enough to carry out the plan.



### ***Sakamoto's Swim Club:*** ***How a Teacher Led an Unlikely Team to Victory***

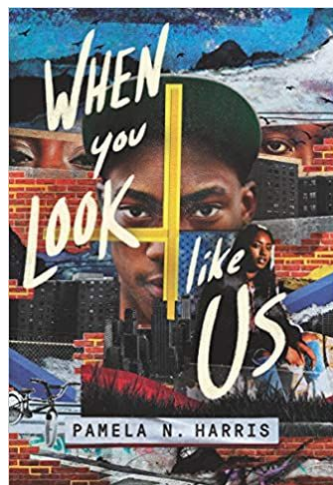
by Julie Abery

Illus. Chris Sasaki

Kids Can Press

GR PK-2 Nonfiction in verse

Young migrants working in the sugar cane fields of Maui, keep cool and out of trouble swimming in the local irrigation ditch. Short verses recount the inspiring story of how science teacher Soichi Sakamoto used the current's resistance to train the young workers, building a team that shined in the 1948 Olympic games.

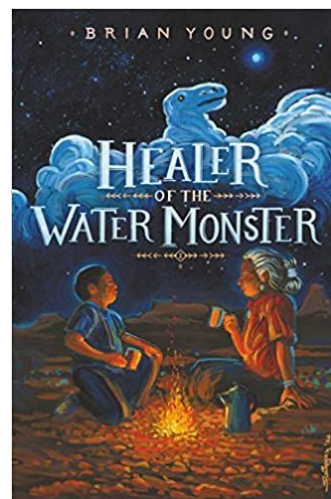


### ***When You Look Like Us***

by Pamela N. Harris

HarperCollins/Quill Tree Press  
368 pp. GR 9-12 Realistic Fiction

Of what value, is the life of a young girl who has brown skin, brown eyes, and lives in public housing? When his sister Nicole goes missing her brother, Jay, sets out to answer the question and find her in this mystery of misperceptions, stereotypes, privilege, friendship recognized and revealed, and doing what's right.

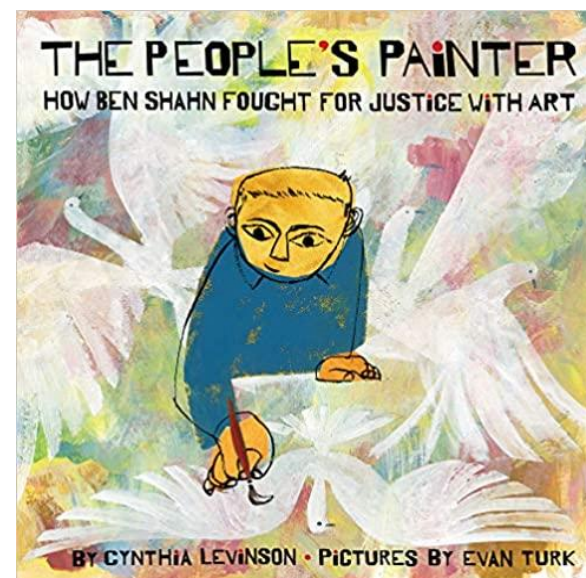


### ***Healer of the Water Monster***

by Brian Young

HarperCollins/ Heartdrum  
368 pp. GR 5-8 Realistic Fiction

Nathan looks forward to living with his Nali, his grandmother and uncle, on the Navajo Reservation, but, as a child, he discovers only he can speak to and help the land's spirits, the spiders, lizards, and Pond, the water monster, who is sick. While readers learn of the Navajo culture and life in this novel of family, in this hero's quest and creation story Nathan has to save Pond and bring water back to the land.



### ***The People's Painter: How Ben Shahn Fought for Justice with Art***

By Cynthia Levinson

Illus. Evan Turk

Abrams/

Abrams Books for Young Readers

GR 2 Up Biography

Ben Shahn's pictures may not have been pretty, but they were powerful. Instilled with a passion for justice as a child in Lithuania, this Jewish immigrant resisted his teachers' calls to paint beautiful landscapes. Instead, for decades, he told important stories about people fighting against injustice through his art..