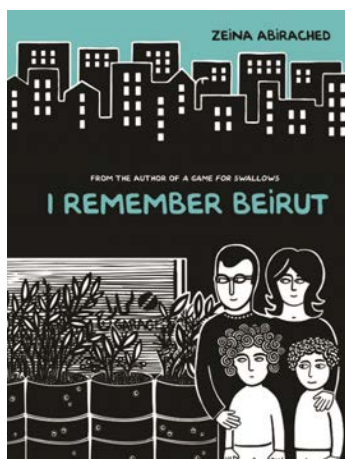


# NOTABLE BOOKS FOR A GLOBAL SOCIETY - 2015 LIST OF WINNERS

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

[www.clrsig.org](http://www.clrsig.org)

Each year the NBGS Committee chooses 25 winners published during the previous year; books on this list were published in 2014. These selections for all levels (PreK through grade 12) reflect diversity in the broadest sense, celebrating a wide variety of voices and topics. Please look for a comprehensive article about these books plus useful teaching tips in the Spring 2015 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 from previous years.

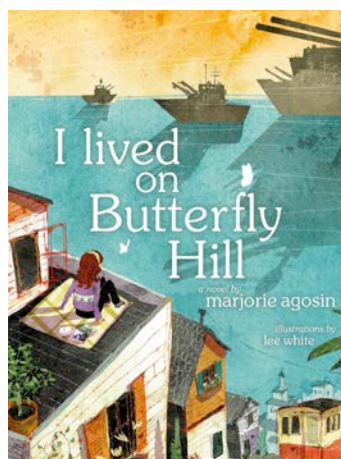


## I REMEMBER BEIRUT

by Zeina Abirached

Lerner/Graphic Universe; 96 pp.  
Gr 8 and up. Graphic Novel.

Bad haircuts, braces, soda, favorite songs: this could be any kid's life—except we're in Beirut during the Lebanese Civil War in the 1980s. Soldiers guard kids at school overnight, bombs and bullets fill the streets, and burnt-out buses are used as roadblocks. Provide context for this book with *A Game for Swallows*, also by Abirached.



## I LIVED ON BUTTERFLY HILL

by Marjorie Agosin

Trans. by E.M. O'Connor; illus. by Lee White.  
Simon & Schuster/Atheneum; 464 pp.  
Gr 5 & up. Novel.

Translated from the original Spanish by E.M. O'Connor and illustrated by Lee White, this novel is based on the sensitive story of Agosin's own experiences growing up in Chile during the Pinochet Revolution in 1973.



## EL DEAFO

by Cece Bell

Abrams; 248 pp.  
Gr 3 & up. Graphic Novel.

With bold, humorous anecdotes and colorful cartoons, this graphic memoir is the story of Cece Bell's childhood struggles after she became deaf at age 4. She is a courageous and determined protagonist who comes to realize "our differences are our superpowers."

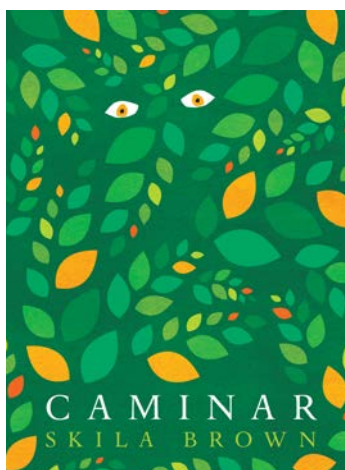


## STRIKE! THE FARM WORKERS' FIGHT FOR THEIR RIGHTS

by Larry Dane Brimner

Boyd's Mills/Calkins Creek; 172 pp.  
Gr 5 & up. Nonfiction.

Amid the chaos of the Vietnam War and the Civil Rights movement, the 5-year strike and boycott begun in 1965 by Filipino Americans brought together organizers Larry Itliong and César Chávez. Compelling and compassionate, the story weaves together the many influences that won rights long denied to the U.S. citizens who harvested the grapes.

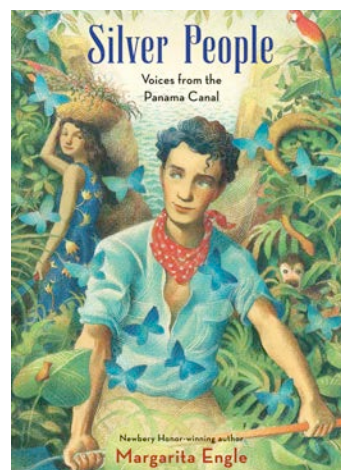


## CAMINAR

by Skila Brown

Candlewick. 208 pp.  
Gr 5 and up. Verse Novel.

Guatemala. 1981. War. Carlos was hunting mushrooms when the soldiers came to obliterate his home. "Run!" Mama had ordered. "Run up the mountain!" How can a boy know what choices a man must make? In haunting and hopeful verse, Carlos' story evokes horror, resolve, and the maturing of a man.



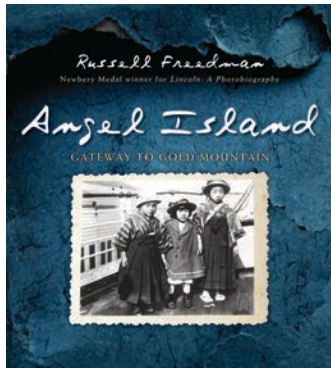
## SILVER PEOPLE: VOICES FROM THE PANAMA CANAL

by Margarita Engle

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. 272 pp.  
Gr 7 & up. Verse Novel.

This multi-voiced verse novel about one of the most complex engineering feats of the 20th century provides detailed information about the racial segregation of the project, difficulties related to the location and geography of Panama, and the beauty and intensity of the rainforest.

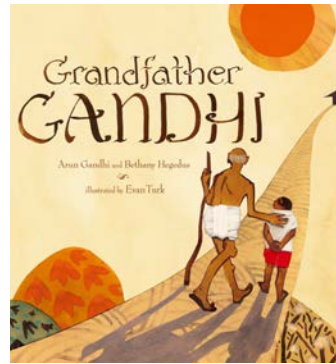




**ANGEL ISLAND:  
GATEWAY TO GOLD MOUNTAIN**  
by Russell Freedman

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt/Clarion. 96 pp.  
Gr 4 & up. Nonfiction.

Freedman tells the story of Angel Island Immigration Center, where waves of mostly Asian immigrants seeking entry into the U.S. were detained, and often poorly treated, as they sought entry into a country grown suspicious of others.



**GRANDFATHER GANDHI**

by Arun Gandhi and Bethany Hegedus; Illus. by Evan Turk

Simon & Schuster/Atheneum. 48 pp.  
PreK & up. Picture Book.

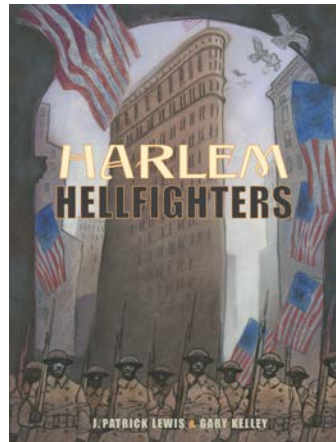
Young Arun Gandhi looks up to his grandfather, but being the Mahatma Gandhi's grandchild weighs heavily on his shoulders as he has to live up to the standards expected of being a Gandhi, whose universal message of channeling the strong emotion attached to anger is at the core of this narrative.



**BEYOND MAGENTA:  
TRANSGENDER TEENS SPEAK OUT**  
by Susan Kuklin

Candlewick. 192 pp.  
Gr 9 & up. Nonfiction.

Susan Kuklin brings her exceptional abilities as an interviewer and photographer to focus on the lives of transgender teens through rich and engaging portraits that remind us we are all intriguingly, vulnerably, and dynamically human—and that call us to care.

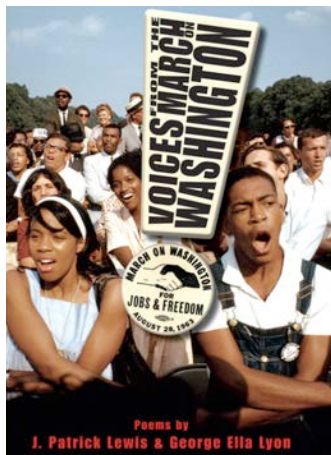


**HARLEM HELLFIGHTERS**

by J. Patrick Lewis;  
Illus. by Gary Kelley

Creative Editions. 32 pp.  
Gr 4 & up. Poetry.

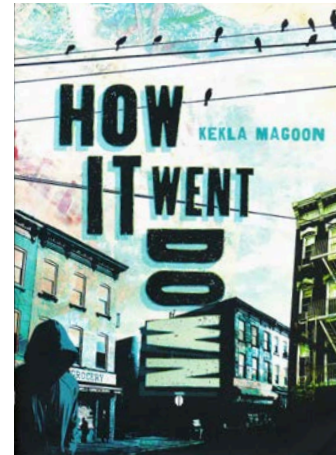
This gorgeous picture book tells the story of the African-American Harlem Hellfighters of WWI from recruitment and training in the Jim Crow South, to menial jobs, to joining with French troops to fight the Germans—all while motivated by a mix of jazz, blues, and ragtime music representing their racial pride.



**VOICES FROM THE  
MARCH ON WASHINGTON**

by J. Patrick Lewis & George Ella Lyon  
Boys Mills/WordSong. 128 pp.  
Gr 5 & up. Poetry.

In 70 poems, historical and imagined participants—reflecting vastly different races, ages, backgrounds, and motivation—share their thoughts as they join 250,000 others at the 1963 March on Washington. Read a few poems aloud each day for integrated teaching of language arts and social studies.



**HOW IT WENT DOWN**

by Kekla Magoon

Henry Holt. 336 pp.  
Gr 9 & up. Realistic Fiction.

Friends, family, neighbors, the media, an activist preacher-politician, and the police: we hear a wide range of views and voices in this compelling look at a fictitious-but-too-familiar shooting of a black teenager. Realistic language is used here to differentiate characters, with liberal use of the "F word" among the gang members to create an immediate sense of authenticity.



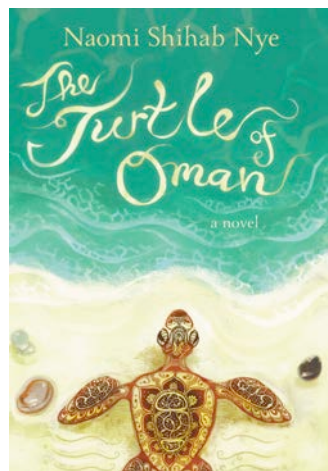
**MIGRANT**

by José Manuel Mateo  
Illus. by Javier Martínez Pedro

Harry N. Abrams. Unpaged.  
Gr 3 & up. Picture Book.

A boy remembers his ecologically-rich community in narratives short enough to fit into an accordion-style foldout frieze. When people stopped planting due to lack of money, men left the community seeking better work, leaving wives and children behind. Eventually the boy and his family leave, risking their lives by riding on top of trains. Fear from darkness, dogs, and mostly from uncertainty seem to be "entrance" tickets to their final destination, Los Angeles. The boy ends with gratitude for opportunities with hope to find his lost father.



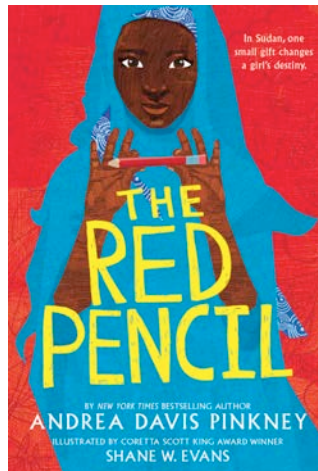


### THE TURTLE OF OMAN

by Naomi Shihab Nye

Harper Collins/Greenwillow. 299 pp.  
Gr 3 & Up. Realistic Fiction.

Aref's parents have decided to move from Oman to the United States for 3 years to pursue their doctoral degrees, but Aref does not want to move. This book explores the themes of cultural connections, moving, immigration, the impact of an extended family, and nature, as it takes the reader on an accessible journey through present-day Oman.



### THE RED PENCIL

by Andrea Davis Pinkney;  
Illus. by Shane W. Evans.

Little, Brown. 324 pp.  
Gr 5 & up. Realistic Fiction/Verse.

Twelve-year-old Amira lives on a farm in the South Darfur region of Sudan, doing chores and dreaming of leaving to attend school. Then the Janjaweed arrive, destroying her village; Amira's remaining family and friends relocate in a refugee camp. Overcome with grief, Amira loses her voice until a teacher gives her a pad of paper and a red pencil. This is a story of resilience and the power of dreams and imagination.

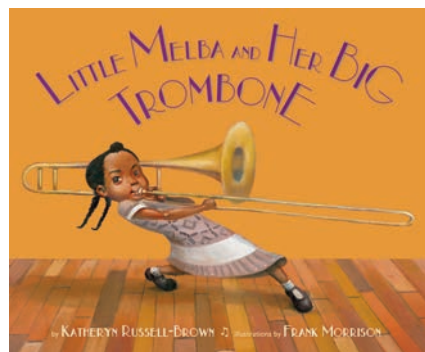


### THIS DAY IN JUNE

by Gayle E. Pittman; Illus. by Kristyna Litten

American Psychological Association/Magination. 32 pp. Gr PreK & Up. Picture Book.

This rollicking, rhyming processional features the numerous and colorful participants in a Pride Parade. Each page dances with simple, whimsical verses. Many types of relationships are honored and the message is validating: "All invited. All excited. This day in June we're all united!" An entry into teaching tolerance and respect, this book's Reading Guide explains the images and history of the groups depicted; an equally valuable "Note to Parents and Caregivers" gives age-appropriate tips for talking to children about gender identity and sexual orientation.



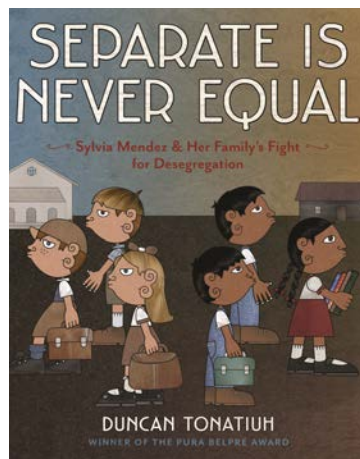
### LITTLE MELBA AND HER BIG TROMBONE

by Kathryn Russell-Brown

Illus. by Frank Morrison

Lee & Low. 40 pp.  
Gr K & Up. Picture Book Biography.

In this boldly beautiful portrayal of jazz legend Melba Liston, joyful movement bursts from the pages as Melba plays, composes, arranges and celebrates music across America, Europe and Asia. She played through the dismissal and discrimination from male musicians and southerners to achieve her dreams.



### SEPARATE IS NEVER EQUAL: SYLVIA MENDEZ & HER FAMILY'S FIGHT FOR DESEGREGATION

by Duncan Tonatui

Harry N. Abrams. 40 pp.  
Gr 2 & Up. Picture Book.

Seven years before Brown vs. Board of Education, a case in California granted Mexican-American students access to schools previously considered "whites only." The center of that case was third grader Sylvia Mendez, whose family won a lawsuit seeking integrated schools. Helpful back matter adds to this compelling part of civil rights history.



### HOUSE OF PURPLE CEDAR

by Tim Tingle

Cinco Puntos. 192 pp.  
Gr 9 & up. Fiction.

Oklahoma Territory, 1896: Rose Goode survives arson only to witness her grandfather being beaten in an unprovoked brutal attack by the town marshal. This historical novel is solidly relevant for today, providing food for thought on how we can respond to hate and violence without becoming part of it. Engaging characters, both Choctaw and Nahullo (White), provide plenty of intrigue to hold a teen reader.



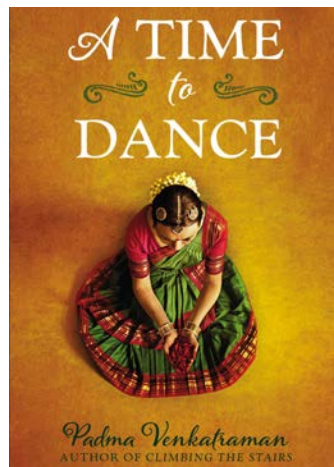


**HANA HASHIMOTO,  
SIXTH VIOLIN**

by Chieri Uegaki  
Illus. by Qin Leng

Kids Can Press. 32 pp.  
Gr K & up. Picture Book.

Hana Hashimoto is preparing for a talent show. Her Ojii-chan (grandfather), once the second-chair violinist for an orchestra in Japan, could make his violin sound like crickets, tall grass, or raindrops. During the show, Ojii-chan appears as Hana plays nature sounds on her violin.

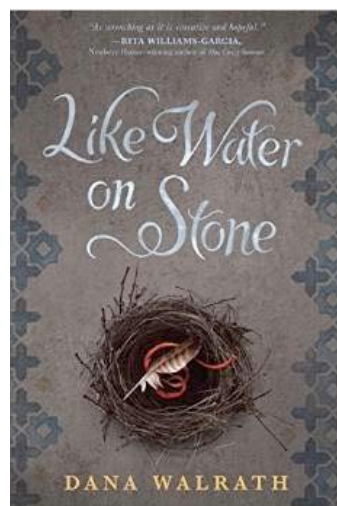


**A TIME TO DANCE**

by Padma Venkatraman

Penguin/Nancy Paulsen. 320 pp.  
Gr 7 & up. Verse Novel.

Religion and spirituality are interwoven seamlessly with the art of dancing in this lyrical book that exposes the reader to the rich details of Indian customs and traditions and juxtaposes the influences of family members on Veda in the aftermath of the loss of her leg right after winning a dance competition. A truly moving book that will inspire readers.

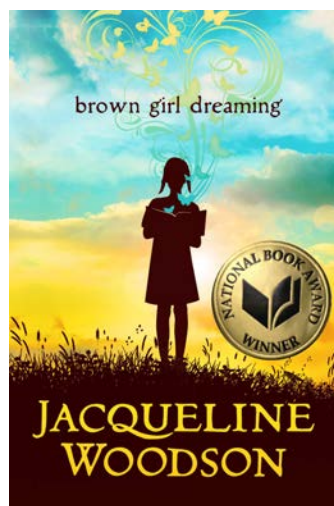


**LIKE WATER ON STONE**

by Dana Walrath

Random House/Delacorte. 344 pp.  
Gr 9 & up. Verse Novel/Historical.

Thirteen-year-old Armenian twins Shaheen and Sosi are caught in the upheaval of the Ottoman Empire in 1914. This haunting novel in verse describes how the orphaned twins and their younger sister travel over mountains, running and hiding from the Turks. Lyrical language wraps the description of the Armenian genocide in a note of magical realism, with Ardvix, an eagle, describing the children's escape.

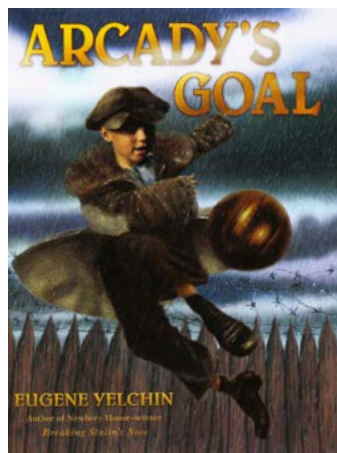


**BROWN GIRL DREAMING**

by Jacqueline Woodson

Penguin/Nancy Paulsen. 336 pp.  
Gr 4 & up. Poetry.

This memoir in free verse sweeps readers into the Civil Rights Movement of the 60s and 70s, with Woodson growing up in both the Northern and the Southern United States. Woodson provides details about the family influences in her life: her grandfather's stories and illness, her grandmother's beliefs, and a family tree going back to the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

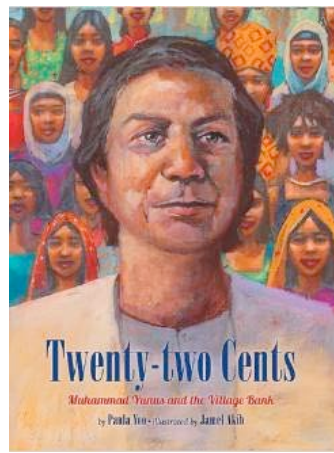


**ARCADY'S GOAL**

by Eugene Velchin

Henry Holt. 240 pp.  
Gr 4 & up. Chapter Book.

Twelve-year-old Arcady is the best soccer player at an orphanage in Soviet Russia. An inspector, Ivan Ivanych, adopts Arcady and creates a youth soccer team. Trouble begins when other players' fathers refuse to keep their sons on the team because Arcady is "a child of the enemies of the people (of Soviet Russia)." Great for encouraging a discussion about the concepts of enemies, controls, and freedom.



**TWENTY-TWO CENTS:  
MUHAMMAD YUNUS  
AND THE VILLAGE BANK**

by Paula Yoo; Illus. by Jamel Akib

Lee & Low. 40 pp.  
Gr 1 & up. Picture Book.

Muhammad Yunus, awarded the Nobel peace Prize in 2006, witnessed extreme poverty in the region that is now known as Bangladesh and was determined to eradicate it by making small loans with very little interest. His inspiration was a talented weaver who needed only 22 cents but was denied loans because her illiteracy and poverty made her a "banking untouchable."