

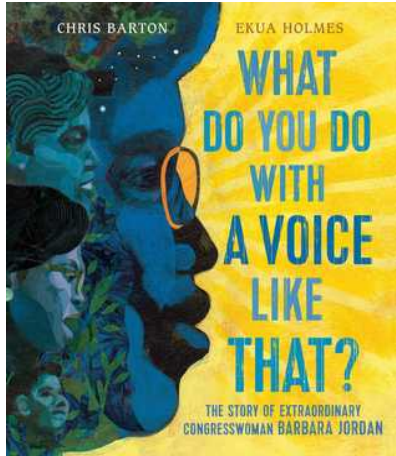
Notable Books for a Global Society 2019 List of Winners

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

www.clrsig.org

print & share!

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 2018) plus useful teaching tips in the Spring 2019 issue of *The Dragon Lode*, free to CL/R SIG members. Join today at clrsig.org, where you can also find NBGS winners from previous years.



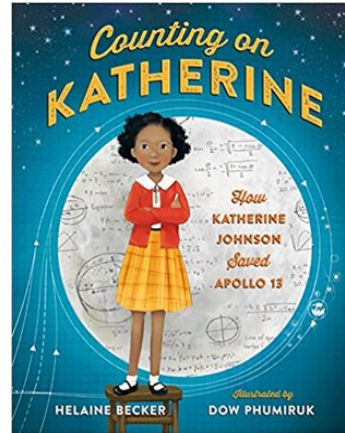
What Do You Do With A Voice Like That?

By Chris Barton. Illus. by Ekua Holmes.

Beach Lane Books.

48 pp. GR 2 and up. Biography.

"What do you do with a voice that speaks up for equality, justice, and trust? You share it with the world." This picture book biography chronicles the life of Barbara Jordan, from her childhood in Houston and career as a lawyer, to state politician, U.S. Congresswoman, and finally, as a professor.



Counting on Katherine

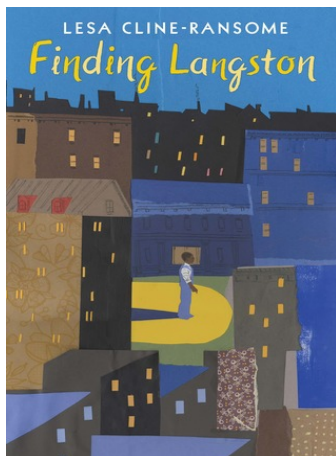
By Helene Becker.

Illus. by Dow Phumiruk.

Henry Holt/Christy Ottaviano.

40 pp. GR K and up. Biography.

This biography of African American, mathematician Katherine Johnson describes her childhood and her contributions to NASA against a backdrop of racism. It provides detail of her calculations that lead to the rescue of Apollo 13 after an onboard explosion in space. Illustrations depict mathematical formulas and back matter includes sources and additional information about Johnson.



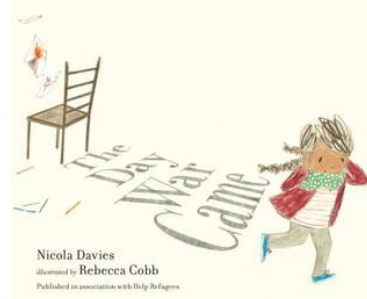
Finding Langston

By Lesa Cline-Ransome.

Holiday House.

112 pp. GR 3 and up. Fiction.

In 1946 eleven-year-old Langston has had his life turned upside down with the loss of his mother and his subsequent move from Alabama to Chicago. He is bullied and called "country boy" in school. Langston finds refuge in a library where he discovers the works of his namesake, Langston Hughes.



The Day War Came

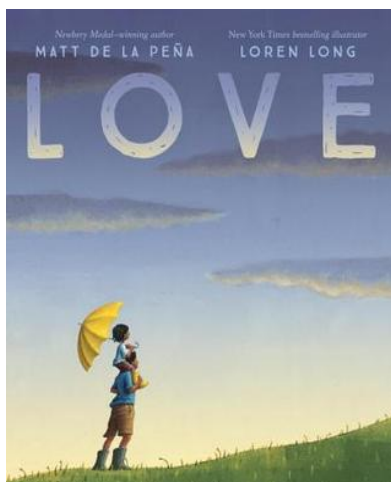
By Nicola Davies.

Illus. by Rebecca Cobb.

Candlewick Press.

32 pp. GR 3 and up. Picturebook.

After a kiss on the nose and singing about frogs, war came taking away everything for a child. Even after perilously running from war, the losses of it linger in her heart. But a smile, an act of kindness, an offered chair and a chance to learn once again bring hope.



Love

By Matt de la Peña.

Illus. by Loren Long.

PenguinRandomHouse/

G.P. Putnam's Sons.

40 pp. GR PreK and up.

Picturebook.

Written in poetry with powerful illustrations, this timeless and reassuring picture storybook illuminates what love is with honesty and depth. Though, at first glance, one may consider this book appropriate for only young readers; it speaks to all ages and shows the feelings and complex nature of love.



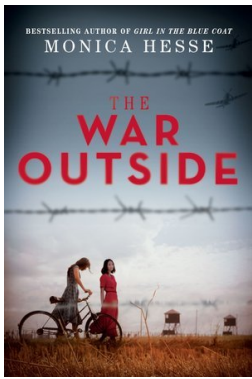
The Crossroads

By Alexandra Diaz.

Simon Schuster/Paula Wiseman Books.

336pp. GR 3 and up. Fiction.

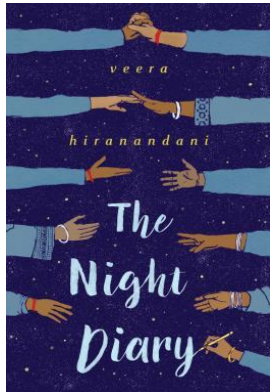
In this sequel to *The Only Road*, twelve-year-old Jaime and his cousin Angela have endured a treacherous journey from Guatemala to New Mexico to live with Jaime's brother, Tomas. The challenges Jaime has with learning English, dealing with a bully, and supporting Angela and his family all meet at a crossroads when Jaime finally feels accepted again.



The War Outside

By Monica Hesse. Little, Brown.
24 pp. GR 6 and up. Historical Fiction.

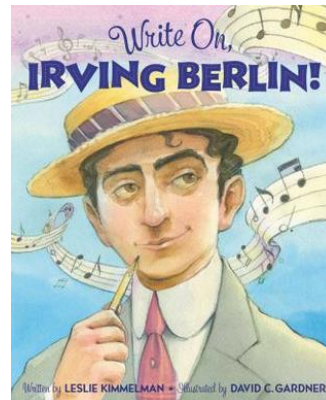
Teenagers Haruko Tanka and Margot Krukow are prisoners along with their Japanese- and German-born families in a Crystal City internment camp in 1944. These girls secretly become friends and share their stories about how their lives have been torn apart due to the war and their imprisonment.



The Night Diary

By Veera Hiranandani.
Penguin Group/Dial.
272 pp. GR 5 and up. Historical Fiction.

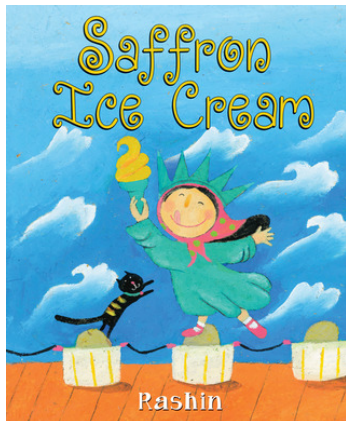
With the partition of India in 1947, as a result of independence from Great Britain, Nisha and her family become Hindu refugees in what was their homeland. They abandon their home and flee Pakistan. Written as diary entries to her deceased mother, Nisha recounts the life-threatening migration to India with hopes for security and a new life.



Write On, Irving Berlin!

By Leslie Kimmelman.
Illus. by David C. Gardner.
Sleeping Bear Press.
32 pp. GR 3 and up. Biography.

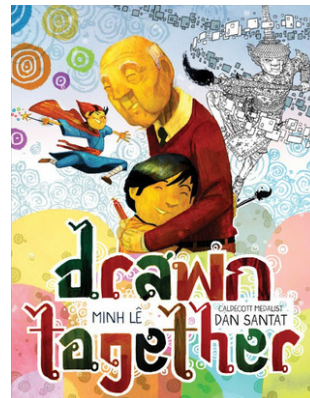
Russian-born Jewish immigrant Irving Berlin fled to America with his family when he was 5 years old. This biography vividly traces Berlin's life from poverty to stardom. The prolific songwriter composed over 1500 songs such as *White Christmas* and *God Bless America* without knowing how to read or write music.



Saffron Ice Cream

By Rashin Kheiriyeh.
Scholastic/Arthur A. Levine Books.
40 pp.
GR PreK and up. Picturebook.

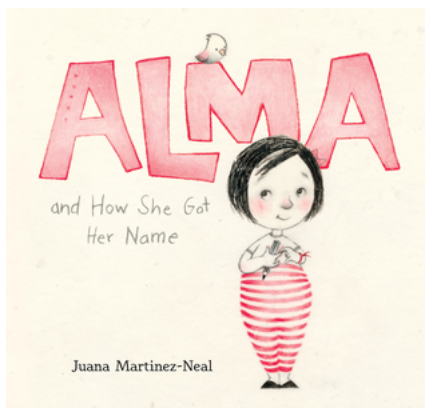
Rashin, on her first trip to the beach since moving from Iran to Brooklyn, compares swimming in the Caspian Sea with the beach scene at Coney Island. Disappointment that Coney Island doesn't have her favorite flavor ice cream, saffron, is short-lived when a new friend suggests Rashin try chocolate crunch.



Drawn Together

By Minh Lê. Illus. by Dan Santat.
Disney/Hyperion.
40 pp. GR PreK and up.
Picturebook.

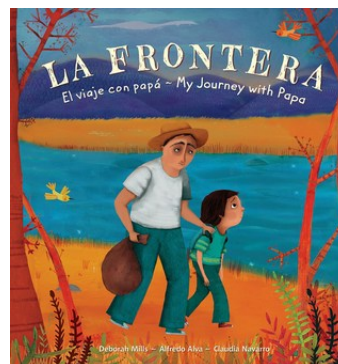
A boy and his Thai grandfather struggle to communicate across divides of language, age, and culture, leading to confusion, frustration, and uncomfortable silence. They do not know what to say to each other as they speak in two languages. However, a mutual love of art bridges the barriers and forms a bond that goes beyond words.



Alma and How She Got Her Name

By Juana Martinez-Neal.
Candlewick Press.
32 pp. GR PreK and up.
Picturebook.

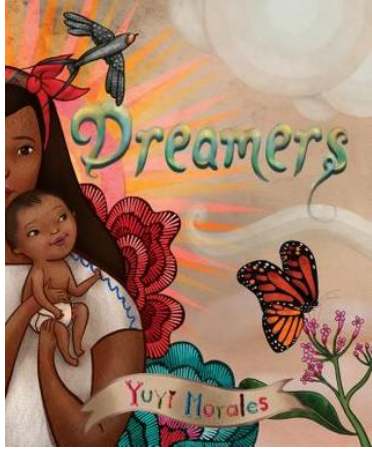
Alma Sofia Esperanza Jose Pura Candela feels that her name is too long until her Daddy explains the special relative behind each name. Alma relates to each person and then appreciates her heritage and the fact that "Alma" is just for her. She is ready to make her own story.



La Frontera: El viaje con papá-My Journey with Papa

By Deborah Mills and Alfredo Alva.
Illus. by Claudia Navarro.
Barefoot Books. 48 pp.
GR 2 and up. Picturebook.

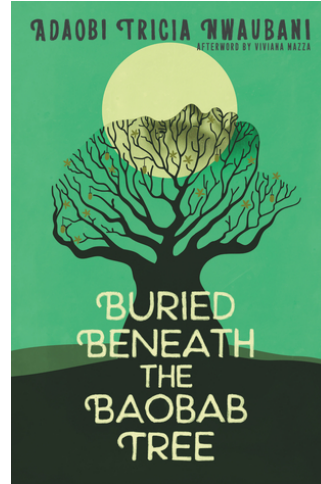
This exquisite book conveys an immigration story of courage and fortitude told from young Alfredo's perspective. Without fanfare, this book illustrates the dangers involved when journeying from Mexico to cross the tumultuous Rio Grande River, and provides an unassailable counterpoint to the current



Dreamers

By Yuyi Morales.
Neal Porter Books.
40 pp. GR PreK and up.
Picturebook.

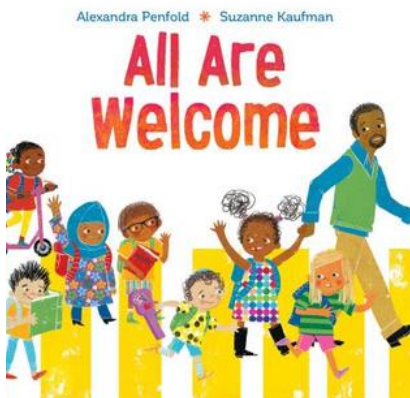
In heartfelt prose that changes from English to Spanish, award winning illustrator Yuyi Morales tells the story of her journey with her son into a "land [that] welcomed us in words unlike those of our ancestors." As immigrants, they faced a challenging and strange world but found safety and solace in the library.



Buried Beneath the Baobab Tree

By Adaobi Tricia Nwaubani
HarperCollins/
Katherine Tegen Books.
336 pp. GR 9 and up. Fiction.

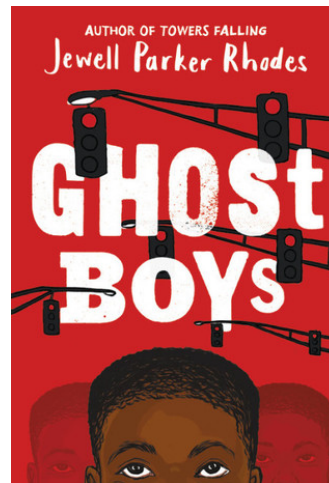
Ya-Ta, the best student in her school in Chibok, Nigeria, wins a scholarship and dreams of a university education but her family worries about the onslaught of Boko Haram rebels. When rebels attack her village, kidnapping women and girls, her life becomes a terror of life-threatening challenges. Back matter includes background accounts that inform the story.



All Are Welcome

By Alexandra Penfold.
Illus. by Suzanne Kaufman.
Random House/Alfred A. Knopf Books. 44 pp.
GR PreK and up. Picturebook.

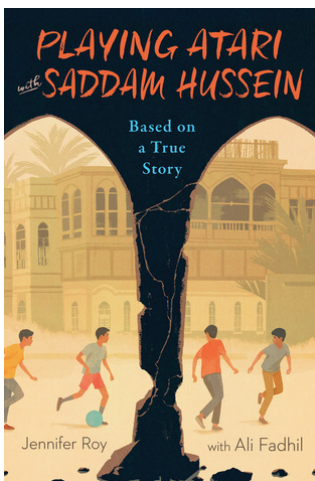
With lyrical language and vivid illustrations, this comforting and joyful book exemplifies diverse and inclusive classrooms where children are welcomed. Illustrations dance on the pages and depict the many ways children learn, play, and break bread side-by-side in environments that embrace all children and their cultures.



Ghost Boys

By Jewell Parker Rhodes.
Little, Brown.
214 pp. GR 5 and up. Fiction.

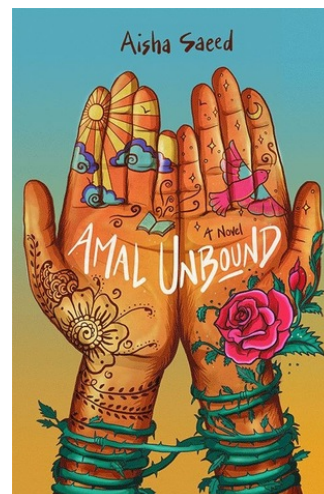
In a poignant and timely story, three children come together to deal with the aftermath of a police officer killing a twelve-year-old African American boy. Sarah, the police officer's daughter, is deeply troubled by her father's actions. Emmett Till is a ghost and victim from the past and Jerome is the current victim.



Playing Atari with Saddam Hussein

By Jennifer Roy
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.
176 pp. GR 5 and up.
Fiction.

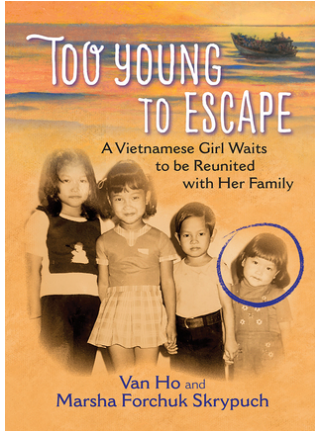
When Saddam Hussein went to war with the U.S. in 1991 Ali traded his days of school, video games, and American TV, propaganda-filled radio updates, and the safe room he shares with his family in their Basra home. He worries about his father, deployed to southern Iraq to serve as doctor. Based on Ali Fadhil's childhood, Jennifer Roy tells the story of the boy during Operation Desert Storm.



Amal Unbound

By Aisha Saeed
PenguinRandomHouse/
Nancy Paulsen Books.
240 pp. GR 5 and up.
Fiction

Amal's dreams of becoming a teacher in her life with her family until she mistakenly insults a member of her Pakistani village's wealthiest family and is summoned to work on their estate as punishment. Now Amal has to navigate life as a servant. Will she ever be free or is she forever indebted to the family everybody fears?



Too Young to Escape: A Vietnamese Girl Waits to be Reunited with Her Family

By Marsha Forchuk Skrypuch and Van Ho.

Pajama Press. 152 pp.
GR 3 and up. Nonfiction.

Four-year old Van has been left behind in Ho Chi Min City, Vietnam, in 1981, during the aftermath of the Vietnam War. Her family escaped the communist regime by boat for freedom in the West without Van, who was too young, and her grandmother, who was too old, for such a treacherous journey.



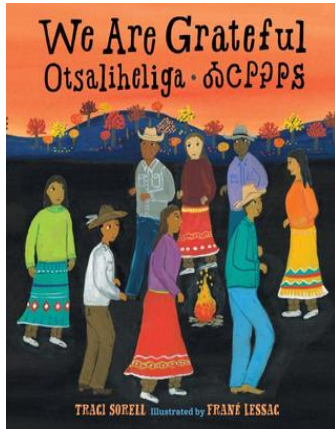
The Cardboard Kingdom

By Chad Sell.

Random House/Alfred A. Knopf/
Borzoi Books.

288 pp. GR 4 and up.
Graphic Novel.

This graphic novel captures children's imagination, creatively, and camaraderie. It explores conflicts with families, friends, and their own identities. Neighborhood kids create an imaginative world called the Cardboard Kingdom. They transform into sorceresses, robots, and knights, and this gives them confidence and makes them feel powerful.



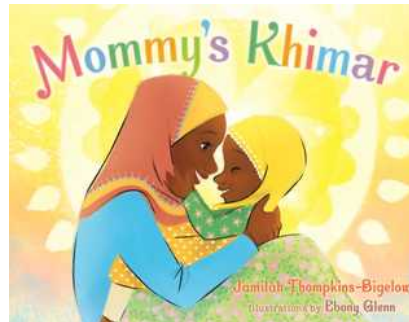
We Are Grateful: Otsaliheliga

By Traci Sorell.

Illus. by Frané Lessac.
Charlesbridge.

32 pp. GR PreK and up.
Picturebook.

Each day throughout the year and across the seasons, the Cherokee people express their gratitude for the beauty and the blessings bestowed upon them. The lyrical text, with Cherokee words across the brightly colored pages, encourages each of us to reflect on our own reasons to be grateful each day.



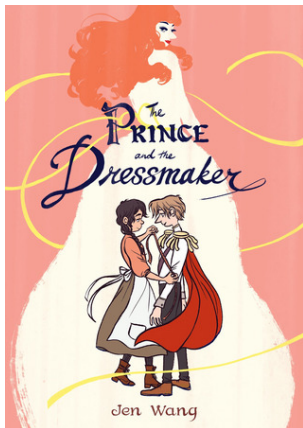
Mommy's Khimar

By Jamilah Thompkins-Bigelow.

Illus. by Ebony Glenn.

Simon & Schuster/Salaam Reads.
40 pp. GR PreK and up. Picturebook.

Before leaving the house, Mommy wraps her head in a khimar, a flowing scarf that fascinates the preschool protagonist. When she wears her mother's scarves, at times she imagines herself as a queen and, at other times, as a baby bird. The depiction of the Black Muslim family includes a Christian grandmother who does not wear a khimar.



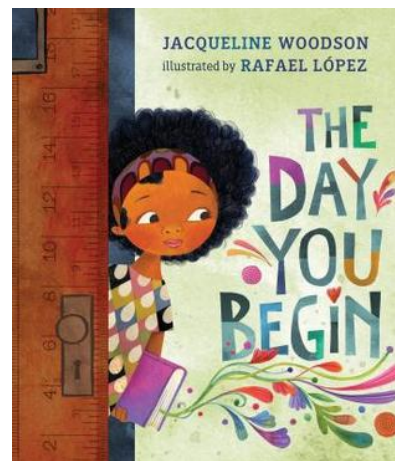
The Prince and the Dressmaker

By Jen Wang.

Roaring Brook Press/First Second.
288 pp. GR 7 and up.

Graphic Novel.

Frances dreams of fame as she designs and creates elaborate dresses for a member of the royal family: Prince Sebastian. Wearing dresses is his secret. To keep Prince Sebastian's secret persona of Lady Crystallia safe, Frances must remain anonymous. She knows that, if she wants her dream realized, she can't keep his secret forever.



The Day You Begin

By Jacqueline Woodson.

Illus. by Rafael López.

PenguinRandomHouse/
Nancy Paulsen Books.

32 pp. GR K and up.
Picturebook.

Everyone has felt isolated and different from others. Whether because of your name, your hair, your food, your experiences, or your language, there will be times when courage is needed to tell your own story. Then will you find others with whom you share that spark of similarity and connection.