Notable Books for a Global Society Award 2024 List of Winners
Children’s Literature and Reading Special Interest Group (CL/R SIG) of the International Literacy Association (ILA) at www.clrsig.org 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 2024 issue of The Dragon Lode, free to CL/R SIG members.

Autumn Peltier, water warrior
By Carole Lindstrom
Illus. Bridget George
Roaring Brook Press
40 pp. GR PK-3 Biography Picturebook

Autumn Peltier and Josephine Mandamin, Anishinaabe advocates, are honored in this tale of generational water protection. Told through a personified voice of water, readers are shown the importance of advocating for water seven generations into the future. Included is a forward by Autumn Peletier and back matter about Josephine Mandamin.

Dancing hands: A story of friendship in Filipino Sign Language
By Joanna Que and Charina Marquez
Illus. Fran Alvarez
Trans. Karen Llagas
Chronicle Books
40 pp. GR PK-2 Contemporary fiction Picturebook

Sam is intrigued the new girl next door, who communicates with her family by gracefully moving her hands instead of speaking out loud. The two girls form a friendship and learn to communicate their wishes and dreams in Filipino Sign Language. Back matter includes information on sign languages around the world.

Mexikid
By Pedro Martín
Dial Books for Young Readers
320 pp. GR 5-9 Autobiographical graphic novel

Set in the 1970s, this graphic novel memoir follows young Pedro, his parents, and his eight brothers and sisters on a 2,000-mile road trip in their Winnebago from California to Mexico to reunite with their legendary abuelito. Blending humor, heart, and cultural identity, it portrays Pedro's journey of self-discovery and familial connection.

Tenacious: Fifteen adventures alongside disabled athletes
By Patty Cisneros Prevo
Illus. Dion MBD
Lee & Low Books
40 pp. GR K-4 Nonfiction Picturebook

This picture book invites readers to gain expert knowledge into the competitive lives of 15 “tenacious” sports champions. The athletes continually overcome daily challenges managing their diverse disabilities while simultaneously experiencing daily joys. The competitors are inspirational, demonstrating excellence and resilience in each of their powerful stories.

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**Contenders: Two Native baseball players, one World Series**
By Traci Sorell
Illus. Arigon Starr
Kokila
48 pp. GR 1-4 Nonfiction Picturebook

In 1911, the first two Native, professional baseball players faced each other and discrimination in the World Series: John Meyers, New York Giants catcher, and Charles Bender, Philadelphia Athletics pitcher. Author Traci Sorell shares this true story about resilience and perseverance for the love of the game with illustrations by Arigon Starr.

**Warrior girl unearthed**
By Angeline Boulleuy
Henry Holt Books for Young Readers
400 pp. GR 10-12 Contemporary fiction

After learning about the loopholes in NAGPRA laws, Perry Firekeeper and her friends orchestrate a heist to return her ancestors' remains and artifacts to the Anishinaabe people for proper burial. In the process, Perry encounters another “collector” of Indigenous women, and must fight for her life while uncovering more hidden truths.

**Homeland: My father dreams of Palestine**
By Hannah Moushabeck
Illus. Reem Madooh
Chronicle Books
40 pp. GR K-3 Autobiographical Picturebook

This Palestinian refugee story is a journey familiar to refugees worldwide and those displaced from their homeland. Three sisters snuggle at bedtime to listen to their father reminisce about their homeland. Together with their father, they learn of family stories and dream of their homeland's sights, smells, and rhythm.

**The girl who heard the music: How one pianist and 85,000 bottles and cans brought new hope to an island**
By Marni Fogelson and Mahani Teave
Illus. Marta Álvarez Miguéns
Sourcebooks eXplore
40 pp. GR K-4 Biography Picturebook

Mahani Teave, a talented musician from Rapa Nui (Easter Island in Chile), advocates for the construction of the Rapa Nui School of Music, created with sustainable materials. Many tourists bring trash to Rapa Nui each year as they visit the legendary Moai statues. Mahani’s vision highlights environmentalism and connections to music.

**Good different**
By Meg Eden Kuyatt
Scholastic Press
288 pp. GR 3-7 Contemporary fiction novel in verse

Seventh-grader Selah has rules for living and wearing her “normal person mask.” When pushed past her limits of noise and touch, Selah hits another student. Through the process of suspension and possible expulsion, Selah learns about her neurodivergence and uses her poetry to teach others that being different is a strength.

**Game of freedom: Mestre Bimba and the art of Capeoira**
By Duncan Tonatiuh
Abrams Books for Young Readers
48 pp. GR PK-3 Biography Picturebook

Capoeira integrates acrobatics, martial arts, dance, and music, and today is practiced widely in Brazil and around the world. It was originally outlawed in Brazil because it was practiced by descendants of enslaved Africans, but Mestre Bimba was a legendary capoeira player who elevated this street game by establishing a school to teach it.

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Eagle drums
By Nasuġraq Rainey Hopson
Roaring Brook Press
256 pp. GR 4-8 Fiction
Imagine a young hunter facing the God Savik, going on an epic journey, and returning home with music, dance, and traditions that connect his Iñupiaq community. Through Nasuġraq Rainey Hopson’s mythic retelling of the Messenger’s Feast, readers experience the story as it was told thousands of years ago.

Jovita wore pants: The story of a Mexican freedom fighter
By Aida Salazar
Illus. Molly Mendoza
Scholastic Press
48 pp. GR 1-4 Biography Picturebook
Written by her great-niece, this true story tells of Jovita, who dreams of wearing pants in the 1910s in rural Mexico. After her father refused to allow her to join the Cristero War in fighting for religious freedom, Jovita forced her skirts into her bloomers as “pants” and disguised herself to become a revolutionary.

That flag
By Tameka Fryer Brown
Illus. Nikkolas Smith
Harper
40 pp. GR 1-5 Contemporary fiction Picturebook
Best friends Keira and Bianca realize that they have divergent perspectives on the Confederate flag flying in their neighborhood, which sparks a journey of understanding and confronting racial tensions. The book, infused with emotional illustrations and historical insights, serves as an important conversation starter across generations.

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**Stars of the night: The courageous children of the Czech Kindertransport**
By Caren Stelson
Illus. Selina Alko
Carolrhoda Books
40 pp. GR 2-5 Nonfiction Picturebook

In a network of Kindertransport, a total of 669 children were evacuated from Czechoslovakia in the late 1930s to escape the atrocities inflicted by the Nazis. This timely picture book shares a painful event in history with emotional text and expressive artwork. Insightful back matter provides further context.

**Breaking to the beat!**
By Linda J. Acevedo
Illus. Frank Morrison
Lee & Low Books
32 pp. GR K-3 Historical fiction Picturebook

In the 1970’s Bronx, shy Manolo is inspired by the beats on the street to learn a new dance style called breaking: “Windmill. Two-Hand Hops. Continuous Head Spin.” As performer Kid Flex, he forms a dance crew, the Borinquén Breakers, to showcase and share moves with other b-boys and b-girls.

**Méo and Bé**
By Doan Phuong Nguyen
Illus. Jesse White
Lee & Low Books
320 pp. GR 4-8 Historical fiction

Set against the backdrop of the Vietnam War, this middle-grades novel follows 11-year-old Bé and her three-footed kitten, Méo, navigating the brutalities of war and familial betrayal. Their journey of resilience and hope in the chaos of war highlights the power of kindness as they search for a safe haven.

**How do you spell unfair?: MacNolia Cox and the National Spelling Bee**
By Carole Boston Weatherford
Illus. Frank Morrison
Candlewick Press
40 pp. GR 2-5 Nonfiction Picturebook

In 1936, MacNolia Cox was the first African American to win the Akron, Ohio spelling bee. She faced discrimination while traveling to and competing in the National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C. Regardless, MacNolia advanced to the finalist round, proving that African American students were as intelligent as the other competitors.

**My powerful hair**
By Carole Lindstrom
Illus. Steph Littlebird
Abrams Books for Young Readers
48 pp. GR PK-3 Contemporary fiction Picturebook

This story chronicles a young girl's journey as she grows her hair long. Her Nokomis (grandmother) was forced to wear her hair short while attending boarding school because long hair was considered wild. But her Nimishoomis (grandfather) explained that their ancestors believed hair had powers such as holding memories, providing strength, and celebrating life.

**Saints of the household**
By Ari Tison
Farrar Strauss Giroux Books for Young Readers
312 pp. GR 9-12 Contemporary fiction

Two Bribri (Indigenous Costa Rican-American) brothers face violence at school and home. After a fight at school, their dreams of college may be in jeopardy. Through counseling and self-exploration, they reconcile with their emotions and abuse at home. Told through alternating narratives in verse and prose, this own voices story is powerful.

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