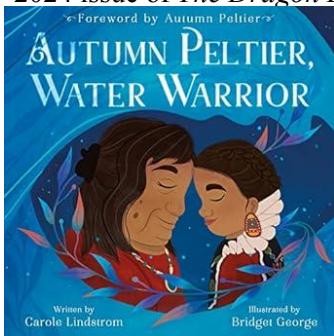


# Notable Books for a Global Society Award 2024 List of Winners

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

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

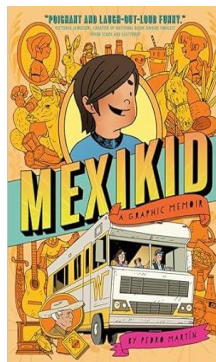


## ***Autumn Peltier, water warrior***

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 Peltier and back matter about Josephine Mandamin.

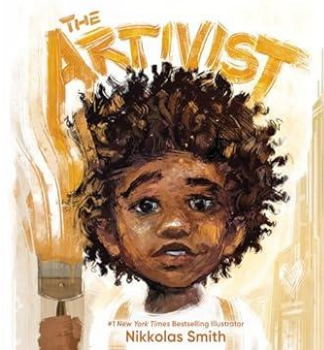


## ***Mexikid***

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.

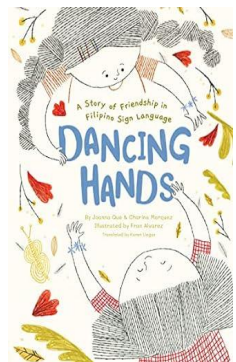


## ***The artist***

By Nikkolas Smith  
Kokila

40 pp. GR PK-3 Contemporary fiction Picturebook

Vivid imagery commands readers' attention as young Nikkolas Smith expresses how he merged his love for art and activism to become an activist. Railing against poverty, homelessness, oppression, discrimination, and pain, Smith elucidates these issues artfully. The images admonish the world to meaningfully act to eradicate them.

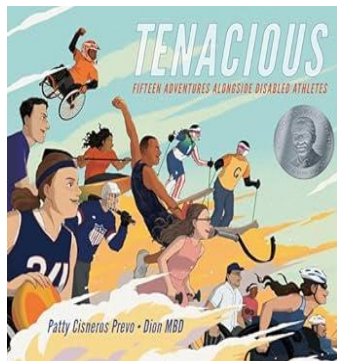


## ***Dancing hands: A story of friendship in Filipino Sign Language***

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.

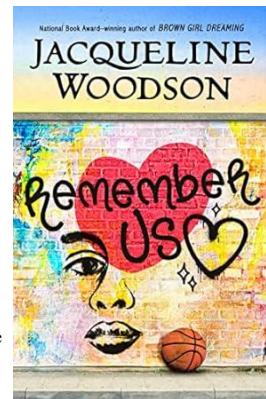


## ***Tenacious: Fifteen adventures alongside disabled athletes***

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.



## ***Remember us***

By Jacqueline Woodson  
Nancy Paulsen Books

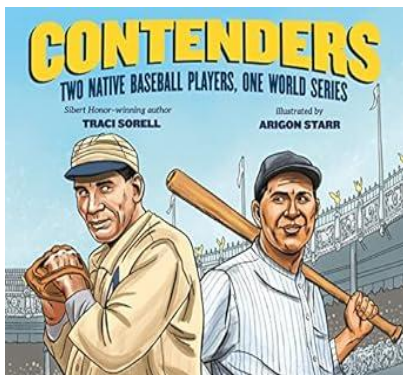
192 pp. GR 5-8 Historical fiction

The community burns and challenges abound on the basketball courts while twelve-year-old Sage figures out who she is. During one Brooklyn summer, two friends, Sage and Freddy, experience loss and new beginnings while savoring the positive parts of the present as the future looms on the horizon.

Find more detailed reviews, teaching suggestions, and related books in the Spring 2024 issue of *The Dragon Lode*. For lists of previous years go to

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# Notable Books for a Global Society Award 2024 List of Winners

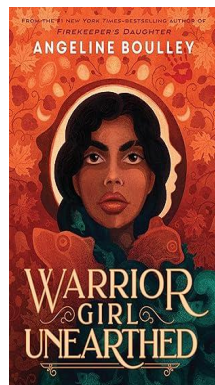


## **Contenders: Two Native baseball players, one World Series**

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 Boulley  
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.

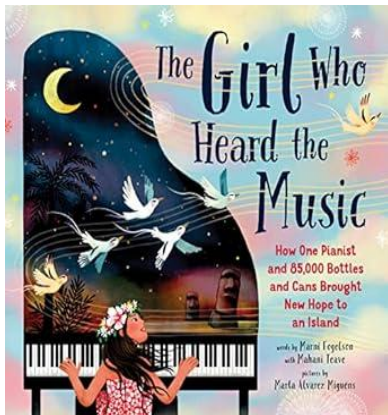


## **Homeland: My father dreams of Palestine**

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.



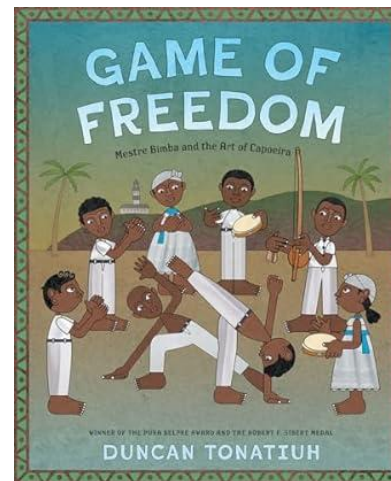
## **Good different**

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.



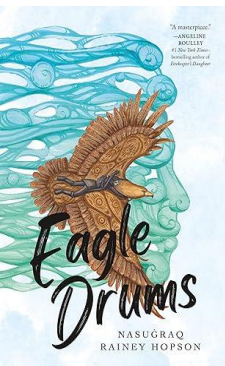
## **Game of freedom: Mestre Bimba and the art of Capoeira**

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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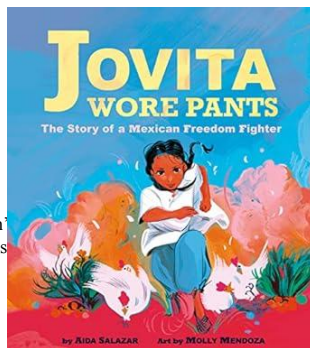
# Notable Books for a Global Society Award 2024 List of Winners



## *Eagle drums*

By Nasuqraq 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 Inupiaq community. Through Nasuqraq Rainey Hopson's mythic retelling of the Messenger's Feast, readers experience the story as it was told thousands of years ago.

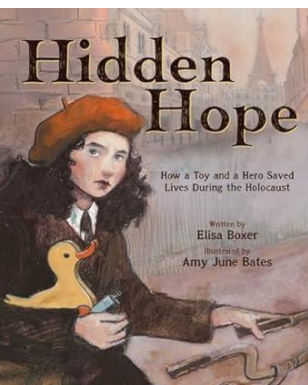


## *Jovita wore pants: The story of a Mexican freedom fighter*

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.



## *Hidden hope: How a toy and a hero saved lives during the Holocaust*

By Elisa Boxer  
Illus. Amy June Bates  
Abrams Books for Young Readers

48 pp. GR K-4 Nonfiction Picturebook

During World War II France, Jacqueline Gauthier was only a teenager, but she risked her life to save Jewish people from the Nazi soldiers. Pretending to be a Christian social worker to help children, Jacqueline secretly transported documents with fake identities in a hollowed-out compartment of a toy wooden duck.



## *Mascot*

By Charles Waters and Traci Sorell  
Charlesbridge  
256 pp. GR 5-8  
Contemporary fiction novel in verse

Football is big on Friday nights until six students battle the rights of non-Native people to select mascots that offend Native people and add insult to injury. This middle-grade story of activism is told in verse and brings to life the need to change mascots in our schools nationwide.



## *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.



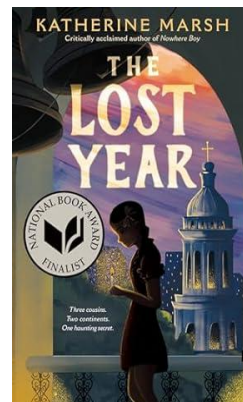
## *Finally seen*

By Kelly Yang  
Simon & Schuster

Books for Young Readers

304 pp. GR 3-7 Contemporary fiction

Lina struggles to adjust to life in America with her parents after emigrating from China. She compares herself to her younger sister who seamlessly has adjusted to American culture. This riveting middle-grade novel illuminates experiences of invisibility and alienation. Yang opens a window into the challenges of immigration.



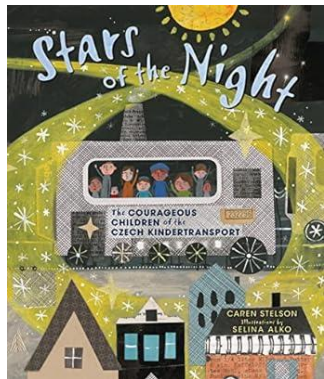
## *The lost year: A survival story of the Ukrainian famine*

By Katherine Marsh  
Roaring Brook Press  
368 pp. GR 5-8 Historical fiction

The 2020s pandemic meets a 1930s famine in this breathtaking story about 13-year-old Matthew and his 100-year-old great-grandmother. Matthew finds an old photograph that leads him to learn about Holodomor, a devastating famine in 1930s Soviet Ukraine. Told through alternating timelines and a riveting narrative, readers draw parallels between these two catastrophic events.

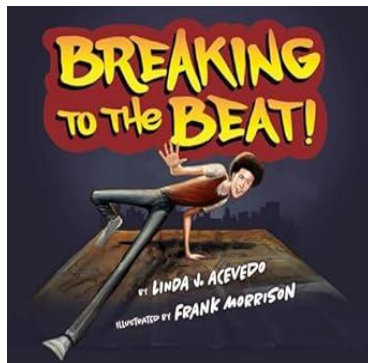
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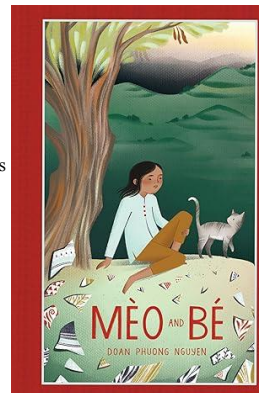
***Stars of the night: The courageous children of the Czech Kindertransport***  
By Caren Stelson  
Illus. Selina Alko  
Carolrhoda Books  
40 pp. GR 2-5 Nonfiction Picturebook

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.



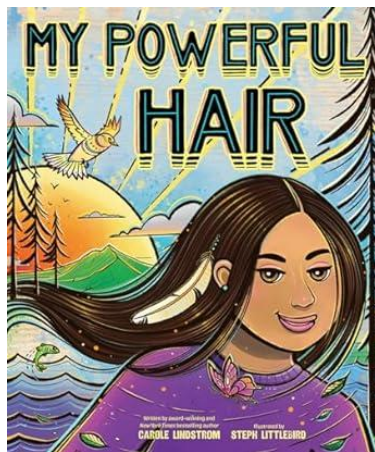
***Breaking to the beat!***  
By Linda J. Acevedo  
Illus. Frank Morrison  
Lee & Low Books  
32 pp. GR K-3 Historical fiction  
Picturebook

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.



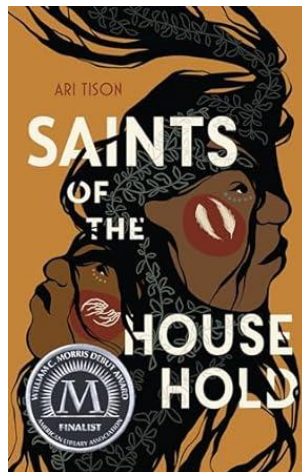
***Mèo and Bé***  
By Doan Phuong Nguyen  
Illus. Jesse White  
Lee & Low Books  
320 pp. GR 4-8 Historical fiction

Set against the backdrop of the Vietnam War, this middle-grades novel follows 11-year-old Bé and her three-footed kitten, Mèo, 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.



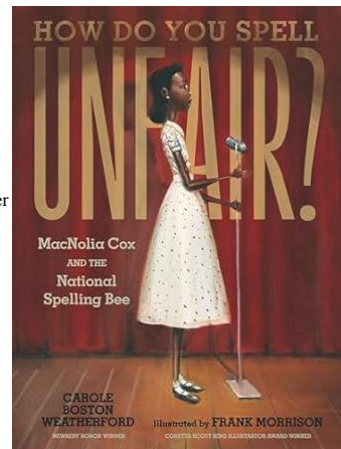
***My powerful hair***  
By Carole Lindstrom  
Illus. Steph Littlebird  
Abrams Books for Young Readers  
48 pp. GR PK-3 Contemporary fiction Picturebook

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 Straus 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.



***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.

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