

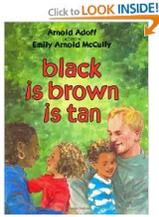
MULTICULTURAL CHILDREN'S BOOKS

A Select Bibliography

Compiled by Shayla R. Griffin, Ph.D.

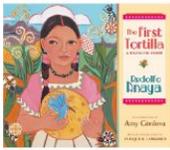
September 2012

RACE & ETHNICITY



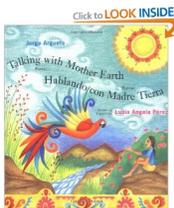
**Arnold Adoff and Emily Arnold McCully, *Black Is Brown Is Tan*
*Kindergarten and up***

When it was first published in 1973, *Black is Brown is Tan* featured the first interracial family in children's books. Decades later, Arnold Adoff and Emily Arnold McCully continue to offer a joyous and loving celebration of all the colors of the race, now newly embellished with bright watercolor paintings that depict a contemporary family of the twenty-first century.



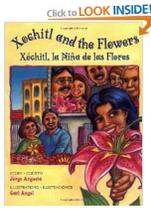
Rudolfo Anaya, Amy Cordova & Enrique Larnadrid, *The First Tortilla* (Spanish)

The First Tortilla is a moving, bilingual story of courage and discovery. A small Mexican village is near starvation. There is no rain, and the bean and squash plants are dying. Jade, a young village girl, is told by a blue hummingbird to take a gift to the Mountain Spirit. Then it will send the needed rain. Burning lava threatens her, but Jade reaches the top of the volcano. The Mountain Spirit is pleased. It allows the ants in a nearby cave to share their corn with Jade. The corn was sweet and delicious and Jade took some back to save the village. Jade grinds the dry corn, adds water, and makes dough. She pats the masa and places it on hot stones near the fire. She has made the first tortilla. Soon the making of corn tortillas spreads throughout Mexico and beyond.



**Jorge Argueta and Lucia Angela Perez, *Talking With Mother Earth/Hablando Con Madre Tierra: Poems/Poemas*
*Kindergarten and up***

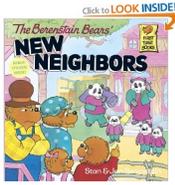
Tetl's skin is brown, his eyes are black, and his hair is long. He's different from the other children, whose taunts wound him deeply, leaving him confused and afraid. But Tetl's grandmother knows the ancient teachings of their Aztec ancestors, and how they viewed the earth as alive with sacred meaning. With her help, he learns to listen to the mountains, wind, corn, and stones. Tetl's journey from self-doubt to proud acceptance of his Nahuatl heritage is told in a series of powerful poems, beautifully expressed in both English and Spanish. Vivid illustrations celebrate nature's redemptive powers, offering a perfect complement to the poignant story.



Jorge Argueta and Carl Angel, *Xochitl and the Flowers/Xochitl, La Nina de Las Flores* (Spanish)

Kindergarten and up

Miles away from their home in El Salvador, Xochitl (Soh-cheel) and her family make a home in America. Xochitl misses her family's small flower business and garden back home. By selling flowers on the street the Flores family begin to make friends with their new neighbors. But it is not until the family decides to start a nursery that Xochitl learns the value of community. Award-winning writer Jorge Argueta has crafted a moving story about a family's determination to set down roots and about their child's blooming in a new environment. Carl Angel's artwork splendidly documents this quintessentially American immigration story.



Stan Berenstain and Jan Berenstain, *The Berenstain Bears' New Neighbors*

Kindergarten and up

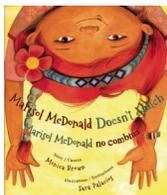
A new family moves in across the street from the Berenstain Bears. It's the Panda Bears, and Papa Bear is a little bent out of shape because they're...*different*. But nothing stops Brother and Sister from making friends with the new cubs. When the adults follow suit, they all learn a valuable lesson in acceptance and the dangers of bigotry.



Linda Boyden & Amy Cordova, *The Blue Roses*

1st grade and up

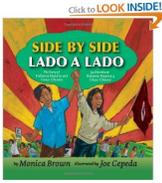
Every spring Rosalie, a Native American girl, and her grandfather sow tiny seeds that blossom into bright flowers. A red rosebush, planted under Rosalie's bedroom window when she was born, is later joined by pink and yellow ones to make a sunset, Papa tells her. Rosalie asks for a blue bush, to represent the sky, but Papa explains that roses do not come in blue. When he dies the following winter, Rosalie's blue rosebush comes to her in her dreams as a symbol of love, memory, and transcendence.



Monica Brown and Sara Palacios, *Marisol McDonald Doesn't Match/Marisol McDonald No Combina* (Spanish)

Kindergarten and up

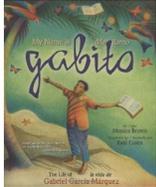
Marisol McDonald has flaming red hair and nut-brown skin. Polka dots and stripes are her favorite combination. She prefers peanut butter and jelly burritos in her lunch box. And don't even think of asking her to choose one or the other activity at recess—she'll just be a soccer playing pirate princess, thank you very much. To Marisol McDonald, these seemingly mismatched things make perfect sense together. Unfortunately, they don't always make sense to everyone else. Other people wrinkle their nose in confusion at Marisol—can't she just be one or the other? Try as she might, in a world where everyone tries to put this biracial, Peruvian-Scottish-American girl into a box, Marisol McDonald doesn't match. And that's just fine with her. A mestiza Peruvian American of European, Jewish, and Amerindian heritage, renowned author Monica Brown wrote this lively story to bring her own experience of being mismatched to life. Her buoyant prose is perfectly matched by Sara Palacios engaging acrylic illustrations.



Monica Brown and Joe Cepeda, *Side by Side/Lado a Lado: The Story of Dolores Huerta and Cesar Chavez* (Spanish)

Kindergarten and up

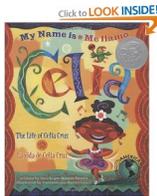
Every day, thousands of farmworkers harvested the food that ended up on kitchen tables all over the country. But at the end of the day, when the workers sat down to eat, there were only beans on their own tables. Then Dolores Huerta and Cesar Chavez teamed up. Together they motivated the workers to fight for their rights and, in the process, changed history.



Monica Brown and Raul Colon, *My Name is Gabito/Mi Llamo Gabito: The Life of Gabriel Garcia Marquez/La Vida de Gabriel Garcia Marquez* (Spanish)

Kindergarten and up

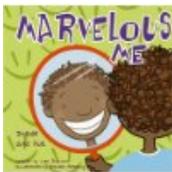
Can you imagine a shipwrecked sailor living on air and seaweed for eight days? Can you imagine a trail of yellow butterflies fluttering their wings to songs of love? Once, there was a little boy named Gabito who could. Gabriel Garcia Marquez is perhaps one of the most brilliant writers of our time. He is a tremendous figure, enormously talented, and unabashedly admired. This is his story, lovingly told, for children to enjoy. Using the imagery from his novels, Monica Brown traces the novelist's life in this creative nonfiction picture book from his childhood in Colombia to today. This is an inspiring story about an inspiring life, full of imagination and beauty.



Monica Brown and Rafael Lopez, *My Name is Celia/Me Llamo Celia* (Spanish)

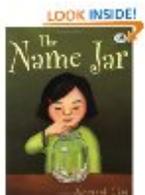
Kindergarten and up

This bilingual book allows young readers to enter Celia Cruz's life as she becomes a well-known singer in her homeland of Cuba, then moves to New York City and Miami where she and others create a new type of music called salsa.



Lisa Bullard, *Marvelous Me: Inside and Out*

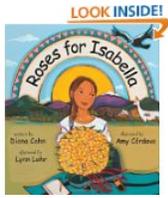
Isn't it incredible what makes you who you are? From what you look like, to what you like for dinner, to what makes you really mad, glad, or sad join in as Alex tries to sort out what makes you you and him him!



Yangsook Choi, *The Name Jar*

Kindergarten and up

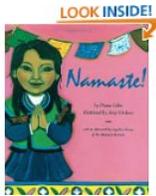
Being the new kid in school is hard enough, but what about when nobody can pronounce your name? Having just moved from Korea, Unhei is anxious that American kids will like her. So instead of introducing herself on the first day of school, she tells the class that she will choose a name by the following week. Her new classmates are fascinated by this no-name girl and decide to help out by filling a glass jar with names for her to pick from. But while Unhei practices being a Suzy, Laura, or Amanda, one of her classmates comes to her neighborhood and discovers her real name and its special meaning. On the day of her name choosing, the name jar has mysteriously disappeared. Encouraged by her new friends, Unhei chooses her own Korean name and helps everyone pronounce it—*Yoon-Hey*.



Diana Cohn & Amy Cordova, *Roses for Isabella*

1st grade and up

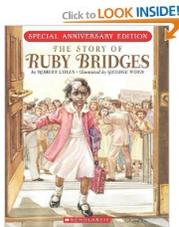
Roses for Isabella invites us to experience life in Ecuador through the eyes of a young girl who keeps a journal and loves to write. We learn about Isabella's parents who work on one of the hundreds of farms growing beautiful roses that are sold all over the world. But not all of these farms are fair to workers and kind to the earth. Through Isabella, we learn how her family's life changes for the better when her parents find work at a Fair Trade farm.



Diana Cohn & Amy Cordova, *Namaste!*

Kindergarten and up

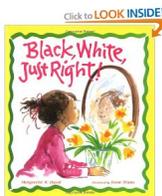
Nima Sherpa lives in Nepal at the top of the world, where the tallest mountain on earth, Chomolongma--the mountain we call Everest--towers above the clouds. Nima has promised her father, a mountain guide, that she will find a way to help make the world a better place. Every day, on the long walk to the market village where she goes to school, Nima meets porters and caravans carrying their goods to market, travelers trekking to their next lodge, and monks on their way to their monastery. After school, she meets her friend Tenzing, an old Tibetan trader, who shares some honey with her at the market place. Whenever Nima sees someone, she brings her hands together with her fingers almost touching her chin, bows her head slightly, and says "Namaste"—the light in me meets the light in you. Her mother tells her, "When you say 'Namaste,' try to see the special spark of light that shines within every person's heart."



Robert Coles and George Ford, *The Story of Ruby Bridges*

Kindergarten and up

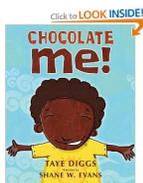
The year is 1960, and six-year-old Ruby Bridges and her family have recently moved from Mississippi to New Orleans in search of a better life. When a judge orders Ruby to attend first grade at William Frantz Elementary, an all-white school, Ruby must face angry mobs of parents who refuse to send their children to school with her. Told with Robert Coles' powerful narrative and dramatically illustrated by George Ford, Ruby's story of courage, faith, and hope is now available in this special 50th anniversary edition with an updated afterword!



Marguerite W. Davol and Irene Trivas, *Black, White, Just Right!*

1st grade and up

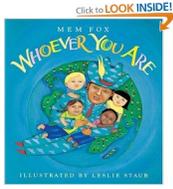
Celebrating the differences between a mother and father that blend to make the perfect combination in their daughter. An African American mother and a white father are only one reason why this family is "just right."



Taye Diggs & Shane W. Evans, *Chocolate Me!*

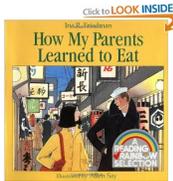
Kindergarten and up

The boy is teased for looking different than the other kids. His skin is darker, his hair curlier. He tells his mother he wishes he could be more like everyone else. And she helps him to see how beautiful he really, truly is.



Mem Fox and Leslie Staub, *Whoever You Are*
Kindergarten and up

“Little one, / whoever you are, / wherever you are, / there are little ones / just like you / all over the world.” So begins the Australian author Mem Fox’s joyful picture book *Whoever You Are*, a celebration of the world’s diverse cultures, both our similarities and differences. Leslie Staub’s innovative, colorful, folk art–style oil paintings of children from all corners of the globe are bordered with photographs of hand-carved, bejeweled frames—and they all reflect Fox’s message that no matter where we come from, within our hearts “Joys are the same, / and love is the same. / Pain is the same, / and blood is the same.” A gem!



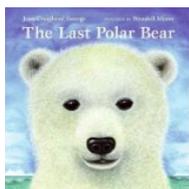
Ina R. Friedman, *How My Parents Learned to Eat*
Kindergarten and up

An American sailor courts a young Japanese woman and each tries, in secret, to learn the other's way of eating.



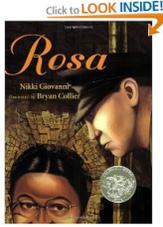
Kip Fulbeck, *Mixed: Portraits of Multiracial Kids*

From beloved writer and artist Kip Fulbeck, author of *Part Asian, 100% Hapa*, this timely collection of portraits celebrates the faces and voices of mixed-race children. At a time when 7 million people in the U.S. alone identify as belonging to more than one race, interest in issues of multiracial identity is rapidly growing. Overflowing with uplifting elements including charming images, handwritten statements from the children, first-person text from their parents, a foreword by Dr. Maya Soetoro-Ng (President Obama's sister), and an afterword by international star Cher (who is part Cherokee) this volume is an inspiring vision of the future.



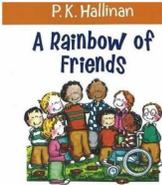
Jean Craighead George and Wendell Minor, *The Last Polar Bear*
Kindergarten and up

The world is warming, and the ice is melting. Tigluk, a young boy, must save the last polar bear. From master storyteller Jean Craighead George, with art from the critically acclaimed Wendell Minor.



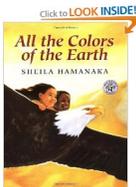
Nikki Giovanni and Bryan Collier, *Rosa*
Kindergarten and up

Fifty years after her refusal to give up her seat on a Montgomery, Alabama, city bus, Mrs. Rosa Parks is still one of the most important figures in the American civil rights movement. This tribute to Mrs. Parks is a celebration of her courageous action and the events that followed. Award-winning poet, writer, and activist Nikki Giovanni's evocative text combines with Bryan Collier's striking cut-paper images to retell the story of this historic event from a wholly unique and original perspective.



P.K. Hallinan, *A Rainbow of Friends*
Kindergarten and up

Friends come in all colours and sizes; they can be funny or serious, musical or athletic, outgoing or quiet. This book reminds children to celebrate their differences because that is what makes each of us so special.



Sheila Hamanaka, *All the Colors of the Earth*
Kindergarten and up

Celebrate the colors of children and the colors of love--not black or white or yellow or red, but roaring brown, whispering gold, tinkling pink, and more.



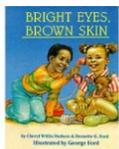
Karen Hesse & Jon J. Muth, *Come On, Rain!*
Kindergarten and up

In this quietly affecting story, award-winning author Karen Hesse and artist Jon J. Muth deftly capture the magnificence of a sudden rainstorm on a swelteringly hot day. Much more than a simple tale of weather, *Come On, Rain!* also portrays the tenderness of mother-daughter relations, the rhythms of urban society, and the power of nature to transform and reinvigorate all forms of life.



Neferetari Patricia Hilliard-Nunn & Darrien Goodman, *Foluke: The Afro Queen*
Kindergarten and up

Foluke wears her hair in lots of different styles, but her afro is her favorite!



Cheryl Willis Hudson & Bernette G. Ford, *Bright Eyes, Brown Skin*
Kindergarten and up



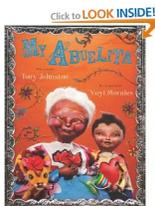
Dinah Johnson and James Ransome, *Quinnie Blue*
Kindergarten and up

Through a series of thoughtful questions and vivid reflections, a young girl imagines what childhood was like for her grandmother—Hattie Lottie Annie Quinnie Blue—the woman she is named after. In this exceptional picture book, Dinah Johnson's expressive language joyously invokes the spirit of an African-American community. James Ransome's beautiful paintings depict in turn the past and present generations of a family, and a special relationship that connects the two. *Quinnie Blue* is a wonderful celebration of family roots and the passing on of heritage.



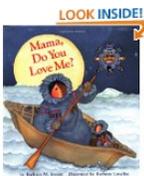
Kelly Johnson and Dinah Johnson, *Hair Dance*
Kindergarten and up

Hair comes in all colors, textures, and styles. Whether it is worn long or short, in braids or cornrows, or left natural in an Afro, hair plays a big part in who we are and how we feel about ourselves. In this inspiring book, Kelly Johnson's stunning photographs of girls wearing a range of hairstyles and the lyrical words of Dinah Johnson's poem celebrate African American hair in all its radiant variety.



Tony Johnston and Yuyi Morales, *My Abuelita*

Abuelita's hair is the color of salt. Her face is as crinkled as a dried chile. She booms out words as wild as blossoms blooming. She stuffs her *carcacha* with all the things she needs: a plumed snake, a castle, a skeleton, and more. Her grandson knows he has the most amazing grandmother ever, with a *very* important job. What does Abuelita do? With her booming voice and wonderful props, Abuelita is a storyteller. Next to being a grandmother, that may be the most important job of all. Sprinkled with Spanish and infused with love, *My Abuelita* is a glorious celebration of family, imagination, and the power of story.



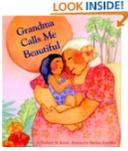
Barbara M. Josse & Barbara Lavalée, *Mama, Do You Love Me?* (Spanish)
Kindergarten and up

Mama, do you love me? Yes I do Dear One. How much? In this universal story, a child tests the limits of independence and comfortingly learns that a parent's love is unconditional and everlasting. The story is made all the more captivating by its unusual Arctic setting. The lyrical text introduces young readers to a distinctively different culture, while at the same time showing that the special love that exists between parent and child transcends all boundaries of time and place. The story is beautifully complemented by graphically stunning illustrations that are filled with such exciting animals as whales, wolves, puffins, and sled dogs, and a carefully researched glossary provides additional information on Arctic life. This tender and reassuring book is one that both parents and children will turn to again and again.



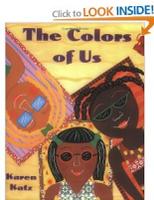
Barbara M. Josse & Barbara Lavalée, *Papa, Do you Love Me?*
Kindergarten and up

This follow-up to the best-selling *Mama, Do You Love Me?* captures the universal love between a father and child. Set in Africa and featuring the Maasai culture, the beautiful watercolor illustrations, lyrical text, and enduring message are sure to make this another instant classic.



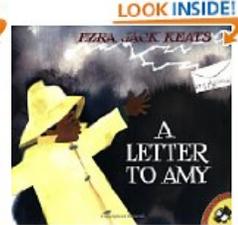
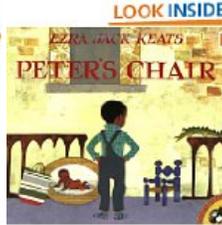
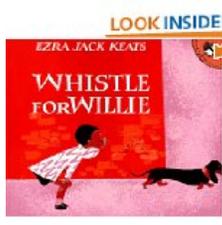
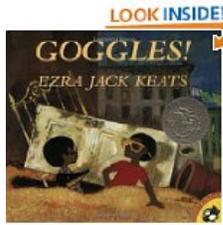
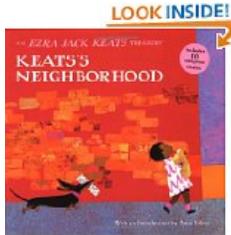
Barbara M. Josse & Barbara Lavallee, *Grandma Calls Me Beautiful*
Kindergarten and up

A companion to the best-selling *Mama, Do You Love Me?* and *Papa, Do You Love Me?*, this beautiful book captures the unique bond that exists between grandmother and grandchild. Set in Hawaii, the vibrant watercolor illustrations and lyrical text combine to capture the lush landscapes and unique traditions of Hawaiian culture, while at the same time conveying a universal message. Sure to be another instant classic.



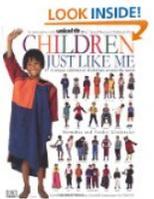
Karen Katz, *The Colors of Us*
Kindergarten and up

Seven-year-old Lena is going to paint a picture of herself. She wants to use brown paint for her skin. But when she and her mother take a walk through the neighborhood, Lena learns that brown comes in many different shades. Through the eyes of a little girl who begins to see her familiar world in a new way, this book celebrates the differences and similarities that connect all people.



Ezra Jack Keats, *Keats Neighborhood: An Ezra Jack Keats Treasury*
Kindergarten and up

Keats's Neighborhood: An Ezra Jack Keats Treasury pays tribute to the life and work of the celebrated children's book creator. The work offers 10 complete stories including the Caldecott Medal-winning *The Snowy Day* (1962); *Goggles!* (1969), a Caldecott Honor book; and other favorites, such as *Whistle for Willie* (1964) and *Peter's Chair* (1967), plus sketches from *The Turnip Seed*, which Keats was working on at the time of his death in 1983. Photographs, original sketches and drafts round out the presentation. Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc.



Barnabas and Anabel Kindersley, *Children Just Like Me*

Published to coincide with UNICEF's fiftieth anniversary, a celebration of children around the world is based upon interviews with young people from all walks of life and reveals their diverse cultural backgrounds and universal similarities.



Barnabas and Anabel Kindersley, *Children Just Like Me: Celebrations!*

Barnabas and Anabel Kindersley, creators of the acclaimed *Children Just Like Me*, meet with children around the world as they celebrate 25 of their favorite holidays and traditions. With stunning photographs and illustrations, readers meet each child and learn the significance of the chosen celebration.



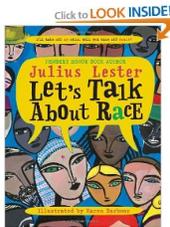
John Kurtz, *Jump at the Sun Fairy-tale Classics: Goldilocks and the Three Bears*
Kindergarten and up

Happily ever after has never been so happy! These inspired retellings of classic children's fairy-tales are simply told and beautifully illustrated. This is a series of books that parents will treasure and children will love hearing again and again. Jump at the Sun Fairy-tale Classics include: Cinderella, Goldilocks and The Three Bears, Jack and the Beanstalk, and Little Red Riding Hood.



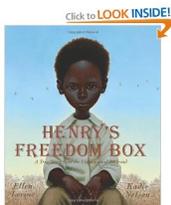
Rene Colato Lainez and Fabiola Graullera Ramirez, *Rene has Two Last Names/Rene Tiene Dos Apellidos*
Kindergarten and up

Young Rene is from El Salvador, and he doesn't understand why his name has to be different in the United States. When he writes Colato, he sees his paternal grandparents, Rene and Amelia. When he writes Lainez, he sees his maternal grandparents, Angela and Julio. Without his second "like a hamburger without the meat or a pizza without cheese or a hot dog without a wiener." His new classmates giggle when Rene tells them his name. "That's a long dinosaur name," one says. "Your name is longer than an anaconda," another laughs. But Rene doesn't want to lose the part of him that comes from his mother's family. So when the students are given a project to create a family tree, Rene is determined to explain the importance of using both of his last names. On the day of his presentation, Rene explains that he is as hard working as Abuelo Rene, who is a farmer, and as creative as his Abuela Amelia, who is a potter. He can tell stories like his Abuelo Julio and enjoys music like his Abuela Angela.



Julius Lester, *Let's Talk About Race*
1st grade and up

Julius Lester says, "I write because our lives are stories. If enough of these stories are told, then perhaps we will begin to see that our lives are the same story. The differences are merely in the details." Now Mr. Lester shares his own story as he explores what makes each of us special. Karen Barbour's dramatic, vibrant paintings speak to the heart of Lester's unique vision, truly a celebration of all of us.



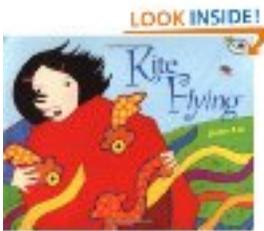
Ellen Levine and Kadir Nelson, *Henry's Freedom Box: A True Story from the Underground Railroad*
Kindergarten and up

Henry Brown doesn't know how old he is. Nobody keeps records of slaves' birthdays. All the time he dreams about freedom, but that dream seems farther away than ever when he is torn from his family and put to work in a warehouse. Henry grows up and marries, but he is again devastated when his family is sold at the slave market. Then one day, as he lifts a crate at the warehouse, he knows exactly what he must do: He will mail himself to the North. After an arduous journey in the crate, Henry finally has a birthday—his first day of freedom.



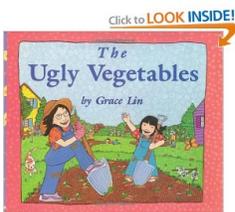
Grace Lin, *Dim Sum for Everyone!*
Kindergarten and up

In English, dim sum means “little hearts,” or “touches the heart,” but to this young girl, dim sum means delicious. On a visit to a bustling dim sum restaurant, a family picks their favorite little dishes from the steaming trolleys filled with dumplings, cakes, buns, and tarts. And as is traditional and fun, they share their food with each other so that everyone gets a bite of everything.



Grace Lin, *Kite Flying*
Kindergarten and up

The wind is blowing. It is a good day for kites! The whole family makes a trip to the local craft store for paper, glue, and paint. Everyone has a job: Ma-Ma joins sticks together. Ba-Ba glues paper. Mei-Mei cuts whiskers while Jie-Jie paints a laughing mouth. Dragon eyes are added and then everyone attaches the final touch . . . a noisemaker! Now their dragon kite is ready to fly. *Kite Flying* celebrates the Chinese tradition of kite making and kite flying and lovingly depicts a family bonded by this ancient and modern pleasure.



Grace Lin, *The Ugly Vegetables*
Kindergarten and up

It’s easy to appreciate a garden exploding with colorful flowers and fragrances, but what do you do with a patch of ugly vegetables? Author/illustrator Grace Lin recalls such a garden in this charming and eloquent story. The neighbors’ gardens look so much prettier and so much more inviting to the young gardener than the garden of black-purple-green vines, fuzzy wrinkled leaves, prickly stems, and a few little yellow flowers that she and her mother grow. Nevertheless, mother assures her that these are better than flowers. Come harvest time, everyone agrees as those ugly Chinese vegetables become the tastiest, most aromatic soup they have ever known. As the neighborhood comes together to share flowers and ugly vegetable soup, the young gardener learns that regardless of appearances, everything has its own beauty and purpose.



Pili Mandelbaum, *You Be Me, I'll Be You*
Kindergarten and up

Anna, the interracial child of a white father and black mother, explores questions and yearnings she has about her identity by "switching" skin-colors with her father. With wit, compassion and a very light and non-didactic hand, this book examines issues of concern not only to interracial children, but to all children who have ever worried about their differences.



Patricia McKissack and Cozbi A. Cabrera, *Stitchin' and Pullin': A Gee's Bend Quilt*
Kindergarten and up

For a hundred years, generations of women from Gee’s Bend have quilted together, sharing stories, trading recipes, singing hymns—all the while stitchin’ and pullin’

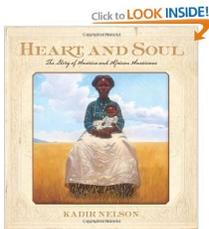
thread through cloth. Every day Baby Girl listens, watches, and waits, until she's called to sit at the quilting frame. Piece by piece, she puzzles her quilt together—telling not just her story, but the story of her family, the story of Gee's Bend, and the story of her ancestors' struggle for freedom.



Pat Mora and Rafael Lopez, *Yum! Mmm! Que Rico!: Brotes de las Americas/America's Sprouting* (Spanish)

1st grade and up

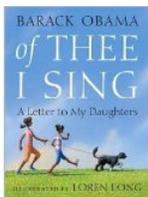
Peanuts, blueberries, corn, potatoes, tomatoes, and more. This is a luscious collection of haiku celebrating foods native to the Americas. Brimming with imagination and fun, these poems capture the tasty essence of foods that have delighted, united, and enriched our lives for centuries. Exuberant illustrations bring to life the delicious spirit of the haiku, making *Yum! ¡Mmm! ¡Que Rico! America's Sproutings* an eye-popping, mouth-watering treat. Open it and dig in!



Kadir Nelson, *Heart and Soul: The Story of America and African Americans* (Jane Addams Honor Book Awards)

4th Grade and Up

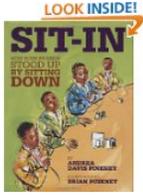
The story of America and African Americans is a story of hope and inspiration and unwavering courage. But it is also the story of injustice; of a country divided by law, education, and wealth; of a people whose struggles and achievements helped define their country. This is the story of the men, women, and children who toiled in the hot sun picking cotton for their masters; it's about the America ripped in two by Jim Crow laws; it's about the brothers and sisters of all colors who rallied against those who would dare bar a child from an education. It's a story of discrimination and broken promises, determination and triumphs. Kadir Nelson, one of this generation's most accomplished, award-winning artists, has created an epic yet intimate introduction to the history of America and African Americans, from colonial days through the civil rights movement. Written in the voice of an "Everywoman," an unnamed narrator whose forebears came to this country on slave ships and who lived to cast her vote for the first African American president, heart and soul touches on some of the great transformative events and small victories of that history. This inspiring book demonstrates that in gaining their freedom and equal rights, African Americans helped our country achieve its promise of liberty and justice—the true heart and soul of our nation.



Barack Obama, *Of Thee I Sing: A Letter to My Daughters*

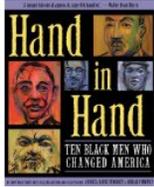
Kindergarten and up

In this tender, beautiful letter to his daughters, President Barack Obama has written a moving tribute to thirteen groundbreaking Americans and the ideals that have shaped our nation. From the artistry of Georgia O'Keeffe, to the courage of Jackie Robinson, to the patriotism of George Washington, President Obama sees the traits of these heroes within his own children, and within all of America's children.



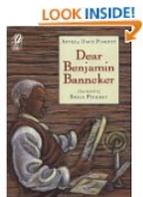
Andrea & Brian Pinkney, *Sit-In: How Four Friends Stood Up by Sitting Down*
1st grade and up

This picture book is a celebration of the 50th anniversary of the momentous Woolworth's lunch counter sit-in, when four college students staged a peaceful protest that became a defining moment in the struggle for racial equality.



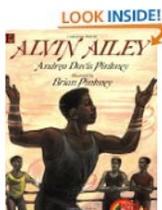
Andrea & Brian Pinkney, *Hand in Hand: Ten Black Men Who Changed America*
3rd grade and up

Hand In Hand presents the stories of ten men from different eras in American history, organized chronologically to provide a scope from slavery to the modern day. The stories are accessible, fully-drawn narratives offering the subjects' childhood influences, the time and place in which they lived, their accomplishments and motivations, and the legacies they left for future generations as links in the "freedom chain." This book will be the definitive family volume on the subject, punctuated with dynamic full color portraits and spot illustrations by two-time Caldecott Honor winner and multiple Coretta Scott King Book Award recipient Brian Pinkney. Backmatter includes a civil rights timeline, sources, and further reading.



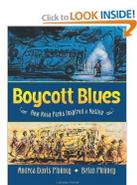
Andrea Pinkney & Brian Pinkney, *Dear Benjamin Banneker*
1st grade and up

Benjamin Banneker was born free when most blacks in this country were still enslaved. But it troubled him that not all blacks were free. An accomplished astronomer and mathematician, he decided to take a stand against slavery by writing to then-Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson. This is the story of their extraordinary correspondence.



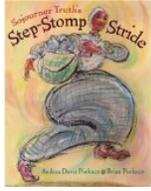
Andrea Pinkney & Brian Pinkney, *Alvin Ailey*
Kindergarten and up

A young reader's portrait of dancer and choreographer Alvin Ailey considers what the young Alvin might have thought and said and interposes facts about his life and dance theater.



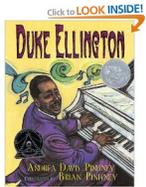
Andrea Pinkney & Brian Pinkney, *Boycott Blues: How Rose Parks Inspired a Nation*
Kindergarten and up

Rosa Parks took a stand by keeping her seat on the bus. When she was arrested for it, her supporters protested by refusing to ride. Soon a community of thousands was coming together to help one another get where they needed to go. Some started taxis, some rode bikes, but they all walked and walked. With dogged feet. With dog-tired feet. With boycott feet. With boycott blues. And, after 382 days of walking, they walked Jim Crow right out of town. A poignant, blues-infused tribute to the men and women of the Montgomery bus boycott, who refused to give up until they got justice.



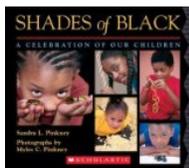
Andrea Pinkney & Brian Pinkney, *Sojourner Truth's Step-Stomp Stride*
Kindergarten and up

Born into slavery, Belle had to endure the cruelty of several masters before she escaped to freedom. But she knew she wouldn't really be free unless she was helping to end injustice. That's when she changed her name to Sojourner and began traveling across the country, demanding equal rights for black people and for women. Many people weren't ready for her message, but Sojourner was brave, and her truth was powerful. And slowly, but surely as Sojourner's step-stomp stride, America began to change.



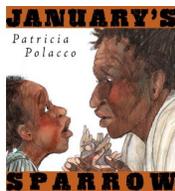
Andrea & Brian Pinkney, *Duke Ellington: The Piano Prince and His Orchestra*
Kindergarten and up

Edward Kennedy "Duke" Ellington, "King of the Keys," was born on April 29, 1899, in Washington, D.C. "He was a smooth-talkin', slick-steppin', piano-playin' kid," writes master wordsmith Andrea Pinkney in the rhythmic, fluid, swinging prose of this excellent biography for early readers. It was ragtime music that first "set Duke's fingers to wiggling." He got back to work and taught himself to "press on the pearlies." Soon 19-year-old Duke was playing compositions "smoother than a hairdo sleeked with pomade" at parties, pool halls, country clubs, and cabarets. Skipping from D.C. to 1920s Harlem, "the place where jazz music ruled," Duke and his small band called the Washingtonians began performing in New York City clubs, including the Cotton Club, where Duke Ellington and his Orchestra was officially born. By 1943, Duke Ellington—writer of more than 1000 compositions, including ballet and film scores, orchestral suites, musicals, and choral works—had made it all the way to Carnegie Hall.



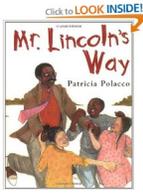
Sandra L. Pinkney, *Shades of Black: A Celebration of Our Children*
Kindergarten and up

"The beauty of African-American children is celebrated in this joyous picture book. Wonderful, clear, full-color photographs of youngsters illustrate a poetic, vivid text that describes a range of skin and eye colors and hair textures.... An affirmative message for children of all races." - School Library Journal



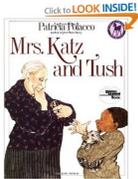
Patricia Polacco *January's Sparrow*
3rd grade and up

In the middle of the night, The Crosswhites - including young Sadie - must flee the Kentucky plantation they work on. Dear January has been beaten and killed by the plantation master, and they fear who may be next. But Sadie must leave behind her most valuable possession, the wooden sparrow carved for her by January. Through the Underground Railroad, the Crosswhites make the slow and arduous journey to Marshall, Michigan, where they finally live in freedom. And there they stay, happily, until the day a mysterious package shows up on their doorsteps. It is January's sparrow, with a note that reads, "I found you." How the Crosswhites, and the whole town of Marshall, face this threat will leave readers empowered and enthralled. This is a Polacco adventure that will live in the minds of children for years.



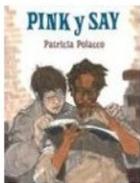
Patricia Polacco, *Mr. Lincoln's Way*
1st grade and up

Mr. Lincoln is the coolest principal ever! He knows how to do everything, from jumping rope to leading nature walks. Everyone loves him . . . except for Eugene Esterhause. "Mean Gene" hates everyone who's different. He's a bully, a bad student, and he calls people awful, racist names. But Mr. Lincoln knows that Eugene isn't really bad—he's just repeating things he's heard at home. Can the principal find a way to get through to "Mean Gene" and show him that the differences between people are what make them special?



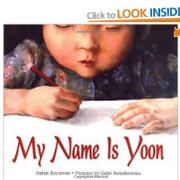
Patricia Polacco, *Miss Kats and Tush*
Kindergarten and up

Larnel doesn't know his neighbor, Mrs. Katz, very well, until he asks her to adopt an abandoned kitten. Mrs. Katz agrees on one condition: that Larnel help her take care of the kitten she names Tush. When Larnel starts spending more and more time with Mrs. Katz to help with Tush, Mrs. Katz tells him stories about coming to America from Poland and about the good times she spent with her late husband. As Larnel grows to love Mrs. Katz, he also learns about the suffering and triumph black history shares with the Jewish heritage.



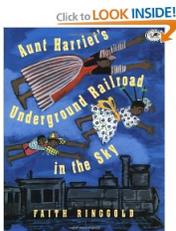
Patricia Polacco, *Pink y Say* (Spanish)
Kindergarten and up

Say Curtis describes his meeting with Pinkus Aylee, a black soldier, during the Civil War, and their capture by Southern troops. Based on a true story about the author's great-great-grandfather.



Helen Recorvits and Gabi Swiatkowska, *My Name Is Yoon*
Kindergarten and up

Yoon's name means Shining Wisdom, and when she writes it in Korean, it looks happy, like dancing figures. But her father tells her that she must learn to write it in English. In English, all the lines and circles stand alone, which is just how Yoon feels in the United States. Yoon isn't sure that she wants to be YOON. At her new school, she tries out different names – maybe CAT or BIRD. Maybe CUPCAKE! Helen Recorvits's spare and inspiring story about a little girl finding her place in a new country is given luminous pictures filled with surprising vistas and dreamscapes by Gabi Swiatkowska.



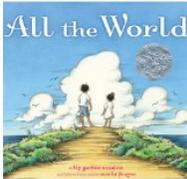
Faith Ringgold, *Aunt Harriet's Underground Railroad in the Sky*
Kindergarten and up

Cassie, who flew above New York in *Tar Beach*, soars into the sky once more. This time, she and her brother Be Be meet a train full of people, and Be Be joins them. But the train departs before Cassie can climb aboard. With Harriet Tubman as her guide, Cassie retraces the steps escaping slaves took on the real Underground Railroad and is finally reunited with her brother at the story's end.



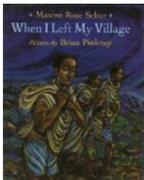
Shelly Rotner, *Shades of People*
Kindergarten and up

Cocoa, tan, rose, and almond-people come in lots of shades, even in the same family. This exploration of one of our most noticeable physical traits uses vibrant photographs of children and a short text to inspire young children both to take notice and to look beyond the obvious.



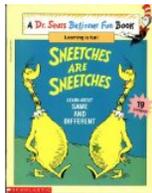
Liz Garten Scanlon & Marla Frazee, *All the World* (Spanish)
Kindergarten and up

Following a circle of family and friends through the course of a day from morning till night, this book affirms the importance of all things great and small in our world, from the tiniest shell on the beach, to warm family connections, to the widest sunset sky.



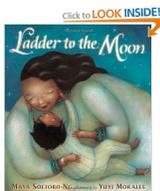
Maxine Rose Schur & Brian Pinkney, *When I Left My Village*
3rd grade and up

Schur and Pinkney recount the perilous journey of 12-year-old Menelik and his family as they brave overwhelming odds to make their way from Ethiopia to Israel.



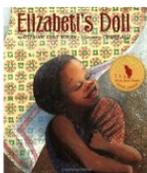
Dr. Seuss, *Sneetches are Sneetches*
Kindergarten and up

This collection of four of Dr. Seuss's most winning stories begins with that unforgettable tale of the unfortunate Sneetches, bamboozled by one Sylvester McMonkey McBean who teaches them that pointless prejudice can be costly.



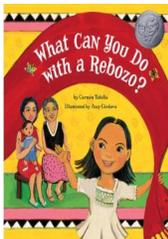
Maya Soetoro-Ng and Yuyi Morales, *Ladder to the Moon*
Kindergarten and up

Little Suhaila wishes she could have known her grandma, who would wrap her arms around the whole world if she could, Mama says. And one night, Suhaila gets her wish when a golden ladder appears at her window, and Grandma Annie invites the girl to come along with her on a magical journey. In a rich and deeply personal narrative, Maya Soetoro-Ng draws inspiration from her mother's love for family, her empathy for others, and her ethic of service to imagine this remarkable meeting. Evoking fantasy and folklore, the story touches on events that have affected people across the world in our time and reaffirms our common humanity. Yuyi Morales's breathtaking artwork illuminates the dreamlike tale, reminding us that loved ones lost are always with us, and that sometimes we need only look at the moon and remember.



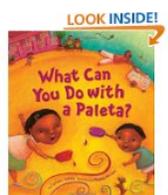
Stephanie Stuve-Bodeen, *Elizabeth's Doll*
Kindergarten and up

When her new baby brother arrives, Elizabethi decides she needs a doll that she can care for the way her mother cares for the new baby. After looking around the village, Elizabethi finds the perfect doll to love. She names her Eva. When Mama changes the new baby's diaper, Elizabethi changes Eva's. When Mama sings to the baby, Elizabethi sings to Eva. And one day when Eva turns up lost, Elizabethi realizes just how much she loves her special doll. For children adjusting to a new sibling, this story is perfect.



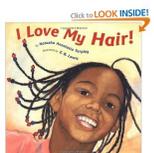
Carmen Tafolla & Amy Cordova, *What Can you Do with a Rebozo?* (Spanish)
Kindergarten and up

A cradle for baby, a superhero's cape, a warm blanket on a cool night--there are so many things you can do with a rebozo. Through the eyes of a young girl, readers are introduced to the traditional shawl found in many Mexican and Mexican-American households.



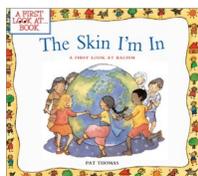
Carmen Tafolla and Magaly Morales, *What Can you Do with a Paleta?* (Spanish)
Kindergarten and up

As she strolls through her barrio, a young girl introduces readers to the frozen, fruit-flavored treat that thrills Mexican and Mexican-American children. Create a masterpiece, make tough choices (strawberry or coconut?), or cool off on a warm summer's day--there's so much to do with a paleta.



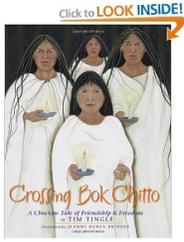
Natasha Anastasia Tarpley & E.B. Lewis, *I Love My Hair!*
Kindergarten and up

This whimsical, evocative story about a girl named Keyana encourages African-American children to feel good about their special hair and be proud of their heritage. A BlackBoard Children's Book of the Year.



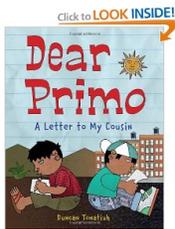
Pat Thomas and Lesley Harker, *The Skin I'm In: A First Look at Racism*
Kindergarten and up

Racial discrimination is cruel—and especially so to younger children. This title encourages kids to accept and be comfortable with differences of skin color and other racial characteristics among their friends and in themselves. *A First Look At* is an easy-to-understand series of books for younger children. Each title explores emotional issues and discusses the questions such difficulties invariably raise among kids of preschool through early school age. Written by a psychotherapist and child counselor, each title promotes positive interaction among children, parents, and teachers. The books are written in simple, direct language that makes sense to younger kids. Each title also features a guide for parents on how to use the book, a glossary, suggested additional reading, and a list of resources.



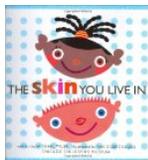
Tim Tingle and Jeanne Rorex Bridges, *Crossing Bok Chitto*
3rd grade and up

There is a river called Bok Chitto that cuts through Mississippi. In the days before the War Between the States, in the days before the Trail of Tears, Bok Chitto was a boundary. On one side of the river lived the Choctaws. On the other side lived the plantation owners and their slaves. If a slave escaped and made his way across Bok Chitto, the slave was free. Thus begins *Crossing Bok Chitto*, told by award-winning Choctaw storyteller Tim Tingle and brought to life with the rich illustrations of Jeanne Rorex Bridges. Martha Tom, a young Choctaw girl, knows better than to cross Bok Chitto, but one day—in search of blackberries—she disobeys her mother and finds herself on the other side. A tall slave discovers Martha Tom. A friendship begins between Martha Tom and the slave’s family, most particularly his young son, Little Mo. Soon afterwards, Little Mo’s mother finds out that she is going to be sold. The situation seems hopeless, except that Martha Tom teaches Little Mo’s family how to walk on water to their freedom.



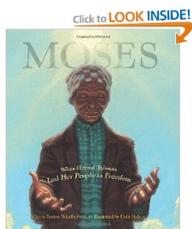
Duncan Tonatiuh, *Dear Primo: A Letter to My Cousin*
Kindergarten and up

From first-time Mexican author and illustrator Duncan Tonatiuh comes the story of two cousins, one in America and one in Mexico, and how their daily lives are different yet similar. Charlie takes the subway to school; Carlitos rides his bike. Charlie plays in fallen leaves; Carlitos plays among the local cacti. *Dear Primo* covers the sights, sounds, smells, and tastes of two very different childhoods, while also emphasizing how alike Charlie and Carlitos are at heart. Spanish words are scattered among the English text, providing a wonderful way to introduce the language and culture of Mexico to young children. Inspired by the ancient art of the Mixtecs and other cultures of Mexico, Tonatiuh incorporates their stylized forms into his own artwork.



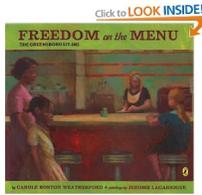
Michael Tyler, *The Skin You Live In*
Kindergarten and up

With the ease and simplicity of a nursery rhyme, this lively story delivers an important message of social acceptance to young readers. Themes associated with child development and social harmony, such as friendship, acceptance, self-esteem, and diversity are promoted in simple and straightforward prose. Vivid illustrations of children's activities for all cultures, such as swimming in the ocean, hugging, catching butterflies, and eating birthday cake are also provided. This delightful picture book offers a wonderful venue through which parents and teachers can discuss important social concepts with their children.



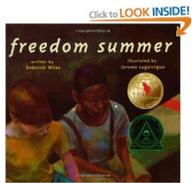
Carole Boston Weatherford & Kadir Nelson, *Moses: When Harriet Tubman Led Her People to Freedom*
Kindergarten and up

This poetic book is a resounding tribute to Tubman's strength, humility, and devotion. With proper reverence, Weatherford and Nelson do justice to the woman who, long ago, earned over and over the name Moses.



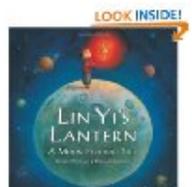
Carole Boston Weatherford & Jerome Lagarrigue, *Freedom on the Menu: The Greensboro Sit-Ins*
Kindergarten and up

There were signs all throughout town telling eight-year-old Connie where she could and could not go. But when Connie sees four young men take a stand for equal rights at a Woolworth's lunch counter in Greensboro, North Carolina, she realizes that things may soon change. This event sparks a movement throughout her town and region. And while Connie is too young to march or give a speech, she helps her brother and sister make signs for the cause. Changes are coming to Connie's town, but Connie just wants to sit at the lunch counter and eat a banana split like everyone else.



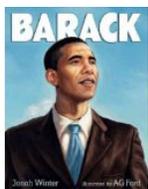
Deborah Wiles & Jerome Lagarrigue, *Freedom Summer*
Kindergarten and up

Joe and John Henry are a lot alike. They both like shooting marbles, they both want to be firemen, and they both love to swim. But there's one important way they're different: Joe is white and John Henry is black, and in the South in 1964, that means John Henry isn't allowed to do everything his best friend is. Then a law is passed that forbids segregation and opens the town pool to everyone. Joe and John Henry are so excited they race each other there...only to discover that it takes more than a new law to change people's hearts.



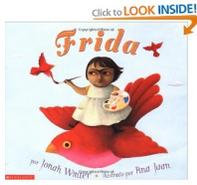
Brenda Williams and Benjamin Lacombe, *Lin Yi's Lantern*
Kindergarten and up

Lin Yi is given money to buy items at the market for tonight's Moon Festival. If he bargains well, he can purchase a red rabbit lantern for himself. But he must purchase everything on his mother's list first! This heart-warming story will resonate with both children and adults, as they learn about the wonderful Chinese Moon Festival and the rewards that come from putting others first. Set in China, this story offers an opportunity to learn about Chinese customs through the accessible story of a young boy who has his heart set on buying a lantern for the festival. This book includes informative notes about life in rural China and the Moon Festival, celebrated in October. Personal and Social Development - Lin Yi faces a moral dilemma, and learns that doing the right thing for its own sake is the best course of action, and that luck may shine on those who act morally.



Jonah Winter & A.G. Ford, *Barack*
Kindergarten and up

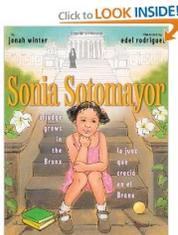
This is a journey that began in many places. It began in Kansas, home of Barack's mother. It began in Africa, home of Barack's father. It began in Hawaii one moonlit night, the night that Barack was born. Sometimes it was a lonely journey. Sometimes it was an enchanted journey. But throughout this most unusual ride, this boy often wondered: *Who am I? Where do I belong?* Jonah Winter and AG Ford re-create the extraordinary story behind the rise of the inspirational icon Barack Obama in this stunning picture book.



Jonah Winter and Ana Juan, *Frida* (Spanish)

Kindergarten and up

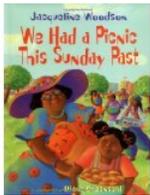
When her mother was worn out from caring for her five sisters, her father gave her lessons in brushwork and color. When polio kept her bedridden for nine months, drawing saved her from boredom. When a bus accident left her in unimaginable agony, her paintings expressed her pain and depression - and eventually, her joys and her loves. Over and over again, Frida Kahlo turned the challenges of her life into art. Now Jonah Winter and Ana Juan have drawn on both the art and the life to create a playful, insightful tribute to one of the twentieth century's most influential artists. Viva Frida!



Jonah Winter and Edel Rodriguez, *Sonia Sotomayor: A Judge Grows in the Bronx/La Juez que Crecio en el Bronx* (Spanish)

Kindergarten and up

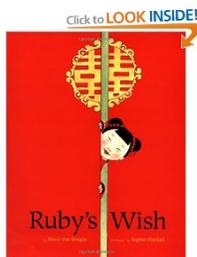
Before Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor took her seat in our nation's highest court, she was just a little girl in the South Bronx. Justice Sotomayor didn't have a lot growing up, but she had what she needed -- her mother's love, a will to learn, and her own determination. With bravery she became the person she wanted to be. With hard work she succeeded. With little sunlight and only a modest plot from which to grow, Justice Sotomayor *bloomed* for the whole world to see.



Jacqueline Woodson & Diane Greeseid, *We Had a Picnic This Sunday Past*

Kindergarten and up

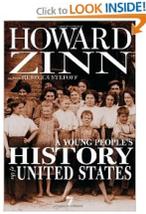
Teeka's family had a picnic this Sunday past. Everyone was there, from mean old cousin Terrance who put fake flies on the sweet corn, to Bible-toting Reverend Luke to Auntie Kim (Teeka's all-time favorite). And they were all dreading the arrival of Cousin Martha and her pie, which was always a bit on the dry side (but you had to eat every bit so you didn't hurt her feelings). But this year, where was Cousin Martha? And where was that dried-out apple pie? Jacqueline Woodson's warm, lyrical prose and Diane Greenseid's exuberant artwork bring to life the humor, love, and of course, the wonderful food of the quintessential family picnic.



Shirin Yim and Sophie Blackall, *Ruby's Wish*

Kindergarten and up

Ruby is unlike most little girls in old China. Instead of aspiring to get married, Ruby is determined to attend university when she grows up, just like the boys in her family. Based upon the inspirational story of the author's grandmother and accompanied by richly detailed illustrations, Ruby's Wish is an engaging portrait of a young girl who strives for more and a family who rewards her hard work and courage.



**Howard Zinn and Rebecca Stefoff, *A Young People's History of the United States: Columbus to the War on Terror*
6th grade and up**

A Young People's History of the United States brings to US history the viewpoints of workers, slaves, immigrants, women, Native Americans, and others whose stories, and their impact, are rarely included in books for young people. A Young People's History of the United States is also a companion volume to *The People Speak*, the film adapted from *A People's History of the United States* and *Voices of a People's History of the United States*. Beginning with a look at Christopher Columbus's arrival through the eyes of the Arawak Indians, then leading the reader through the struggles for workers' rights, women's rights, and civil rights during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, and ending with the current protests against continued American imperialism, Zinn in the volumes of *A Young People's History of the United States* presents a radical new way of understanding America's history. In so doing, he reminds readers that America's true greatness is shaped by our dissident voices, not our military generals.

*All annotations from amazon.com