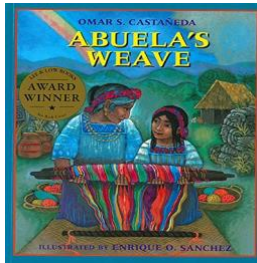


## Literature: "Mirrors and Windows" Bibliography

*For students to feel affirmed and visible at school, it is crucial that their identities and experiences be reflected in the stories read in the classroom. The books in this bibliography provide both "mirrors" and "windows" addressing different aspects of children's experience that may otherwise be 'invisible' related to Economic Hardship, Gender Roles, Family Structure, Immigration Experience or Uprooting, Physical Difference, English Learner (EL) Experience, Incarceration, Multiracial/Mixed Identity, Bilingual Experience, and Family Background or Culture/Heritage.*

### Books that Illustrate Culture and Language



**\*Abuela's Weave also El tapiz de Abuela** By Omar S. Castañeda & Illustrated by Enrique O. Sanchez

*Esperanza's Abuela, her grandmother, is unmatched in her skill in weaving traditional Mayan tapestries. She has shared her gift with her granddaughter, and now they plan to sell their goods at the market. However, the birthmark on Abuela's face may scare customers away. So Esperanza must cope with the city streets and find buyers alone. This touching story of personal growth and family pride is illustrated with authentic Guatemalan scenery that gives life to the country's radiant landscape and bustling city streets.*

**Themes:** Culture, Guatemala, Economic, Physical

**Note:** Only available through 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Sellers

[https://www.youtube.com/watch\\_popup?v=vYRtaaLxFP0](https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=vYRtaaLxFP0)



**Auntie Yang's Great Soybean Picnic** By Ginie Lo & Illustrated by Beth Lo

*Jinyi and her sister love visiting Auntie Yang and Uncle Yang's home, where they enjoy dumpling-eating contests and backyard adventures with their cousins. One weekend, on a Sunday drive among the cornfields near Chicago, Auntie Yang spots something she has never before seen in Illinois. Could it be one of their favorite Chinese foods—soybeans?! Excited by their discovery, the families have their very first soybean picnic. Every year after that, Auntie Yang invites more people to share the food and fun. Pretty soon more than two hundred friends and neighbors are gathering at the picnic to play games and eat soybeans together. Unique illustrations painted on ceramic plates lend a quirky charm to this lighthearted intergenerational story. Auntie Yang's Great Soybean Picnic is a delicious celebration of family traditions, culture, and community that will have readers asking for seconds, thirds, and more.*

**Themes:** Culture, Chinese-American



**Brothers** By Yin & Illustrated by Chris Soentpiet

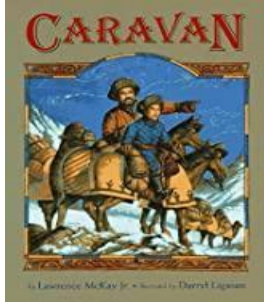
*When Ming arrives in San Francisco after the long boat journey from China, his older brothers waste no time warning him: "Chinese should not go outside Chinatown." But Ming risks doing just that, and when he meets Patrick, he knows the young Irish boy has a kind heart, and begins a remarkable friendship that brings their two very different communities together.*

**Themes:** Culture, Chinese-American

**Note:** Only available through 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Sellers

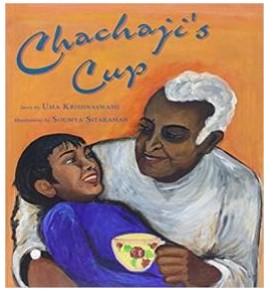
[https://www.youtube.com/watch\\_popup?v=oATu5nTshHc](https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=oATu5nTshHc)

**Books that Illustrate Culture and Language**



**Caravan** By Lawrence McKay & Illustrated by Darryl Ligasan  
*Through the story of ten-year-old Jura's first caravan trip with his father, Lawrence McKay, Jr. describes the adventures one boy experiences on the journey to young adulthood. Set against the icy backdrop of the Hindu Kush mountain range in northeastern Afghanistan, this father-son story sparkles with the warmth of family and cultural tradition. Children everywhere will be mesmerized by Darryl Ligasan's dynamic paintings of the arduous caravan ride along steep mountain passes, and the hustle-bustle of an Afghan marketplace.*

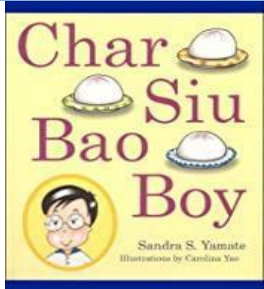
**Themes:** Culture, Hindu



**Chachaji's Cup** By Uma Krishnaswami & Illustrated by Soumya Sitaraman  
*Neel loves listening to Chachaji's many stories over steaming cups of tea. Chachaji's tales of great Hindu gods and demons and of his adventures in the Indian Army leave Neel openmouthed. But it is the tale of his great-uncle's favorite teacup that teaches Neel the most, for Chachaji's cup holds far more than sweet, spicy masala chai. When the precious cup and Chachaji's health both prove to be more fragile than they look, Neel knows what he must do. Uma Krishnaswami weaves a gentle tale of family love and the power of memory.*

**Themes:** Culture, Hindu

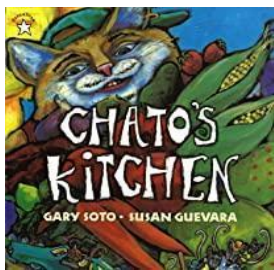
**Note:** Only available through 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Sellers



**Char Siu Bao Boy** By Sandra Yamate S & Illustrated by Carolina Yao  
*Charlie loves char siu bao and eats it everyday. But his friends think it's awful! What can he do? This classic book looks at peer pressure to conform versus cultural pride. Ages 5-9.*

**Themes:** Asian/ Asian-American, Culture/Heritage - Chinese

(Polychrome Publishing Corporation, 2000)



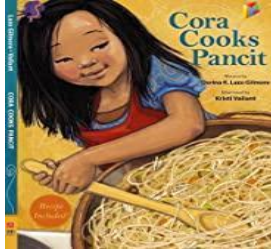
**\*Chato's Kitchen** By Gary Soto & Illustrated by Susan Guevara  
*To get the "ratoncitos," little mice who have moved into the barrio, to come to his house, Chato the cat prepares all kinds of good food: fajitas, frijoles, salsa, enchiladas, and more. Set in an East-L.A. barrio, with animals filling in for people. The author incorporates a lot of Spanish terms and information about Mexican dishes that Chato is making. Ages 4-8.*

**Themes:** Mexican/Mexican-American, Latino/Hispanic (Paper Star 1995)

**English:** [https://www.youtube.com/watch\\_popup?v=RU0M2kou8U](https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=RU0M2kou8U)

**Spanish:** [https://www.youtube.com/watch\\_popup?v=WuNXbxE22xg](https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=WuNXbxE22xg)

**Books that Illustrate Culture and Language**

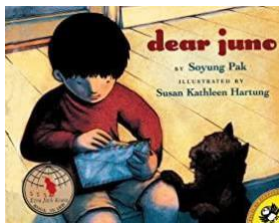


**Cora Cooks Pancit** By Dorina Lazo Gilmore & Illustrated by Kristi Valiant  
*Cora loves being in the kitchen, but she always gets stuck doing the kid jobs like licking the spoon. One day, however, when her older sisters and brother head out, Cora finally gets the chance to be Mama's assistant chef. And of all the delicious Filipino dishes that dance through Cora's head, she and Mama decide to make pancit, her favorite noodle dish. With Mama's help, Cora does the grown-up jobs like shredding the chicken and soaking the noodles (perhaps Mama won't notice if she takes a nibble of chicken or sloshes a little water on the floor). Cora even gets to stir the noodles in the pot—carefully-- while Mama supervises. When dinner is finally served, her siblings find out that Cora did all their grown-up tasks, and Cora waits anxiously to see what everyone thinks of her cooking.*

**Themes:** Culture, Filipino

**Note:** Only available through 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Sellers

[https://www.youtube.com/watch\\_popup?v=l6SvYepajss](https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=l6SvYepajss)

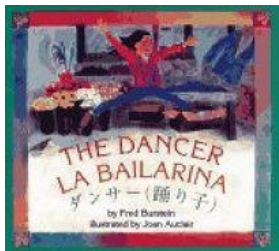


**Dear Juno** By Soyung Pak & Illustrated by Susan Kathleen Hartung  
*Juno's grandmother writes in Korean, and Juno writes in drawings, but that doesn't mean they can't exchange letters. From the photo his grandmother sends him, Juno can tell that she has a new cat. From the picture he makes for her, Juno's grandmother can tell that he wants her to come for a visit. Ages 3-8.*

**Themes:** Asian/ Asian-American, Culture/Heritage – Korean, EL Experience, Intergenerational Relationships

(Puffin Books, 1999)

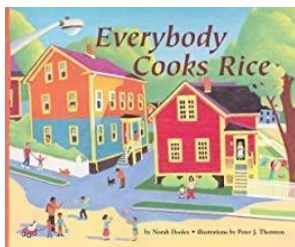
[https://www.youtube.com/watch\\_popup?v=HVBjcmw6qec](https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=HVBjcmw6qec)



**\*The Dancer / La Bailarina** By Fred Burstein & Illustrated by Joan Auclair  
*As a father and daughter walk through the streets of a city on the way to the little girl's dance class, colorful illustrations depict each of the objects they see. Words in English, Spanish, and Japanese. Ages 3-6.*

**Themes:** Multilingual Experience – English/Spanish/Japanese

**Note:** Only available through 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Sellers (Bradbury Press, 1993)



**Everybody Cooks Rice** By Norah Dooley & Illustrated by Peter J. Thornton  
*A child is sent to find a younger brother at dinnertime and is introduced to a variety of cultures through encountering the many different ways rice is prepared at the different households visited. Ages 6 and up.*

**Themes:** Immigrant Experience, Gender, Family Structure, Culture/Heritage – Barbados, Puerto Rico, Vietnam, India, China, Haiti, Italy

(Millbrook Press, 1991)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch\\_popup?v=qfhsL0eLLkw](https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=qfhsL0eLLkw)



**Books that Illustrate Culture and Language**

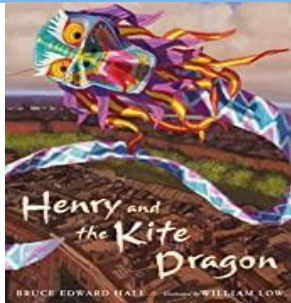
	<p><b>*Finding the Music / En pos de la música</b> By Jennifer Torres &amp; Renato Alarcão  <i>When Reyna accidentally breaks Abuelito’s vihuela—a small guitar-like instrument—she ventures out into the neighborhood determined to find someone who can help her repair it. No one can fix the vihuela, but along the way Reyna gathers stories and mementos of Abuelito and his music. Still determined, Reyna visits the music store, where the owner gives her a recording of Abuelito’s music and promises that they can fix the vihuela together. Reyna realizes how much she’s learned about Abuelito, his influence in the community, and the power of his music. She returns to her family’s restaurant to share Abuelito’s gifts with Mama and is happier still finally to hear the sweet sounds of Abuelito’s music for herself. With lively illustrations by Renato Alarcão, the tradition of mariachi music comes to life in this bilingual story.</i></p>
	<p><b>Themes:</b> Culture, Mexican</p>
	<p><b>Note:</b> Only available through 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Sellers</p>

	<p><b>A Full Moon is Rising</b> By Marilyn Singer &amp; Illustrated by Julia Cairns  <i>In the night sky, nothing is more magical than the full moon that rises every month. When it shines, all kinds of fascinating things occur. Tides rise to enormous heights. Children dare each other to climb a staircase to the moon. Families eat cakes with a moon inside. Come along on a whirlwind tour of the world to discover an amazing collection of full moon celebrations, beliefs, customs, and facts. We’ll visit India, Israel, Morocco, China, Australia, and many more places to see what can happen . . . when a full moon is rising!</i></p>
	<p><b>Themes:</b> Culture</p>

	<p><b>Gathering the Sun</b> By Alma Flor Ada &amp; Illustrated by Simon Silva  <i>Using the Spanish alphabet as a template, Ada has written 27 poems that celebrate both the bounty of the harvest and the Mexican heritage of the farmworkers and their families. Ages 3–8.</i></p>
	<p><b>Themes:</b> Mexican/Mexican-American, Latino/Hispanic, Bilingual: Spanish/ English, Labor, Socio-Economic/Class</p>
	<p>(HarperCollins Publishers, 1997)</p>
	<p><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=fJa30GErJeY">https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=fJa30GErJeY</a></p>

	<p><b>Happy to Be Nappy</b> By Bell Hooks &amp; Illustrated by Chris Raschka  <i>This rhythmic read-aloud is, on the surface, all about hair: nappy, plaited, long, short, natural, twisted, "soft like cotton, flower petal billowy soft, full of frizz and fuzz." Comb through the surface and find a celebration of childhood and girls and the freedom to express individuality. The rituals implied in the book are rooted in the traditions of hooks’s own childhood, when "doing" hair was just as much an excuse for girls to laugh and tell stories and just be together. Going still deeper is the much-needed message encouraging girls to love and accept themselves (and others) just the way they are.</i></p>
	<p><b>Themes:</b> Culture, African-American</p>
	<p><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=TspUYpoacFY">https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=TspUYpoacFY</a></p>

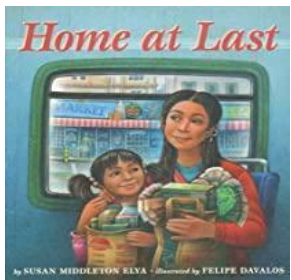
**Books that Illustrate Culture and Language**



**Henry and the Kite Dragon** By Bruce Hall & Illustrated by William Low  
*In this touching story based on true 1920's events, two rival groups of children representing two different cultures come face to face, and when they do, they find they share much more than just the same sky. Ages 6- 10.*

**Themes:** Immigrant Experience, Socio-Economic/Class, Culture/Heritage – Chinese and Italian, Intergenerational Relationships  
 (Philomel Books, 2004)

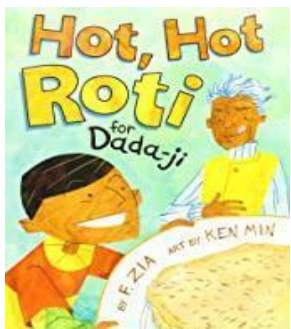
[https://www.youtube.com/watch\\_popup?v=1uGM97uOH50](https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=1uGM97uOH50)



**Home at Last** By Susan Middleton Elya & Illustrated by Felipe Davalos  
*Ana Patino is adjusting well to her new life in the United States, but her mother is having a difficult time because she doesn't speak English. When Ana's baby brother falls ill, Mama tries to get help, but no one can understand her. Now convinced of the need to learn the native language, Mama agrees to take English lessons. As her knowledge of the English language grows, so does her sense of confidence and belonging.*

**Themes:** Culture and language, Immigration, Mexican-American  
 Online Resource: [http://www.leeandlow.com/p/homeatlast\\_tg.mhtml](http://www.leeandlow.com/p/homeatlast_tg.mhtml) (Lee & Low Books Inc., 2002)

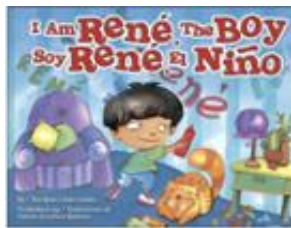
[https://www.youtube.com/watch\\_popup?v=mpk0Fw62zlc](https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=mpk0Fw62zlc)



**Hot, Hot Roti for Dada-ji** By F. Zia & Illustrated by Ken Min  
*Aneel's grandparents have come to stay, all the way from India. Aneel loves the sweet smell of his grandmother's incense, and his grandfather, Dada-ji, tells the world's best stories. When he was a boy, adventurous, energetic Dada-ji had the power of a tiger. Hunh-ji! Yes, sir! He could shake mangoes off trees and wrangle wild cobras. And what gave him his power? Fluffy-puffy hot, hot roti, with a bit of tongue-burning mango pickle. Does Dada-ji still have the power? Aneel wants to find out—but first he has to figure out how to whip up a batch of hot, hot roti.*

**Themes:** Culture, Indian-American  
**Note:** Only available through 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Sellers

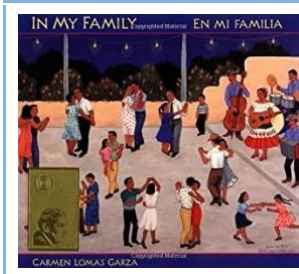
[https://www.youtube.com/watch\\_popup?v=B3QaeMCICtl](https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=B3QaeMCICtl)



**\*I am René, the Boy/ Soy René, el Niño** By Rene Colato Lainez & Illustrated by Fabiolla Graullera  
*René's teacher is calling role one morning, and René is dismayed to hear someone else answer to his name. It's not only that he thought he was the only person with that name, but also that the new student who answers is a girl. That afternoon his classmates tease, "René has a girl's name." After discussing it with Mamá and Papá, René decides, "My name is so beautiful that a girl copied it from me," not the other way around. But the next day the new girl sits next to him and tells him she wants to be his best friend. One day at the library, René discovers a book called The Meaning of Names. With the book tucked under his arm, René endeavors to win the first writing contest of the school year.*

**Themes:** Names, Family, El Salvador  
**English:** [https://www.youtube.com/watch\\_popup?v=twNgMXn8ahl](https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=twNgMXn8ahl)  
**Spanish:** [https://www.youtube.com/watch\\_popup?v=twNgMXn8ahl](https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=twNgMXn8ahl)

**Books that Illustrate Culture and Language**



**\*In My Family /En mi familia** By Carmen Lomas Garza  
*Vibrant paintings and warm personal stories depict memories of growing up in a Mexican-American community of the author's hometown of Kingsville, Texas. Bilingual Spanish/English. Ages 6 and up.*

**Themes:** Family structure, Gender, Mexican-American, Latino/Hispanic  
 (Lee & Low Books, 1996)

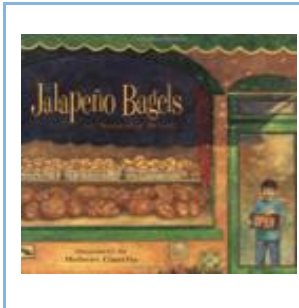
**Spanish:** [https://www.youtube.com/watch\\_popup?v=whY\\_ZIKpiq0](https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=whY_ZIKpiq0)



**\*Islandborn/Lola** By Junot Diaz & Illustrated by Leo Espinosa  
*When Lola's teacher asks the students to draw a picture of where their families immigrated from, all the kids are excited. Except Lola. She can't remember The Island—she left when she was just a baby. But with the help of her family and friends, and their memories—joyous, fantastical, heartbreaking, and frightening—Lola's imagination takes her on an extraordinary journey back to The Island.*

**Themes:** Dominican Republic, Afro-Latinx Identity, Immigration,

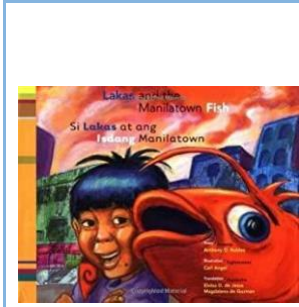
[https://www.youtube.com/watch\\_popup?v=\\_3bVmvA5Pfg](https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=_3bVmvA5Pfg)



**Jalapeño Bagels** By Natasha Wing & Illustrated by Robert Casilla  
*While trying to decide what to take for his school's International Day, Pablo helps his Mexican mother and Jewish father at their bakery and discovers a food that represents both his parents' backgrounds. English with some Spanish and Yiddish words. Ages 5-8.*

**Themes:** Bi-cultural/Mixed, Multilingual Experience, Gender, Jewish American, Mexican/Mexican-American, Latino/Hispanic  
 (Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 1996)

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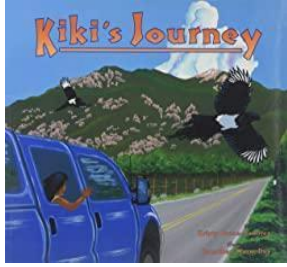
**\*Lakas and the Manilatown Fish** By Anthony Robles & Illustrated by Carl Angel  
*Can a fish talk? Can it jump and play and run -- especially run -- just like a small boy? When Lakas and his dad go shopping, they meet a very special fish that can do all these things and more! But this fish won't stay put in its fish tank. Once it leaps out, a cast of unusual Manilatown characters chases it down Kearny Street and all the way to San Francisco Bay. Hoy, hoy! Will Lakas and his friends ever catch this sly and charming fish? Lakas and the Manilatown Fish/Si Lakas at ang Isdang Manilatown is the first-ever bilingual English-Tagalog story set in the U.S., reflecting the historical heart of the Filipino community.*

**Themes:** Filipino, Tagalog-English language

**Note:** Only available through 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Sellers

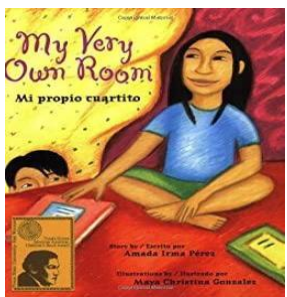


Books that Illustrate Culture and Language



**Kiki's Journey** By Kristy Orona-Ramirez & Illustrated by Jonathan Warm Day  
*Kiki is a city girl who calls Los Angeles home. But home is also a place filled with expressions of her family's Tiwa Indian heritage. Her parents left the Taos Pueblo reservation long ago, and Kiki hasn't been back since she was a baby. She hardly even remembers what the Pueblo is like, until she returns with her parents during spring break. Suddenly, Kiki feels like a tourist in a place that should feel like home. Kristy Orona-Ramirez's tender story sensitively portrays the rewards and challenges of contemporary Indian life, and Jonathan Warm Day's vivid illustrations glow with the Southwestern sun.*

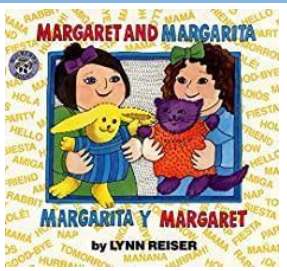
**Themes:** Culture, Tiwa Indian heritage



**\*My Very Own Room / Mi propio cuartito** By Amada Irma Pérez & Illustrated by Maya Christina Gonzalez  
*Five little brothers, two parents, and a house full of visiting relatives make a young Mexican American girl feel crowded. She loves her family, but how can she get a little space of her own? This delightful memoir of a California childhood, by Amada Irma Pérez, sparkles with exuberance and wit.*

**Themes:** Culture, Mexican-American

[https://www.youtube.com/watch\\_popup?v=k-P4PPhwuE8](https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=k-P4PPhwuE8)

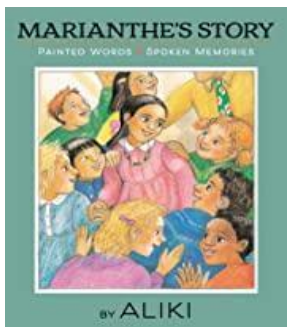


**Margaret and Margarita** By Lynn Reiser  
*A story of friendship shows how language does not have to be a barrier. The text is presented in both English and Spanish. The picture clues make it easy to interpret and cue in on the unfamiliar language. Ages 4 – 8.*

**Themes:** Bilingual Experience, EL Experience

(Greenwillow Books, 1993)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch\\_popup?v=tUoNiLz93rQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=tUoNiLz93rQ)

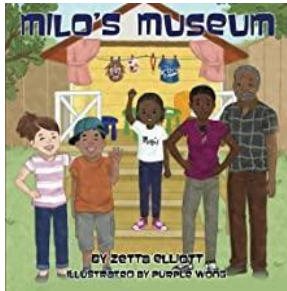


**Marianthe's Story (Painted Words and Spoken Memories)** By Aliko  
*In Painted Words, Marianthe's paintings help her become less of an outsider as she struggles to adjust to a new language and a new school. In Spoken Memories, a proud Mari is finally able to use her new words to narrate her paintings to the class, and share memories of her homeland and the events that brought her family to their new country. Brief mention of war and famine. Ages 5–8.*

**Themes:** Immigrant Experience, Uprooting, EL Experience, Economic Hardship, Gender, Culture/Heritage – Greek

Online Resources: <http://files.harpercollins.com/PDF/TeachingGuides/0688156614.pdf> (Greenwillow Books, 1998)

Books that Illustrate Culture and Language



**Milo's Museum** By Zetta Elliott & Illustrated by Purple Wong  
*Milo is excited to go on a school field trip to a museum. Her grandfather explains, "Museums hold all the things that people feel are valuable or important." Imagine how Milo feels when she finds the museum offer little to no representation of African-American history. Her follow up conversations with family member help give language to her frustration. They also inspire her to take matters into her own hands, becoming the curator and docent of her own museum.*

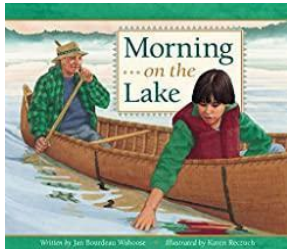
**Themes:** African-American, Racism

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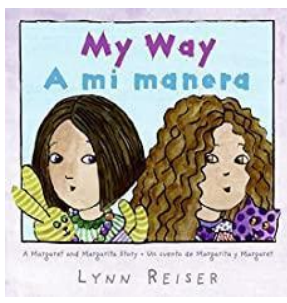
**Mina vs. The Monsoon** By Rukhsanna Guidroz & Illustrated by Debasmita Dasgupta  
*Mina loves to play soccer all year round. Nothing comes close to it. But when the monsoon arrives, Mina is stuck indoors and she can't help feeling restless and bored. Her ammu doesn't understand. The doodhwalla doesn't understand. That's when Mina decided she'll find ways of chasing away the clouds herself. In doing so, she makes an unexpected discovery. Soccer will never be the same again for Mina!*

**Themes:** Culture, Family, Gender, India



**Morning on the Lake** By Jan Bourdeau Waboose & Illustrated by Karen Reczuch  
*In the first of three linked stories, a young boy and his grandfather set out in a birchbark canoe early one spring morning. Together, they discover the peaceful beauty of the lake. In the second story, the sun rises high in the summer sky as they climb a rocky cliff for a bird's-eye view of the land. And, finally, as an autumn night descends, they venture into the woods. Under the patient and gentle guidance of his grandfather, the boy gradually comes to respect the ways of nature and to understand his own place in the world.*

**Themes:** Anishnaabe, Intergenerational Relationships, Gender



**\*My Way / A mi manera** By Lynn Reiser  
*Each girl—Margaret on the left and Margarita on the right—talks about how she does things in her everyday life: how she combs her hair, how she greets her friends, what she eats for lunch. The girls, looking across the center of the book toward each other, come together before story's end by adopting some of the other's "ways," creating a new mix. Spanish and English. Ages 4 – 8.*

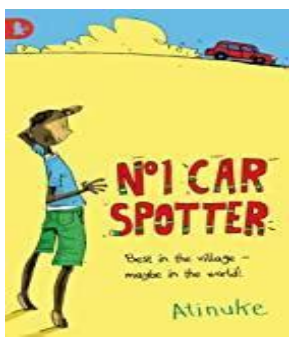
**Themes:** Bilingual Experience, EL Experience

(HarperCollins, 2007)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch\\_popup?v=C9DzOkfG5GI](https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=C9DzOkfG5GI)



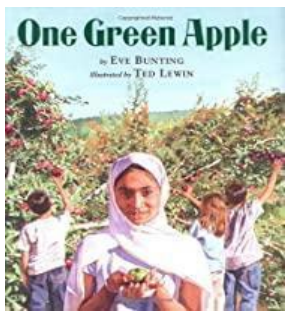
**Books that Illustrate Culture and Language**



**The No. 1 Car Spotter** By Atinuke  
*Oluwalase Babatunde Benson is Number 1. He's the Number 1 car spotter in his village. The Number 1 car spotter in the world. The start of an exciting new series about the irresistible Number 1, whose hubby is car spotting but who is good at solving all sorts of problems for his village. When the family's cart breaks down and there's no way of bringing goods to market, it's Number 1 who devises the Toyota Cow-rola and saves the day.*

**Themes:** Africa, Dialect, Language Culture

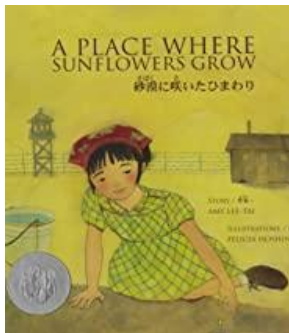
[https://www.youtube.com/watch\\_popup?v=jwvi9MqjalQ&t=105s](https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=jwvi9MqjalQ&t=105s)



**One Green Apple** By Eve Bunting & Illustrated by Ted Lewin  
*As a Muslim girl rides in a hay wagon heading to an apple orchard on a class trip, the dupatta on her head setting her apart, she observes that while some of the children seem friendly, others are not. Farah feels alone, she listens and nods but doesn't speak. Its hard being the new kid in school, especially when you're from another country and don't know the language. Ages 4-8.*

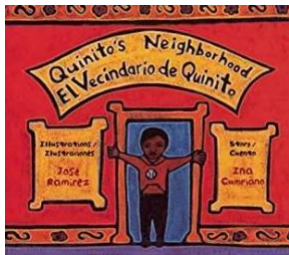
**Themes:** Immigrant Experience, Uprooting, EL Experience, Culture/Identity –Muslim  
 (Clarion Books, 2006)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch\\_popup?v=ZDRsJGFnFbo](https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=ZDRsJGFnFbo)



**A Place Where Sunflowers Grow** By Amy Lee-Tai Illustrated by Felicia Hoshino  
*Mari wonders if anything can bloom at Topaz, where her family is interned along with thousands of other Japanese Americans during World War II. The summer sun is blazingly hot, and Mari's art class has begun. But it's hard to think of anything to draw in a place where nothing beautiful grows. Somehow, glimmers of hope begin to surface under the harsh sun—in the eyes of a kindly art teacher, in the tender words of Mari's parents, and in the smile of a new friend. Inspired by her family's experiences, author Amy Lee-Tai has crafted a story rooted in one of America's most shameful historical episodes—the internment of 120,000 Japanese Americans during World War II.*

**Themes:** Culture, History, Japanese-American

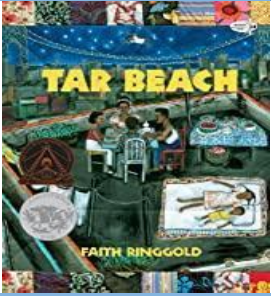
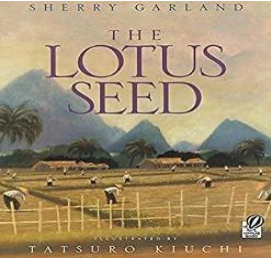
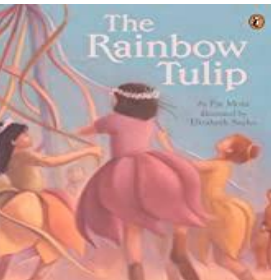



**\*Quinito's Neighborhood/El Vecindario de Quinito** By Ina Cumpiano & Illustrated by Jose Ramirez  
*Quinito describes the jobs done by members of his immediate and extended family as well as others in his neighborhood. "My mami is a carpenter. My papi is a nurse," begins Quinito. His abuela drives a truck, his abuelo fixes clocks. He has one cousin going to clown school, and another who's a dentist. Various neighbors bake and sell bread, run a store and work at the bank. Quinito knows them all. And his job? Well, his job is keeping track of it all, so he can tell his teacher that, "My mami is a carpenter. My papi is a nurse."*

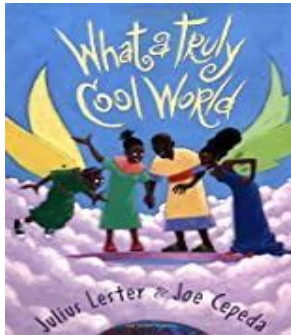
**Themes:** Language, Family, Community

**English:** [https://www.youtube.com/watch\\_popup?v=\\_T-DtV3\\_-jc](https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=_T-DtV3_-jc)  
**Spanish:** [https://www.youtube.com/watch\\_popup?v=AWp6SX9hy4s](https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=AWp6SX9hy4s)

**Books that Illustrate Culture and Language**

	<p><b>Tar Beach</b> By Faith Ringgold</p> <p>Cassie Louise Lightfoot has a dream: to be free to go wherever she wants for the rest of her life. One night, up on "Tar Beach" — the rooftop of her family's Harlem apartment building — her dream comes true. The stars lift her up, and Cassie Louise Lightfoot is <i>flying</i> over the city, claiming everything she sees as her own.</p> <p><b>Themes:</b> Culture, African-American</p> <p><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=h9RKJleFdBu">https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=h9RKJleFdBu</a></p>
	<p><b>The Lotus Seed</b> By Sherry Garland &amp; Illustrated by Tatsuro Kiuchi</p> <p>When she is forced to leave Vietnam, a young girl brings a lotus seed from the Imperial Garden with her to America in remembrance of her homeland. Years later, her grandson plants it in his garden — where it blooms again.</p> <p><b>Themes:</b> Culture, Vietnamese-American</p> <p><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=tTTyREv9AtI">https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=tTTyREv9AtI</a></p>
	<p><b>The Rainbow Tulip</b> By Pat Mora &amp; Illustrated by Elizabeth Sayles</p> <p>Estrella (at home), Stella (at school) loves her family and her Mexican heritage, but she doesn't always like being different from the other kids at school. Now her class is going to dance around the Maypole at the school's May parade, and Stella wants her tulip costume to be special, even if she won't look like the other girls at school. Ages 5-8.</p> <p><b>Themes:</b> Mexican/Mexican-American, Latino/Hispanic, EL Experience (Puffin Books 1999)</p> <p><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=UwTST_tBaPU">https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=UwTST_tBaPU</a></p>
	<p><b>Under My Hijab</b> By Hena Khan &amp; Illustrated by Aaliya Jaleel</p> <p>Grandma's hijab claps under her chin. Auntie pins hers up with a whimsical brooch. Jenna puts a sun hat over hers when she hikes. Iman wears a sports hijab for tae kwon do. As a young girl observes the women in her life and how each covers her hair a different way, she dreams of the possibilities in her own future and how she might express her personality through her hijab.</p> <p><b>Themes:</b> Culture, Family, Religion</p> <p><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=xQNuQhfCtWI">https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=xQNuQhfCtWI</a></p>

Books that Illustrate Culture and Language

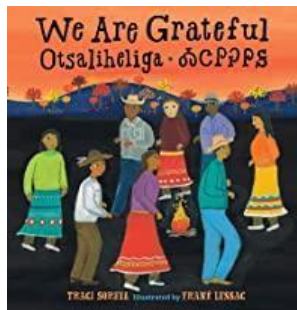


**What a Truly Cool World** By Julius Lester & Illustrated by Joe Cepeda

An African-American deity looks down with satisfaction on the world he has just created, seated in a lounge chair in his computer- equipped, heavenly digs. Enter Shaniqua, "the angel in charge of everybody's business," who announces: "I don't want to hurt your feelings or nothing like that, but what you made looks kind of boring." In an attempt to make his world less drab, God snips off the tops of trees to create grass and bushes and sings into being flowers of many colors. But the blooms are lonely. Since God is too hoarse, Shaniqua takes over to supply companions for the flowers, and her song causes the angels, stars and planets to cry tears of various hues, which turn into tiny, colorful butterflies.

**Themes:** African-American, Folk Tale, Culture

[https://www.youtube.com/watch\\_popup?v=XuUJaJn71WI](https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=XuUJaJn71WI)



**We are Grateful Otsalihelgia.** By Traci Sorell & Illustrated by Frane Lessac

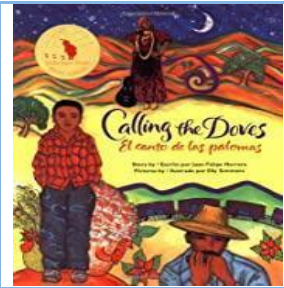
The word *otsalihelgia* is used by members of the Cherokee Nation to express gratitude. Beginning in the fall with the new year and ending in the summer, follow a full Cherokee year of celebrations and experiences. Written by a citizen of the Cherokee Nation, this look at one group of Native Americans is appended with a glossary and the complete Cherokee syllabary, originally created by Sequoyah.

**Themes:** Cherokee culture and language, bilingual

[https://www.youtube.com/watch\\_popup?v=xLD5YbPXS18](https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=xLD5YbPXS18)

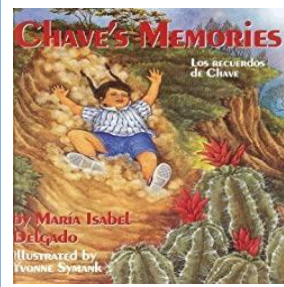


**Books that Address Immigration and The Border**



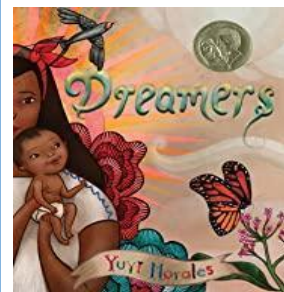
**\*Calling the Doves/El Canto de Las Palomas.** By Juan Herrera & Illustrated by Elly Simmons  
*Poet Juan Felipe Herrera’s bilingual memoir paints a vivid picture of his migrant farmworker childhood. His rich, evocative prose recreates the joy of eating under the open sky, celebrating at a fiesta with other farm families, and listening to his mother singing Mexican songs and his father calling the doves.*

**Themes:** **XX**



**\*Chave's Memories / Los recuerdos de Chave.** By María Isabel Delgado & Illustrated by Yvonne Symank  
*Leaving behind city life in the U.S. to visit her grandparents in rural Mexico was always an adventure for Chave. This bilingual picture book depicts the beauty of life on the U.S.-Mexico border as a gateway to two cultures, and will open children's eyes to two lifestyles, two sets of traditions and customs. Ages 5-9.*

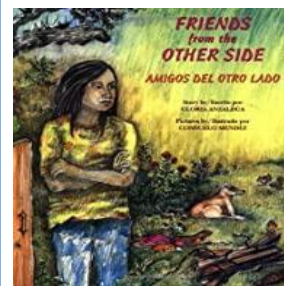
**Themes:** Mexican/Mexican-American, Latino/Hispanic, Intergenerational Relationships  
 (Piñata Books, 1996)



**Dreamers.** By Yuyi Morales  
*Yuyi and her son Kelly’s passage from Xalapa, Mexico was not easy and Yuyi spoke no English whatsoever at the time. But together, they found an unexpected, unbelievable place: the public library. There, book by book, they untangled the language of this strange new land, and learned to make their home within it. Dreamers is a celebration of what migrants bring with them when they leave their homes. It’s a story about family. And it’s a story to remind us that we are all dreamers, bringing our own gifts wherever we roam.*

**Themes:** Immigration, Border Crossing, Mexican American, Family, Language

[https://www.youtube.com/watch\\_popup?v=2Zg3vhoNOpg](https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=2Zg3vhoNOpg)

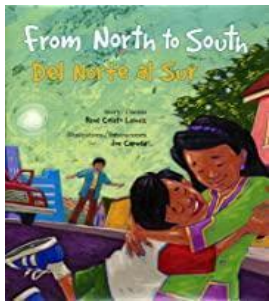


**\*Friends from the Other Side / Amigos del otro lado.** By Gloria Anzaldúa & Illustrated by Consuelo Méndez  
*"Did you come from the other side? You know, from Mexico?" So begins the friendship between Prietita and Joaquín, the young boy who, with his mother, has crossed the Rio Grande River to Texas in search of a new life. Prietita, a brave young Mexican American girl, defends Joaquín from the neighborhood kids who taunt him with shouts of "mojado" or "wetback." But what can she do to protect Joaquín and his mother from the Border Patrol as the van cruises slowly up the street toward their hiding place? Writer Gloria Anzaldúa is a major Mexican American literary voice. Illustrator Consuelo Méndez is a noted Latin American artist.*

**Themes:** Immigration, Border crossing, Mexican American

[https://www.youtube.com/watch\\_popup?v=U3rjDsf4z-w](https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=U3rjDsf4z-w)

**Books that Address Immigration and The Border**

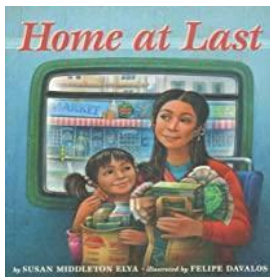


**\*From North to South / Del Norte al Sur.** By René Laínez & Illustrated by Joe Cepeda  
*Near the border, the cars began to move very slowly. “Papá, go fast. I want to see Mamá,” I said. José loves helping Mamá in the garden outside their home in California. But when Mamá is sent back to Mexico for not having proper papers, José and his Papá face an uncertain future. What will it be like to visit Mamá in Tijuana? When will Mamá be able to come home? Award-winning children’s book author René Colato Laínez tackles the difficult and timely subject of family separation with exquisite tenderness.*

**Themes:** Family Separation, Immigration, Mexican American

**Note:** Only available through 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Sellers

[https://www.youtube.com/watch\\_popup?v=rk-GqyLRhnc](https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=rk-GqyLRhnc)

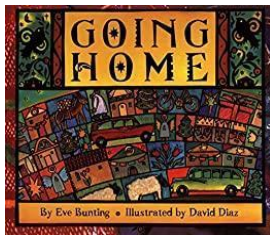


**Home at Last.** By Susan Middleton Elya & Illustrated by Felipe Davalos  
*Ana and her family have recently arrived in the U.S. from Mexico. The story highlights a challenge many immigrant children must deal with--the inability or unwillingness of a parent to learn English. Ages 5 and up.*

**Themes:** Immigrant Experience, Uprooting, Bilingual Experience, EL Experience, Gender Roles, Socio-Economic/Class Issues, Mexican/Mexican-American, Latino/Hispanic

Online Resource: [http://www.leeandlow.com/p/homeatlast\\_tg.mhtml](http://www.leeandlow.com/p/homeatlast_tg.mhtml) (Lee & Low Books Inc., 2002)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch\\_popup?v=mpk0Fw62zlc](https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=mpk0Fw62zlc)



**Going Home.** By Eve Bunting & Illustrated by David Diaz.

*Christmas is coming and Carlos and his family are going home-driving south across the border to Mexico. But Mexico doesn't seem like home to Carlos, even though he and his sisters were born there. Can home be a place you don't really remember? English with some Spanish words. Ages 4-8.*

**Themes:** Bilingual Experience, Immigrant Experience, Socio-Economic/Class Issues, Economic Hardship, Mexican/Mexican-American, Latino/Hispanic, Intergenerational Relationships

HarperCollins Publishers, 1996.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch\\_popup?v=VtfOJTgjPCQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=VtfOJTgjPCQ)



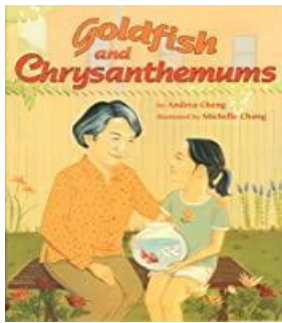
**Going Home, Coming Home.** By Truong Tran & Illustrated by Ann Phong

*This summer, Ami Chi is taking a trip to far off Vietnam, where the streets are crowded with zipping scooters and fruit is shaped like dragons and stars. To her parents, Vietnam is still home—a home they haven't seen since they left during the war. But all this talk of going back home leaves Ami Chi confused. How can you go back home to a place you've never been? Ami Chi finds her answer in the rolling green rice paddies that blanket the countryside, in the bustling Cho Lon market, and in the quiet rooms of her grandmother's house. Vietnam may be nothing like America, but some things—like the help of a new friend—make this strange place feel familiar. Before long, Ami Chi finds that sometimes, you can travel farther than you ever thought possible and still find yourself at home.*

**Themes:** Immigration, Vietnamese-American

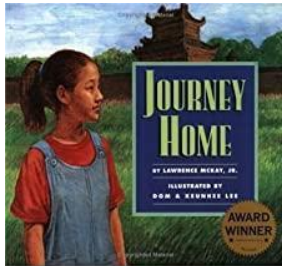
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Books that Address Immigration and The Border



**Goldfish and Chrysanthemums.** By Andrea Cheng & Photographed by Michelle Chang  
 Nancy is helping Ni Ni (Grandma) in the kitchen when a letter arrives from China. Ni Ni grows sad when she reads that her childhood home is being torn down, along with the chrysanthemum-filled garden and fish pond she has always loved. After Nancy wins two goldfish at the summer fair, she comes up with an idea to keep Ni Ni's memories of the garden alive. Nancy gets to work the very next morning, and as the surprise takes shape, the familiar beauty of home brings the entire family together.

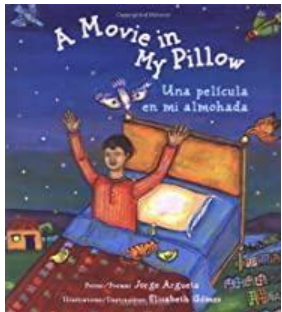
**Themes:** Immigration, Chinese-American



**Journey Home.** By Lawrence McKay & Illustrated by Dom Lee, Keunhee Lee  
 Mai is excited about traveling to Vietnam with her mother. Mom wants to search for her birth family and Mai wants to help solve the mystery. Mai has never been to her mother's homeland, and she wonders what being there will reveal. Will learning about her mother's past help her gain a new sense of identity? Is her "real" home in America or Vietnam? What Mai discovers about her past will change her life forever. Journey Home is a story for all Americans who, like Mai, want to learn more about themselves through their family histories.

**Themes:** Immigration, Vietnamese-American

[https://www.youtube.com/watch\\_popup?v=V7I-pThUZvE](https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=V7I-pThUZvE)



**\*A Movie in My Pillow / Una película en mi almohada.** By Jorge Argueta & Illustrated by Elizabeth Gómez  
 Young Jorgito has come to live in the Mission District of San Francisco, but he hasn't forgotten the unique beauty of El Salvador. In his first collection of poems for children, poet Jorge Argueta evokes the wonder of his childhood in rural El Salvador, a touching relationship with a caring father, and his confusion and delight in his new urban home. Artist Elizabeth Gómez perfectly captures the indigenous beauty of El Salvador, the sadness of the war, and the joy of family reunion in San Francisco.

**Themes:** Culture, Gender, Immigrant Experience

[https://www.youtube.com/watch\\_popup?v=3QfjctkhVL4](https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=3QfjctkhVL4)



**Books that Address Immigration and The Border**

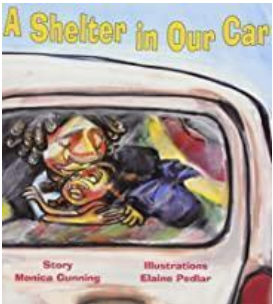
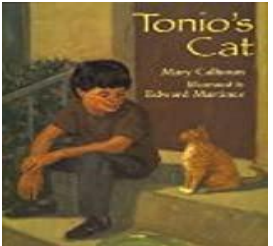
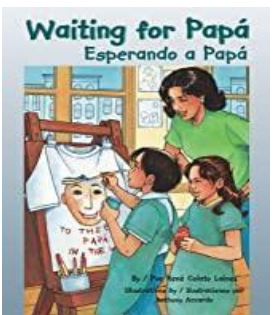
	<p><b>*My Diary from Here to There / Mi diario de aqui hasta alla.</b> By Amada Irma Perez &amp; Illustrated by Maya Christina Gonzalez.</p> <p><i>In her first diary entry, Amada is anxious about her family's move from Juarez, Mexico, to Los Angeles. Despite her father's assurances, she worries that they will never return to Juarez, that she won't be able to learn English, and that he will have problems finding work. Bilingual Spanish/English. Ages 6 and up.</i></p> <p><b>Themes:</b> Immigration Experience, Uprooting, Border Crossing, Mexican/Mexican-American, Latino/Hispanic, Labor, Socio-Economic/Class, Economic Struggle</p> <p><b>Note:</b> Only available through 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Sellers Lee &amp; Low Books Inc., 2002</p> <p><b>English:</b> <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=CUjS-fYli7s">https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=CUjS-fYli7s</a></p> <p><b>Spanish Part 1:</b> <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=nLtqxVlc5Fk">https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=nLtqxVlc5Fk</a></p> <p><b>Spanish Part 2:</b> <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=Nb7Qqg8kDm0">https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=Nb7Qqg8kDm0</a></p>
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	<p><b>My Name is Yoon.</b> By Helen Recorvits &amp; Illustrated by Gabi Swiatkowska</p> <p><i>Disliking her name in English, Korean-born Yoon, or “shining wisdom,” refers to herself as “cat,” “bird,” and “cupcake” as a way to feel more comfortable in her new school and new country. Ages 4-8.</i></p> <p><b>Themes:</b> Immigrant Experience, EL Experience, Culture/Ethnicity – Korean</p> <p>(Macmillan, 2003)</p> <p><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=JQW3I2gvm-4">https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=JQW3I2gvm-4</a></p>
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	<p><b>The Name Jar.</b> By Yansook Choi</p> <p><i>Having just moved from Korea, Unhei is anxious that American kids will like her. Being the new kid in school is hard enough, but what about when nobody can pronounce your name? Instead of introducing herself on the first day of school, she tells the class that she will choose a name by the following week. Ages 3-7.</i></p> <p><b>Themes:</b> Immigrant Experience, Uprooting, Bilingual Experience, Culture/Ethnicity – Korean, Intergenerational Relationships</p> <p>(Dragonfly Books, 2001)</p> <p><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=bGCuOEoEXSc">https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=bGCuOEoEXSc</a></p>
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	<p><b>*Rene has Two Last Names / Rene tiene dos apellidos.</b> By Rene Colato Lainez &amp; Illustrated by Fabiola Graullera Ramirez</p> <p><i>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. Bilingual Spanish/English. Ages 5 and up.</i></p> <p><b>Themes:</b> Bilingual Experience, Uprooting, Multiracial/Mixed, Culture/Heritage – El Salvador</p> <p><b>Note:</b> Only available through 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Sellers (Pinata Books, 2009)</p> <p><b>English:</b> <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=MP0qjzj6oEE">https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=MP0qjzj6oEE</a></p> <p><b>Spanish:</b> <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=u-6QMCAPbWc">https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=u-6QMCAPbWc</a></p>
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Books that Address Immigration and The Border

 <p><b>A Shelter in Our Car</b> Story: Monica Gunning Illustrations: Elaine Pedlar</p>	<p><b>A Shelter in Our Car.</b> By Monica Gunning &amp; Illustrated by Elaine Pedlar  <i>Zettie and her Mama left their warm and comfortable home in Jamaica for an uncertain life in the United States. With Papa gone, Mama can't find a steady job that will sustain them and so they are forced to live in their car. But Mama's unwavering love, support, and gutsy determination give Zettie the confidence that, together, she and her mother can meet all challenges. Monica Gunning's moving and authentic story about homelessness in an American city was developed with the help of the Homeless Children's Network in San Francisco.</i>  <b>Themes:</b> Immigration, Economic Hardship, Homelessness  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=pv6qRJFCQnA">https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=pv6qRJFCQnA</a></p>
 <p><b>Tonio's Cat</b> Mary Calhoun Illustrated by Edward Martinez</p>	<p><b>Tonio's Cat.</b> By Mary Calhoun &amp; Illustrated by Edward Martinez  <i>Tonio is newly arrived from Mexico and longing for his dog, who was left behind when the family moved to California. Includes bilingual conversation. Grades 2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup></i>  <b>Themes:</b> Bilingual Experience, Immigrant Experience, Uprooting, Socio-Economic/Class, Economic Hardship, Mexican/Mexican-American, Latino/Hispanic  <b>Note: Only available through 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Sellers</b> (Morrow Junior Books, 1996)</p>
 <p><b>Waiting for Papa / Esperando a Papa</b> By Rene Colato Lainez Illustrated by Anthony Accardo</p>	<p><b>*Waiting for Papa / Esperando a Papa.</b> By Rene Colato Lainez &amp; Illustrated by Anthony Accardo  <i>When the family's home in El Salvador burned down, five-year-old Beto and his mother moved to the United States. Unfortunately, his father could not get a visa and remained behind. Beto's classmates help him raise money to buy his father a very special gift. English and Spanish. Ages 5 and up.</i>  <b>Themes:</b> Immigrant Experience, Uprooting, Socio-Economic/Class, Latino/Hispanic, Culture/Heritage – El Salvador  (Pinata Books, 2004)  <b>Spanish:</b> <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=9yS09tMaMxg">https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=9yS09tMaMxg</a></p>

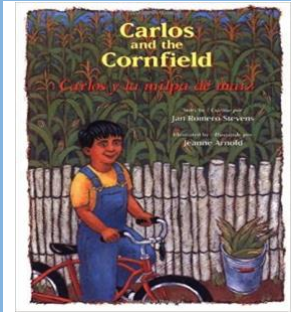
**Books that Illuminate Economic Class**



**Apple Picking Time.** By Michele Benoit Slawson & Illustrated by Deborah Ray  
*This quiet story is a celebration of family and community; taking time off from work and school, a little girl's sense of accomplishment as she helps her family pick their quota. Ages 3-7.*

**Themes:** Labor, Intergenerational Relationships  
 (Dragonfly Books, 1994)

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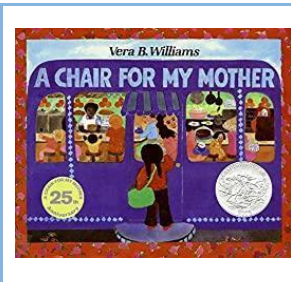


**Carlos and the Cornfield.** By Jan Romero Stevens & Illustrated by Jeanne Arnold  
*In this tale of a young boy's life in rural New Mexico, author Jan Stevens explores the values of integrity and hard work, and the overarching theme: You reap what you sow. Bilingual English/Spanish*

**Themes:** Bilingual Experience, Socio-Economic/Class, Mexican/Mexican-American, Latino/Hispanic, Labor

**Note:** Only available through 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Sellers (Luna Rising, 1995)

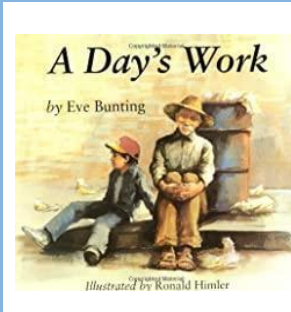
[https://www.youtube.com/watch\\_popup?v=6N5XbbgRk9o](https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=6N5XbbgRk9o)



**\*A Chair for my Mother.** By Vera B. Williams  
*After their home is destroyed by a fire, Rosa, her mother, and grandmother save their coins to buy a really comfortable chair for all to enjoy. Ages 4-8.*

**Themes:** Economic Hardship, Socio-Economic/Class, Intergenerational Relationships, Family Structure  
 (Greenwillow Books, 1982)

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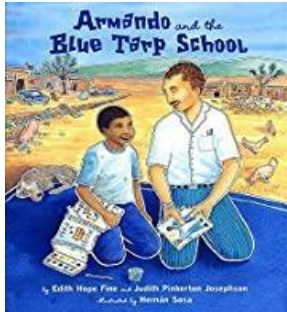
**A Day's Work.** By Eve Bunting & Illustrated by Ronald Himler  
*This story captures an immigrant experience in which the child must help the adult interpret the new world and the wise adult still has much to teach the child about enduring values. Francisco learns to respect his abuelo as they work as day laborers. English with some Spanish words. Ages 4-8.*

**Themes:** Bilingual Experience, Immigrant Experience, Uprooting, Socio-Economic/Class, Economic Hardship, Mexican/Mexican-American, Latino/Hispanic, Intergenerational Relationships  
 (Clarion Books, 1994)

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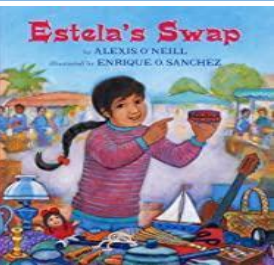
Books that Illuminate Economic Class



**\*Armando and the Blue Tarp School / Armando y la escuela de lona azul.** By Edith Hope Fine, Judith Pinkerton Josephson & Illustrated by Hernán Sosa  
*Buh-beep! Buh-beep! A truck horn sounds through Armando's colonia, his neighborhood, near the city dump. Señor David is back, setting up school on a blue tarp spread on the ground. Oh how Armando longs to go to this school, but he knows he must help his father pick through trash in the dump for things his family can use, recycle, or sell. When Armando's parents decide at last to let him spend afternoons at Señor David's school, Armando is overjoyed. He'll learn to read and write. He'll learn numbers. Best of all, he'll draw pictures. And one momentous day Armando's love of drawing helps bring an almost unimaginable treasure to the children of the colonia.*

**Themes:** Economic hardship

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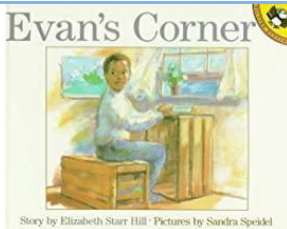


**Estela's Swap.** By Alexis O'Neill & Illustrated by Enrique Sanchez  
*It is Estela's first swap meet, and she hopes to sell her music box to earn money for folk dancing lessons. The story can be summed up in the author's words: "Even when things don't work out as you have planned, you must never give up your dream." English with some Spanish words. Ages 4-8.*

**Themes:** Mexican/Mexican-American, Latino/Hispanic, Socio-Economic/Class

Online Resource: <http://www.leeandlow.com/images/pdfs/estela.pdf> (Lee & Low Books Inc., 2002)

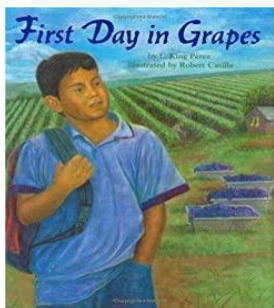
[https://www.youtube.com/watch\\_popup?v=Hqe\\_Jtpr6eE](https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=Hqe_Jtpr6eE)



**Evan's Corner.** By Elizabeth Starr Hill & Illustrated by Sandra Speidel  
*Evan's family lives in a crowded apartment too small for privacy. But Evan's mother lets him choose his own special corner. Ages 5 and up.*

**Themes:** Socio-Economic/Class, African- American

**Note:** Only available through 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Sellers (Puffin Books, 1993)

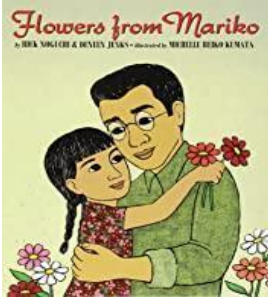


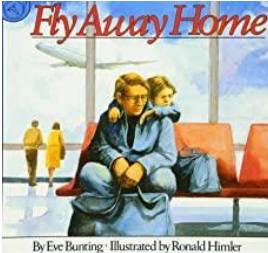
**\*First Day in Grapes / Primer día en las uvas.** By L. King Perez & Illustrated by Robert Casilla  
*All year long Chico and his family move up and down the state of California picking fruits and vegetables. Every September they pick grapes and Chico starts at a new school again. Often other children pick on him — maybe because he is always new or maybe because he speaks Spanish sometimes. Chico's first day in third grade turns out to be different. His teacher likes him right away, and she and his classmates are quick to recognize his excellent math skills. He may even get to go to the math fair! When the fourth-grade bullies confront Chico in the lunchroom, he responds wisely with strengths of his own.*

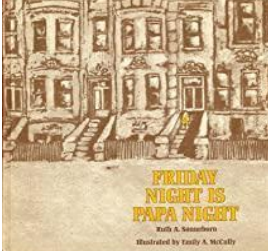
**Themes:** Economic hardship (migrant), Mexican-American culture, language/English Learner

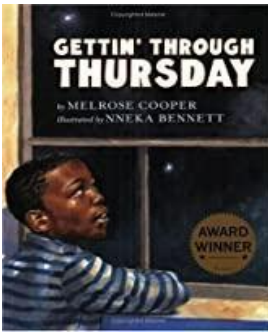
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Books that Illuminate Economic Class

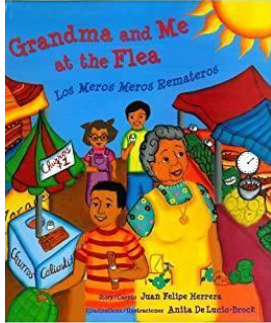
	<p><b>Flowers From Mariko.</b> By Rick Noguchi, Deneen Jenks &amp; Illustrated by Michelle Reiko Kumata World War II is over and Mariko and her family are finally allowed to leave the camp. But the transition back into society isn't easy. Mariko's father longs to restart his gardening business, but his truck has been stolen. The family moves to a trailer park, where Mariko sees her parents are worried and their spirits are low. She has an idea to create happiness for her family by bringing gardening back into their lives. Rick Noguchi and Deneen Jenks have written a moving story of how one girl's love and determination lift the spirits of her family. With affecting images of life after the Camps, Michelle Reiko Kumata captures an unforgettable story of hope, love, and perseverance, and plants it in readers' hearts.</p> <p><b>Themes:</b> Economic hardship, Japanese-American internment</p>
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	<p><b>Fly Away Home.</b> By Eve Bunting. This book presents the difficult subject of homelessness through the eyes of a young boy--sleeping sitting up, washing in the restroom, and above all, avoiding being noticed. The brief text runs through all his emotions from a matter-of-fact acceptance to a fierce longing that makes the child angry at those who have homes. This is a serious story but not an overpoweringly grim one. There is a reassuring togetherness between father and son and although there isn't an easy, happy ending, it does conclude on a poignant yet believable note of hope. Both illustrator and author focus on giving the child's-eye view of the problem, and their skill makes this a first-rate picture book</p> <p><b>Themes:</b> Homelessness</p> <p><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=YIs-zNWLbqU">https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=YIs-zNWLbqU</a></p>
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	<p><b>Friday Night is Papa Night.</b> By Ruth A. Sonnenborn &amp; Illustrated by Emily A. McCully Two jobs keep Papa too far from home to return every night and now, on Friday, Mama and Manuela and Carlos and Ricardo and Pedro reluctantly sit down to eat without him.</p> <p><b>Themes:</b> Socio-Economic/Class, Latino/Hispanic, Culture/Heritage - Puerto Rican</p> <p><b>Note:</b> Only available through 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Sellers (Puffin Books, 1970)</p>
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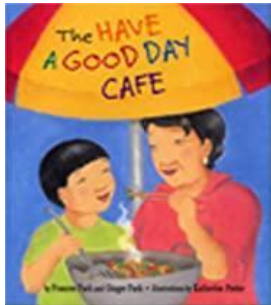
	<p><b>Gettin' Through Thursday.</b> By Melrose Cooper &amp; Illustrated by Nneka Bennett André dreads Thursdays. Thursday is the day before Mama gets paid at work each week — it's the day when money is tight and spirits are low for André and his older brother and sister. As report card day approaches, André anticipates making the honor roll, and Mama said she'd throw a royal party for just such an event. But André can't believe his eyes when he looks at the calendar and sees that report card day falls on the worst possible day of the week — a Thursday. André's predicament — and the loving solution that his family offers — will strike a chord with readers of all backgrounds. Melrose Cooper and Nneka Bennett present a warm and touching portrait of a child who experiences a celebration he'll never forget.</p> <p><b>Themes:</b> Economic hardship</p> <p><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=EuzTWeVCzVE">https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=EuzTWeVCzVE</a></p>
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Books that Illuminate Economic Class



**\*Grandma and Me at the Flea / Los Meros Meros Remateros.** By Juan Herrera & Illustrated by Anita De Lucio-Brock  
*Every Sunday Juanito helps his grandmother sell old clothes beneath the rainbow-colored tents at the flea market. There, Juanito and his friends romp from booth to booth, fulfilling Grandma's vision of the remate as a sharing community of friendly give-and-take. Juanito gallops to the jeweler, who gives Juanito a copper bracelet and a watch for Grandma in exchange for her help sending money orders home to Mexico. Señora Vela gratefully accepts a bundle of Grandma's healing herbs in return for sacks of ruby red chiles. With every exchange Juanito learns firsthand what it means to be a true rematero - a fleamarketeer - and understands that the value of community can never be measured in dollars.*

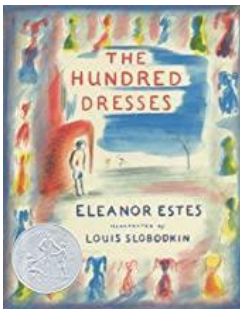
**Themes:** Economic class, Mexican American culture



**The Have a Good Day Café.** By Frances Park, Ginger Park & Illustrated by Katherine Potter  
*Early each morning Mike and his family drive to the city with their food cart. They sell bagels and orange juice for breakfast, hot dogs and pizza for lunch. Mike passes the time by drawing pictures, and Grandma sits in the shade, fanning herself and missing life back home in Korea. One day two other food carts show up on the family's street corner. All summer long business dwindles away, and Mike's worried parents start thinking about giving up their cart. Now it's up to Mike, and Grandma, to find a way to bring back their customers.*

**Themes:** Economic class, Korean-American

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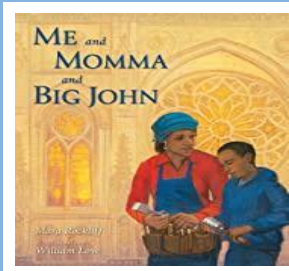
**The Hundred Dresses.** by Eleanor Estes  
*Eleanor Estes's The Hundred Dresses won a Newbery Honor in 1945 and has never been out of print since. At the heart of the story is Wanda Petronski, a Polish girl in a Connecticut school who is ridiculed by her classmates for wearing the same faded blue dress every day. Wanda claims she has one hundred dresses at home, but everyone knows she doesn't and bullies her mercilessly. The class feels terrible when Wanda is pulled out of the school, but by that time it's too late for apologies. Maddie, one of Wanda's classmates, ultimately decides that she is "never going to stand by and say nothing again."*

**Themes:** Economic class, Polish-American

- Chapter 1:** [https://www.youtube.com/watch\\_popup?v=dGw9Syxm3q0&list=PLJJ\\_k3I8PCA7D9T5zdnvnNH15aXqfpzqO](https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=dGw9Syxm3q0&list=PLJJ_k3I8PCA7D9T5zdnvnNH15aXqfpzqO)
- Chapter 2:** [https://www.youtube.com/watch\\_popup?v=pcx5mePL7OM&list=PLJJ\\_k3I8PCA7D9T5zdnvnNH15aXqfpzqO&index=2](https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=pcx5mePL7OM&list=PLJJ_k3I8PCA7D9T5zdnvnNH15aXqfpzqO&index=2)
- Chapter 3:** [https://www.youtube.com/watch\\_popup?v=ufGPloxb4Q&list=PLJJ\\_k3I8PCA7D9T5zdnvnNH15aXqfpzqO&index=3](https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=ufGPloxb4Q&list=PLJJ_k3I8PCA7D9T5zdnvnNH15aXqfpzqO&index=3)
- Chapter 4:** [https://www.youtube.com/watch\\_popup?v=7rDraWY\\_S9U&list=PLJJ\\_k3I8PCA7D9T5zdnvnNH15aXqfpzqO&index=4](https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=7rDraWY_S9U&list=PLJJ_k3I8PCA7D9T5zdnvnNH15aXqfpzqO&index=4)
- Chapter 5:** [https://www.youtube.com/watch\\_popup?v=XooaZCuaFwY](https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=XooaZCuaFwY)
- Chapter 6:** [https://www.youtube.com/watch\\_popup?v=ispLrtY6Tdo](https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=ispLrtY6Tdo)
- Chapter 7:** [https://www.youtube.com/watch\\_popup?v=G62Yq5jgjtA](https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=G62Yq5jgjtA)



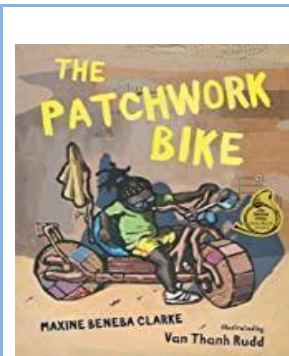
**Books that Illuminate Economic Class**



**Me and Momma and Big John.** By Mara Rockliff & Illustrated by William Low *This touching story, inspired by one of the first women in the United States to learn the traditional craft of stonecutting, lovingly shows how having pride in one's work, and one's momma, comes with great grace and dignity. Ages 4-8.*

**Themes:** Socio-Economic/Class, Labor, African- American, Gender  
(Candlewick Press, 2012)

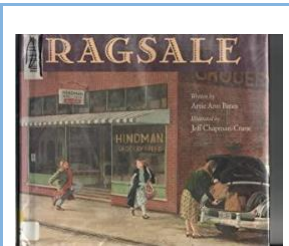
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**The Patchwork Bike.** By Maxine Beneba Clarke & Illustrated by Van Thanh Rudd *When you live in a village at the edge of the no-go desert, you need to make your own fun. That's when you and your brothers get inventive and build a bike from scratch, using everyday items like an old milk pot (maybe Mum is still using it, maybe not) and a used flour sack. You can even make a license plate from bark if you want. The end result is a spectacular bike, perfect for whooping and laughing as you bumpety bump over sand hills, past your fed-up mum and right through mud-for-walls home.*

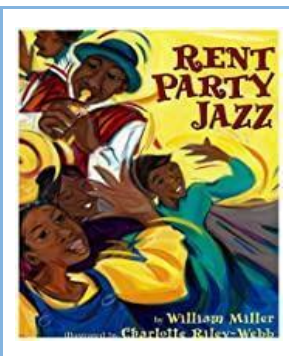
**Themes:** Socio-Economic/Class, Australian Geography, Culture, Gender

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**Ragsale.** By Artie Ann Bates & Illustrated by Jeff Chapman-Crane *Every Saturday Jessann and her family drive to various ragsales to look for things they need. Always an adventure, ragsalin' makes Saturday a special day for this Appalachian family. "A celebration of innate dignity and pride, the book presents a warm and affectionate look at a region too little understood and too often stereotyped." Ages 5-8.*

**Themes:** Socio-Economic/Class, Culture/Heritage – Appalachian, Caucasian/White  
**Note:** Only available through 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Sellers (Houghton Mifflin Company, 1995)



**Rent Party Jazz.** By William Miller & Illustrated by Charloette Riley-Webb *In New Orleans in the 1930's, young Sonny Comeaux has to work before school to help his mother makes ends meet. When Mama loses her job, Sonny is worried. Rent day is coming soon. Sonny watches sadly through Jackson Square after school one day. His attention is caught by Smilin' Jack, a popular jazz musician. What Smilin' Jack offers Sonny then- how to raise money for the rent while having the world's best party- changes both their lives forever.*

**Themes:** Economic Hardship, Community

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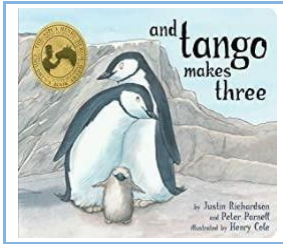
**Books that Illuminate Economic Class**

	<p><b>A Shelter in Our Car.</b> By Monica Gunning &amp; Illustrated by Elaine Pedlar  <i>Zettie and her Mama left their warm and comfortable home in Jamaica for an uncertain life in the United States. With Papa gone, Mama can't find a steady job that will sustain them and so they are forced to live in their car. But Mama's unwavering love, support, and gutsy determination give Zettie the confidence that, together, she and her mother can meet all challenges. Monica Gunning's moving and authentic story about homelessness in an American city was developed with the help of the Homeless Children's Network in San Francisco.</i></p>
	<p><b>Themes:</b> Economic hardship, Immigrant experience</p>
	<p><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=pv6qRJFCQnA">https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=pv6qRJFCQnA</a></p>

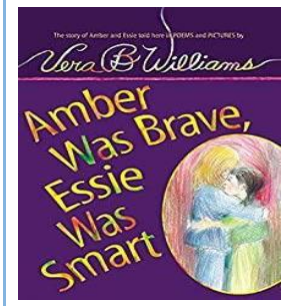
	<p><b>Those Shoes.</b> By Maribeth Boelts &amp; Illustrated by Noah Z. Jones  <i>A boy named Jeremy really wants to be like 'everyone else' and have the newest pair of high-top sneakers. The story depicts children of varying economic means and Jeremy, who lives with his grandmother, learns a good lesson about wants vs. needs and the importance of giving to others in need. Ages 5-8.</i></p>
	<p><b>Themes:</b> Not-traditional family structure, Socio-Economic/Class, Economic Hardship</p>
	<p><b>Note:</b> Only available through 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Sellers (Candlewick Press, 2007)</p>
	<p><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=LjUFJEduguk">https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=LjUFJEduguk</a></p>

	<p><b>*The Tortilla Factory.</b> By Gary Paulsen &amp; Illustrated by Ruth Wright Paulsen <i>Pays tribute to the Mexican farmers and workers who participate in a cycle of life and labor that progresses from seed planting, to tortilla, and back to the farmer. Ages 4 and up.</i></p>
	<p><b>Themes:</b> Mexican/Mexican-American, Latino/Hispanic, Labor</p>
	<p>(Harcourt, Inc., 1995)</p>
	<p><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=G4_YspJISkE">https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=G4_YspJISkE</a></p>

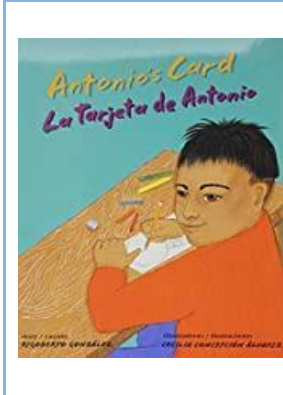
**Books that Show Diversity of Family Structure and Situations**



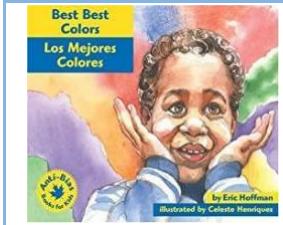
**And Tango makes Three.** By Justin Richardson, and Peter Parnell & Illustrated by Henry Cole  
 In the zoo, two male penguins raise a baby penguin in an animal family unlike the others, demonstrating all kinds of love can create a family.  
**Themes:** Family Structure, LGBTQ  
 (Simon and Schuster, 2005)  
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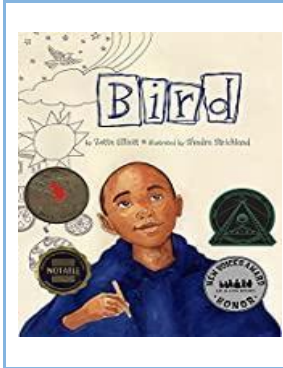
**Amber was Brave, Essie was Smart.** By Vera B. Williams  
 This is a beautifully written book, told in the voices of two young sisters, about what it is like for a family when the father has been sent to jail, mother is working long hours to keep the family together, and the children are trying to make sense of their lives. Poetic, powerful, and tender Amber and Essie are portrayed with deep understanding of children's perspectives and of the cost to families of incarceration.  
**Themes:** Incarceration, Economic Class  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch\\_popup?v=b4Ymg2yU9ag](https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=b4Ymg2yU9ag)



**\*Antonio's Card/ La tarjeta de Antonio.** By Rigoberto González & Illustrated by Cecilia Álvarez  
 Antonio loves words, because words have the power to express feelings like love, pride, or hurt. Mother's Day is coming soon, and Antonio searches for the words to express his love for his mother and her partner, Leslie. But he's not sure what to do when his classmates make fun of Leslie, an artist, who towers over everyone and wears paint-splattered overalls. As Mother's Day approaches, Antonio must choose whether — or how — to express his connection to both of the special women in his life. Rigoberto González's bilingual story about a nontraditional family resonates with all children who have been faced with speaking up for themselves or for the people they love.  
**Themes:** Gay/Lesbian Family, Gender



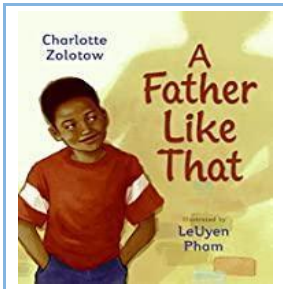
**\*Best Best Colors / Los Mejores Colores** By Eric Hoffman & Illustrated by Celeste Henriquez  
 With the help of his two mamas, Nate learns he can have more than one best color and one best friend. Text bilingual: Spanish/ English. Ages 5 and up.  
**Themes:** Family Structure, LGBTQ, Bi-racial/Mixed, Socio-Economic/Class  
**Note:** Only available through 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Sellers (Redleaf Press, 1999)



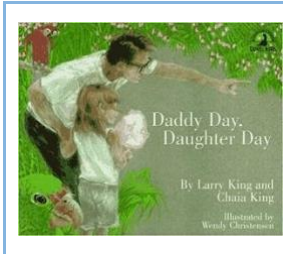
**Bird** By Zetta Elliott & Illustrated by Shadra Strickland  
 Young Mekhai, better known as Bird, loves to draw. With drawings, he can erase the things that don't turn out right. In real life, problems aren't so easily fixed. As Bird struggles to understand the death of his beloved grandfather and his older brother's drug addiction, he escapes into his art. Drawing is an outlet for Bird's emotions and imagination, and provides a path to making sense of his world. In time, with the help of his grandfather's friend, Bird finds his own special somethin' and wings to fly.  
**Themes:** Family drug addiction, family death  
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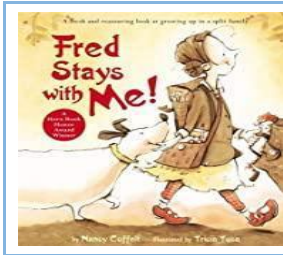
**Books that Show Diversity of Family Structure and Situations**



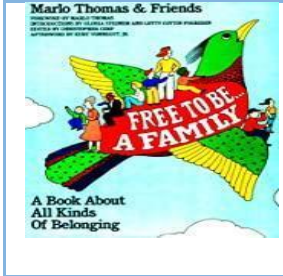
**A Father Like That.** By Charlotte Zolotow & Illustrated by LeUyen Pham  
*A little boy tells his mother about all the things he would do with his father, if he had one. Many children will instantly recognize and identify with the yearning the boy feels. His mother's response in the end resonates hope and wisdom: "...in case he never comes, just remember when you grow up, you can be a father like that yourself!"* Ages 3-8.  
**Themes:** Family Structure, African-American  
**Note:** Only available through 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Sellers (HarperCollins, 2007)



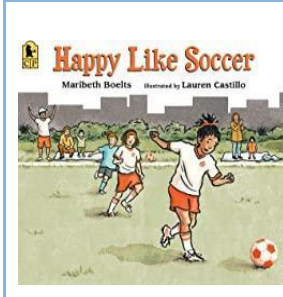
**Daddy Day, Daughter Day.** By Larry and Chaia King & Illustrated by Wendy Christensen  
*In a lavishly illustrated children's book, the host of Larry King Live and his daughter recount the true story of his divorce and show how quality moments together can help heal the pain of divorce for children."*  
**Themes:** Not-traditional Family Structure, Divorce  
**Note:** Only available through 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Sellers



**Fred Stays with Me!** By Nancy Coffelt & Illustrated by Tricia Tusa  
*Told from the point of view of a young child whose parents are divorced, Fred Stays with Me follows a girl and her dog, Fred, from one parent's house to the other's, giving her a sense of continuity and stability.* Ages 2-6.  
**Themes:** Family Structure, Growing up in a Split Family, Caucasian/White  
 (Little Brown and Company, 2007)  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch\\_popup?v=9c9BhvEBOFU](https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=9c9BhvEBOFU)



**Free to Be a Family- A Book About All Kinds of Belonging** Edited By Christopher Cerf  
*A collection of stories, poems, and songs about different types of families and family relationships.*  
**Themes:** Family Structure  
**Note:** Only available through 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Sellers



**Happy Like Soccer** By Maribeth Boelts & Illustrated by Lauren Castillo  
*Online resources: <http://twowritingteachers.files.wordpress.com/2012/08/happy-like-soccer-craft-table.pdf>  
 Sierra's primary caretaker is her auntie, who is unable to attend her games due to her restaurant job. For soccer games Sierra rides a bus out of the city to fields that are nicer than the "lot" in her neighborhood.* Ages 5-9.  
**Themes:** Not-traditional Family Structure, Socio-Economic/Class  
 (Candlewick Press, 2012)  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch\\_popup?v=CfrWTsY0Oso](https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=CfrWTsY0Oso)

**Books that Show Diversity of Family Structure and Situations**

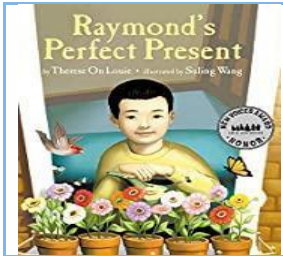
	<p><b>In Our Mother's House</b> By Patricia Polacco,  <i>Love makes a family strong, no matter who the members of a family are. A young black girl narrates about her two Caucasian mothers and how they adopted her, her Asian brother, and her red-haired baby sister. The story is about how Marmee and Meema will do anything to make their children happy and even gain the love of the entire neighborhood, with the exception of one prejudiced neighbor who doesn't approve of their relationship. Ages 6-8.</i></p>
<p><b>Themes:</b> Family Structure, LGBTQ, Adoption, African/American, Asian/American, Caucasian/White (Philomel Books, 2009)</p>	
<p><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=jlInlqQZVM4">https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=jlInlqQZVM4</a></p>	

	<p><b>Love Is a Family</b> By Roma Downey &amp; Illustrated by Justine Gasquet  <i>"Sometimes I wish I had sisters, or a dad who lived with me, or at least a brother or something!" said Lily. "I know," said Mama. "Sometimes I wish that too. But most of the time our little family feels just right to me. Love is what makes a family, and we've got plenty of that." Irrepressible young Lily loves her mother dearly. But when it's time for Family Fun Night at her school, she worries.... and worries. What will the other kids think when she brings her mother? Will they be the strangest family there? But when they arrive at Family Fun Night, Lily sees all her friends having fun with their families—of every shape, size, and-color. She learns that there are as many ways of showing love as there are stars in the sky.</i></p>
<p><b>Themes:</b> Non-traditional family structure</p>	
<p><b>Note:</b> Only available through 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Sellers</p>	
<p><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=JXhYNIeWq0">https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=JXhYNIeWq0</a></p>	

	<p><b>Mama Loves Me from Away</b> By Pat Brisson &amp; Illustrated by Laurie Caple  <i>This story captures the relationship between mother and child during difficult times. It introduces readers to the young girl and her mother's special bond. As the story progresses, Sugar, the young girl, experiences a variety of emotions after her mother is sentenced to prison. This story shows how family members can stay in touch despite the distance between them. Ages 7-12</i></p>
<p><b>Themes:</b> Non-traditional Family structure, Incarceration, Caucasian/White</p>	
<p><b>Note:</b> Only available through 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Sellers (Boyd's Mills Press, 2004)</p>	

	<p><b>Pablo's Tree</b> By Pat Mora &amp; Illustrated by Cecily Lang  <i>In a heartwarming intergenerational story, Pablo cannot wait to visit his grandfather and discover what treasures will be placed on his tree, a tree that was purchased when Pablo was adopted and that, each year, is decorated with special surprises. In English with some Spanish words. Ages 4-8</i></p>
<p><b>Themes:</b> Family Structure, Adoption, Bilingual, Latino/Hispanic, Intergenerational Relationships (Simon and Schuster, 1994)</p>	
<p><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=-UxEGpLrOF8">https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=-UxEGpLrOF8</a></p>	

**Books that Show Diversity of Family Structure and Situations**



**Raymond's Perfect Present** By Therese On Louie & Illustrated by Suling Wang A lovely, poignant story about a young boy who grows flowers on the windowsill of the city apartment he shares with his mother, hoping to surprise her when she finally returns from the hospital after a prolonged illness. Ages 6 - 8.

**Themes:** Family Structure, Illness, Socio-Economic/Class, Asian/Asian/American

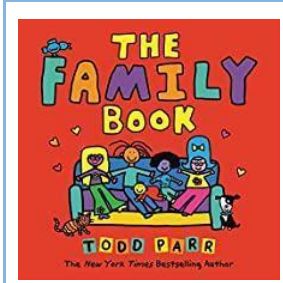
(Lee & Low Books, 2002)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch\\_popup?v=AKSc1d56sCo](https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=AKSc1d56sCo)



**Real Sisters Pretend** By Megan Dowd Lambert & Illustrated by Nicole Tadgell Mia and Tayja confirm that there's one thing they don't have to pretend: They know in their hearts that they're real sisters, even though others don't always recognize this since they're adopted and don't look alike. Safe in the knowledge that adoption has made them "forever family," the sisters end their make-believe journey with a joyful homecoming to a real home with their two moms.

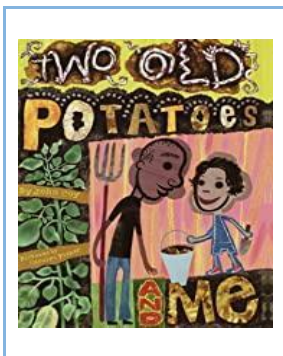
**Themes:** Adoption, Sibling Relationships, Lesbian Household



**\*The Family Book** By Todd Parr The Family Book celebrates the love we feel for our families and all the different varieties they come in. Whether you have two moms or two dads, a big family or a small family, a clean family or a messy one, Todd Parr assures readers that no matter what kind of family you have, every family is special in its own unique way.

**Themes:** Family Structure

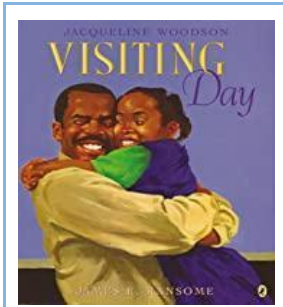
[https://www.youtube.com/watch\\_popup?v=76P3HU8WQh0](https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=76P3HU8WQh0)



**Two Old Potatoes and Me** By John Coy & Illustrated by Carolyn Fisher One day at her dad's house, a young girl finds two old potatoes in the cupboard. "Gross." But before she can throw them away, her dad suggests they try to grow new potatoes from the old ones, which have sprouted eyes. Told from May to September, the potato-growing season, the story includes all the basic steps for growing potatoes while subtly dealing with the parents' recent divorce. Just like the new potatoes that emerged from ugly old potatoes, this dad and daughter move on and make a new life together in the face of unavoidable and unpleasant change.

**Themes:** Divorce, Recreating Family Units

[https://www.youtube.com/watch\\_popup?v=-qDyovZWAKc](https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=-qDyovZWAKc)



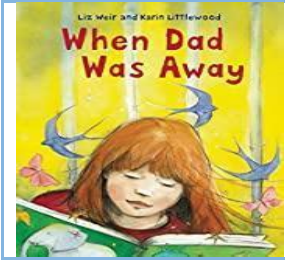
**Visiting Day** By Jacqueline Woodson & Illustrated by James Ransome A young girl and her grandmother prepare for a very special day--the one day a month they get to visit the girl's father in prison. "Only on visiting day is there chicken frying in the kitchen at 6 a.m, and Grandma in her Sunday dress, humming soft and low." As the little girl and her grandmother get ready, her father, who adores her, is getting ready, too, and readers get to join the community of families who make the trip together, as well as the triumphant reunion between father and child.

**Themes:** Incarceration, Family Ties

[https://www.youtube.com/watch\\_popup?v=C33MVhaLqTw](https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=C33MVhaLqTw)



**Books that Show Diversity of Family Structure and Situations**



**When Dad Was Away** By Liz Weir & Illustrated by Karin Littlewood *When Mum tells Milly that Dad has been sent to prison, Milly feels angry and confused. She can't believe her dad won't be at home to read her stories and make her laugh. Ages 5-8.*

**Themes:** *Not-traditional Family Structure, Incarceration, European/White*

**Note:** *Only available through 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Sellers* (Francis Lincoln Children's Books, 2012)

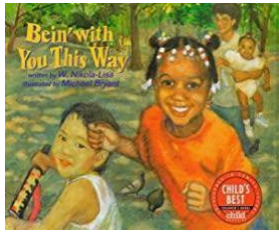


**You and Me and Home Sweet Home** By George Ella Lyon & Illustrated by Stephanie Anderson *An inspiring story about how a church group and a community come together to build a house for a mother and her daughter. Sharonda and her mother have been living for over a year in her Aunt Janey's apartment, but now they will help to build their own home. Ages 4 – 8.*

**Themes:** *Family Structure, Socio-Economic/Class, African- American*

(Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2009)

**Books that Celebrate Racial Diversity**

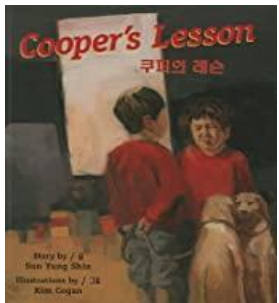


**Bein' with You This Way** By W. Nikola – Lisa & Illustrated by Michael Bryant *An African American girl visits the park and rounds up a group of her friends for an afternoon of fun and playground games. It has an upbeat tempo and addresses skin type, body type, even hair. It reminds us that we can celebrate human differences. Also available in Spanish. Ages 4 -8.*

**Themes:** Physical Differences, Identity, Diversity

**Online Resource:** <http://www.leeandlow.com/images/pdfs/bein.pdf>. (Lee & Low Books, 1994)

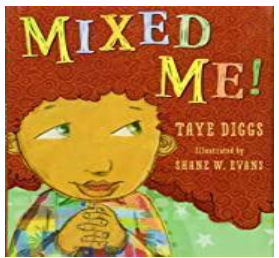
[https://www.youtube.com/watch\\_popup?v=zI\\_uD7pqsj0](https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=zI_uD7pqsj0)



**Cooper's Lesson** By Sun Yung Shin & Illustrated by Kim Cogan  
*Cooper caught his reflection in the window. Brown hair, fair skin, and some freckles. Grandmother Park always said, "Such white skin!" and Grandmother Daly always said, "What brown skin!" One cousin always teased him about being "half and half." Cooper has had about enough of being half and half. And he's certainly had enough of Mr. Lee, the owner of his neighborhood grocery store, speaking to him in Korean even though Cooper can't keep up. Why can't things be simple? Why can't he just be one thing or the other? One moment in Mr. Lee's store changes everything for Cooper. Before long he realizes that the question of who we are is never simple-whether you talk about it in English or Korean.*

**Themes:** Korean-American culture, Biracial

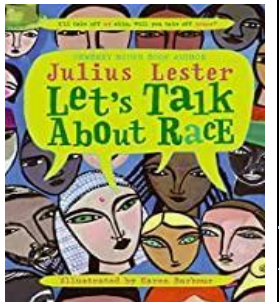
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**Mixed Me** By Taye Diggs & Illustrated by Shane W. Evans  
*Mike has awesome hair. He has lots of energy. His parents love him. And Mike is the perfect blend of the two of them. Still, Mike has to answer LOTS of questions about being mixed.*

**Themes:** Biracial Identity

[https://www.youtube.com/watch\\_popup?v=hr4Ufy16HLw](https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=hr4Ufy16HLw)

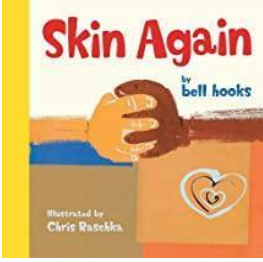
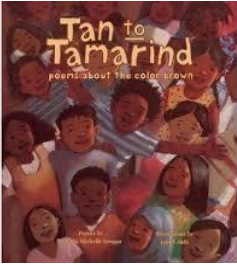
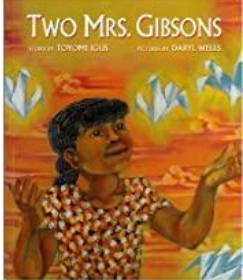


**Let's Talk About Race** By Julius Lester & Illustrated by Karen Barbour  
*The author, Julius Lester invites you into his book by writing "I am story. So are you." He discusses about how each individual has many different elements to their story, from family, to name, to likes and dislikes and maybe even race. However, he says that race is just a portion of your story, but why do people think it is so important? He explains that sometimes we get too caught up on race and make quick assumptions based on skin color. He shares his won story as he explores what makes each of us special.*

**Themes:** Diversity, Race, Identity

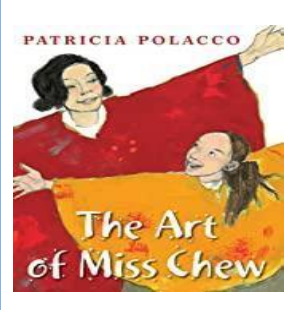
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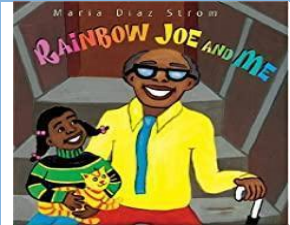
**Books that Celebrate Racial Diversity**

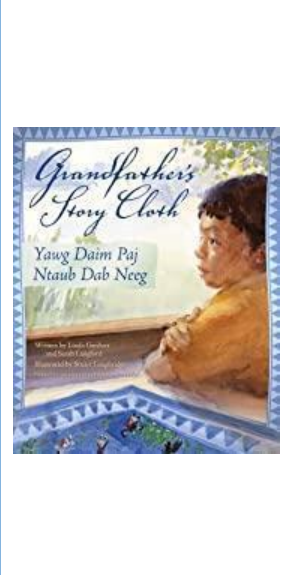
	<p><b>Skin Again</b> By Bell Hooks &amp; Illustrated by Chris Raschka</p> <p><i>The skin I'm in is just a covering. It cannot tell my story. The skin I'm in is just a covering. If you want to know who i am You have got to come inside And open your heart way wide. Celebrating all that makes us unique and different, Skin Again offers new ways to talk about race and identity. Race matters, but only so much-what's most important is who we are on the inside. Looking beyond skin, going straight to the heart, we find in each other the treasures stored down deep. Learning to cherish those treasures, to be all we imagine ourselves to be, makes us free. Skin Again celebrates this freedom.</i></p> <p><b>Themes:</b> Physical Differences, Diversity, Identity</p> <p><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=Gbpyxds95E">https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=Gbpyxds95E</a></p>
	<p><b>Tan to Tamarind: Poems about the Color Brown</b> By Malathi Michelle Iyengar &amp; Illustrated by Jamel Akib</p> <p><i>When you look in the mirror, what do you see? Tan, sienna, topaz, or tamarind? Poet Malathi Michelle Iyengar sees a whole spectrum of beautiful shades of brown. Swirls of henna decorate ocher hands and feet at an Indian wedding. Cinnamon lips smile over a cup of café con leche. And maple leaves drift like stars onto upturned russet faces in fall.</i></p> <p><b>Themes:</b> Race, Culture, Family</p> <p><b>Note:</b> Only available through 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Sellers</p>
	<p><b>Two Mrs. Gibsons</b> By Toyomi Igus &amp; Illustrated by Daryl Wells</p> <p><i>Two author's tender and touching tribute to the two most important women in her life, her Japanese mother and her African-American grandmother. In it, Toyomi celebrates the richness of growing up biracial. English with some Japanese words. Ages 6 and up.</i></p> <p><b>Themes:</b> Bi-racial/Mixed, Culture/Heritage – Japanese, African-American, Intergenerational Relationships</p> <p>(Lee &amp; Low Books Inc., 1996)</p> <p><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=BtdEgDrVH_w">https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=BtdEgDrVH_w</a></p>




**Books that Honor Being Differently Abled**

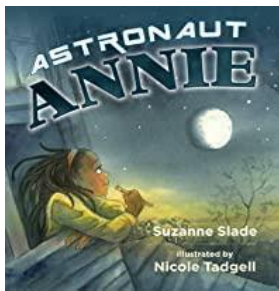
	<p><b>The Art of Miss Chew</b> By Patricia Polacco  <i>Polacco provides an unabashedly autobiographical account of a year in grammar school with Mr. Donovan, who understands that she needs additional time to work at written tests. He also introduces her to Miss Chew, an art teacher, and both immediately recognize Trisha's emerging talent. It is Miss Chew who discerns Trisha's talent at perceiving negative space and connects it to her difficulties in school: She sees words as patterns, not letters.</i></p> <p><b>Themes:</b> Learning Differences, School and Learning</p> <p><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=mvY2ehvFsKo">https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=mvY2ehvFsKo</a></p>
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	<p><b>Rainbow Joe and Me/ Joe Arco Iris y yo</b> By Maria Diaz Strom  <i>Eloise shares her love of colors with her blind friend Rainbow Joe, who makes his own colors when he plays beautiful notes on his saxophone.</i></p> <p><b>Themes:</b> Blindness</p> <p><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=VUFHuHHbGJA">https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=VUFHuHHbGJA</a></p>
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	<p><b>Grandfather's Story Cloth</b> By Linda Gerdner, Sarah Langford &amp; Illustrated by Stuart Loughridge  <i>Chersheng's grandfather is beginning to forget things: little things like turning off the water faucet and big things like Chersheng's name. Sometimes he even forgets that he is American now. Chersheng feels sad and helpless when he learns that Grandfather has Alzheimer's Disease, but when Chersheng's mother presents him with a story cloth stitched by Grandfather himself, embroidered in the Hmong tradition. Through the story cloth, Grandfather's memories of his life in Laos come alive. And inspired by Grandfather's tales about his life before the war forced him to immigrate to America, Chersheng comes up with a plan to capture his family's new life with his own art project. This way, they can all remember that their love is stronger than Alzheimer's Disease, no matter in which country they live. Linda Gerdner's heartwarming story addresses the increasing number of children who live with elderly grandparents with dementia. This volume, presented bilingually in English and Hmong, allows children and their loved ones not only to gain a compassionate understanding of Alzheimer's Disease, but also to share in the simplest act of pleasure and love- that of reading together</i></p> <p><b>Themes:</b> immigration, Hmong, Alzheimer's</p>
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	<p><b>Rescue and Jessica</b> By Jessica Kensky and Patrick Downes &amp; Illustrated by Scott Magoon  <i>Rescue thought he'd grow up to be a Seeing Eye dog — it's the family business, after all. When he gets the news that he's better suited to being a service dog, he's worried that he's not up to the task. Then he meets Jessica, a girl whose life is turning out differently than the way she'd imagined it, too. Now Jessica needs Rescue by her side to help her accomplish everyday tasks. And it turns out that Rescue can help Jessica see after all: a way forward, together, one step at a time.</i></p> <p><b>Themes:</b> Blindness, Service Dogs</p> <p><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=xKmaf09S6-k">https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=xKmaf09S6-k</a></p>
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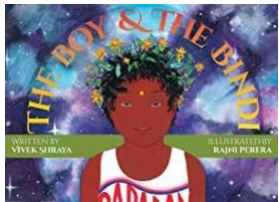
**Books that Are Thoughtful About Gender and Gender Identity**



**Astronaut Annie** By Suzanne Slade & Illustrated by Nicole Tadgell  
*Career Day is approaching, and Annie can't wait to show her family what she's planning to be when she grows up. But, she must keep it a secret until Friday! So curious family members each ask Annie for a clue and each. Convinced she will follow in their footsteps; each offers her a gift symbolizing their passion. Grateful for each gift, Annie cleverly finds a way to use them all to create her Career Day costume. When the big day arrives, Annie finally reveals her out-of-this-world dream to everyone.*

**Themes:** Gender Expression, Family

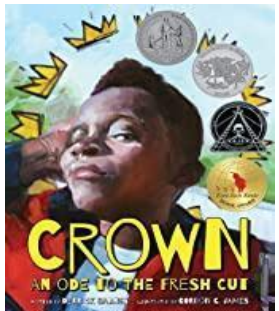
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**The Boy and the Bindi** By Vivek Shraya & Illustrated by Rajni Perera  
*A five-year-old South Asian boy becomes fascinated with his mother's bindi, the red dot commonly worn by Hindu women to indicate the point at which creation begins, and wishes to have one of his own. Rather than chastise her son, she agrees to it, and teaches him about its cultural significance, allowing the boy to discover the magic of the bindi, which in turn gives him permission to be more fully himself.*

**Themes:** Gender Expression, South Asian, Family

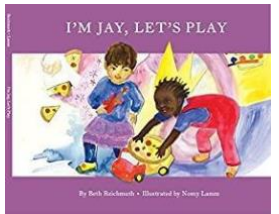
[https://www.youtube.com/watch\\_popup?v=sABIOYjC09o](https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=sABIOYjC09o)



**Crown: An Ode to the Fresh Cut** By Derrick Barnes & Illustrated by Gordon C. James  
*The barbershop is where the magic happens. Boys go in as lumps of clay and, with princely robes draped around their shoulders, a dab of cool shaving cream on their foreheads, and a slow, steady cut, they become royalty. That crisp yet subtle line makes boys sharper, more visible, more aware of every great thing that could happen to them when they look good: lesser grades turn into As; girls take notice; even a mother's hug gets a little tighter. Everyone notices. This rhythmic, read-aloud title is an unbridled celebration of the self-esteem, confidence, and swagger boys feel when they leave the barber's chair.*

**Themes:** Gender Expression, Culture, African-American, Intergenerational Relationships

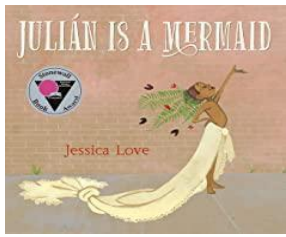
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**I'm Jay, Let's Play** By Beth Reichmuth & Illustrated by Nomy Lamm  
*Jay loves playing in the kitchen, driving dump trucks, twirling in skirts and crashing tall towers. Jay, Ren, Finn, Casey and Riley are dynamic kids with exciting ideas -- probably a lot like any preschooler you know and love. I'm Jay, Let's Play models gender fluidity as a normal and delightful part of the lives of young children. Rather than gendered pronouns, the characters in this book are referred to by their names. Their styles and interests are equally open-ended. To support adults in navigating the conversations that may arise, a note in the back of the book offers some suggestions of simple, inclusive, developmentally appropriate messages about gender for all young children.*

**Themes:** Non-gendered Characters, Community

**Books that Are Thoughtful About Gender and Gender Identity**



**Julian is a Mermaid** By Jessica Love  
*While riding the subway with his abuela, Julián notices three women spectacularly dressed up. When Julián gets home all he can think about is dressing up just like them. But what will Abuela think about the mess he makes — and even more importantly, about how Julián sees himself?*

**Themes:** Gender Expression, Family

[https://www.youtube.com/watch\\_popup?v=okk46rxHiM4](https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=okk46rxHiM4)



**Rosie Revere, Engineer** By Andrea Beaty & Illustrated by David Roberts  
*Rosie Revere dreamed of becoming a great engineer. Where some people see rubbish, Rosie sees inspiration. Alone in her room at night, shy Rosie constructs great inventions from odds and ends. Rosie’s gizmos would astound—if she ever let anyone see them. Afraid of failure, she hides them away under her bed. Until a fateful visit from her great-great-aunt Rose (AKA Rosie the Riveter!), who shows her that the first flop isn’t something to fear—it’s something to celebrate. And you can only truly fail, if you quit*

**Themes:** Gender Expression, Family

[https://www.youtube.com/watch\\_popup?v=3sNVhNThxcc](https://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=3sNVhNThxcc)