



Office of Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment

Donations from Parents/Teachers -- Books for Battle Hill School Library

FORM FOR DONATED BOOKS

This is a formal request for donated library books procured through grants or donations to be included in the school library for circulation. If there is only one donated book, the lines below will be completed. Otherwise, attachments will be provided to this form.

Note for Librarians: If purchased from a vendor, print out the detailed list with reviews, annotations, etc. If not purchased through a vendor, the librarian will make a spreadsheet with the following information if there is more than one book..

- 1. Grade Level(s): _____ or See Attached List
- 2. Title(s)/ Author(s): _____ or See Attached List
- 3. Genre: _____ or See Attached List
- 4. Format (e.g., graphic novels, chapter bks, etc.): _____ or See Attached List

5. Content/Summary (below): _____ or See Attached

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The librarian signing the form below certifies that the books meet the criteria listed in Board Policy 2530.and that the book/books have been reviewed using professional resources endorsed by AASL, SLJ, and NJASL including but not limited to the following:

- Mackin Curator
- Junior Library Guild
- School Library Journal
- Various book awards, e.g., Newberry, Caldecott, JLG Gold Standard, etc.
- Horn Book
- Kirkus Review
- We Need Diverse Books

Melissa Antolovich	<u>M. Antolovich</u>	4/30/2024
Librarian	Signature	Date
<u>Sandra Paul</u>	<u>Sandra Paul</u>	4/30/24
Supervisor/Director*	Signature	Date

*The Director will inform the building administration of the book(s) being added to the school's library once s/he has approved the form.

The book(s) on this form may not be added until they have received Board of Education approval.

Available Titles

Title	Series Title	Author	ISBN	Publisher	DOP	Dewey	Genre	RL	Gr / IL	Product	I
100% UNOFFICIAL ROBLOX : BUILD IT, WIN IT!			9781338726787	AFK	2022	794.8			2-5	Paperback	

Annotation: Introduces the online video game and game-building platform Roblox, discussing the kinds of games users can play and design with battle games, role-playing games, and tycoon simulators. Offers advice for kids on staying safe in online interactions. Includes a glossary.

★AMIRA'S PICTURE DAY		FARUQI, REEM	9780823440191	HOLIDAY HOUSE	2021	E		3.5	K-3	Hardcover Library	
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Tags: Asian/Pacific Islander/Asian-American, Islam/Muslim, Own Voices, Responsible Decision-Making, Social Awareness

Annotation: A young Muslim girl named Amira looks forward to the celebration of Eid, where she'll stay home from school, pass out treats at the looking at the school calendar, she realizes she'll miss school picture day and begins to fret. After celebrating Eid, her family comes up with a crea

Review Sources: School Library Journal Starred - March 2021, Kirkus Reviews Starred - 03/15/2021, Booklist - 03/15/2021

Full Text Reviews:

- Booklist March 2021 Preschool-Grade 1 - "What a dilemma! How can Amira celebrate the Muslim holiday of Eid with her family when it me her school picture? Amira is thrilled to have her hands decorated with mehndi, and she adores her new blue shalwar kameez, but she's ur school. At the Eid party, the masjid (mosque) is decorated with streamers and filled with delicious treats and gifts. When her aunt takes a small smile, remembering she won't be in the class picture. But wait! Realizing that school isn't over for the day, she shows up on time, fa beautiful clothes. Now her smile is big as she joins her classmates for the class photo. Colorful and humorous cartoon artwork, created di features and energetic body motions as she deals with disappointment, then celebrates a happy outcome. A great pick for teachers wanti celebrations into holiday units."
- Kirkus Reviews Starred March 2021 Amira and her brother scan the sky, looking for the sliver-thin crescent moon that will tell them that E decorated, goody bags ready for kids at the masjid (Faruqi uses the Arabic term for mosque throughout), new Eid clothes, and the knowle celebrate Eid, Amira is excited! But then she notices the flyer on the fridge and remembers tomorrow is Picture Day. She doesnâ€™t want day, â€œseeing the masjid, Amiraâ€™s sadness floated away. Her mouth popped open. She could hardly recognize it.â€ Sheâ€™s happy friends and familyâ€™ until she remembers Picture Day. But maybe thereâ€™s a way she can do both? Faruqi effectively builds up the excit with Amiraâ€™s distress at missing Picture Dayâ€™ readers will see that both are important. The characters and interactions at the masjid celebrating Eid, and so are Amiraâ€™s interactions with her classmates. Azimâ€™s illustrations pair well with Faruqiâ€™s words, focusing language to highlight the mixed emotions: excitement, sadness, surprise. There is much diversity among the people at the masjid, includ presentation. Amiraâ€™s blue, mirror-bedecked shalwar kameez stands out. Her family is of South Asian heritage. Sweet and sympathetic glossary) (Picture book. 4-8)
- School Library Journal Starred March 2021 K-Gr 2—Amira feels conflicted when she realizes that school picture day is the same day as Eid the end of Ramadan, Amira and her brother Ziyad know it means that there will be prayers, celebrations, and skipping school the followir hands with mehndi. Amira and Ziyad prepare goody bags for the kids at the masjid, while her mother irons Amira's Eid outfit, a beautiful l Though Eid is full of the joy and community she loves, missing picture day puts a damper on the celebration, until Amira thinks of a possi narrative gently addresses the impact that the celebration of non-Judeo-Christian holidays has on children and choices families make to conflicted feelings and insistence on finding a solution create opportunities for dialogue about the importance of acknowledging spaces families try to foster positive identity. Azim's illustrations are fun and colorful, with tiny details reflecting the family's personality, while th Amira's masjid are racially and culturally diverse, with varied skin tones, body types, and expressions of fashion and style. Back matter fe terms, referencing Urdu and Amira and her family's Pakistani roots. VERDICT A lovely addition to the collection of books about Eid that ca Hussain, The Blake Sch., Wayzata, MN Copyright 2021 Reed Business Information.

AS COOL AS IT GETS	FOOD GROUP	JOHN, JORY	9780063045422	HARPERCOLLINS PUBLISHERS	2022	E		3.3	PS-3	Hardcover Trade	W/
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Annotation: The Cool Bean is stressing out because he has to find the perfect gift for Beanadette, the coolest of the cool beans, for the annual hc Beanadette is expecting the coolest present of all, but the Cool Bean doesn't have enough bean-bucks to buy anything worthy of her coolness. S expensive or extravagant a gift is as long as it comes from the heart.

Review Sources: School Library Journal - August 2022, Kirkus Review - 09/01/2022

Full Text Reviews:

- Kirkus Review September 2022 The pressure of picking a proper gift to exchange at a party makes the holiday season anything but a fava-Cool Bean (2019). Having picked ultra-cool Beanadette J's name out of the basket but lacking the bean-bucks to buy anything, the frustrc paints to depict the intended recipient surrounded by tigers and rainbows. Seeing the multicolored guests at the party getting electronic cranks up the anticipated humiliation—but Beanadette loves the picture, and so does everyone else. "I'd created something unique and c made somebody happy." If that summation isn't explicit enough for some readers, John's beany bestower leaves the party with a brand-r

cool—and also warm—gift, indeed”) and then ends by boiling the message down to a mushy meme: “When in doubt, just make somethin naïve (or at best aspirational) the notion that beans, human or otherwise, are sure to value hand-made gifts over manufactured ones, you bucks to spend might take it to heart. No specific holidays are identified aside from glimpses of snow, garland, and carolers in the illustrations. (This book was reviewed digitally.) A solid message for young DIYers, particularly those with more time than bean-bucks. (Picture
 • School Library Journal August 2022 PreS-Gr 3—A wonderfully written and illustrated book about Cool Bean, who is nervous about the upcoming party, the beans exchange gifts. This year, Cool doesn't know what to get the bean he selected; he doesn't have the money to buy her son her a gift. So Cool paints her a picture. He is nervous that he will be laughed at for making his gift and not buying it. But Cool is surprised and he even gets a gift that someone made for him. This wonderful story shows the anxieties and emotions kids and adults can face during gifts. John does an excellent job describing all the emotions that the beans go through, and Oswald is just as amazing showing the emotions and descriptive pictures are detailed but not super complicated in nature, fitting for the age of children reading this book. VERDICT A fun
 Dorinda Brown Copyright 2022 Reed Business Information.

ASK A
 SCIENTIST :
 PROFESSOR
 ROBERT WINSTON
 WINSTON
 ANSWERS
 MORE

WINSTON, ROBERT	9780744079425	DK CHILDREN	2023	502	1-4	Hardcover Trade
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Annotation: Professor Robert Winston answers questions kids from around the world ask about space, the Earth, the human body, plants and animals, and illustrations and photographs, and a glossary of terms.

★BLACK BOY,
BLACK BOY

KAMANDA, ALI	9781728250649	SOURCEBOOKS EXPLORE	2022	E	K-2	Hardcover Trade
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Tags: African/Black/African-American, Own Voices

Annotation: Drawing on famous leaders from the past and present, this children's book offers encouraging words to young Black boys as they look to a boy and caring adult making a journey along a colorful road. The adult reminds the child that he is the product of those who came before him—innovators, explorers, leaders, and artists, such as Emory Malick, Barack Obama, and Fela Kuti. At the end of their journey, the road continues as the boy to pursue his own dreams.

Review Sources: Kirkus Review - 07/15/2022, School Library Journal Starred - August 2022, Booklist - 10/01/2023

Full Text Reviews:

- Booklist October 2023 Preschool-Grade 2 - "Black Boy, Black Boy is an ode to Black Boy Joy written in an accessible, easy-to-read poetry by a young boy, perhaps father and son, holding hands on a colorful path paved by great Black men before them. As they move along the path (mostly historical) figures in arrestingly illustrated double-page spreads that highlight their talents and accomplishments while lifting up (commitment) to which the boy might aspire. Together, the pair meets football player Colin Kaepernick, singer Sam Cooke, civil rights leader McCoy, poet Chinua Achebe, President Barack Obama, and many more. In the face of so many inspirational leaders, the boy is invited to seek to break boundaries, and “shape [his] own fate.” Back matter includes short biographies of all the famous figures featured in the story. A great #RepresentationMatters classroom or library collection."
- School Library Journal Starred August 2022 PreS-Gr 4—The canon of books celebrating and empowering boys of color continues to grow by introducing the main character and readers to others who have positively impacted and changed the world. Kaman "Dear boy," and takes him on a journey down a vivid road, encouraging him to shine like his elders. Every page is devoted to information about Malick, and Barack Obama, and their contributions to America, while simultaneously reassuring the boy that he can dream big and work hard. The body of this story is full of excellent content illustrated in vibrant hues; the superimposed images of the classic and contemporary leader closes, the sunset glows in the background, illuminating the future path of the young male as the author's final words breathe life into this sure to succeed in if he can harness the power he already has and celebrate the potential within himself. VERDICT A book that educates, entertains, and belongs in every library.—Tanya Haynes Copyright 2022 Reed Business Information.
- Kirkus Review July 2022 A young Black boy and an adult companion journey hand in hand as they discuss the achievements of inspirational figures featuring colorful, joyful, and mosaiclike illustrations of the child and his stylishly dressed adult companion engaged in various activities, from playing basketball to reading. "Black boy, rise up, it's time. / It's a new day and a chance to shine." As the boy points ahead, the sun beams down, illuminating the path. An emblazoned with the number seven appears ahead of them ("A story of courage that starts on this day. / Courage like these men who paved the way, / illustrated taking a knee. As they continue, the companion poses questions and suggestions to the boy ("Dear boy, / Black boy, / what do you want to be? / inspirational indeed") in mostly rhyming text accompanied by bold, vibrant illustrations. Along the way, more Black figures are introduced, including Mitchell, and Elijah McCoy. Eventually, the two arrive at a fork in the road, where the boy receives encouragement about his future and is reminded of his ancestors. This ode to Black boy joy abounds in positive representation of Black men and serves as a beautiful reminder of a glorious lineage. (This book is an affirming, nurturing, and powerful celebration of Black men, past, present, and future. (biographical notes about the individuals mentioned in the book are included in the back matter.)

★THE BOOK
 WITH NO
 PICTURES

NOVAK, B J	9780803741713	DIAL BOOKS	2014	E	K-3	Hardcover Library
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Annotation: Star actor and writer for the TV show “The Office,” author Novak here eschews all photographs and images of any kind. Even his autobiography saying only that he has brown hair and blue eyes. Meanwhile there is a story in the text, which changes font, italics, bold formatting, size, shape, and color.

reader read every single word, even “BLAGGITY BLAGGITY” and other nonsense words, sure to delight hypothetical child listeners. “A riotously free (KIRK).

Review Sources: Publishers Weekly - 06/30/2014, Kirkus Review - 08/15/2014, School Library Journal - September 2014, Horn Book Guide - April 2015
Full Text Reviews:

- Horn Book Guide April 2015 On crisp white pages, in a large black font, listeners and readers are clued in: "Here is how books work: Every the book has to say." Listeners will be tickled when adults say ridiculous things and then whine about it, as the text directs. Comic pacing cues keep (pictureless) pages lively.
- School Library Journal September 2014 K-Gr 2—The actor (and writer, producer, and director) has penned his first picture book, but can it have no pictures? Entering the field of unique interactive books begging to be opened, including Hervé Tullet's Press Here (Chronicle, 2011) and Open This Book! (S. & S., 2013), this title will instantly intrigue children. Upon opening the book, readers are drawn in ("Here is how books work: Every person reading the book has to say. No matter what."). What follows is an uproariously raucous time, with readers being forced to utter no phrases that will have young listeners in stitches ("And my head is made of blueberry pizza."). Admittedly, there are no illustrations, but it's the sizes of black typeface with expansive white space and color to highlight some of the text. This book is sure to be a crowd-pleaser, and it's a parent or caregiver. Expect requests for repeated readings.—Michele Shaw, Quail Run Elementary School, San Ramon, CA Copyright 2014
- Publishers Weekly June 2014 Actor Novak's expert sense of comic timing is on full display in his first picture book, which, true to its title, is a background. Different font types, sizes, and colors signal important changes in tone and voice to whomever is reading the story aloud (or listening). "It might seem like no fun to have someone read you a book with no pictures," Novak writes early in the book, his words set in a serious, James Earl Jones-style voice-over. Then the kicker: "Here is how books work. Everything the words say, the person reading the book has to say. No matter what." sound effects ("BLUURF") and nonsense statements ("I am a monkey who taught myself to read") designed to make a laughingstock of the howling, even as the reader's "voice" lodges its protests ("Wait a second—is this whole book a trick?"). A strong first showing for Novak this year. Agent: Richard Abate, 3 Arts Entertainment. (Aug.)

BOWWOW POWWOW	CHILD, BRENDA J	9781681340777	MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY PR	2018	E	3.6	PS-2	Hardcover Trade
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Tags: Indigenous Peoples, Own Voices

Annotation: Windy Girl and her dog, Itchy Boy, attend a powwow with her uncle. When Windy falls asleep as the powwow goes late into the evening, she has a dream of her own powwow. Text written in both English and Ojibwa.

Review Sources: Booklist - 06/01/2018, American Indian Youth Literature Award - 2020

Full Text Reviews:

- Booklist June 2018 Grades K-3 - Itchy Boy is Windy Girl's dog: a lively and loyal companion who barks at everything. The inseparable pair drives them in his truck, takes them ice-fishing, and, despite Itchy's incessant barking, manages to tell Windy stories of his youth. Windy's American powwow tradition has both survived and changed with the passage of time. One summer evening, a powwow continues late into the night, and Itchy's persistent presence creep into Windy Girl's dream, where dogs replace humans in the celebration. Readers observe costumed canines participating in a drum circle, and dancing in an array of styles: traditional, grass dance, and fancy. Created by a Red Lake Ojibwe author with cultural insight, and an appended note adds important details to those provided in Windy's dream and corrects misconceptions. The story is enhanced by its crisply colored digital-media illustrations add a contemporary feel.

★CHILD OF THE FLOWER- SONG PEOPLE : LUZ JIMENEZ, DAUGHTER OF T	AMESCUA, GLORIA	9781419740206	ABRAMS BOOKS FOR YOUNG READERS	2021	E	5.3	2-4	Hardcover Library
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Tags: Indigenous Peoples, Latine/Hispanic, North America, Own Voices

Annotation: Presents a lyrical, illustrated biography of an indigenous Nahua woman from Mexico called Luz Jimenez who saved her people's culture. Describes her childhood in 1900s Mexico, her family's escape from the Mexican Revolution, and her new life in Mexico City where Jimenez modeled her life after Rivera. Jimenez taught her people's culture to others, becoming a living textbook. The book includes an author's note, timeline, glossary, and bibliography.

Review Sources: Kirkus Review - 07/01/2021, Publishers Weekly Starred - 07/12/2021, Booklist Starred Reviews - 08/01/2021, Horn Book Guide - Starred - October 2021, Pura Belpre Award - 2022

Full Text Reviews:

- Horn Book Guide October 2021 Luz Jimenez was an Indigenous Nahua girl from Milpa Alta, on the outskirts of Mexico City, who grew up to become a teacher and working to preserve the Nahua language and culture. As a child, she was not allowed to go to school -- that is, until the government used her as a tool to control Indigenous people ("to turn the native children into modern ones, like the descendants of the Spanish who ruled because their ways were right and proper") at the cost of preserving their traditional ways of life. When the Mexican Revolution came in 1911, Jimenez's life was in chaos, and the family moved to Mexico City, where Luz was fortunate to find work as a model for some of the leading artists of the day, including Rivera. Instead, she returned to Milpa Alta and found her true calling as a teacher. Tonatiuh's (Soldier for Equality, rev. 1/20; Feathered Serpent and other titles) digitally collaged illustrations, with an iconographic nod to the Mixtec codices, are rich in color and texture. Indeed, it's this complicated interplay of modern influences that makes his art such a good complement to Amescua's text. Flowers, a Nahua metaphor for poetry, are incorporated throughout. A timeline, a glossary, source notes, and a bibliography are appended. Jonathan Hunt

- School Library Journal Starred October 2021 Gr 1–5—The moving story of one of the biggest cultural influences on Mexican culture. Luz Jimenez—from traditional weaving and cooking to the beautiful stories told by the fire. And even though it means wearing strange European school clothes, Jimenez is sure there's a way to combine her love of her Nahua culture and her growing passion to teach, until the Mexican revolution's aftermath of war, the subject and her family struggle to find their way in Mexico City, until she finds a solution that could save her family. A straightforward text belies a complicated story about the devastating effects of colonization on an Indigenous culture and the complex world impact on contemporary Mexican culture. Tonatiuh's beautiful pre-Columbian illustrations provide a vivid play-by-play of events and evoke a real world. An author's note gives more historical context, and a time line, glossary, and bibliography make this a valuable source for students. Some of the art Jimenez inspired, but students reading this will be impelled to find those on their own. VERDICT Essential reading about school libraries.—Savannah Kitchens, Parnell Memorial Lib., Montevallo, AL Copyright 2021 Reed Business Information.
- Booklist Starred Reviews August 2021 Grades 1-4 - "Starred Review" Amescua introduces Luz Jimenez, a young Nahua (Aztec) girl living in a village. As a child she learned the ways of her people: grinding corn, weaving yarn, making brooms, and finding medicinal herbs. She listened to stories and, once Indigenous children were allowed to attend school, learned Spanish as well. After her father was killed in the Mexican Revolution, where Luz posed for artists (Diego Rivera among them) and informed scholars about Nahua culture and language. Amescua's spare yet lyrical "child of the flower-song people, / . . . who lost their land, but who did not disappear." She also notes the harsh treatment Luz endured at the hands of the dominant Indigenous culture. Tonatiuh's signature Mixtec-inspired art is a delight. Outlined characters appear in profile, with ovoid-shaped heads and he often uses collaged textures to color in the images. The referenced flowers appear often, unifying the spreads. Additionally, Luz's traditional outlined carvings in the mountainous landscape and seem to emanate from Luz's mouth somewhat like a speech balloon. Appended with a witty and overdue look at a woman often called "the soul of Mexico."
- Publishers Weekly Starred July 2021 Luz Jimenez (1897–1965) was a "child of the flower-song people, the powerful Aztecs, who called the land their home but who did not disappear." Amescua sensitively excavates the compelling story of the woman known as "the spirit of Mexico" through her life, including Diego Rivera, Jean Charlot, and Tina Mondotti. Jimenez is portrayed as a curious, ambitious person who, from a young age, tried to preserve her threatened culture despite hardship, discrimination, and colonialism. Though her dream of teaching children is thwarted, she finds opportunities to connect with scholars: "So Luz at last became a teacher, weaving the threads of her flower-song, xochicuicatl—her language." Tonatiuh's hand-drawn, digitally collaged images mix motifs from Indigenous Mexican art with modern textures, celebrating the endurance of her culture in a changing world. Ages 6–10. (Aug.)
- Kirkus Review July 2021 Luz Jimenez lives with her family in a Mexican village. They do not speak the language of their Spanish conquerors; they, the descendants of the powerful Aztecs, speak instead. Luz learns how to weave, to make tortillas, and to find medicinal herbs, but when the Mexican government decides to "modernize" the Indigenous peoples, Native children are forced to adapt to the European style of languages. However, Luz does not forget. After her father is killed in a massacre by revolutionary soldiers, her mother flees with her and she comes to the attention of artists, photographers, and anthropologists. Finally, Luz's culture and language are being recognized and appreciated. Anthropologists learn and record them before they disappear forever, and Luz is proud to have helped save the flower-song of her people who became the embodiment of the "soul of Mexico." The author's note serves to fill in any informational gaps. Tonatiuh's signature artwork itself. Closely following the text, the illustrations bring Luz to life. (This book was reviewed digitally.) An important window into the ravaged Indigenous peoples of Mexico. (timeline, glossary, notes, bibliography) (Picture book/biography. 6-11)

★THE COMPLETE BAKING BOOK FOR YOUNG CHEFS	9781492677697	SOURCEBOOKS JABBERWOCKY	2019	641.8	4-8	Hardcover Trade
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Tags: General Diversity

Annotation: Contains more than 100 recipes from America's Test Kitchen for young chefs to bake, including breads, pies, muffins, pizzas, and cookies.

Review Sources: School Library Journal Starred - October 2019, Booklist - 12/01/2019

Full Text Reviews:

- Booklist December 2019 Grades 3-6 - Treats taste better when you make them yourself, according to this latest baking book from America's Test Kitchen. Referring to, specifically? Well, there are recipes here for everything from mini muffin tin doughnut holes and Middle Eastern za'atar bread to wedding cookies. Sound ambitious? Each recipe is clearly labeled for difficulty. Need help with the basics? Included are instructional sections on the difference between melting and softening butter, how to test baked goods for doneness, and chopping fresh herbs. For more advanced bakers, the book covers the art of quick breads. This book makes baking accessible through a three-step method: prepare ingredients, collect baking equipment, and bake. Visually, the book is equally successful, featuring graphics that draw readers in with bold colors and beautiful fonts. What's more, throughout, making for an inclusive and welcoming text for young chefs.
- School Library Journal Starred October 2019 Gr 4–8—These 100-plus kid-tested recipes feature baking standards, like corn muffins and pita bread, such as za'atar bread, buffalo chicken lavash flatbread, and Tahini-banana snack cake. Short testimonials from some of the more than 100 young chefs in the group make this book fun and interactive. Informational sections in the front matter include "Decoding Baking Speak" and "10 Essential Baking Tools That Are Used." The last section contains a chart of conversions and a table that provides the nutritional stats for each baked good. The book follows the same format of The Complete Cookbook for Young Chefs. The recipes share pages with informational asides and related tidbits. Instructions follow a well-organized, three-step process: preparing, gathering equipment, and then starting the baking process. The picture page spreads, but a full-color picture of each finished dish is included. VERDICT A must-have book to keep your young adult cookbook se current trend of creative young bakers. A contemporary and educational cookbook that's once again kid-tested and kid-approved.—Shan Chalfont, PA Copyright 2019 Reed Business Information.

★DUEL	BAGLEY, JESSICA	9781534496545	SIMON & SCHUSTER BOOKS FOR YOUNG RE	2023	741.5	5-8	Paperback	G
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Tags: African/Black/African-American, Diverse Family Structure

Annotation: The only thing sixth grader Lucy has in common with her eighth grader sister GiGi is their interest in fencing, and they haven't been : died. On the first day of school, GiGi humiliates Lucy, and Lucy challenges her to a duel. As the sisters prepare for their fencing bout, the girls mus effect it has had on their relationship.

Review Sources: Booklist Starred Reviews - 10/15/2023, Publishers Weekly Starred - 09/18/2023, Horn Book Guide Starred - November 2023, Kirk Full Text Reviews:

- Horn Book Guide Starred November 2023 Fantasy-loving Lucy and her perfectionist older sister, Gigi, have been fighting ever since their d eighth grader, trips Lucy in the lunchroom on her first day of middle school, Lucy can't take it anymore: she publicly challenges Gigi, "the "A...duel?!...Fencers don't have duels -- we have bouts.") The two are called to the principal's office for a meeting alongside their grief-stri is forbidden, the sisters plan one anyway to be held during upcoming fencing team tryouts. As the two prepare to compete, they begin to mother, and each other) some of the ways that their father's death has affected them. A satisfying, hopeful conclusion includes a heartfelt graphic novel's real-life inspirations. Aaron Bagley's coarse line and hand lettering-based font give the illustrations a natural, raw feel. Th page from a fencing guide, connecting to the well-paced plot and scaffolding readers' understanding. Color-coded inset boxes showcasin vulnerabilities add further depth to their characters; tender blue-hued flashback scenes allow the girls' father and his memory to be ever family story. Elisa Gall
- Booklist Starred Reviews October 2023 Grades 5-8 - ""Starred Review* Lucy's entering a new school for sixth grade, where her sister, GiGi, the start, the thick tension between them at home spills over at school when GiGi trips Lucy and Lucy challenges GiGi to a duel with GiGi: the principal, Lucy sticks to her plan and secretly trains with the help of her late father's fencing guidebook, hoping to take GiGi, the best Bagley's story of sister rivalry gradually builds in emotional depth, as the origin of GiGi and Lucy's conflict eventually comes to the fore: st father, a notable fencing instructor, each girl is jealous of the time he spent with the other, feelings that intensify as they practice techniq nimble cartooning makes great work of the speedy, minute moves in fencing matches, as well as the expressive faces and body language chapter opens with a page from the guidebook, which neatly echoes the story's plot. With an uncommonly keen eye for the convoluted w story of growth and a family healing from loss is a natural pick for fans of Raina Telgemeier and Shannon Hale."
- Kirkus Review October 2023 Constantly fighting sisters face off in a high-stakes duel. GiGi has worked hard to be the perfect eighth grader team. New sixth grader Lucy is nervous about starting middle school. The only thing they have in common is a love of fencing, and ever si worsened. Everything culminates in a public scene in which GiGi humiliates Lucy in the school cafeteria. Lucy pulls out her foil and challe prepare for their bout, the whole school begins picking sides. GiGi and Lucy must also choose: themselves or each other? The story is tol allowing readers to sympathize and understand each of their sides, ensuring that neither one is seen as merely cruel. Each chapter opens excerpt from an old sporting manual that explains an aspect of fencing. Those not interested in fencing may get bogged down in the tech them retroactively will notice the clever way they relate to the events of the story. The artwork is simple, with flashbacks drawn in light in contemporary events in full color with an emphasis on the characters' expressions. The sisters read biracial, with a white-presenting mot Intense and complex, exploring siblings' grief, love, and forgiveness. (author's note, photos, sketches) (Graphic fiction. 8-12)
- Publishers Weekly Starred September 2023 Brown-skinned siblings Lucy and GiGi have fought ceaselessly since their father's death. With exhausted by her job, the sisters are often left to mediate their conflicts, which escalate when, on Lucy's first day of middle school, popul cafeteria. Lucy then challenges her to a fencing duel: if GiGi wins, Lucy will stay out of her way; if Lucy wins, GiGi will stop bullying her. Th father, Lucy only knows fencing basics, while GiGi is the star of the school team. As they prepare, each ruminates on what led them to this will affect their relationship. Married collaborators the Bagleys seamlessly blend sports drama with middle school angst in this cleverly c by introducing fencing concepts that mirror the action, and past events are conveyed in sequences rendered in dreamy blue linework tha spreads. Incisive discussions about grief and the importance of support from family and friends—deepened by the contrast between Lucy best friends—deepens this already rich story of sisterly rivalry that's also an earnest love letter to fencing. Ages 8–12. (Nov.)

ELBOW GREASE VS. MOTOZILLA	ELBOW GREASE	CENA, JOHN	9781524773533	RANDOM HOUSE BOOKS FOR YOUNG READER	2019	E	3.4	PS-2	Hardcover Trade
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Tags: General Diversity, High Interest, Teamwork

Annotation: Motozilla is an unbeatable monster machine, but Elbow Grease has a plan to beat the beast and all it will take is a little teamwork fr

Review Sources: Kirkus Review - 07/15/2019

Full Text Reviews:

- Kirkus Review July 2019 Who needs sanity when you've got family? The title character of Elbow Grease (2018) and his family of Demolition competitor. Once again, 'Bo is feeling inadequate next to his fan-favorite brothers. Despite Mel the Mechanic's encouragement—he's "the noticed. But instead, he notices someone unavoidable. Motozilla, the monster machine that turns trucks "into crunch sandwiches," is cur need a truck with an array of skills to take him down. Thinking fast, 'Bo makes the wild and somewhat improbable suggestion that he anc single supertruck. Will it be enough to take down this bully? Quips, jests, and teamwork are the name of the game as pro wrestler Cena in outing, which demonstrates that individual glory falls in the face of concentrated cooperation. Rollicking, radical art portrays the battle ir metal galore. Human crowds show a diverse range of races and genders, and the trucks' keeper, Mel, has light-brown skin and wears glas: roaring their approval when this book hits storytime. (Picture book. 3-6)

FGTEEV : OUT OF TIME!	FGTEEV	RIVAS, MIGUEL DIAZ	9780063260498	HARPERALLEY	Not Yet Published (06/04/2024)	741.5	3-7	Paperback	C
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Annotation: After getting a new eWatch, Duddz's incessant gaming leads to the family accidentally getting sucked back in time where they must search for Duddz's lost watch and try to return to their own time.

THE FOREVER SKY	PEACOCK, THOMAS	9781681340982	MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY PR	2019	E	PS-2	Hardcover Trade
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Tags: Death & Grief, Indigenous Peoples, Own Voices

Annotation: Two young brothers spend nights gazing at the stars and inventing stories or reflecting on those told by Uncle that the stars contain ancestors.

Review Sources: Kirkus Reviews Starred - 04/15/2019

Full Text Reviews:

- Kirkus Reviews Starred April 2019 Two young boys observing the night sky remember their relatives who have passed away. After grandm stories to Niigaanii that help explain where she has gone in the hope that he will "feel less sad." While watching the sky one fall evening, N with his younger brother, Bineshiinh, the most important of which is that Nooko's spirit lives on in the stars. As the boys continue to gaze form shapes"—constellations significant to Ojibwe people—and they see the Milky Way, or the Path of Souls, that leads to the spirit world on a "very special night" bring an even better surprise. Peacock (Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Anishinaabe Ojibwe) spins prose that contemporary, providing a mirror for Indigenous readers raised among similar stories. Yet those unfamiliar with the Ojibwe cosmos will c style all her own, astrophysicist/artist Lee's (Lakota-Sioux) colorful, richly detailed illustrations recall the X-ray pictograph inspirations, elc popularized by other Native American/First Nations painters. Astute readers will also notice the young brothers appear to wear shorts in c day significance. A guiding star of hope to readers who have lost a loved one and a stellar map that values Indigenous knowledge. (glossa

HALAL HOT DOGS	AZIZ, SUSANNAH	9781499811575	LITTLE BEE BOOKS	2021	E	1-4	Hardcover Trade
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Tags: Islam/Muslim, Middle Eastern/North African/Middle Eastern-American

Annotation: When it's Musa's turn to choose the dinner after Friday prayer at the masjid, he chooses his favorite, halal hot dogs. Musa runs into c his perseverance pays off.

Review Sources: School Library Journal - April 2021, Kirkus Review - 04/01/2021, Publishers Weekly - 05/31/2021

Full Text Reviews:

- Publishers Weekly May 2021 Inspired by her Brooklynite son's love of halal hot dogs, Aziz's buoyant text follows light brown-skinned Mus Jummah treat" every Friday after prayer at the masjid. Since the past few treats have been "interesting"—Baba's kufte kebabs turned out Musa is determined to secure the perfect treat when it's his turn to choose: halal hot dogs from the stand near the masjid. But when long Musa must problem-solve. Employing Musa's conversational narration, Aziz weaves in details from the family's masjid experiences, from listening to the khutbah. Singh illustrates in a vibrantly colored, digital animation style, showcasing an inclusive multiethnic community. Muslim family's weekly tradition. Back matter includes an author's note, a glossary of Arabic words and terms, and an explanation of hale
- School Library Journal April 2021 Gr 2-4—It's Friday, Musa's favorite day of the week—the day his family, including his mother, father, sibl attend Jummah prayer service at a local masjid and have a special meal together afterward. After weeks of waiting and enduring some fo choose the family's post-Jummah treat. He knows exactly what he wants: halal hot dogs from a stand near the masjid, topped with Salar chronicles Musa's Friday adventure through the streets of his vibrant urban neighborhood. Bright cartoon illustrations contribute to the f identity isn't explicitly identified, references to dishes such as molokhia and kefte, and mentions of cultural traditions (debke, a folk danc communities), as well as depictions of family members wearing traditional dress, offer an unabashed representation of a loving and posit members at the masjid and in the neighborhood are depicted in various skin tones, shapes, and sizes, with names representing diverse e words and terms and an explanation of halal laws provide additional context. VERDICT An enjoyable tour of food, faith, and family.—Mah: 2021 Reed Business Information.

- Kirkus Review April 2021 Musa loves Fridays, when Jumma prayer at the masjid is followed by a family Jumma treat at home. Each me choosing the treat. Lately, though, the Jumma treat has been interesting. Like Baba's kufte kebabs that are hard as rocks collection from under her bed. Musa's turn is coming up, and he can't wait to treat the family to halal hot dogs from the best stand But first he has to walk to the masjid with his family dancing the dabke along the way get through Jumma prayer with a rumbling to leave the masjid, pass all sorts of other food stands, wait in line, and get all the way home to enjoy their treat. Musa's enthusiasm portrait of a family and community that takes joy and pride in their identity and traditions is refreshing. Singh's colorful illustrations u the humor of the scenes and accessibility of the characters. Both textual and visual details point to this family's Middle Eastern origins book defines halal food law for readers unfamiliar with it. This is a fast-paced read, with a vigorously multicultural urban setting that will others. (This book was reviewed digitally with 9.8-by-16.6-inch double-page spreads viewed at 76.2% of actual size.) A joyful celebration c culture. (author's note, glossary of Arabic terms) (Picture book. 3-9)

HAPPY NEW YEAR!	BEAR ESSENTIAL READERS	MEIER, JOANNE	9781503859319	FIRST STEPS	2022	E		PS-2	Hardcover Trade
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Annotation: Brody and his dad are staying up late to celebrate New Year's Eve. They play games, drink hot chocolate, and watch a movie. But Bro dad carries him up to bed. Includes text-related questions and a list of words to know.

I AM HUMAN : A BOOK OF EMPATHY	I AM BOOKS	VERDE, SUSAN	9781419731655	ABRAMS BOOKS FOR YOUNG READERS	2018	E	2.5	PS-3	Hardcover Trade
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Tags: General Diversity, Relationship Skills, Social Awareness

Annotation: Sparse text and illustrated children celebrate the emotions and actions that make us human, and the best versions of ourselves. Inc the book.

Review Sources: Horn Book Guide - April 2019, School Library Journal - September 2018

Full Text Reviews:

- Horn Book Guide April 2019 A boy describes his personal characteristics, such as having "a playful side" and "endless curiosity," and also being human, including making mistakes and making amends. Reynolds's recognizable expressive vignettes extend the mindfulness-the benefits of empathy, love, and compassion, and gives instructions for a loving-kindness meditation.
- School Library Journal September 2018 PreS-Gr 3—This companion book to I Am Yoga and I Am Peace explores what it means to be huma One of billions but unique!" and continues with traits that make us human—learning, having dreams, seeing possibility, curiosity, wonde not-so-great stuff: hurting others with words or actions; being fearful or sad. It also offers a way to get beyond the not-perfect bits—with t fair, listening, and apologizing. Verde brings it all together in the end with the connectedness of humans to each other. The clear and conc familiar illustrations in which viewers follow an unnamed boy of color (born on page one) on his human journey. As in the previous books white space around the main illustration, giving readers plenty of room to absorb the thoughtful text. An author's note on being human w meditation is appended. VERDICT An age-appropriate and hopeful look at what it means to be a connected human on this planet. It can b or used as a great discussion starter.—Catherine Callegari, Gay-Kimball Library, Troy, NH Copyright 2018 Reed Business Information.

★I SANG YOU DOWN FROM THE STARS		SPILLETT-SUMNER, TASHA	9780316493161	LITTLE, BROWN BOOKS FOR YOUNG READE	2021	E	3.3	PS-1	Hardcover Trade
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Tags: Indigenous Peoples, Own Voices

Annotation: An Indigenous mother speaks in loving tones to her new child, explaining how she sang the child down from the stars. The mother t a sacred medicine bundle that she explains will help connect her child to native ancestors.

Review Sources: Publishers Weekly Starred - 03/01/2021, Kirkus Reviews Starred - 03/01/2021, School Library Journal Starred - June 2021, Book Literature Award - 2022

Full Text Reviews:

- Booklist September 2021 Preschool-Grade 2 - "In lyrical text, a young mother addresses her unborn child, sharing the traditional beliefs o pregnancy progresses, she collects items for the baby's sacred medicine bundle: a white feather, cedar and sage, a handmade star blanke the child arrives, the mother explains the significance of each object, emphasizing the child's connection to her Native identity, the comr Caldecott-winner and Tlingit illustrator Goade's ethereal watercolor-and-mixed-media artwork favors deep blues and purples (suggesting rosy hues. Of particular note is the "'swoosh,'" a starry white energy-flow appearing in every spread that provides continuity and connec family, and identity. Her style mixes realism (for the contemporary locations) with muted colors that suggest the past. She also skillfully ir symbols into the northern Manitoba landscape. While this is culturally specific, motherhood is universal; this story will be appreciated w/
- School Library Journal Starred June 2021 PreS—A heart-warming story from an Indigenous perspective about a mother preparing for her Sumner is Inniniwak and shares with readers how a sacred medicine bundle is created for a child with natural elements such as sage, ced love felt through the pages of the illustrations are dreamlike and ethereal. Readers follow the mother and baby's journey through the sea bundle and traditional teachings. The emotions stirred by word choices and visual elements can be overwhelmingly tender. In a moment with the help of her family, she is then shown spending time alone to complete it. During this time, she says something that captures the whispered a prayer for you and thought about wrapping you up warm and safe, just like you are now in my belly." VERDICT Recommend baby programs and other early literacy initiatives.—Danielle Burbank, San Juan Coll., Farmington, NM Copyright 2021 Reed Business Info

- Kirkus Reviews Starred March 2021 Anticipation, pregnancy, and the birth of a baby are celebrated in this story from Spillett-Sumner (Inni (Tlingit)). When a baby chooses its mother, special gatherings of family and community are held to prepare for the child's arrival. Sacred medicine bundle to be given to the baby at birth. These items will keep the growing child's connection to their identity strong. Spillett Indigenous mother plans the journey with her unborn child. "Before I held you in my arms, I sang you down from the stars." When it becomes the first gift in a bundle that will be yours. The young mother finds more items for her child's bundle: cedar, sage, and a stone so that you always remember that you belong to this place. The baby arrives in the spring, with the waters that come again. Goade uses a white swoosh of stars throughout the illustrations to intertwine traditional origin stories with a family's upon the arrival of the new baby, in scenes that pulse with both emotions. Author and illustrator each contribute a note describing how traditions to inform their work, which will open the book up to a wide range of readers. Gorgeous, shimmering, heartfelt. (Picture book. 3
- Publishers Weekly Starred March 2021 "I loved you before I met you./ Before I held you in my arms,/ I sang you down from the stars," begins, per an author's note, "the traditional understanding of my Nation, the Inniniwak, and many other Indigenous peoples globally: the Indigenous woman sings to the sky, a shooting star leads her to a white eagle feather, beginning her journey to create a "sacred medicine with items from nature—a feather, sage and cedar, a "star blanket," and a smooth stone from the river. When the child arrives, she relays I connected to their Native identity. Caldecott Medalist Goade (who is Tlingit) contributes enchantingly expansive, star-stippled landscape: with a semi-translucent ribbon of stars tracing the connection between "all living things." A tender celebration of parenthood that will res readers alike. Back matter includes an author's and an artist's note. Ages 4–8. (Apr.)

IMANI MAKES A DIFFERENCE	HAIR MAGIC : READ WOKE CHAPTER BOOKS	LEWIS, CICELY	9781728486871	LERNER PUBLICATIONS COMPANY	2024		1-3	Hardcover Library
THE LEAF THIEF	SQUIRREL & BIRD BOOK	HEMMING, ALICE	9781728235202	SOURCEBOOKS JABBERWOCKY	2021	E	1.6 PS-2	Hardcover Trade

Annotation: Squirrel enjoys looking at the beautiful, colorful leaves, but everyday more and more disappear which makes him think someone is seasonal leaf loss in autumn.

Review Sources: Kirkus Review - 06/15/2021

Full Text Reviews:

- Kirkus Review June 2021 A confused squirrel overreacts to the falling autumn leaves. Relaxing on a tree branch, Squirrel admires the red, Squirrel screams, "One of my leaves is...MISSING!" Searching for the leaf, Squirrel tells Bird, "Someone stole my leaf!" Spying Mouse saili stole the leaf. Mouse calmly replies in the negative. Bird reminds Squirrel it's "perfectly normal to lose a leaf or two at this time of year." N shrieking, "MORE LEAVES HAVE BEEN STOLEN!" Noticing Woodpecker arranging colorful leaves, Squirrel queries, "Are those my leaves?" Bird assures Squirrel that no one's taking the leaves and that the same thing happened last year, then encourages Squirrel to relax. Too w bath, the next day Squirrel cries "DISASTER" at the sight of bare branches. Frantic now, Squirrel becomes suspicious upon discovering Bir Bird the culprit? In response, Bird shows Squirrel the real Leaf Thief: the wind. Squirrel's wildly dramatic, misguided, and hyperpossessive becomes a rib-tickling farce through clever use of varying type sizes and weights emphasizing his absurd verbal pronouncements as well and body language. Bold colors, arresting perspectives, and intense close-ups enhance Squirrel's histrionics. Endnotes explain the scienc autumnal comedy of errors. (Picture book. 4-7)

LITTLE SHAQ	LITTLE SHAQ : 1	O'NEAL, SHAQUILLE	9781619637214	BLOOMSBURY CHILDRENS	2015	FIC	Sports	3.4 1-3	Hardcover Trade
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Tags: African/Black/African-American, Early Chapter, Own Voices

Annotation: Seven-year-old Shaquille O'Neal, a talented basketball and video game player, learns to share the spotlight with his cousin Barry w to earn money by watering plants.

Review Sources: Publishers Weekly - 07/27/2015, School Library Journal - September 2015, Horn Book Guide - April 2016

Full Text Reviews:

- Horn Book Guide April 2016 Even as a seven-year-old, future NBA star Shaquille O'Neal casts a large shadow. He hogs the spotlight from h home, until they work together to raise money for their broken video game. With a can't-miss lesson on teamwork within a family and coo is enhanced with ample full-color illustrations.
- School Library Journal September 2015 Gr 1–3—This fictionalized look into the childhood of the basketball superstar features young Sha of friends and love to play video games. One day while playing their favorite game, they accidentally break the disc. Now charged with th game, Barry and Little Shaq must come up with a way to make money. Working together, they come up with the idea to water plants. By v work pays off, they eventually have enough to buy two games. Instead, Barry and Little Shaq decide to use the extra money to help out th illustrations, this is a quick and easy read. The language is simple and the story filled with a sense of community and friendship. VERDICT collections.—H. Islam, Brooklyn Public Library Copyright 2015 Reed Business Information.
- Publishers Weekly July 2015 O'Neal (Shaq and the Beanstalk) kicks off a family-centric series with a mild story that unfolds over three cha is at the forefront: Little Shaq's ball-hogging leads to a rift with his brother Barry, culminating in a broken video game. Readers may be su gardening theme is equally present, as Little Shaq and Barry begin a plant-watering business in order to purchase a replacement video ga; passable job of reflecting the ups and downs of the characters' emotions, though with the exception of a few scenes of on-the-court actio

- School Library Journal March 2010 Gr 4–7— Puzzles and basic mathematical concepts are integrated more or less seamlessly into these e Sam, and Adam, all members of Sifu Faiza's kung fu class, demonstrate honesty, intelligence, teamwork, and efficient use of resources w/ hometown. The colorful manga-style artwork is energetic and well executed. Fine additions where books such as Jimmy Gownley's "Ame Krosoczka's "Lunch Lady" (Knopf) are popular.—Paula Willey, Baltimore County Public Library, Towson, MD Copyright 2010 Reed Busines

THE MANGA

MATH MANGA
 MYSTERIES : 5 : MATH THIELBAR, 9780761381341 GRAPHIC 2011 741.5 3.6 3-5 Paperback C
 THE ANCIENT MYSTERIES : MELINDA
 FORMULA : A 5
 MYSTERY W

Annotation: Why do math when you can read manga, unless the manga can take students on a mysterious and informative math adventure. Joi clues and fractions to solve everyday and ancient problems. Trained in swordsmanship, the Kung Fu students must solve a puzzle featured in Sifu activities revolve around understanding and using fractions. The colorful, graphic-novel format will appeal to reluctant readers and will likely hol is a great read and provides the reader with mathematical instruction, practice solving problems, and entertainment all at once" (SBF).

Review Sources: Science Books and Films - December 2010, Horn Book Guide - April 2011

Full Text Reviews:

- Horn Book Guide April 2011 The adventures of the kids in Sifu Faiza's kung-fu school continue in these cartoony graphic novels. In Ancien lost formula to an ancient medicine. In Fishy, the students use multiplication and division to figure out who dumped chemicals into the s and methods are shoehorned into the stories.

THE MANGA

MATH MANGA
 MYSTERIES : 6 : MATH THIELBAR, 9780761381358 GRAPHIC 2011 741.5 3.2 3-5 Paperback C
 THE FISHY MYSTERIES : MELINDA
 FOUNTAIN : A 6
 MYSTERY WI

Annotation: After a prank is pulled putting dangerous chemicals in the fountain at Stacy's new science magnet school, four friends from Sifu Faiz and division to help figure out who did it and how.

Review Sources: Horn Book Guide - April 2011

Full Text Reviews:

- Horn Book Guide April 2011 The adventures of the kids in Sifu Faiza's kung-fu school continue in these cartoony graphic novels. In Ancien lost formula to an ancient medicine. In Fishy, the students use multiplication and division to figure out who dumped chemicals into the s and methods are shoehorned into the stories.

THE MANGA

MATH MANGA
 MYSTERIES : 7 : MATH THIELBAR, 9780761381365 GRAPHIC 2011 741.5 3.5 3-5 Paperback C
 THE BOOK MYSTERIES : MELINDA
 BANDIT : A 7
 MYSTERY WITH

Annotation: When a cardboard book monster mysteriously appears in the library holding a challenge issued by the science stars, classmates dec geometry to determine how this large monster got into the library through a very small window.

THE MANGA

MATH MANGA
 MYSTERIES : 8 : MATH BARRIMAN, 9780761381372 GRAPHIC 2011 741.5 3 3-5 Paperback C
 THE RUNAWAY MYSTERIES : LYDIA
 PUPPY : A 8
 MYSTERY WIT

Annotation: When Amy's puppy runs away, the kung fu students make a bar chart showing places the dog is most familiar with and how often sh the probability of where she might be.

★MARTI'S

SONG FOR
 FREEDOM = OTHEGUY, 9780892393756 CHILDRENS 2017 921 MAR 5.3 3-6 Hardcover S
 MARTI Y SUS EMMA BOOK PRESS
 VERSOS POR
 LA LIBERTA

Tags: Caribbean, Latine/Hispanic, Own Voices

Annotation: This bilingual picture book biography follows the life of Jose Marti. From a young age, Marti saw the slavery and injustice in Cuba. He reform needed to begin with getting out from Spain's rule and became an activist to accomplish this.

Review Sources: Booklist - 05/15/2017, Publishers Weekly - 05/08/2017, School Library Journal - June 2017, Horn Book Guide - April 2018

Full Text Reviews:

- Horn Book Guide April 2018 Josi Martm was a poet and freedom fighter born during the Spanish colonization of Cuba in the nineteenth ce abolishing slavery in Cuba and gaining Cuba's independence. Otheguy's verse is seamlessly combined with excerpts from Martm's own Vi gouache illustrations are soft yet evocative. A gorgeous bilingual tribute to the life of Cuba's hero-poet. Bib.
- School Library Journal June 2017 Gr 2–5—The life of poet, writer, and freedom fighter José Martí (1853–95) comes alive in this lyrical, bili on the people of his native Cuba. Growing up, Martí was an admirer of nature and fell in love with the beauty of the Cuban countryside. As the cruel enslavement of the Cuban people on sugar plantations during the period of Spanish rule. When he saw the injustice of slavery ir for Cuba's independence and the freedom of the island's people. Inspired by the U.S. Civil War, and President Abraham Lincoln, Martí call government for doing so. But not even imprisonment could silence him. Martí traveled extensively throughout the world, spreading his r peace. During his exile from Cuba, he found inspiration in the natural beauty of the Catskill Mountains in New York. Here he wrote Versos : came to define the struggle for Cuban independence. Otheguy pens this biography in a series of stanzas that mimic Martí's poetry, weavir Cuban people with rich illustrations that pay homage to the vivid hues of his native land. VERDICT A sensitive and poignant tribute to one historical figures that will encourage readers of all ages to fight for freedom and peace.—Natalie Braham, Denver Public Library Copyright
- Booklist May 2017 *Starred Review* Cuban poet and political activist José Martí witnessed an injustice at a young age and gave his life try slavery in Cuba and knew that the only way to end it would be to free Cuba from Spain's rule. Cuban American author Otheguy illuminate make a difference, through affecting bilingual verses that make Cuba's complicated history with slavery and colonialism accessible to you Martí's writing into the narration, Otheguy introduces a new generation of readers to an important champion of human rights. Vidal's gou the injustice of which Martí wrote, showcasing his country's vibrant colors, as in the pinks and oranges of the sunset, and illustrating the f who are shown performing backbreaking labor in sugarcane fields. Dominguez's excellent Spanish translation makes Martí's story availat offers significant additional information via an afterword on Cuba's history, a selected bibliography, and excerpts from Martí's Versos sent story that will inspire many to fight for equality and sing songs for freedom.
- Publishers Weekly May 2017 Otheguy debuts with a bilingual story, written in gentle and measured verse, about activist José Martí, detail rule—and its people from slavery—by disseminating pamphlets and writing for newspapers. After being jailed and exiled to New York, Ma the Cuban people while finding solace in the Catskills: "the grass grew wild/ and seemed to whisper/ that Cuba still needed him." Vidal (Li subtle folk art style in her detailed gouache illustrations, creating people who resemble terra-cotta figurines. Excerpts from Martí's Versos moving account of his crusade for justice. Ages 8–10. Author's agent: Adriana Domínguez, Full Circle Literary. (July)

MARVEL BLACK
PANTHER
RULES!
DISCOVER
WHAT IT TAKES
TO BE A

WRECKS,
BILLY 9781465489999 DK PUBLISHING 2020 E 2-4 Hardcover
Trade

Tags: African/Black/African-American, High Interest

Annotation: Provides a guide to the superhero Black Panther, and highlights his history, family, home, enemies, and allies. Includes illustrations

★MAYA'S
BLANKET = LA
MANTA DE
MAYA

BROWN,
MONICA 9780892392926 CHILDRENS
BOOK PRESS 2015 E 4.7 K-3 Hardcover
Library S

Tags: Judaism/Jewish, Latine/Hispanic, Own Voices

Annotation: When Maya's beautiful butterfly blanket becomes frayed around the edges, Maya and her grandmother work together to create new

Review Sources: Publishers Weekly - 06/15/2015, School Library Journal Starred - October 2015, Horn Book Guide - April 2016, School Library Cc

Full Text Reviews:

- School Library Connection April 2016 A spin on the traditional Yiddish song, this version sweetly and quietly imparts messages to young l family and the practice of upcycling. While her blanket diminishes in dimension, worn over time by lots of love, Maya and her grandmoth cherished treasures. These accessories spread across the pages in purples, blues, and greens courtesy of the rich mixed media illustrator English text, little ones just stepping into both languages will glean a few basics from this tale. The story is song-like, using repetition, ent familiarity and comfort to readers. Aimee Haslam RECOMMENDED
- Horn Book Guide April 2016 When Maya Morales is little, her grandmother makes her a blanket, a "special [cf2]manta[cf1]" that morphs ir things as Maya grows up. Based on the Yiddish folk song "I Had a Little Coat" (and inspired by her Jewish and Latina heritage), Brown crei and Spanish, with a timeless-folktale feel. Diaz's mixed-media illustrations are warm and joyful. Glos.
- School Library Journal Starred October 2015 Gr 1–3—Following the narrative styles of a traditional Yiddish folk song, Maya's Blanket/La n most beloved possession: her blue and green handmade blanket with purple butterfly stitches. Maya's grandmother made it to protect h and the blanket becomes worn and frayed, it is remade into a dress, a skirt, a shawl, and more. Similar to Nancy Andrews-Goebel's The P story repeatedly reminds readers of the creative transformations that Maya and her grandmother employ to turn the beloved blanket into

great storytime addition for school-aged children due to its sincere and simple writing that translates well in both Spanish and English, the characters, and the underlying message of resourcefulness, imagination, and appreciation for family traditions. Readers will also be entranced by Maya's ordinary-to-extraordinary life. Created with mixed media, the graphics are illuminating with rich color and texture. Thanks to the context, readers will thoroughly enjoy wondering what Maya's blanket will be next. VERDICT A Latino-influenced and Yiddish-inspired tale that will appeal to parents and librarians in diverse communities.—Jessica Espejel, Brooklyn Public Library Copyright 2015 Reed Business Information.

- Publishers Weekly June 2015 In a tender bilingual story inspired by a Yiddish folksong, Maya's beloved butterfly-laden blanket, made by her grandmother, has many incarnations. When the blanket frays, Maya and her grandmother fashion it into a dress and, later, a skirt. From there, it becomes a shawl, a poncho, and finally, a dress. In English and Spanish, Brown describes these transitions using a "House That Jack Built" structure: "So with her own two hands she turned a vestido that was her manta into a falda that she loved very much." The angular poses and vivid colors of Diaz's illustrations evoke the feel of a traditional folk tale. This is an uplifting story of passing time, enduring love, and creative reuse. Ages 5–9. Author's agent: Stefanie von Borstel, Full Circle Literary. Illustrations by Juan Díaz. Content. (Sept.)

★MAYBE

SOMETHING

BEAUTIFUL :

HOW ART

TRANSFORMED

A

NEIGHBORHO

CAMPOY, F			HMH BOOKS					
ISABEL	9780544357693		FOR YOUNG	2016	E	2.8	K-2	Hardcover
			READERS					Trade

Tags: Latine/Hispanic, Own Voices, Social Awareness

Annotation: Inspired by illustrator Rafael Lopez's muralist work and the true story of the Urban Art Trail in San Diego, California, author Campoy takes one city from drab gray to dazzling. When a young girl named Mira and a mysterious artist brighten their surroundings through art, the city comes to life as neighbors take notice and join in the fun. "An inspiring and wistful message wrapped up in a subtle, thoughtful narrative and lively, beautiful illustrations, this is a story that will invite readers to explore Mira's multicultural community and discover the transformative nature of art. Pair this with Patricia Markun's *Color* by George Ancona's *Murals: Walls That Sing*, and Peter Reynolds' *Sky Color* for further explorations into creative Latino muralism." —Campbell Naidoo HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

Review Sources: Publishers Weekly - 01/25/2016, Kirkus Review - 02/01/2016, School Library Journal - April 2016, School Library Connection Star May 2016, School Library Journal - February 2017

Full Text Reviews:

- Horn Book Guide October 2016 Hoping to brighten her "gray city," Mira gifts her art to the diverse people around her. Her quest expands to involve the whole neighborhood in filling every surface with art and poetry. The mixed-media illustrations—created by one of the founders of the Urban Art Trail, which this story is based on—joyfully celebrate creation and community.
- School Library Connection Star May 2016 Looking around her neighborhood, young Mira sees a dull urban setting devoid of color. Begging for a change, she attempts to brighten the gloomy landscape with little success. A chance encounter with a muralist and his magical paintbrush empowers her to create beautiful community pulsating with colorful murals, rhythmic poems, and vibrant songs. Inspired by the work of Rafael and Candice López in San Diego, California, this joyful ode to the power of community engagement encourages budding artists to use their talent to make a difference in their neighborhoods. This book invites readers to explore Mira's multicultural community and discover the transformative nature of art. Pair this with Patricia Markun's *Color* by George Ancona's *Murals: Walls That Sing*, and Peter Reynolds' *Sky Color* for further explorations into creative Latino muralism. —Campbell Naidoo HIGHLY RECOMMENDED
- School Library Journal April 2016 PreS-Gr 2—In a town that is dismal and austere, Mira offers her neighbor her joy—art. After Mira hands her art to her neighbor, she takes notice of her work. Eventually Mira, the muralist, and the diverse community come together to make their town a beautiful work of art. The illustrations of the landscape of the book and depict the characters' movements in a painterly style. Warm colors portray the community's efforts to brighten the more muted tones used to depict the desolate cityscape. The illustrations are rendered with acrylic paints on wood, along with digital art to create Mira's neighborhood. The prose feels somewhat distant from the charming artwork and themes. The narrative was inspired by a true story, but the text does not fully transmit the heartwarming story of the powerful influence of art. VERDICT An additional purchase, especially for those who love art. —Briana Moore, School Library Journal Copyright 2016 Reed Business Information.
- Publishers Weekly January 2016 Inspired by how illustrator López and his wife, Candice, helped enliven their San Diego neighborhood through art, Campoy tells the story of Mira, a young artist who sees possibilities in blank paper and loves to give away her pictures ("She gave a songbird to Mr. Sax and a red hat to the boy and down the streets"). Mira finds a kindred spirit in a joyful muralist: "Maybe... something beautiful," he thinks as he looks at a painting. Mira begins contributing her own murals, others join in. Somber gray buildings are soon replaced by electric shades of pink, blue, and orange. Flattened tableaus of López's mixed-media artwork bring a mural-like atmosphere to every page as Campoy and Howell deliver a clear, up-to-date story to revitalize people and their surroundings. Ages 4–7. Agency: Full Circle Literary. (Apr.)

★MILO

IMAGINES THE

WORLD

DE LA PENNA, MATT			PUTNAM PUBLISHING (JUVENILE)	2021	E	4.6	K-3	Hardcover
	9780399549083							Trade

Tags: African/Black/African-American, Social Awareness

Annotation: On a long subway ride with his sister, a boy named Milo studies the people around them and imagines where they live and what they do. He sees many pets in a cluttered apartment. A woman in a fancy dress with a small dog is on her way to a wedding. A boy in a suit lives in a castle—until they get to the same stop as Milo, teaching him that you can't judge another person by the way they dress.

Review Sources: Kirkus Reviews Starred - 12/15/2020, School Library Journal - January 2021, Publishers Weekly Starred - 01/04/2021, Booklist Starred - April 2021

Full Text Reviews:

- Horn Book Guide Starred April 2021 Harold and the Purple Crayon meets twenty-first-century urban realism in this picture book by the La author-illustrator team (simultaneously published in Spanish as *Milo imagina el mundo*). Milo, a diminutive brown-skinned boy with rour subway train with his big sister. While she plays games on her phone, Milo studies people and imagines lives for them through his notebo alternates between color-saturated, double-page-spread scenes of train activity and Milo's sketches. Milo sees a boy wearing a suit and di castle; for a wedding-gown-clad passenger, Milo draws her imagined ceremony. He then reimagines and re-illustrates many of his scenes, different way. Milo and his sister finally reach their destination: a detention center, where they visit their incarcerated mother (the boy on visiting someone, too). As in Jacqueline Woodson's picture book *Visiting Day* (rev. 11/02), the joy and parent-child love shine through, an a special drawing he has created for his mother. This poignant, thought-provoking story speaks volumes for how art can shift one's persp alternative to what is...or seems to be.
- Booklist Starred Reviews February 2021 Grades K-3 - *Starred Review* It's not uncommon for picture books to spotlight a curious kid who on behind closed doors, but de la Peña and Robinson's *Milo* spends a subway ride imagining and drawing the lives of the people he sees i bespectacled Black boy with a yellow knit cap, immediately wins readers' hearts as he fills his sketchbook with imagined scenarios that h Robinson intersperses scenes of his signature cut-paper collage artwork, bustling with vibrant activity and a wide array of people (a blue-crossword puzzle, a trio of break-dancers) with images of Milo's sketchbook, and the child-like drawings in thick crayon lines not only give heart. One scene, in which the break-dancing boys are scowled at by a doorman, ends with a frustrated scribble: "Milo doesn't really like t however, after a white boy in a suit and brand-new sneakers—clearly a prince—surprises Milo by having the same destination as he does: This reveal is likely to catch many readers in their own assumptions about Milo, reinforcing—without critique—the notion that you can't k them. An excellent conversation-starter for modern times.
- Publishers Weekly Starred January 2021 On a long subway ride through New York City, a Black boy named Milo looks around at the other oversize hat, and carries a sketch pad. His older sister sits next to him, busy with her phone, but they feel the same mixture of emotions: " top of confusion/ on top of love." Where are they going? Readers know only that the siblings take this journey once a month, on a Sunday bright colors, Robinson creates a subway car full of distinct personalities as a tapestry of city life unspools in front of Milo. A Black womar dancing girls with various skin tones, a jacketed white boy with neatly combed hair and spotless white Nikes—Milo imagines existences fc readers look over his shoulder. For the boy in white shoes, Milo invents a princely existence, with a castle and servants to bring him food. Milo and waits in line at the same place, a moment that transforms Milo's view of the people whose lives he's imagined: "Maybe you can't their face." In this rich, multilayered journey, the award-winning creators of *Last Stop on Market Street* celebrate a city's kaleidoscope of s experience with parental incarceration, and convey that child's keen observations about his circumstances and surroundings. Ages 4–8. A Steven Malk, Writers House. (Feb.)
- School Library Journal January 2021 K-Gr 3—The creators of the Newbery Award-winning *Last Stop on Market Street* team up for another level. This time, Milo and his teen sister, who are both Black, take a long subway ride together. Big sister is glued to her cell phone and be; imagines for other passengers on the train. Maybe the whiskered man doing crosswords lives all alone with parakeets and a cat. Maybe th castle. Maybe the wedding dress lady and her groom will take flight in a hot air balloon after the ir nuptials. Initially, this appears to be a s the creative process, but when Milo and his sister arrive at the prison where their mother is incarcerated, the white boy from the train is a you can't really know anyone just by looking at their face," thinks Milo. Robinson captures the vivacity of the New York City subway with h naive style, while other spreads show Milo's childlike crayon drawings. The text is rich with words like tepid, mewling, and infinite, and vi "shook-up soda," while the happy bride has "a face made out of light." VERDICT Pictures brimming with activity, an endearing main chara families, and what we see in others make this a book that will hold up to many readings.—Jan Aldrich Solow, formerly Fairfax County Pub Business Information.
- Kirkus Reviews Starred December 2020 A subway ride marked by anxious people-watching builds up to Milo's most important moment of away from the station, Milo, holding his drawing pad and pencil, sits beside his big sister, who holds her cellphone. Both kids present Blac excitement, confusion, and worry. "To keep himself from bursting," Milo observes the people around him on the train and imagines the li their lives in his notebook. He imagines one pale-skinned man with a five o'clock shadow going home to a rat-infested apartment buildin; White boy in a suit going home to a castle in a horse-drawn carriage. But when Milo gets off the train, he is surprised to find that White bo; him. His surprise leads him to rethink his assessment of the people on the train, expanding his ideas of who people might be. With the sai observation and suspenseful buildup to a socially conscious revelation that readers cherished in this duo's award-winning *Last Stop on M* offers a child's view of the impacts of incarceration on families. De la Peña's descriptive language and Robinson's innocent, endearing art (This book was reviewed digitally with 8-by-21-inch double-page spreads viewed at 56.1% of actual size.) A memorable, thought-provoki many. (Picture book. 4-10)

★MOMMY'S THOMPSON-
KHIMAR BIGELOW, 9781534400597 SALAAM READS 2018 E 3.5 PS-2 Hardcover Trade

Tags: African/Black/African-American, Islam/Muslim, Own Voices

Annotation: Colorful illustrations show a young African American Muslim girl trying on her mother's headscarf, called a khimar or hijab. The yellk wears it throughout the day, feeling the love of her family both Muslim and non-Muslim.

Review Sources: Publishers Weekly Starred - 01/29/2018, Booklist - 02/01/2018, Kirkus Review - 02/15/2018, School Library Journal - May 2018, t
Full Text Reviews:

- Horn Book Guide April 2019 A young girl admires her mother and the bright khimars she uses to cover her head in observance of her Musl mother's yellow khimar, cheerful illustrations show the girl's imaginative play ("I am a superhero in a cape") and love for her family. A swa depiction of a black Muslim family in a supportive multicultural community.
- School Library Journal May 2018 PreS-K—A young child is enchanted by her mother's many colorful khimars. She uses them to play dress mama bird covering her baby brother in his nest, or a superhero in a cape. The girl can inhale her mother's scent and comfort herself ever

allowed to wear one of the khimars to the mosque where she is lovingly admired by a crowd of older women ("Assalamu alaikum, Little Sis" makes an appearance and readers are told, "She doesn't go to the mosque like Mommy and Daddy do. We are a family and we love each other." Glenn speaks in simple, clear sentences describing a supportive and loving family and community. However, Glenn's soft-colored, flat illustrations lack depth and texture to the book. They serve their purpose, but don't enrich it. VERDICT A sweet addition to picture book collections.—Miriam Copyright 2018 Reed Business Information.

- Booklist February 2018 Grades K-3 - In this ebullient picture book, readers come to share in the delight a little girl takes in wearing her mother's favorite khimar. For the girl, her mother's rainbow collection of beautiful khimars is a source of wonder, power, and intimacy, much like any mother's closet. Her favorite one is yellow, and she wears it like a superhero wears her cape, imagining herself shining like the sun and shooting through her mother's fragrances—coconut oil and cocoa butter—which ensure the security of her mother's presence even in her absence. This affirms Muslim and interfaith families, and a necessary counter to Islamophobic discourse. The illustrations are as lively and brightly colored as the faces of friends and family members echo the warm message of the text.
- Publishers Weekly Starred January 2018 Mommy, an African-American Muslim woman, has a closet full of the beautiful flowing headscarves she refers to them as hijabs later in the story). Her imaginative daughter's favorite khimar is bright yellow, and readers follow along as she plays. Enveloped in the scents of coconut oil, cocoa butter, and cinnamon that linger in the khimar, the girl feels protected, loved, and warmly welcomed into the world of pious women, as her mother's friends greet her with, "Assalamu alaikum, Little Sis!" The yellow khimar is also within the girl's extended family: when her grandmother stops by after church ("She doesn't go to the mosque like Mommy and Daddy do" and open arms, calling her "Sunshine." Debut author Thompkins-Bigelow's lyrical text and Glenn's lighthearted Disney-style pictures are an exegesis of the khimar or a plea for acceptance and understanding, they allow their heroine's carefree confidence to speak for itself. Ages 4-7 (Apr.)

MY CITY SPEAKS	LEBEUF, DARREN	9781525304149	KIDS CAN PRESS	2021	E	1.8 PS-2	Hardcover Trade
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Tags: General Diversity, People with Disabilities

Annotation: Simple text and colorful illustrations follow a young girl out into the city with her father, who is taking her to a violin recital. The girl describes the sights, sounds, smells, tastes, and shapes she loves.

Review Sources: Kirkus Review - 08/15/2021, Booklist - 09/01/2021, Schneider Family Award - 2022

Full Text Reviews:

- Booklist September 2021 Preschool-Grade 2 - "Don't flip to the end and spoil the surprise (revealed in the blue bag Dad carries) as a blind girl follows her dad in her busy city. Engaging all her senses, she must hear the city "speak" to "see" it in her mind. Using her cane, she navigates streets, and the city "rushes and stops . . . waits and goes . . . opens and shuts." On their trip, they feed the pigeons, play with dogs and kids at the playground, and take the subway. Hasty honks, distant chimes, reliable rumbles, speedy sirens, and urgent clangs provide background noises as the pair make the concert performance. As for that surprise? Our talented girl is the solo violinist! The joyful artwork in cut-paper collage, watercolor, and ink captures the hustle and bustle of a child's day. A positive book featuring a blind character embracing her full life."
- Kirkus Review August 2021 A blind child introduces readers to their city en route to a violin recital. Accompanied by their dad, they step on sidewalks and declarative sentences dotted with vivid adjectives and verbs, they narrate the many ways their city "speaks." "It rushes and stops / and waits / and pedestrian crossing. It "grows" as they stroke a sunflower and construction workers build nearby. It's "busy" as they feed a flock of pigeons on their dad on a park bench. "Sometimes it's smelly," they note as they pass a dumpster, and "sometimes it's sweet" as they sample ice cream. "My city giggles and sometimes meows" as they ride a subway crowded with racially and ethnically diverse passengers. As they cross one more bridge, honks, impatient beeps, distant chimes, reliable rumbles, speedy sirens and urgent clangs." "My city speaks," they repeat, joining fellow readers. "Sometimes it just listens" as they serenade an appreciative crowd. In a warm finale, the narrator and their dad embrace, beaming. With clear, bright illustrations highlight the quiet tenderness between father and child—a rarely represented duo in books featuring disabled characters with brown skin. (This book was reviewed digitally.) A celebration of city life's sounds, sensations, and faces. (Picture book. 4-7)

NEVER FORGET ELEANOR	JUNE, JASON	9780063039629	HARPERCOLLINS PUBLISHERS	2023	E	K-2	Hardcover Trade
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Tags: Death & Grief

Annotation: A young elephant named Elijah loves spending time with Grandma Eleanor. They do crossword puzzles together and she hosts a neighborhood home. Grandma Eleanor is loved in her community and is known for her sharp memory and wit. However, when Grandma Eleanor's memory begins to fade, she uses stories and favorite words to help her when she gets confused and later, finds a way to keep her memory alive.

Review Sources: Kirkus Review - 12/01/2022, School Library Journal - January 2023, Booklist - 02/01/2023, Booklist - 02/15/2023, Publishers Weekly

Full Text Reviews:

- Booklist February 2023 Grades K-3 - Grades K-3 - "Elijah the elephant loves being with his Grandma Eleanor. She is wonderful at puzzles and knows almost everyone in town and enjoys introducing her friends to Elijah. The whole community gathers each week to hear her stories. One day, Eleanor is becoming more absentminded. She may have trouble solving a crossword or forget when it is storytime. One day, Eleanor goes home. The author notes that memory loss can affect people in different ways but that reminders such as these are helpful to some. The reminders are gently serious, not too lighthearted but appropriate to the audience by not being too sad or scary, either. Eventually Grandma Eleanor restores her tradition by telling her special stories himself."
- Booklist February 2023 Grades K-3 - "Elijah the elephant loves being with his Grandma Eleanor. She is wonderful at puzzles and teaches her friends how to solve them. She knows almost everyone in town and enjoys introducing her friends to Elijah. The whole community gathers each week to hear her stories. One day, Eleanor is becoming more absentminded. She may have trouble solving a crossword or forget when it is storytime. One day, Eleanor goes home. The author notes that memory loss can affect people in different ways but that reminders such as these are helpful to some. The reminders are gently serious, not too lighthearted but appropriate to the audience by not being too sad or scary, either. Eventually Grandma Eleanor restores her tradition by telling her special stories himself."

to get home. Elijah devises an effective plan, painting signs and taking them to his and Eleanor's favorite places. Each sign reminds her of author notes that memory loss can affect people in different ways but that reminders such as these are helpful to some. The gouache-and-serious, not too lighthearted but appropriate to the audience by not being too sad or scary, either. Eventually Grandma Eleanor passes away as tradition by telling her special stories himself."

- School Library Journal January 2023 K-Gr 2—Young elephant Elijah loves to spend time with Grandma Eleanor, especially when the two always seems to know all the answers, and she patiently teaches him the pronunciations and meanings of unfamiliar words. She also ser and neighbors on Saturdays in her yard. The entire community is deeply saddened when Grandma Eleanor's famed memory begins to fail (contains a subtle reference to Alzheimer's disease). At first she has difficulty recalling a word here and there, but then she begins forgetting. One day, she leaves her house and cannot find her way back. Fortunately, Elijah devises a clever system of signs painted with familiar words to guide her home. From then on, these signs remain in place as a helpful reminder on her walks through the town. When Grandma Eleanor is alive by telling the stories and sharing her treasured words with all who will listen. The author's empathetic writing style is well-suited to eschews backgrounds, opting instead for vignettes on expanses of white, which gives the art a curiously unfinished feel. However, the characters textured gouache and colored pencil, display a touching emotional depth. VERDICT This sweet and sensitive story will hold particular resonance for elderly relatives in their lives.—Jonah Dragan Copyright 2023 Reed Business Information.
- Kirkus Review December 2022 An elephant never forgets—until she does. Elijah, a young elephant, loves his grandma Eleanor. She makes puzzles and stories. Grandma remembers everything—faces, fancy words, and more. Elijah enjoys being introduced to everyone as he and she is always making new friends because of her wonderful memory. Then that all begins to change. For the first time, Eleanor starts to lose as she becomes lost one day. Elijah is worried until he comes up with an idea to keep his grandma from wandering. He posts memory pictures. Grandma can always find her way. June's portrayal of Eleanor and Elijah gently and fondly reveals the passage of time until Eleanor's death. The sadness of Eleanor's Alzheimer's is secondary to the thoughtful interactions that sustain a grieving community. This day-to-day celebratory characters vividly to life. Long's tender gouache-and-colored pencil illustrations carry the story without ever becoming overly sentimental. From Elijah shyly peeking out from behind a newspaper to Grandma's heart-rending puzzled reactions, the images evoke honest emotion. Alzheimer's and its effects on families and friends. (This book was reviewed digitally.) A tender tribute to the heart. (artist's note) (Picture)
- Publishers Weekly November 2022 Elijah, a young anthropomorphized elephant, adores his Grandma Eleanor. She's a crossword whiz and circles around Elijah "in a warm hug" as he listens raptly. And her memory is prodigious: "Everyone in town called her 'Never Forget Eleanor' friend she couldn't remember." But Grandma Eleanor begins losing her beloved words and her memory, and then one day goes missing. I realizes she's taught him how to help her: he creates and installs a story walk with words and images from her favorite tale, and Grandma text from June (the Mermicorn Island series) offers compassion and holds space for the protagonist's grief, while velvety textured gouache (Someone Builds the Dream) depict a small, animal-populated town where doe-eyed Eleanor is valued and supported by everyone from a tiger barber. There's a quiet sincerity at work throughout, and readers should find that it encircles them as well. Creators' notes discuss A Brent Taylor, Triada US. Illustrator's agent: Steven Malk, Writers House. (Feb.)

OFFICIAL
KINGDOM
HEARTS
CHARACTER
HANDBOOK

KINGDOM HEARTS	LLOYD, CONOR	9781338596182	SCHOLASTIC	2020	794.8	4-6	Paperback
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Annotation: Provides an overview of characters from the video game "Kingdom Hearts." Includes color photographs and a glossary.

★ON THE TIP
OF A WAVE :
HOW AI
WEIWEI'S ART
IS CHANGING
THE TIDE

HO, JOANNA	9781338715941	ORCHARD BOOKS (SCHOLASTIC)	2023	701	2-5	Hardcover Trade
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Tags: Asia, Asian/Pacific Islander/Asian-American

Annotation: Profiles the life of Chinese artist Ai Weiwei, whose profound installations using little-noticed and discarded items have helped draw displaced peoples.

Review Sources: Kirkus Reviews Starred - 07/01/2023, Publishers Weekly Starred - 09/04/2023, Booklist Starred Reviews - 10/15/2023, School Lib Horn Book Guide - November 2023

Full Text Reviews:

- Horn Book Guide November 2023 In this powerful picture book, readers learn about artist/activist/filmmaker Ai Weiwei, the worldwide re in shining a light on humanitarian issues. Readers meet Ai Weiwei in contemporary times as he helps a large group of newly arrived refugees. Flashing back, the text relates that his own tumultuous childhood in a 1960s Chinese labor camp was when he started making art using oil on his notable protest artwork, visually referenced on the pages; the story concludes by returning to the plight of current-day "wave rider" Chien's bright orange and blue impressionistic pencil and pastel drawings -- incorporating waves, life jackets, and documentary photographs many of whom are young children or families. More straightforward biographical details appear in the back matter; and Ho writes that Ai citizens of the world, to lift each other up." This book is a good companion read for Ho's *Playing at the Border* (rev. 9/21) and Gravel's *Wha*
- Booklist Starred Reviews October 2023 Grades 2-5 - "Starred Review" In the opening scene of this picture-book biography that is full of s: dominate the mixture of fear and hope as refugees from Turkey float unsteadily to Greece. Ho (*Say My Name*, 2023) describes their plight the spread's center on the same waves as the refugees. One man, Ai Weiwei, a Chinese contemporary artist, notices the neon mountain o refugees land. Throughout the pencil-and-pastel illustrations, this orange contrasts prominently against the blue. From here, the text and

childhood spent in a labor camp after his father was exiled by the Chinese government. These harsh conditions and his own displacement from such common objects as a coat hanger, shoe, violin, or LEGOs, challenging viewers to see the world differently and recognize human justice displays lead to one of his most provocative art installations, *Safe Passages*, in which he wrapped the pillars of a German concert hall with Turkish refugees to draw attention to their struggles. Back matter with photographs of Ai and more of his art fill in details about his background and thought provoking."

- **School Library Journal** Starred October 2023 PreS-Gr 3—Ai Weiwei is an artist born in China during the late 1950s, when government officials and academic individuals who didn't approve of the way they ran the country. Left with his family to live in a labor camp, Weiwei learned to scrawl on the dirt walls of the hole his family inhabited in the desert. In his 20s, Weiwei was able to move to the United States to study art, only returning in 1982. Noticing a stark difference between China and the U.S. surprised Weiwei. He began creating art that spoke about humanity, namely refugee camps. Use of digital, this book boasts the orange, blue, and white of the life vests worn by the refugees as they traveled by sea to seek solace in a new land. Back matter explains in detail about Weiwei's life and work. Inspiration is sprinkled throughout as the illustrator weaves examples of his work. "Establishing the understanding that we all belong to one humanity is the most essential step for how we might continue to coexist on this planet." An outstanding biography of an important artist whose work challenges us to change the way we look at other human beings. This will guide the reader through the plight of so many people around the world.—Tracy Crouce Copyright 2023 Reed Business Information.
- **Publishers Weekly** Starred September 2023 Lyrical free verse from Ho (Eyes That Kiss in the Corners) tells the story of Chinese artist Ai Weiwei. He lives "on the tip of a wave, / far from home / and always in danger" following a young life in a Chinese labor camp where "childhood / blew / and is the artist's 2016 public installation, *Safe Passage*, which over one night draped the pillars of Berlin's Konzerthaus with thousands of orange life jackets / on a mountain / on an island / in the Aegean Sea." The next day, at a star-studded film event, "on-lookers and / gala-goers gawked" while the jacket world seemed to forget." In digitally finished pencil and pastel spreads, Chien (*All the Beating Hearts*) picks out in Day-Glo orange key elements of the installations—"Nine thousand backpacks... Too many toy bricks to count"—placing them against sweeping blue backgrounds that frequent currents / they could not control." The creators treat with sophistication themes of political marginalization, creative risk-taking, and the human condition. Concluding biography and photographs offer context. Ages 4–8. (Oct.)
- **Kirkus Reviews** Starred July 2023 An eloquent tribute to the ways this renowned Chinese artist has worked to shed light on the international refugee crisis. His youth as a forcibly relocated person in China and so knowing what it's like to live (as Ho puts it in a paraphrased comment from the artist) "on the tip of a wave, / far from home, / and always in danger," Ai Weiwei has not only personally helped crowds of refugees coming ashore on an Aegean island, but also helped them through their plight—notably *Safe Passage*, an installation made up of hundreds of their discarded life jackets. Chien's sensitive, impressionistic spreads show those jackets and also the deep blue in flowing brushed lines both of water and of hazy adults and children fleeing wars and natural disasters. "In the simply phrased main narrative and a substantial afterword, author and illustrator also follow Ai's career as he has created striking, memorable art made from simple items, from one coat hanger to thousands of backpacks and millions of hand-painted sunflowers." Recent video documentaries likewise commemorate how he has "invited the world to take action" and "helped the world remember human suffering." Inspiring insights into how art can reify vital current issues. (Picture-book biography. 7-9)

PENNY DRAWS A SCHOOL PLAY	PENNY DRAWS : 2	SHEPARD, SARA	9780593616802	GP PUTNAM'S SONS BOOKS FOR YOUNG RE	2023	FIC	Realistic	3-6	Hardcover Trade
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Tags: Mental Health/Illness

Annotation: When Penny's parents decide to move to a new home, her anxieties hit a new high, especially when she must take a new route to school. However, with her trusty confidante Cosmo by her side, Penny learns to befriend a new neighbor and take part in the school play.

Review Sources: Kirkus Review - 08/01/2023

Full Text Reviews:

- **Kirkus Review** August 2023 Journal entries addressed to her dog, Cosmo, continue to help Penny navigate life's more difficult situations. While Penny knows she needs to start writing letters to her dog again when her classmate Luke's folded-paper fortuneteller predicts "uncertainty." The first surprise turns out to be that everyone will be required to participate in the fifth grade class play. As if that isn't enough, next her family is moving to a new house. This second series entry further explores Penny's changing friendship with ex-bestie Violet. She also attempts to befriend a boy she likes very much who unfortunately dislikes each other. Navigating these uncomfortable changes and social situations requires Penny to lean on her coping mechanisms to deal with her anxiety. Discussions with her Feelings Teacher offer more useful strategies for young people. Her friend group is supportive, readers will squirm with vicarious embarrassment from some of the situations she finds herself in. Parts of the tightening, but many readers will feel seen and validated. The interspersed comics are a highlight, carrying surprising emotional weight and her family read white. A helpful story about a young anxiety sufferer navigating the unexpected. (Fiction. 8-12)

★A PIECE OF HOME		WATTS, JERI	9780763669713	CANDLEWICK PRESS	2016	E		3.6 K-3	Hardcover Trade
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Tags: Asia, Asian/Pacific Islander/Asian-American, Immigration/Emigration, North America

Annotation: A young boy named Hee Jun struggles to feel comfortable in his new home when his family moves from Korea to America. Everything doesn't have big, round eyes like his American classmates, and his teacher seems to think speaking loudly at him will help him understand words. Jun and his family adjust and find familiarity in their new home. "This gentle, compassionate immigration narrative shows the difficulties of adapting to a new culture. A picture book on the subject, its setting is contemporary and its intergenerational story reflects the struggles of several family members ... A perfect American experience" (BL).

Review Sources: Publishers Weekly Starred - 03/28/2016, Booklist Starred Reviews - 04/01/2016, School Library Journal - May 2016, School Library Journal - October 2016

Full Text Reviews:

Full Text Reviews:

- Horn Book Guide November 2021 Tate's latest picture-book biography (Swish!, rev. 11/20; William Still and His Freedom Stories, rev. 1/21 football player Ernie Barnes (1938-2009). The opening pages describe Barnes's childhood struggle to find his place in "the Bottoms, a nei African Americans" in Durham, North Carolina. A quiet, unathletic child, Ernie enjoys drawing and paging through art books at the house cleaner. In an attempt to find social acceptance, he joins his school's football team; after a coach introduces him to bodybuilding, he begi there, the two parallel tracks of his life -- visual art and football -- continue until his late twenties, when he quits football for good and poi international renown. Tate incorporates words from Barnes's memoir, From Pads to Palettes, into the story, grounding it in the artist's ow he makes the deliberate choice not to mimic Barnes's artistic style in the illustrations. (An afterword directs readers to Barnes's website a true artwork of Ernie Barnes in its full glory.") It is impossible to tell the story of a Black American artist born in the 1930s without discussi weaves those threads seamlessly into his narrative, drawing particular attention to the moment when Barnes exhibits his work at the Nor where he had once been told by a docent that "your people don't express themselves this way." A comprehensive bibliography is append
- Kirkus Review August 2021 Ernest "Ernie" Barnes was teased for his love for art and indifference to sports; despite this, Ernie found a way teasing. This biography begins with Barnes' early life in segregated Durham, North Carolina, where he was singled out by classmates for t Barnes joined his school's football team but later quit. In high school, coaches recruited Barnes due to his size, and after taking up weight player. His incredible talent on the field led to college scholarships and, eventually, spots on several pro teams. At the end of his athletic c full time and held his first art show while employed as an artist for the New York Jets. Barnes' paintings were featured in art shows across show Good Times, a show Barnes also appeared on and that young Tate watched regularly. Via quotations, Tate weaves Barnes' own voic great effect. Tate's illustrations are a bit of a departure from his characteristic style, using matte surfaces and collage to evoke Barnes' tim sketching on the sidelines, says it all. A conversational afterword and author's note flesh out Barnes' life and describe Tate's process. (Thi inspire young readers to stay true to themselves. (source notes, bibliography) (Picture book/biography. 5-8)
- Publishers Weekly July 2021 Ernie Barnes (1938–2009) is different from the kids in his community: "A boy who didn't play sports? Who lov enjoyed reading poetry?" In the Bottom, the African American neighborhood where Barnes lived in segregated Durham, N.C., expectation what real boys do." Barnes does play, eventually going pro, but maintains his art practice, parlaying his skill into becoming the official art Barnes's two pursuits never quite cohere in this picture book, and the cheery mixed-media illustrations don't evoke Barnes's artistic aestl something essential is missing from this telling. But Tate's tale illuminates the structural and social obstacles Barnes faced—from intense longed-for first trip to an art museum, where he was told "your people don't express themselves this way"—and clearly highlights the ide interests between arts and sports. An afterword includes additional biographical information. Ages 6–10. (Aug.)
- Booklist July 2021 Grades 2-5 - "Growing up in a "hardworking but poor" Black neighborhood in Durham, North Carolina, Ernest Barnes e sports. In school, he endured plenty of teasing, especially as a teenager who grew big enough to play football. When a supportive coach e Barnes took up the challenge and gained the strength and confidence that made him the captain of his high-school football team. The te; scholarship offers poured in. After playing college football, Barnes was drafted by the Colts and played football professionally for five year beginning his new career as an artist. The book's informative back matter includes additional biographical information, source notes for c note relating Tate's childhood experiences to those of Barnes. Written in clear, direct sentences, the text uses quotes effectively without ir nicely composed mixed-media collage illustrations establish the twentieth-century settings while capturing the stages of Barnes' life. An i biography."

★PLUTO! : NOT OUR
 A PLANET? NOT UNIVERSE : MCANULTY,
 A PROBLEM! 7 STACY 9781250813466 HENRY HOLT &
 COMPANY (BYR) 2023 523.49 2-5 Hardcover
 Library

Annotation: Pluto, the most famous dwarf planet in the solar system, tells the story of its singular properties, its relationship to the other planet system. Includes facts and statistics about Pluto.

Review Sources: Kirkus Review - 04/01/2023, School Library Journal Starred - April 2023

Full Text Reviews:

- Kirkus Review April 2023 Meet Pluto, a "proud, playful, and popular non-planet." Today's young readers likely grew up learning that there system, a fact that sets them apart from generations past. Pluto may well have been stricken from the planetary record, but in "his" own v McAnulty's chipper text seems torn between a multitude of directions. It could have been a story about identity and how it's OK not to fit the solar system, what's in it, and how humans have studied it. It could have offered knowledge about dwarf planets and what makes the and none of these things, likely limited by the young age of its intended audience. What stands out most are the facts, interspersed throu backmatter; the story itself, conversational, bubbly, and littered with misplaced dog metaphors (Pluto dubs himself both a "runt" and a " attempts to be. The highly anthropomorphized art is bright and cute, although the occasional floppy ears are somewhat disconcerting. B containing those juicy specialized details sure to please space-loving readers. (This book was reviewed digitally.) An endearing but unfocu planet. (author's note, statistics on Pluto, information on what makes something a planet, sources, "Pluto or Earth or Both?") (Informatio
- School Library Journal Starred April 2023 Gr 2–5—Fans of McAnulty's "Our Universe" series will be thrilled with her latest entry on dwarf p show pale orange Pluto as a self-described "lovable family pet" with big black eyes and winning smile. Each of the eight planets—also de with a simple identifying characteristic, such as "Mars, the red one, Jupiter, the big one, Earth, the one with ice cream and books." The re; which is shown spinning (orbiting) and waving to other planets (to show the relative distance from each other as well as the orbit's path). —an actual heart-shaped area of ice—that makes it "frozen but friendly." A brief foray into history shows how Pluto was added, then remc assures readers that there are no hard feelings, however, as it proclaims itself a "proud, playful and popular non-planet." Facts are preser language, with just enough information to convey concepts without becoming overwhelming. Back matter includes an author's note, ad

sources. VERDICT Add this, along with the other books in the series, to your very likely outdated solar system collection. Highly recommended. Business Information.

THE PRESIDENTS VISUAL ENCYCLOPEDIA		9780744037104	DK PUBLISHING	2021	920			4-6	Hardcover Trade
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Annotation: A visual encyclopedia profiling all forty-six U.S. presidents and offering facts about each one's presidency and key achievements. Also includes vice presidents, information about landmark historical events, a presidential hometown map, a glossary, a history of political parties, and a collection of

THE QUEST FOR THE DIAMOND SWORD : A MINECRAFT GAMER'S ADVENTURE	MINECRAFT GAMER'S ADVENTURE WINTER	9781632204424	SKY PONY PRESS (SKYHORSE)	2014	FIC	Action / Adventure	5.1	3-5	Paperback
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Annotation: Steve sets out on a quest in search of diamonds, which he will craft into diamond swords to protect himself and his fellow villagers from evil. He meets and befriends three treasure hunters--Max, Lucy, and Henry--who help him with his quest.

RED TITAN AND THE NEVER-ENDING MAZE	READY-TO-READ GRAPHICS : LEVEL 1 : KAJI, RYAN RYAN'S WORLD	9781665901819	SIMON SPOTLIGHT	2021	741.5		1.7	PS-1	Paperback	G
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Tags: Beginning Reader

Annotation: The superhero kid Red Titan and his friends become trapped in a box fort maze. They must put their brains together to escape by digging their way out.

★RUBY'S REUNION DAY DINNER	DALTON, ANGELA	9780063015746	HARPERCOLLINS PUBLISHERS	2021	E			PS-3	Hardcover Trade
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Tags: African/Black/African-American, Own Voices

Annotation: As her family cooks their signature dishes for the family reunion, Ruby wants to participate by coming up with her own contribution. When her idea is rejected because she's too young to do various jobs. Eventually she spies the perfect ingredient to make a signature dish.

Review Sources: School Library Journal - April 2021, Booklist - 04/01/2021, Kirkus Review - 05/01/2021, Publishers Weekly Starred - 05/31/2021

Full Text Reviews:

- Publishers Weekly Starred May 2021 This big-hearted picture book debut features Ruby, a Black girl affectionately nicknamed Lil' Bit, who makes a signature dish for the soul food feast, and each relative in turn tells Ruby that she is too small to help. On the way home, she spies a grove of backyard lemon trees—and gets inspired. Through Ruby's narration, Dalton offers rich, mouth-watering descriptions of the dishes: Momma's gooey peach cobbler bubbling up the sides of her favorite baking dish, the golden, crispy crown of Daddy's perfect mac 'n' cheese, and the tender, juicy ribs. Ruby makes excellent use of light and shadow, and offers a lovely portrait of an expressive family with varying hairstyles and body types. This book showcases tender family rapport. Ages 4–8. (May)
- Kirkus Review May 2021 Will this be the year Ruby gets to make and share a dish at the annual family reunion? Once a year, Ruby's family has a reunion and soul food dinner. Every year her relatives prepare their signature dishes, and this year Ruby wants to make one, too. Affectionate relatives, Ruby doesn't know what to make, and when Auntie Billie questions if she's big enough to help in the kitchen, Ruby begins to feel discouraged. Fueled by her mother's confidence that she will find her special something to make, Ruby approaches her family members in hopes that they'll let her help. But there's no use, Ruby is just too small. Readers will feel Ruby's discouragement even as their mouths begin to water at the meal. Ruby ventures outside, where she notices a stand of lemon trees and she gets the bright idea to make a refreshing pitcher of lemonade—which she makes. A charming book that works well as a read-aloud, especially as a lap read with children who are gaining independence and want to do more. Drawn expressions support the use of this book as a picture walk with very young readers. (This book was reviewed digitally.) When life gives you lemons, make lemonade—and learn a lesson for young readers. (Picture book. 4-6)
- Booklist April 2021 Grades K-3 - "Ruby is determined to assist with the family reunion dinner at Grammy and Pop-Pop's, where everyone is making a dish, like macaroni and cheese and sweet candied yams. Ruby, her hair adorably tied into two round buns with pink ribbon to match her family members, but each time she is gently turned away after being told she's too small to handle mixers and knives. Disappointed, she notices a lemon tree gives her the perfect idea for her dinner contribution: lemonade! Children will adore this story's inviting language and colorful illustrations. Ruby's family, who are shown with a variety of body types and brown skin tones, and it's with a real sense of pride that Ruby makes lemonade again next year. This pairs perfectly with other texts about family gatherings and cooking, such as Dorina K. Lazo Gilmore's *Cor Maillard's Fry Bread* (2019)."
- School Library Journal April 2021 PreS-Gr 1—Once a year, Ruby and her sprawling Black family gather for their family reunion. Each auntie brings a dinner dish—a signature item cooked and shared annually. Ruby is still too young; her chin barely makes it over the counter's edge. She's on the hot stove, to cut onions, or to mess with the grill. Ruby finds her contribution in the shade of the backyard, where her uncle G helps

lemons to loosen their juice before slicing. Delineating every detail, the story reveals Ruby's lemonade as the perfect accompaniment to a crowded table. Digitally rendered art presents richly colored and painted scenes with expressive faces and contrasts of light emphasizing this loving family are timeless and the scenes full of affection. VERDICT A suggested general purchase for all libraries, this is a holiday event. Media Services, Plano I.S.D., TX Copyright 2021 Reed Business Information.

★SATURDAY MORA, OGE 9780316431279 LITTLE, BROWN BOOKS FOR YOUNG READE 2019 E 2.4 PS-2 Hardcover Trade

Tags: African/Black/African-American, Diverse Family Structure, Feelings/Emotions, Overcoming Adversity, Self-Awareness

Annotation: A mother and daughter (Ava) look forward to spending Saturday together, going to the salon, picnic, puppet show—but that day, even mother begins to have a meltdown, Ava reminds her that the most important part of their day is simply spending time together.

Review Sources: Publishers Weekly Starred - 07/01/2019, Booklist Starred Reviews - 07/01/2019, Kirkus Reviews Starred - 07/15/2019, School Lib Horn Book Guide Starred - October 2019

Full Text Reviews:

- School Library Journal Starred October 2019 PreS-Gr 2—In her second picture book, Caldecott honoree Mora (Thank You, Omu!) continues collage style and storytelling tone. In this story, Ava cherishes the one day each week she gets to spend with her working mother. They fill one day everything goes wrong. Storytime at the library is cancelled, their new hairdos get wet, and the park is too crowded. All the while repeats a mantra that their Saturday will still be special and splendid. But when she forgets their tickets to a special puppet show, it is Ava isn't ruined, because they spent it together. The story is endearing, and accurately portrays the busy weekends of many families with work and onomatopoeia ("Zoom! Off they went") lend themselves enjoyably to being read out loud. Her signature collage work using painted paper clippings, is impeccable. Though appearing simple, these are incredibly precise scenes, with no piece of paper out of place. The pages cover backgrounds, and Ava stands out with her warm brown skin and bright pink tank top. VERDICT A story that weaves mindfulness, appreciates parents are human, into a gorgeously produced package. Perfection.—Clara Hendricks, Cambridge Public Library, MA Copyright 2019 Reed
- Horn Book Guide Starred October 2019 Ava and her mother spend Saturdays together, but a series of misadventures derails their perfect best of things, repeating the refrain: "Today will be special. Today will be splendid. Today is SATURDAY!" But when even Mom reaches her Thank You, Omu! [cf1] gorgeous cut-paper and collage illustrations depict a colorful, bustling city. This simple, well-crafted tale holds universal appeal.
- Kirkus Reviews Starred July 2019 Caldecott Honoree Mora (Thank You, Omu!, 2018) returns in this sophomore offering about a mother and protagonist Ava and her mother love their Saturdays together. Ava's mother works, "Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, any day. The pairs' smiles and Ava's outflung hands convey excitement, while realistic details such as Ava's mother's sleep scarf add authentic chronicles some of their past adventures and shows them performing various actions in a circle of repeated figures (clearly intended to cover their day. Discerning readers may spy something left behind as they head out. Things start to go awry almost immediately, but Ava's mother a strategy for dealing with disappointment: pause, close their eyes, breathe deep, and move on. But after the biggest disappointment comes them, it's Ava who brings comfort to her mother in a touching moment that may bring tears to readers' eyes. Though not a preachy book, and useful. Ava and her mother are black, with skin of different hues of browns, while other characters are an array of skin tones. How wonderful and class diversity that feels authentic. Special and splendid. (Picture book. 4-9)
- Booklist Starred Reviews July 2019 Preschool-Grade 1 - *Starred Review* Saturdays are special. Ava's mother works every other day, but they do all sorts of fun things—go to story hour, get their hair done, lounge in the park—and this Saturday is extra special because they have time. But this Saturday gets off to a bad start and rolls downhill: the story hour is cancelled; their freshly done hair gets drenched by a puddle when they arrive at the puppet show without their tickets. Ava's mom is heartbroken, but the little girl tells her not to worry: all Saturdays, even this one with you." The simple yet heartfelt story tugs at the emotions, but it's the paper collage artwork that really packs a punch. Created with a collage of paper, and print clippings, the bright illustrations are inventively conceived and full of motion—just the right vehicle for bringing this Black Readers will get a real sense of their bond, which is defined by their love, not their circumstances. A sweet ending ties a bow on the story.
- Publishers Weekly Starred July 2019 Ava's mother works six days a week, so Saturday, their only day together, "was the day they cherish to a "one-night-only puppet show," though, this one isn't going particularly well. The library's story time is canceled, a car's splash ruins their and crowded to be peaceful. But they face each setback the same way: "They paused, closed their eyes, and—whew!—let out a deep breath. "today will be special. Today will be splendid. Today is SATURDAY!" Carefully paced repetition structures the family's experiences, and their Thank You, Omu!) convey their trip through the city with elegant energy; their figures dance across the pages, and sometimes the words do, too inside the salon, and at the riotously busy park are filled with detail that rewards second looks. When they encounter the worst disaster of Ava's turn to reassure her mom, and she finds special words to do it. The family handles the stress of dashed expectations in a way that is conveying the buoyancy of resilience and the joy of their bond. And a delightful coda may inspire readers to share the inventive way they Steven Malk, Writers House. (Oct.)

SAY HELLO! ISADORA, RACHEL 9780399252303 PUTNAM PUBLISHING (JUVENILE) 2010 E 1.1 PS-K Hardcover Library

Tags: Latine/Hispanic

Annotation: When a young girl named Carmelita and her dog Manny set off to visit Carmelita's aunt Rosa, they walk down Ninth Avenue greeting neighborhood and learning to say "hello" in Spanish, English, French, Japanese, Hebrew and Arabic. Caldecott Honor-winner Rachel Isadora's colorful and fun details, making Carmelita's city street "a real, organic place" (KIRK). This delightful introduction to the joy of language is "simply enchanting."

Review Sources: School Library Journal - March 2010, Publishers Weekly - 03/15/2010, Kirkus Review - 03/01/2010, Library Media Connection - November 2010

Full Text Reviews:

- Horn Book Guide October 2010 Carmelita and her mama walk through their culturally diverse neighborhood, greeting everyone they meet. Shalom! (Hebrew); Jambo! (Swahili); Al salaam a'laykum! (Arabic). Isadora's visually engaging, sprightly collages combine printed and painted elements, e.g., payot (sidecurls) on the Orthodox Jewish boys and hijabs on the Arabic mother and daughter. Glos.
- Library Media Connection May 2010 From "Buenos días" to "Al salaam a'alaykum," "Ni hao," and other salutations, English-speaking Carmelita greets various shopkeepers and friends in their own heritage languages. Her dog, Manny, has his own greeting for the dogs. The woman in the French bakery points out that Manny "speaks French, too," apparently overlooking that animals also have language. Collage illustrations provide pattern and texture, yet each aspect is clear and has its own space. A pronunciation guide would have been helpful. Dales, Department of Teacher Education, Miami University, Oxford, Ohio
- Publishers Weekly March 2010 Carmelita, a girl in pigtails with a butterscotch complexion, walks with her mother and her dog through a neighborhood to meet her Abuela Rosa. Each individual they encounter says hello in his or her respective language, and Carmelita echoes back each greeting. "While a man flipping pizzas at an Italian restaurant calls "Ciao!" Even less formal greetings get their due as Carmelita's friends greet her. Carmelita's trademark textural collages, using oil paint and printed papers that recall batik, vividly convey the joys of diversity. Ages 3–5. (Apr.)
- School Library Journal March 2010 PreS-Gr 1— Carmelita and her mother set out to visit Abuela Rosa. As they pass each family or store, they greet. Whether it be friends just returning from Africa ("Jambo!") or the woman in the bakery ("Bonjour!"), Carmelita's dog is ready with a friendly greeting. Carmelita's grandmother ("Hola!"), the two share a smile as the pup seems to understand yet another greeting. Carmelita's busy, diverse neighborhood and Isadora's oil-and-collage illustrations are richly detailed. From Carmelita's huevos con tocino (eggs and bacon) to the Japanese restaurant, printed patterns invite readers to linger on each page. Text and illustrations work together to provide clues for readers who may be learning. Pronunciation is not included, so adults will want to prepare before reading the book aloud. This accessible story could be used to discuss manners as well.—Lisa Glasscock, Columbine Public Library, Littleton, CO Copyright 2010 Reed Business Information.

★ SING WITH

ME : THE
STORY OF
SELENA
QUINTANILLA

LOPEZ, DIANA 9780593110959 DIAL BOOKS 2021 921 SEL 4.7 PS-3 Hardcover Library

Tags: Gender Issues, Latine/Hispanic, Own Voices

Annotation: American singer Selena Quintanilla 's career began when she joined her family to sing at their family restaurant, and later, at parties celebrating her heritage, Selena longed to sing the Tejano music her audiences loved, and taught herself Spanish in order to break into the industry. In the male-dominated industry to gain recognition, but eventually succeeded with hard work and determination. This biography of her life chronicles the ups and downs in her life, explaining how her life was tragically cut short in 1995 when she was just twenty-three years old.

Review Sources: School Library Journal Starred - March 2021, Kirkus Reviews Starred - 03/01/2021

Full Text Reviews:

- Kirkus Reviews Starred March 2021 The story of Tejano legend Selena Quintanilla is made accessible as the tale of a young girl who works hard to make it in the world. In relating Selena's biography, some mythologizing is hard to avoid. The late singer, who was killed at the age of 23 in 1995, has Corpus Christi native López smartly focuses on the road that got Selena to her success and all the work and study that went into overcoming the music industry. She gets the details and tone right, whether it's capturing her subject's passion for performing or simply sprinkling without overexplaining them. (Papel picado hung from the ceiling [of the family restaurant] and the scent of caldo and charro beans are noted chronologically, but it never feels like an A-to-B-to-C list of achievements. Instead, it works better than most biographies of Selena to explain and humanize the young singer. Martínez's illustrations capture the Quintanilla family's loving moments and convey extra information through banners, street signs, and lyrics. A Spanish-language edition, translated by Carmen Tafolla, is equally on target, with careful phrasing and reviewed digitally with 11-by-17-inch double-page spreads viewed at actual size.) A worthy, sparkling addition to the long list of Selena Quintanilla books. (Picture book/biography. 5-8)
- School Library Journal Starred March 2021 K-Gr 4—Young Selena Quintanilla (1971–95), a groundbreaking Mexican American singer from Corpus Christi, Texas, is the subject of this biography. "When she was nine, her family formed a band, Selena y Los Dinos, and performed at their neighborhood house and business due to the recession of the early 1980s, they moved to Corpus Christi to live with relatives. They bought a bus and went to parties, and rodeos—often for a pittance. Selena loved to sing, but she wished she knew the Tejano songs her audience enjoyed. She longed to perform in Spanish. When the male-dominated Tejano music world was less than welcoming, she persisted. In 1986, she won her first Tejano fashion magazine and helped to design and create her own stage outfits. She eventually opened a chain of boutiques. The text ends on a note about her performance at the Astrodome in Houston. An author's note mentions the star's untimely death at age 23. The energetic, bright cartoon illustrations of the family in various venues, decorated with rainbow notes, stars, hearts, and flowers will appeal to young readers. VERDICT This inspirational biography, the heels of a Netflix miniseries about the singer's life, will inspire anyone who dreams of a career in the performing arts.—Barbara Auerbach, Reed Business Information.

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG : 11 HEDGEHOG FLYNN, IAN 9781684059089 IDW / IDEA & DESIGN WORKS 2022 741.5 3-6 Paperback G

Annotation: Zavok, the leader of the Deadly Six, is determined to reunite his minions and get his revenge on Sonic. Soon, they attack Restoratio a distraction to kidnap Belle. Sonic and Tails return to headquarters to take on the Deadly Six while the Chaotix set off to find Belle.

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG : SONIC & TAILS : BEST BUDS FOREVER	SONIC THE HEDGEHOG	FLYNN, IAN	9781684058945	IDW / IDEA & DESIGN WORKS	2022	741.5	3-6	Paperback	G
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Annotation: Contains three graphic novel stories that follow the adventures of Sonic the Hedgehog and his best friend Miles "Tails" Prower as th robots.

SPACE! : THE UNIVERSE AS YOU'VE NEVER SEEN IT BEFORE			9780744028928	DK PUBLISHING	2022	520	4-7	Hardcover Trade	2
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Annotation: Presents a full-color encyclopedia covering all aspects of space including stars and planets, space exploration, the night sky, black h computer-generated 3D models, dozens of facts, infographics, data boxes, and NASA images.

★STAMPED (FOR KIDS) : RACISM, ANTIRACISM, AND YOU	REYNOLDS, JASON		9780316167581	LITTLE, BROWN BOOKS FOR YOUNG READE	2021	305.8009	6.5 5-8	Hardcover Trade	
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Tags: African/Black/African-American, Own Voices, Social Awareness, Social Justice

Annotation: Provides a young reader edition of the book of the same title that explores the history of racist ideas in America by examining the lives of Cotton Mather and Thomas Jefferson to W.E.B. Du Bois and Angela Davis. Discusses how racist ideas spread and how they are also discredited.

Review Sources: Kirkus Reviews Starred - 05/01/2021, School Library Journal Starred - June 2021, Booklist - 06/01/2021, AudioFile - August 2021

Full Text Reviews:

- School Library Connection October 2021 This is an adaptation of the book *Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You* (Little, Brown Books for Young Readers) for elementary and middle grade readers. The text presents a clearly-written history of racism in the United States. It begins in 1415 and highly readable text discusses people, events, culture, and legislation that have had an impact on race relations in the United States. Trayvon Martin is included. The book also discusses more subtle forms of racism, such as how the words "ghetto" and "minority" have been used against Black people. There are a few topics that librarians should be aware of before adding this book to their collections. Namely, very little context may be confusing or misleading to children who have no background knowledge of the subjects. For example, Malcolm X is portrayed as a significant discussion regarding his skepticism of nonviolent protest or his advocacy for "freedom by any means necessary." President Trump is depicted as a supremacist who put children in cages and deported people who had been living in the United States for years, without providing any immigration policies. While the topic of race remains a difficult one to bring into the classroom, this book presents a good way to start the conversation from the perspective to the way we view American history, events, and some of our founding fathers. Glossary. Timeline. Sandra Wiseman RECOMMENDATION
- Booklist June 2021 Grades 2-4 - "Kendi and Reynolds continue to share their vital antiracist message with this young reader's edition of *Stamped* (2020). With the help of Cherry-Paul, the conversational tone is skillfully carried over from last year's installment, with the distinction of skillfully providing additional context. The actions of significant figures, from Lincoln to Obama, are discussed through three lenses—racist, assimilationist, and antiracist, candidly, posing challenges to preconceptions and noting how some of those figures' actions sometimes reversed or evolved in their lifetimes. Baker is asked to pause and un-pause "to breathe and feel" and think deeply about the ideas and history discussed and their effect on everything from popular culture. Baker's gray-scale illustrations provide an effective visual language for the intended audience and are featured varyingly throughout. The last chapter covers the Black Lives Matter movement and the 2020 Election, which, along with fresh bibliography, make this a dynamic title.
- School Library Journal Starred June 2021 Gr 4–8—In this adaptation of Reynolds and Kendi's award-winning *Stamped from the Beginning*, examine unjust racial hierarchy ideas and concepts. Throughout history, this rope has been used by the dominant culture to tie and oppress. It has also been used as a symbol of the power struggle between antiracist and racist thought patterns. This young readers edition assesses how flawed heroes affect our country today. Kids who are just learning about the world around them will now have the tools to begin to understand the States took toward the racial inequity we see today. This version of *Stamped* features a time line and a glossary and, most important, includes racism. The concepts of segregationist, assimilationist, and antiracist are simplified and presented in terms that tweens can understand. The development of children into account when crafting the narrative around the difficult nature of antiracist work. She effectively holds space for concepts they will need to be a part of an antiracist society. VERDICT A wonderfully accessible version of the already seminal work for teen and middle school libraries.—Desiree Thomas, Worthington Lib., OH Copyright 2021 Reed Business Information.
- Kirkus Reviews Starred May 2021 A remixed remix of a foundational text. Kendi's *Stamped From the Beginning* (2016) is a crucial account condensed for teens by Jason Reynolds as *Stamped* (2020). Educator Cherry-Paul takes the breadth of the first and the jaunty appeal of the second that manages to be both true to its forebears and yet all her own. She covers the same historical ground, starting with the origins of anti-Semitism in Europe, then taking readers through the founding of the U.S.A. and up to the present, with focuses on pivotal figures and pieces of pop culture. Her job of presenting this complex information to younger readers, borrowing language from Reynolds's remix (like the definitions of segregationist, antiracists) and infusing it with her own interpretations, like the brilliant, powerful, haunting metaphor of rope woven throughout. "Rope can be a weapon." Rope can be used to tie, pull, hold, and lift. Readers are encouraged to "Think about the way rope connects racist ideas have been connected to so far: Skin color. Money. Religion. Land." Baker's stark portraiture paces the text and illustrates the necessary. (timeline, glossary, further reading.) (Nonfiction. 10-14)

★TALLULAH
THE TOOTH
FAIRY CEO

PIZZOLI,
TAMARA

9780374309190

FARRAR STRAUS
GIROUX (BYR)

2019 E

K-3 Hardcover
Trade

Tags: Own Voices

Annotation: Tallulah the Tooth Fairy runs a successful tooth collecting business, but when she encounters a note under six-year-old Ballar Burch's tooth, she is faced with a dilemma.

Review Sources: Kirkus Reviews Starred - 05/01/2019, Publishers Weekly - 05/20/2019, School Library Journal - July 2019, Booklist Starred Review

Full Text Reviews:

- Booklist Starred Reviews October 2019 Grades K-3 - *Starred Review* Tallulah (Tooth Fairy, CEO) is Fashion-Week chic. Dressed from head to toe in subtle tooth pattern or accessory—this high-fashion, thoroughly modern Black woman will win the admiration of all young readers. Whether she is a therapist or doing her self-care routine of yoga, Pilates, reading, and visiting art galleries, she is busy with her tooth fairy enterprise. She runs the business—yes, there is more than one tooth fairy! Tallulah resembles a fabulous friend or aunt who blends into everyday life—no wings, no goggles for her nightly tooth-collecting missions. The author does a fantastic job of crafting an engaging and believable story for children. The illustrations cleverly inject pop-art references and switch between vibrant, saturated colors for Tallulah's daytime activities and a plucky nighttime missions. When she encounters a snag in her usual tooth-retrieval routine, her thoughtful solution will only make readers love her more. Children and adults alike will fall in love with this hilarious picture book.
- School Library Journal July 2019 K-Gr 2—Tallulah isn't your normal tooth fairy; she's the CEO of all the tooth fairies! With her cool hand at the wheel, everything runs smoothly until a child loses a tooth meant for retrieval, and Tallulah must find a solution. The first half focuses on her jet-

which includes going to art museums and getting drinks with Mrs. Claus, while the second half reads more like a traditional picture book. color not only represented as a classic fantasy figure, as they are often depicted exclusively as white, but also as a successful businesswoman could have focused more on the plot and less on establishing the character. Still, parents will smirk at the gentle jabs to corporate culture are smooth and give a sleek modern feel to the piece, with images of teeth hidden throughout. VERDICT A fun, solid addition to contemporary children's literature. Blenski, Hartland Public Library, WI Copyright 2019 Reed Business Information.

- Publishers Weekly May 2019 Giving the tooth fairy tongue-in-cheek professional legitimacy, Pizzoli (who has published numerous African American picture books) offers a modish tale about Tallulah, founder and CEO of Teeth Titans Inc., for whom “looking after children’s pe is her career.” Sporting a purple-hued Afro and jewelry fashioned from teeth, the posh business mogul wisely balances her time: various r therapist, visiting teeth-centric museum exhibits, and practicing yoga, while afternoons are reserved for recruiting and training tooth-fair pastimes are less kid than adult targeted, until Tallulah, wearing night-vision glasses, begins her tooth-collecting rounds. What does the e unprecedented snag in the form of a boy who has lost his lost tooth? She calls an emergency meeting with her tooth fairy board of direct playful satire, Fabiani’s stylized matte cartoons incorporate some quirky flourishes: Tallulah entertains a tooth fairy-in-training at a North fun flight of fancy featuring an engagingly eccentric heroine. Ages 4–8. (July)
- Kirkus Reviews Starred May 2019 A tooth-fairy mogul wrote the manual, but even the expert can be caught off guard. Tallulah, CEO of Tee into her glamorous life. The wry narrative mimics the tone of many an inspirational biography, informing readers that Tallulah works hard the three Ps: passion, purpose, and what pays.” From yoga to museum visits, Tallulah seems to have a full schedule, but she still makes ti entire world. Expert Tallulah has all the answers—or so she thinks until the night she gets a surprise from a little boy. Ballard has lost his t explanatory note under his pillow in place of the missing item. This triggers an emergency board meeting that features remarkably realist only board member who is not a woman of color, wears an #AllFairiesMatter T-shirt; his off-topic complaint about the lack of diversity ma conversations with young readers. Tallulah is black and sports a voluminous purple Afro; Tom is the sole white character. Details in both F of the National Association for the Appreciation and Care of Primary Teeth, or NAACP-T) and Fabiani’s matte illustrations (a series of enor adorns her walls) will set adult readers chuckling. Funny and provocative. (Picture book. 6-10)

WE ARE FAMILY	JAMES, LEBRON	9780062971098	HARPERCOLLINS PUBLISHERS	2021	FIC	Sports	6.3	4-7	Hardcover Trade
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Tags: African/Black/African-American, Determination/Perseverance, High Interest, North America, Own Voices, Teamwork

Annotation: When disadvantaged seventh graders Jayden, Tamika, Chris, Anthony, and Dex learn their free after-school basketball program will have their own reasons for joining the team, band together for the right to play and ultimately to pursue their dreams.

Review Sources: Kirkus Review - 08/01/2021, Booklist - 09/01/2021, School Library Connection - October 2021

Full Text Reviews:

- School Library Connection October 2021 Jayden has been practicing basketball on his own all summer long in anticipation for his return after-school program is in danger of disbanding upon the announcement of their famed coach and founder's abrupt departure. The coach as leader, much to her father's dismay. After all, there is no future for her in basketball. For the larger part of the novel, the group isn't even com­petitively, comprised of just Tamika, Anthony&€”who is only there as punishment&€”and Dexter. Jayden is too busy working to l nephew of a famous athlete, has started a competing club with his father. Ultimately, of course, Jayden and Chris make it back to the tear diverse and decently-told story of overcoming adversity, perfect for reluctant readers and budding athletes who will, no doubt, recognize towards the subject matter. Joel Shoemaker RECOMMENDED
- Booklist September 2021 Grades 3-6 - "An unlikely team of middle-school b-ballers proves that anything is possible in this collaborative n talented writer Williams. Jayden, Tamika, Chris, Anthony, and Dex come from different but connected backgrounds that involve dealing v and more. In spite of what could be obstacles and differing definitions of team, this “Hoop Group” ultimately comes together on the cour may add distance for some readers, the book’s characters are well defined, and its story is full of family feeling, dedication, and complicat middle-grade readers who crave a bit more inspiration, perspiration, and elation from their sports stories, this elevates the stakes for you of place and sense of belonging. This Hoop Group proves that no matter their sizes, genders, or backgrounds, nothing can stop kids deter truly a mirror and a window—score a win for this inspiring sports story!"
- Kirkus Review August 2021 Basketball is life in Lorain, Ohio. A group of seventh graders have different reasons for joining Hoop Group, an who lives in a tiny, cramped house with his mother and grandmother, desperately needs the money playing for the NBA would bring. Chri the NBA, but he doesn’t share his uncle’s skills and can’t quite live up to his father’s expectations. Tamika’s dad was Hoop Group’s coach t future in jeopardy; she has a lot to prove and dreams of being the next Pat Summitt. Dex and his hardworking single mom are struggling v game—especially the Cleveland Cavs. And Anthony, frankly, doesn’t have much of a choice; it was either join this character-building grou makeshift team of preteens with a lot on their plates, they discover as much about themselves (and one another) off the court as they do argument about the value of basketball beyond points on the board and big contracts. The characters’ dreams are relatable along with th on hard work and perseverance. But the specifics about what it takes to make it in basketball and the fast-paced on-court action provide game. Main characters read as Black. An inspiring sports story all the way to the buzzer. (Fiction. 9-12)

WE MOVE TOGETHER	FRITSCH, KELLY	9781849354042	AK PRESS DISTRIBUTION	2021	E			K-2	Hardcover Trade
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Tags: General Diversity, Own Voices, People with Disabilities

Annotation: Simple text and colorful illustrations celebrate disabled community and culture. Showcases how people everywhere can be inclusiv disabilities.

★WHAT WILL YOU BE?	MENDEZ, YAMILE	9780062839954	HARPERCOLLINS PUBLISHERS	2021	E		3.3	PS-2	Hardcover Trade
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Tags: Latine/Hispanic, Own Voices

Annotation: When a young child's answers to her friends about what she will be when she grows up do not satisfy them, she asks her abuela for that she quiet down and listen to her heart. As the young girl explores various careers in her grandmother's art studio, her grandmother offers with her granddaughter to envision the possibilities.

Review Sources: Publishers Weekly - 04/19/2021, Kirkus Reviews Starred - 04/15/2021, School Library Journal - May 2021, Booklist - 05/01/2021

Full Text Reviews:

- School Library Journal May 2021 PreS-K—All the other children, one tan with a mop of black hair, another Black with natural hair, and a third heroine to say what she will be when she grows up. "Clown" and "unicorn" as choices do not satisfy them, so she, with light brown skin a abuela in the art studio where bright paints and pots are lined up. Abuela wisely provides the answer: "Listen." The child listens to her heart, dreams, from building a home that welcomes everyone to walking the roads her ancestors built, from healing bones to mending hearts. To grow interplanetary, and her abuela reminds her that if she needs help, many hands can accomplish what one person cannot. This is a grand dream big, and permission to keep moving forward, beyond proscribed or limiting roles. In the end, the child and abuela leave the art studio which some of these plans have been painted. The illustrator's friendly scenes of zeal and cooperation will inspire others to aim high, and lightly, but well. VERDICT Turning a common question of childhood into a substantive quest, this imaginative set of plans will have other children through the stars.—Kimberly Olson Fakih, School Library Journal Copyright 2021 Reed Business Information.
- Booklist May 2021 Grades K-3 - "When a brown-skinned young girl's friends ask what she'll be when she grows up, her responses are fanciful. Her friends reply, "What will you really be?" For guidance, she looks to her abuela, who encourages her to listen to her heart. The subsequent inspiration in warm, evocatively illustrated spreads. Looking at nearby homes, she considers being a builder; a fruit tree brings thoughts of change." Maybe she'll teach, or she'll create art, like Abuela. However, one thing's certain: "When I grow up . . . I will be me." Vibrant, charming scenes with realistic scenarios, and throughout, bright strokes of color swirl across the scenes as the possibilities occur to her. While the girl will be an explorer of the lands where my roots were born", this is nevertheless a thought-provoking and reassuring take on the "what will you be" book, with lots of read-aloud appeal."
- Publishers Weekly April 2021 Astronaut, unicorn, and clown are a brown-skinned child's choices for what to be as an adult. But when a girl asks "What will you really be?" the child turns to comforting and creative Abuela, "who has been everything under the Sun and the Moon," about how to imagine a sound, loving advice, "Abuela points to my heart and says, 'Listen.?' And a rainbow swirl of paint from Abuela's brush sweeps readers through as the child envisions various futures as a builder, a dreamer, a farmer, a healer—taking pride in how each of those roles celebrates community. Readers get a greater understanding of the future's expansive possibilities. Ages 4–8. (May)
- Kirkus Reviews Starred April 2021 Guided by Abuela, a young child discovers their potential. "No, what will you really be?" a group of friends try their imagining a future as an astronaut, a unicorn, or a clown. Without an answer, the child seeks the help of Abuela, who has been every encouragement. Encouraged by Abuela to listen to their heart, the child quiets down and pays attention until the answers come. The pair then embarks on a journey of child envisions becoming a builder of homes, a writer and painter of dreams, an explorer of their roots, a farmer of wonder and change, a teacher. Abuela accompanies her grandchild on this journey, standing or sitting nearby, at times even lifting up the child. Alizadeh's scrupulous relationship between grandmother and grandchild, both depicted as people of color. The beginning endpapers illustrate the studio walls with opportunities, the back endpapers show those opportunities fulfilled with splashes of color depicting all the things the young narrator can do. A balance between the abstract and concrete by letting the child imagine the future but with Abuela's guidance and support. (This book was a double-page spread viewed at 52.1% of actual size.) A sweet read to share with loved ones. (Picture book. 4-8)

WHEN CHARLEY MET EMMA	CHARLEY AND EMMA STORIES	WEBB, AMY	9781506448725	BEAMING BOOKS	2019	E	K-3	Hardcover Trade
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Tags: People with Disabilities

Annotation: Five-year-old Charley gets teased for daydreaming and drawing more than his friends, but when he meets Emma, who is physically disabled, that being different is okay.

WILDFIRE SURVIVAL STORIES	SURVIVING NATURAL DISASTERS		9781503854529	MOMENTUM (CHILDS WORLD)	2024		3-6	Hardcover Library
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★THE WORLD BELONGED TO US		WOODSON, JACQUELINE	9780399545498	NANCY PAULSEN BOOKS	2022	E	4.2 K-3	Hardcover Library
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Tags: African/Black/African-American, General Diversity, Own Voices

Annotation: School is out in a 1970s Brooklyn neighborhood and the children pour out of the school building, exuberant and ready to enjoy the day. The neighborhood kids begin by running through a fire hydrant someone opens with a wrench to cool off in the hot afternoon. From morning to evening, the kids jump rope, shoot bottle caps, and follow the ice cream truck to snag a treat when they have the money. Tempered only by their parents' rules, the kids roam to make new friends, hear of neighborhood heroes, and believe anything is possible.

Review Sources: Publishers Weekly Starred - 03/14/2022, Kirkus Reviews Starred - 04/15/2022, Booklist Starred Reviews - 05/01/2022, School Library Journal Book Guide Starred - July 2022

Full Text Reviews:

- Horn Book Guide Starred July 2022 This lyrical paean to unstructured play does not wax nostalgic or hark back to a simpler time. Rather, it brilliantly succeeds in it) a feeling and a moment. She starts off, "In Brooklyn / in the summer / not so long ago," and tells readers that "th free as air. / Free as sun. Free as summer." While their grownups are busy inside the apartment buildings above, the neighborhood kids sp city streets. Open hydrants are converted into super squirters, games are invented and mastered, conflicts are collectively resolved, and s endless possibility. "Our block was the whole wide world / and the world belonged to us," at least until their mothers call them home for and watercolor art captures a cadre of kids in perpetual motion -- biking, jumping rope, building forts, shooting bottle caps, playing stick mutual respect and admiration. This book reminds readers that the benefits of free play, independence, and being excited about what ea Brooklyn block one summer to a lifetime of creative possibility. Simultaneously published in Spanish as *El mundo era nuestro*, translated
- School Library Journal Starred May 2022 Gr 2–6—Fond memories of summer vacation at home in Brooklyn are the backbone of this vivid describes what it was like to leave school and have an extended period of free time without a great deal of adult supervision. She describ disputes would be solved, how the bigger kids would take care of the younger kids, and how the kids would take care of each other. Some believing that children used to be allowed to play outside for long periods of time with only one another to direct activities and solve pro evocative use of language will bring readers right into the hot Brooklyn streets. The illustrations are perfect for this story, with a 1970s ret different kinds of kids in the expressive text is echoed in the striking art work. This will make an excellent conversation starter for families also serve as a wonderful mentor text to model how to write a vacation experience. VERDICT A gorgeous depiction of summer vacation in writing classes as well. Don't miss this one.—Debbie Tanner Copyright 2022 Reed Business Information.
- Booklist Starred Reviews May 2022 Preschool-Grade 2 - ""Starred Review" In this joyful and nostalgic celebration of young Black girlhood remembers fondly how, not so long ago in Brooklyn, when school ended for the summer, the neighborhood kids headed outdoors to play shout, "Don't get your school clothes wet!" but kids still ran through the fire hydrants, shooting water at each other. Wet hair would sprin; hair had the right to be free!" Every day, all summer long, kids played in the street—drawing chalk games on the sidewalk, building forts c rope. Jumping, running, or playing, they felt the whole world belonged to them, and anything seemed possible: their friends could grow anything. Voices call out in Spanish, English, Polish, and other languages as chidren play until the streetlights come on. Brightly colored il details fill every page in this positive endorsement of unstructured play. At the end, readers can join in dreaming along with the child whc about the many tomorrows to come—not just in Brooklyn, not just for the summer, but everywhere and always."
- Kirkus Reviews Starred April 2022 Kids burst out of school and into summer vacation. Now they can play outside all day till the streetlight This nostalgic homage to Woodson's childhood in her beloved Brooklyn evokes the senses: the sounds of laughter and double Dutch rhyr bottle cap games, and the taste of an ice cream cone with rainbow sprinkles from the ice cream truck. The refrain, "In Brooklyn / in the su the color of summer heat: red, orange, yellow. The bell-bottom plaid pants; white, knee-high, color-ringed tube socks; and loud-and-prou setting. The amazing diversity of the neighborhood comes through both in Espinosa's lively, colorful retro illustrations, which depict Blac Woodson's lyrical text, which describes kids calling "out to each other / in Spanish / in English / in Polish / in German / in Chinese." They a looking out for the younger ones and those with ice cream money sharing with those without "because some days the ones with no mon characters with mouths wide open, emphasizing their unbridled delight and loudness. Author and illustrator offer a refreshing reminder c immersion play was the summer activity and kids took full advantage. (This book was reviewed digitally.) A dream team of talent show ar by. (Picture book. 4-8)
- Publishers Weekly Starred March 2022 Written from within a community of friends, in a voice that often uses "we," liting, intimate-feeling to Fly) capture a delicious sense of autonomy and possibility shared "In Brooklyn / in the summer/ not so long ago," when "the minute/ sc Pencil and digital art centers blue skies and city landscapes as Espinosa (*The Creature of Habit*) draws children of varying ages and skin tc with 1970s clothing details that are right on the mark. In the hot days that follow, the kids crowd sidewalks and stoops, open hydrants, ar bottle caps. They also engage in camaraderie and community care, comforting each other after scrapes, noticing each other's gifts ("We s it"), and sharing an ice cream truck's bounty, "because some days the ones with no money/ were us." And in this Brooklyn nabe, the kids possible/ when a guy from our block was good enough/ to play for the Mets." Affirming the strengths of shared experiences and power dr; creators show how a childhood can engender joy that follows "everywhere I'd ever go." Ages 5–8. Author's agent: Dorian Karchmar, WME.

YOU ARE LIFE	PHI, BAO	9781684464821	CAPSTONE EDITIONS	2022	811	PS-3	Hardcover Trade
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Tags: Asian/Pacific Islander/Asian-American, Own Voices

Annotation: The award-winning author Bao Phi offers an illustrated poem reminding the children of immigrants and refugees that they are not instead celebrates them and tells them they are full of songs, dreams, and possibilities.

Review Sources: Kirkus Review - 07/01/2022, Booklist - 08/01/2022, School Library Journal - October 2022

Full Text Reviews:

- School Library Journal October 2022 K-Gr 4—An award-winning poet creates a lyrical tale of encouragement. In the face of violence again Phi's words boost the self-esteem of children who are of Asian descent. Each stanza finds a new hobby or activity that all children can rel; While the word choice and phrasing are clunky at times, the heart of the matter shines through. Li's exuberant illustrations burst through world. VERDICT A must for any elementary library, to raise awareness, elicit allies, grow compassion, and build community to fight racism Reed Business Information.
- Booklist August 2022 Preschool-Grade 2 - "In an ending author's note, Caldecott Honor Book author Phi (*A Different Pond*, 2017, illustrate celebration of Asian American identity came out of the spike in anti-Asian violence during the COVID-19 pandemic. As a father to a young anger and fear but also "a glimmer of wanting to offer something hopeful." Here is that hope: a poem, addressing young Asian American c directly, highlighting the joys they bring to the world. Li's colorful collage-style art portrays children in motion: "You are Dance Dance Rev ancestral dance flash mob in a megamall parking lot." The positive verse emphasizes, "You are not a burden. / In a basket of arms, you are pages, children march in a parade for a just world, play with others in the park, and share foods from different countries. The vibrant prin text reasserts: "You can do anything.""

- Kirkus Review July 2022 An affirmation for Asian American youth. Scenes of outstretched hands reaching for one another and an Asian pa readers. “You are life,” opens the poem, going on to add, “You are not a virus. / You are a seed. When you were born, / you saved me.” A couple waits in anticipation as the text reads, “You are not forever foreign. / You are Immigrant. / Born here. / Adopted. / Refugee, you flec shapes of colors to create eye-popping fields filled with noodles, onigiri, and children. After touching on a myriad of interests and cultural rousing, challenging model minority stereotypes and insisting that “You are not invisible. / You are not silent. / You are hand-painted sign street / for a more just world.” The paths paved by ancestors are also acknowledged. As Phi discusses the silly, the funny, the serious, and message is that the possibilities for the future are endless. In an author’s note, Phi reveals the verses were written in response to the rece take center stage, and Vietnamese is incorporated in the poem; kids of other ethnic backgrounds are also depicted, and characters vary ir reviewed digitally.) A sweet and empowering poem. (Poetry. 4-8)

★YOUR NAME IS A SONG	THOMPkins- BIGELOW, JAMILAH	9781943147724	INNOVATION PRESS LLC	2020	E	2.5 PS-3	Hardcover Trade
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Tags: African/Black/African-American, Islam/Muslim, Own Voices

Annotation: A little girl named Kora-Jalimuso is frustrated at school because every teacher and all her classmates cannot pronounce her name. that her name is her song, and that she should love the musicality of all names--African, Asian, Black-American, Latinx, and Middle Eastern, White her classmates as well as her teacher how to sing her name, and all their names as well.

Review Sources: Kirkus Reviews Starred - 07/01/2020, School Library Journal - July 2020, Publishers Weekly - 09/07/2020, Horn Book Guide - Oct
Full Text Reviews:

- Horn Book Guide October 2020 Roll call can be difficult for a child with an unusual name. A young girl describes how her name "got stuck "pretended to choke" or "seemed afraid" while hearing it or attempting to pronounce it. As they walk home, Mom reminds her that her "r are as well: "Olumide is a melody...Mamadou is a beat." She also imparts a lesson about descendants of enslaved Africans in the U.S.: "Th they dream up new ones." When the girl returns to school, she sings the names of her teacher and classmates, then her own name: Kora-. names are followed by phonetic spelling. Names are represented visually as colorful swirls and air currents, stars, or fiery sparks through her. A glossary of names, meanings, and pronunciations is included, by which we learn that the girl is named for a "harp of a female griot, through song." A bighearted, reassuring book that imparts a simple yet important message: we all deserve to have our names pronounce
- Publishers Weekly September 2020 A conversation between a girl and her mother distinguishes this poignant second picture book from e that her classmates don't pronounce her name correctly, a Black girl in goldenrod overalls complains to her Ummi, who wears a coral-col Describing the musicality of names, Momma encourages her daughter to "tell your teacher that your name is a song," and expounds on o muh-DAY)./ Olumide is a melody, girl! And so is Kotone (KOH-tow-neh)." With a creative answer for each of the child's hesitations ("Made- make a way out of no way, make names out of no names—pull them from the sky!"), Momma imparts wisdom that her daughter shares th pronunciation by singing it, and classmates' names, during roll call. In subtly surfaced illustrations rendered digitally by Uribe, the girl tra a mellow-toned sky. A resonant tale that honors and celebrates a rich landscape of names. Back matter includes a glossary of names feat Ages 5–10. (July)
- Kirkus Reviews Starred July 2020 A girl learns to appreciate her long name and the diverse names of others. A black child wearing cornrov classmates in the schoolyard playing handball. Momma arrives, wearing a bright headwrap, and asks about her first day of school. The gi name?not even the teacher. Reflecting the title, Momma tells her to tell her teacher her name is a song. As they walk through the streets, : street musicians and music from cars, Momma sings names from many different cultures. (Each name is spelled phonetically in parenthe The next day, ?the girl didn?t want to go to school, but she had songs to teach.? She even shows her teacher that ?Miss Anderson? is a sor American culture, featuring a Muslim family, offers a fresh way to look at the tradition of creating new names; Momma says, ?Made-up na names were stolen long ago so they dream up new ones. They make a way out of no way, make names out of no names?pull them from tl meanings of the names included in the text, with a note to always listen closely to how a person pronounces their name. The dynamic, pa and strength. A delightful celebration. (Picture book. 5-10)
- School Library Journal July 2020 PreS-Gr 3—This story simultaneously imparts a strong spark of sensibility and envelops readers in a war lesson about the significance of honoring every individual's cultural identity, including the respectful care to correctly learn another's na Kora-Jalimuso, the story's young Black Muslim protagonist, shares her sorrow with her mother over her teacher and classmates' inability response lifts the girl's—and readers'—spirits by illuminating the resonating meaning and power of diverse names through song. As the g talk unfold, Uribe's expressive details capture the musicality of different names. Fine, swooping lines and blooming silhouettes of pastel c the mother's musical notes and Kora-Jalimuso's growing sense of understanding and confidence in her ability to pass this lesson on to ot glossary and a pronunciation guide, emphasizing the beauty and significance of all the names featured. VERDICT For all collections, this i critical message of respecting the pronunciation of an individual's name and honoring the importance of identity and cultural heritage.— Univ. Copyright 2020 Reed Business Information.

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Summary

Mackin Annotation

After they receive a clue that one of the Jedi Masters may still be alive, Kanan, Ezra, and other rebels break into Spire prison and walk into a trap laid for them by the Inquisitor.

Publisher Description

When the rebels receive a secret broadcast, they discover that one of the great Jedi Masters is still alive—and a captive of the Empire!

To save her, Kanan, Ezra, and their friends must break into her heavily guarded prison. Can they find the lost Jedi? Or will the Inquisitor find them first?

This action-packed 8x8 also includes two pages of stickers!

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