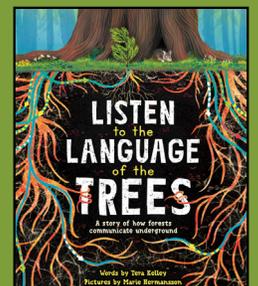
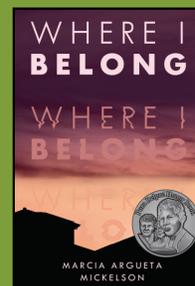
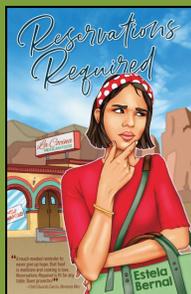
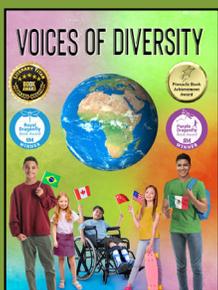
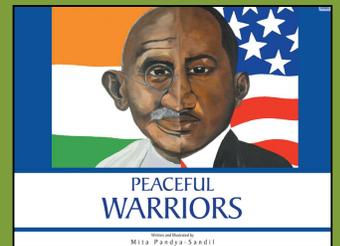
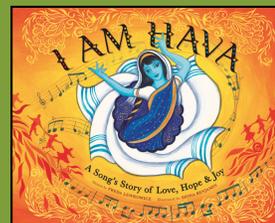
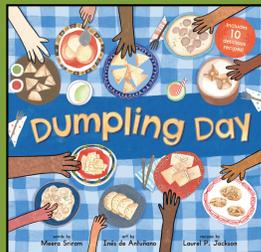
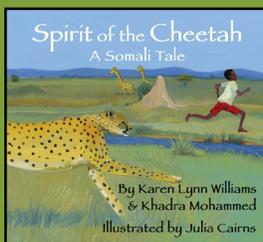
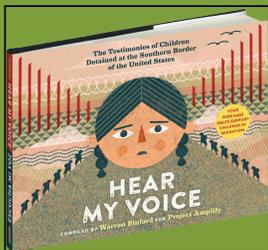
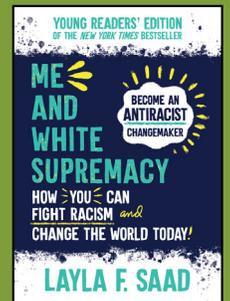
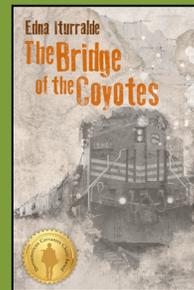
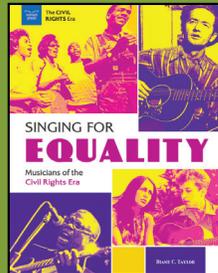
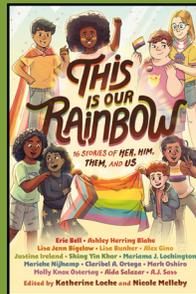
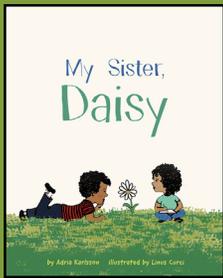
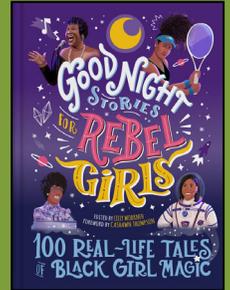
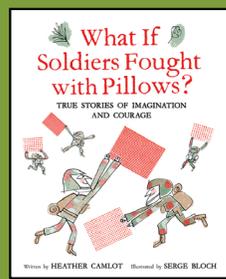
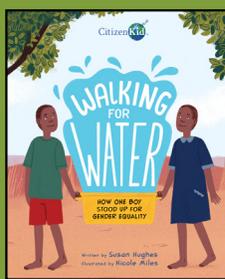
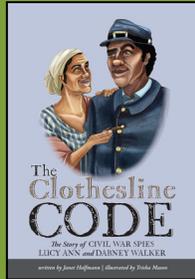
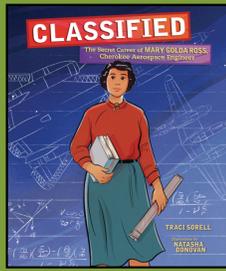
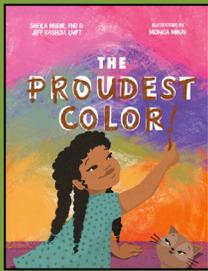


Skipping Stones

Summer 2022

A Multicultural Literary Magazine



Reviews of 2022 Multicultural & Nature Award Winners

The 2022 Skipping Stones Honor Awards



We are pleased to recommend the following outstanding multicultural and nature books, and teaching resources as the winners of our 2022 book awards. These picture books, chapter books, novels, and nonfiction works promote an understanding of cultures, cultivate cooperation and/or encourage a deeper awareness of nature, ecology, and diversity. They foster deep respect for multiple viewpoints and closer relationships within human societies. The honored titles offer various perspectives, and help us understand our diverse cultures, societies, and their histories, as well as why people migrate, for readers of all ages—from beginners to high schoolers, and educators. Our hearty congratulations to the creators of these excellent books!

With special thanks to all our readers and reviewers, here are the book reviews:

Multicultural & International Books

Picture Books for Young Readers:

Dumpling Day by Meera Sriram; art: Inés de Antuñano; recipes: Laurel P. Jackson. *Barefoot Books*. Ages 4-9.

Neighbors joyously announce a dumpling party that will include recipes from all around the globe. From the table of each home, young readers can learn to count and add through the delicious ingredients used to make each cultural dish. In every home, a dumpling dish is cooked with a different texture, from soft and chewy to crunchy and cheesy. The many ways to create a dumpling gets the whole family involved, and a taste test by those helping to prepare the meal seems to be a must. Parents, children, and their grandparents cook together in harmony to share their take on this classic food.

The repetition of words assists younger readers with making meaning, and an added bonus is that the story ends with actual recipes and tips for cooking. What unites us is food and family, and the joy created from sharing food and conversation does not just happen in our own kitchens but in many all around the world.

—Melissa Harris, reading specialist & freelance writer, Illinois.

Spirit of the Cheetah: A Somali Tale by Karen Lynn Williams and Khadra Mohammed; Illustr. Julia Cairns. *Wisdom Tales*. Ages 4-9.

Young Roblay is always in a hurry. He can be spotted running throughout his Somali village to win the big race that will declare him a man. When his dream

does not come true, Roblay seeks the guidance of his grandfather whose advice is unexpected. Roblay must learn to capture the essence of the cheetah that runs as fluid as the river. He studies the graceful movement of a cheetah over time, and by the next race, Roblay has grown strong and steady enough to enter with confidence.

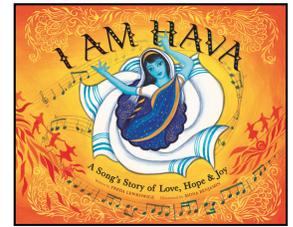
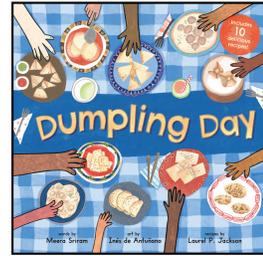
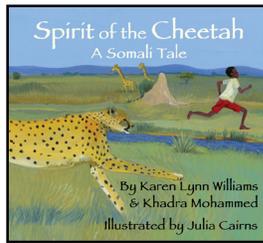
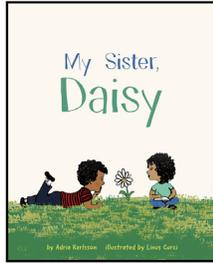
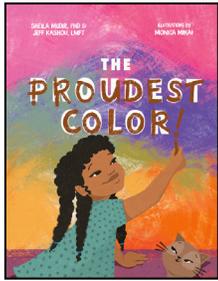
The illustrations generate movement against the Somali landscape of green, blue, and brown. These colors of the earth are reflected in the food and materials used to clothe and shelter the characters. This tale teaches that patience is key, equally as important as speed in order to win a race. Another hidden message is that the great things humans duplicate can be found by simply observing what already exists in nature.

—Melissa Harris, reading specialist & freelance writer, Illinois.

My Sister, Daisy by Adria Karlsson; Illustr. Linus Curci. *Capstone Editions*. Ages 5-8.

This picture book is about how to be accepting and supportive when one sibling identifies with a different gender than the one to which they were assigned at birth. The family portrayed in this sensitively written story is biracial—European American mom and African American dad, with two kids.

The two brothers are best friends who do many things together...until in kindergarten, when the younger sibling tells the older brother that she identifies herself as a girl, and she wants to be called Daisy. The older sibling is confused and doesn't know how to handle



this change. With parental support and help, he is able to overcome this challenge, and the two siblings are able to continue to have a great relationship, this time, as brother and sister. The family also gets emotional support as they join the Rainbow Club lunch, a local LGBTQ+ support group.

The author's note toward the end of the book explains how the author based this story on her own experience as a parent. This book is timely, and it offers a way to open a dialogue on this important topic in our modern society.

—Arun N. Toké, *Skipping Stones* editor.

The Proudest Color by Sheila Modir and Jeffrey Kashou; Illustr. Monica Mikai. *Familius.com*. Ages 5–8.

Zahra's personality is bold and bright like the crayons she uses to color her world. When she goes to a new school, she finds that her skin color is not reflected in the rest of the student population. She is a shade that some of her classmates do not like, brown.

Vibrant colors pop from the pages of this picture book to highlight the powerful images of black and brown leaders. The illustrations of these important brown skin people mixed with Zahra's parents' encouraging words are not only meant to inspire her, but readers as well. Zahra soon beams with brown girl pride when she returns to school, and this hue becomes a new favorite of an unlikely friend. The funds of knowledge are abundant in this book, and every brown girl from all corners of the earth will feel proud to be this beautiful shade too.

—Melissa Harris, *reading specialist & freelance writer, Illinois*.

I Am Hava: A Song's Story of Love, Hope & Joy by Freda Lewkowicz; illustr. Siona Benjamin. *Intergalactic Afikoman*. Ages 6–10.

I am Hava is a wonderful book full of joy, music, knowledge, and wisdom for children as well as teachers and adults. The story is marvelous; the illustrations are

exquisite. But for me, in some ways the bios and notes of the author and artist were most important for teachers. They open the door to talking about and exploring two things. First, the 2,000 years of anti-Semitism (or Jew hate) is exposed by mentioning the Holocaust. If the teacher or parent is not familiar with that history*, this gives them a chance to educate themselves and their young ones. The other thing the **I am Hava** notes open to is the complexity and variety of Jews over the world. We are living in a time where we are more aware that Jews come from many countries and Jews of color are being more recognized. Jews are not just Eastern Europeans or Germans in origin. Jews have lived and live now all over the world. (For example, the illustrator of this book grew up in multicultural India). **Fiddler on the Roof** is not the whole story.

Do come and rejoice with this book.

* **Note:** An excellent book on the 2,000-year long history of Jew hate is James Carroll's **Constantine's Sword**. I highly recommend it.

—Irwin H. Noparstak, *Eugene, Oregon*

The Clothesline Code: The Story of Civil War Spies Lucy Ann and Dabney Walker by Janet Halfmann; Illustr. Trisha Mason. *Brandylane Publishers*. Ages 6–11.

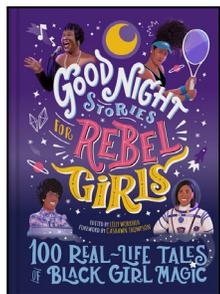
This story of courage and triumph reveals how a Black husband and wife were creative and confidential when helping the Union troops battle the Confederates during the Civil War. Close to the turn of the 20th century, Dabney Walker was assigned to the Union's intelligence unit. Dabney was so inspired by his new mission that he was determined to be a top spy against the Confederate army and shared his plans with his wife, Lucy Ann. Like her husband, Lucy Ann was no stranger to danger since they both escaped slavery to find their freedom. Together they created a code for communicating secrets from the Confederate headquarters to the Union camp using laundry hung on a clothesline to dry.

Many of the illustrations include close-up shots of these courageous legends to display the various feelings experienced during this emotional time period. The joy, sorrow, and victory were beautifully depicted in the motion of the characters that seem to explode off the page. Overall, this history is rich in pride for not only the Black community but for all Americans.

—Melissa Harris, reading specialist & freelance writer, Illinois.

Good Night Stories For Rebel Girls: 100 Real-Life Tales of Black Girl Magic edited by Lilly Workneh. www.RebelGirls.com Ages 6 +.

What do the Duchess of Sussex, a toaster designer, the Vice President, and the Queen of Ndongo have in common? They are all Black women who have made



our world a better place! And they are all featured in this book. From singers to Olympic champions, inventors to entrepreneurs, Black women around the world have used their 'Black girl magic' to positively influence the world, although they can often go unnoticed. To counter-

balance the predominantly white-male history we are often taught, this book purposely highlights the achievements of Black women, providing a way for everyone—no matter your race—to understand and appreciate the many ways Black women have improved the world.

Each spread contains a page-long, bite-sized summary of one Black woman's life and legacy, highlighting the most relevant and interesting information for easy understandability. And, the facing page features a beautiful portrait created by one of more than 60 different illustrators, thus giving each portrait a unique style.

I recommend this book to anyone seeking to better understand the ways Black women have contributed to our world.

—Anna Dillon, TCK, high school junior, Oregon.

Walking For Water: How One Boy Stood Up for Gender Equality by Susan Hughes; Illustr. Nicole Miles. *Kids Can Press*. Ages 7-10.

Twins Victor and Linesi do everything together, even

their morning chores, but when Victor leaves for school each morning he also has to leave his sister Linesi behind. In the Malawi village, girls spend their days collecting water from the riverbed. When his teacher Mr. Tambala assigns homework that doesn't include paper and pencil, Victor is left to ponder an idea he has never considered before, equality. Victor observes that some girls do not attend school with their brothers because of their domestic duties necessary for family survival. For the girls who do go to school, they must hurry home after a full day to complete household chores while the boys meet to play. With much thought, Victor devises a plan. He creates equal opportunity for both him and his sister that allows them both to attend school and share in the household chores.

The pictures are vibrant like the land of Malawi, yet simple like the message—act to solve social conflicts. This motivational story reveals that the silenced should not be the one to speak up first. There is power that comes with privilege, and like Victor, the people with advantage should voice and act on what is right.

—Melissa Harris, reading specialist & freelance writer, Illinois.

Classified: The Secret Career of Mary Golda Ross, Cherokee Aerospace Engineer by Traci Sorell; Illustr. Natasha Donovan. *Millbrook Press*; www.lernerbooks.com. Ages 7-11.

Mary Ross was born into a Cherokee family with a rich history that includes a love for education and humility. She was encouraged to gain skills in and out of the classroom, and she did just that. Mary became a teacher at the young age of 16. Her love for math propelled her to new heights, and after the United States entered World War II, Mary became the first female engineer at Lockheed Aircraft Corporation. She joined the Skunk Works division, a top-secret group where she designed critical concepts for spacecraft that later aided in dispatching astronauts to the moon with the Apollo space program.

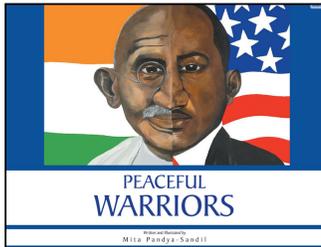
This picture book is a timeline of Mary's life experiences, including illustrated photos with captions, maps, mathematical formulas and Cherokee life mottos that add value to any career one chooses to take. Among the awards and other great achievements, Mary is

known for sharing her knowledge with other Native Americans and young women who will continue the trailblazing path she began.

—Melissa Harris, reading specialist & freelance writer, Illinois.

Peaceful Warriors by Mita Pandya-Sandil. *Fulton Books* (Available on Amazon & Kindle). Ages 8-12.

To be a warrior, we need mental strength, courage, determination and patience. A nonviolent warrior—a peaceful warrior—uses spiritual power, rather than brute strength or gun power to achieve his or her goals. A peaceful warrior is able to prevail without eliminating or hurting the opponent physically!



Mahatma Gandhi was able to bring about social and political change in India (and to some extent, also in South Africa) using peaceful means. After studying law in England, and having practicing it for a few years in South Africa, he returned to his homeland—India. He saw the many injustices that Indians faced at the hands of the British, and he took on the cause of home rule for India. During his long struggle, he realized a complete independence from the British was the only way forward. This book presents few snapshots of the long struggle and a short history of the nonviolent struggle that he led.

Then the author brings to our attention the Civil Rights movement that Dr. Martin Luther King led in the United States. Dr. King had read of Mahatma Gandhi's Satyagraha movement in India. He visited India in early 1959 to further study the nonviolent movement and its means, and to meet many of Mahatma Gandhi's coworkers.

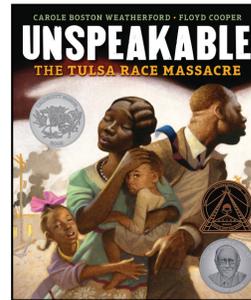
Both these great leaders made a huge difference in the world. They paid a high price—with their lives—but they were determined only to use peaceful means to bring about social change. And they have inspired countless young men and women to walk in their footsteps to carry forward a message of peace, equality, and social justice. The author presents January 20, 2021 as another step in our social struggle for equality when

Sen. Kamala Harris, was sworn in as the first Black-and-Asian women Vice-President of the country.

The author and illustrator of *Peaceful Warriors* was born in India, but was raised in the United States by her parents. She presents both the Independence movement of Mahatma Gandhi and the Civil Rights struggle of Dr. King in a verse form. And, in doing this, she shares her love for the two cultures as well as the values she has assimilated in her life. She invites us to see the world not in terms of borders we cross but values we receive.

—Arun Narayan Toké, editor.

Unspeakable: The Tulsa Race Massacre by Carole Boston Weatherford; Illustr. Floyd Cooper. *Carolrhoda Books*; www.Lernerbooks.com. Ages 8-12.



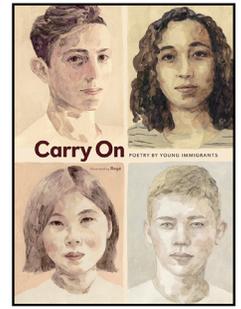
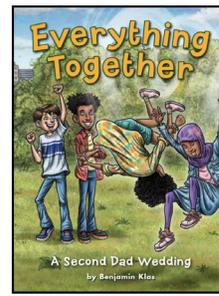
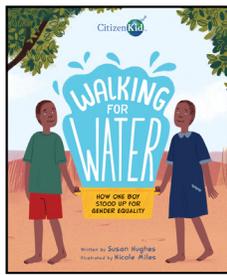
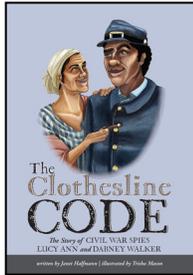
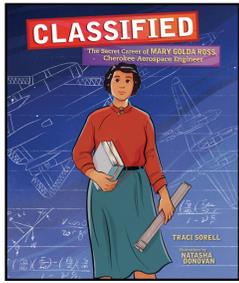
In 2021, the nation observed the 100th anniversary of probably the worst ever racial violence in the country. In 1921, a mob of armed whites attacked the Greenwood district, the home for a thriving African American community, in Tulsa, Oklahoma. The white mob looted homes and businesses, and burned them down. As many as 300 blacks were killed and 8,000 were left homeless. The local police did nothing to stop the violence. In fact, for 75 years after this massacre, there was no official investigation.

This picture book offers a sensitively written, powerfully illustrated introduction to this inhumane treatment of blacks in Tulsa. **Unspeakable** tries to help young people understand the racist history of our nation, so we can move forward to a better future for all.

Unspeakable should be a required reading in all grade schools. It is beautifully and sensitively illustrated by Mr. Cooper, an accomplished artist. The book has been honored with the Caldicott Medal as well as the Coretta Scott King Book Award.

—Arun N. Toké, *Skipping Stones* editor.

Carry On: Poetry by Young Immigrants, Editor: Simon Boulterice. Illustr. Rogé. *Owlkids Books*. Ages 9-12.



Encouraging young readers to take their time looking at each of Rogé Girard's compelling portraits of high school age immigrants in **Carry On** will give them opportunities to see each young person's tenderness, strength and vulnerability. Coupled with a companion poem each remarkable painting becomes even more dynamic and expressive as readers take in the pensive dignity in these original poems that convey the sense of hope for the future and loss of the past that are part of every migration story. Other immigrant youth will immediately feel a welcome sense of recognition and camaraderie and non-immigrant youth and adults will gain a deeper understanding of the range of different emotions that are inevitably present for young people arriving in a new country. Hernan Farina Forster from Uruguay, one of the fifteen young immigrants portrayed in the book, voices this weave of loss and hope when he writes that when a child watches a firefly, he sees that in darkness there is light. Hernan's direct words are, Even here / Far from Uruguay / I have gained the future / I have lost the past / I draw on this new source of light.

The insightful and loving statements made by Simon Boulerice in the editor's note when he quotes his friend and fellow writer Kim Thúy have expanded my thinking about my own immigrant and refugee students. Her writing and poem opposite Boulerice's preface set the tone for the "collective embrace" of the entire book. Born in Vietnam, Kim suggested to the young people whose exquisite portraits fill the pages of **Carry On** that their identity is 200 percent. This statement defines the entire book and reflects an all-important construct of immigrant identity. That anyone arriving in a new home is 200 percent seems like the perfect measure for knowing how to welcome newcomers. They are indeed 100 percent of their new homeland and 100 percent of the beloved place they have had to leave. I cannot think of a better way to convey this essential reality than with this beautiful collaboration

in honor of young people who carry two homes with them and navigate both with such grace and courage.

We can linger a long time with each poem and painting in **Carry On** because the book invites us to look deeply into the eyes of each young person and to read their striking poems that offer us a way to know them even further by putting their hearts to the page. The thickly rich paper enhances the paintings as does the size of the book—all in all we are given the honor of meeting global youth from nine widely different countries who have so much to teach us about welcome and belonging.

—Merna Ann Hecht founded and co-directs the **Stories of Arrival: Refugee & Immigrant Youth Voices Poetry Project** at Foster H.S. in Tukwila, WA

Bilingual/Spanish Books:

Un Coqui de Boriquén Canta Aquí y Allá También (in Spanish) by Lara Mercado and Armando Valdés. Illustr. Nívea Ortiz. www.AdoptaUnCoqui.com. Ages 6–10.



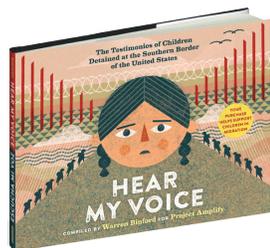
El coqui (*Eleutherodactylus coqui*) as un anfibio muy interesante. Los invito a que investiguen mas sobre la especie. Se sorprenderán. También se ha convertido en un símbolo no oficial de Puerto Rico o Boriken (en el idioma Taíno), donde se le ama y se le atribuyen propiedades mas allá de la ciencia, mas bien que vienen del corazón. El coqui ama a su tierra y la extraña cuando está lejos de ella. Este librito nos enseña que podemos alejarnos de nuestra tierra y aun así recordarla con amor y celebrarla donde quiera que estemos viviendo o visitando. Podemos amar y disfrutar otros lugares, y a la vez recordar nuestro origen, sentirnos orgullosos de este y compartir y enseñar sobre nuestro hogar ancestral. Esto nos hara a todos mejores ciudadanos de la tierra entera.

—*Esther Celis, originally from Mexico, is the president of*

Skipping Stones' board of directors.

Hear My Voice/Escucha Mi Voz (Spanish/English): *The Testimonies of Children Detained at the Southern Border of the U.S.* Compiled by Warren Binford for Project Amplify. *Workman Publishing.* Ages 8-12.

Escucha Mi Voz se hace escuchar sin duda alguna. Estas son las voces de niños migrantes detenidos en la frontera sur. Este no es solo un libro, es un movimiento. Su presentación es impactante, las ilustraciones son lac-



erantes. Este libro no es ficción, es una compilación de hechos verídicos, de declaraciones de los mismos niños que sufrieron, y todavía sufren este abuso, esta ignominia a manos de nuestro gobierno, el gobierno de los Estados Unidos. Es importante

leerlo, los menores deben hacerlo con la guía de un adulto. Solo me queda agradecer a Warren Binford y a todos los participantes su tiempo, su valor, y su arte. El movimiento debe seguir. Esta historia sigue, desgraciadamente repitiéndose.

—*Esther Celis, originally from Mexico, is the president of Skipping Stones' board of directors.*

Hear My Voice gives us an opportunity to hear the voices of the migrant children detained by the U.S. government at our Southern border. This is not just a picture book; it's a movement. The presentation is impactful and illustrations are heartbreaking. It is not a fictional story; it is a compilation of what has happened to many children, expressed in their own words. These unjust detentions continue to happen even today. The children continue to suffer abuses at the hands of our own government—the government of the United States. It is important to read these testimonies. Young children could perhaps read this book under the guidance of a parent or teacher. I felt thankful to Warren Binford and all the participants of this project for their time, their bravery, and their artistic ability to share the impact of this agonizing detention of refugees by our government. This movement to expose the truth must continue, because unfortunately the story continues to repeat itself.

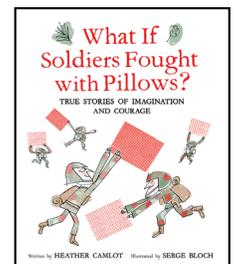
—*Esther Celis, Spanish editor and Arun N. Toké, exec. editor.*

Books for Middle and Upper Grades:

What If Soldiers Fought With Pillows: *True Stories of Imagination and Courage* by Heather Camlot; Illustr. Serge Bloch. *Owlkidsbooks.com* Ages 8-12.

This compilation of true, pro-peace stories reveals the many ways nonviolent tactics have been used to bring about huge global or social changes. Each of the fifteen stories are bite-sized, page-long sections/snippets, and they tell the story of an individual or a group that has in some way used their talents to promote peace.

These stories from different continents and countries will inspire the young readers to make a positive difference in the society through peaceful means. Each story is paired with vivid, simple illustrations and child-friendly, thought-provoking questions like, “What if rocket launchers fired Ping-Pong balls instead of ballistic missiles?”

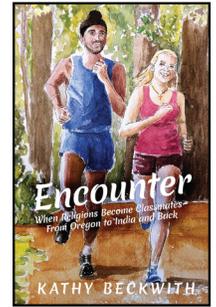
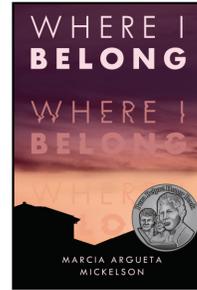
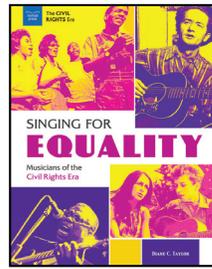
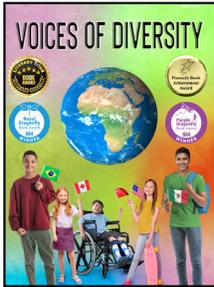
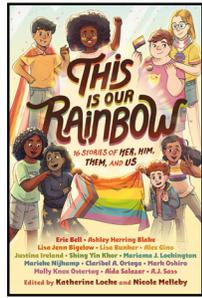


While mentioning the ways wars have devastated communities all over, the author has focused more on ways people have prevented the negative impacts of war. The witty and whimsical illustrations make this short, 40-page book light-hearted even though it deals with a heavy topic. I recommend it highly for all thoughtful young people who want to make a change in the world.

—*Anna Dillon, high School Junior, Oregon.*

Everything Together: *A Second Dad Wedding* by Benjamin Klas. *One Elm Books.* Ages 9-13.

This is the summer when Jeremiah discovers that family can be like a community garden, where an array of unlikely foods and plants can sprout from the same soil. He visits his dad in Minneapolis for a marriage to his fiancé Michael, but when he arrives for a visit with familiarity, he finds a summer of unwanted change. His friendship with the eccentric Sage is strained with the addition of Asha who is vibrant in dress and personality. Between his dad's preoccupation with planning a wedding and Sage's new bike-riding buddy Asha, he feels like the third wheel and alone. As Jeremiah struggles to



find his place to belong, he is invited to help refugees settle into comfort through volunteer work at a community garden. This is where he learns the true meaning of family and diversity.

Throughout the story, black and white sketches help readers visualize changing scenes of the story. In addition, it is filled with significant quotes readers will find valuable for their own relationships with family. Like Jeremiah, offspring can *keep a family together even though they are apart*, and like a garden, the roots of a family are *always stronger than expected, able to grow through so much*.

—Melissa Harris, reading specialist & freelance writer, Illinois.

Small Mercies by Bridget Krone; Illustr. Karen Vermeulen. *Catalystpress.com*. Ages 10-14.

Small Mercies is a book that skillfully combines good lessons in everyday living along with some real examples of problem solving and, at the same time, is full of hilarious moments. Young Mercy, raised by two eccentric but wise aunts, somehow manages to survive her school classes while holding on to her curiosity and cleverness. Her unruly classmates and a teacher who is incapable of managing them keep Mercy on her toes.

At home major dramas are happening almost every day. There's a housing developer trying to coerce them to sell their home, there's fear of a social worker threatening to send Mercy to an orphanage, there's no money to fix a leaky roof, and the electricity gets turned off, just to name a few of the challenges. To help with expenses they accept a boarder who is Indian and an ardent follower of Mahatma Gandhi and who, in his gentle, unobtrusive manner comes to the rescue and helps them solve their problems with non-violent resistance.

This is a delightful reading of a young girl with loving mentors using humor, wisdom, and compassion to overcome obstacles in her life.

—Paul Dix, photographer and a world traveler, Oregon.

Me and White Supremacy: How You Can Fight Racism and Change the World Today! (Young Readers' Edition) by Layla F. Saad. *Sourcebooks*. Ages 10-17.

With the initiation of a welcome letter, all races and creeds are invited to discuss racism and become a change agent for justice. The author openly talks about her path to this work, and in return, she encourages readers to do the same by revealing who they are, both racially and ethnically. It is suggested in the very beginning that this is more than just a good read; it is a call to action, and that is reflected in the structure of each chapter. Within this format is the opportunity to journal ideas and/or have open dialogue with others on the issue. **Reuse, reduce, recycle** to stop climate change. **Recap, reflect, respond** to stop white supremacy. The repetition of “re” shows the significance of engaging in these actions again because tough topics need a second look, and the end of each chapter is dedicated to this cause. For example, the book shares how the silence of those with privilege is a missed opportunity to right the wrongs we cannot afford to overlook. Another idea to consider is instead of promoting a cancel culture where society ostracizes someone, we need an accountability culture for those who display racism to show compassion towards others they have mistreated.

Through self-reflection questions, great examples, and definitions of words often glossed over in classrooms, young people can find a space to talk about this long-time issue that still plagues us today. So, make a commitment to becoming antiracist and putting an end to racism, for we are ancestors to future generations. We have a privilege and obligation to change what their history will be for the better.

—Melissa Harris, reading specialist & freelance writer, Illinois.

Voices of Diversity by Vanessa Caraveo. *Available from Amazon*. Ages 10-18.

This collection of poetry ranges in diverse topics that

affect adolescents, from feeling alien and unworthy to courageous and hopeful for dreams to come true. In each verse the poet tackles issues with beauty and strength. These lines include the barriers of language, color, gender, and more. So, when a girl would rather explore other galaxies instead of eating crumb cake at a tea party, these students demand inclusion of their dream.

There are enough poetry styles to fit the mood of many readers, from free verse to concrete just to name a few. Poetic voices unite us, bridging the gap between legendary heroes and the new ones yet to be discovered within the pages of this book. These young adults have decided to continue the fight with words that are both lyrical and inspiring, paying homage to the greats that came before them like Harriet Tubman and Martin Luther King, Jr.

—Melissa Harris, reading specialist & freelance writer, Illinois.

Where I Belong By Marcia Argueta Mickelson. *Lerner Books*; www.lernerbooks.com. Ages 11-18.

High school senior Millie Vargas, who lives in Corpus Christi, Texas, USA, is confused, naive and resentful. She says she respects her mother, but misleads her about her college plans. Millie scorns rich people yet wants to go to a college that caters to rich students and is located in a very wealthy city. Millie feels she loves her mother and sister, but rejects their wisdom concerning how to make allies and friends.

The author tells us that Mille is ashamed of and wants to hide the fact that she entered this country as an undocumented baby. Her parents were granted asylum and Millie is now a citizen. This secret she harbors separates her from the political issues and people who are asylum-seekers today. Mille uses the terms do-gooder liberals when she speaks of people who are working in uphill battles for immigrants in Texas.

Millie eventually finds her way to confronting her secret and then finding her place in the battles for justice and in friendships with people different than herself.

I think that it is so important for diverse groups who are passionate about equality and fairness to find ways

to work together with compassion toward each other. If we can't do that, then we will find ourselves with less rights and less democracy. I hope that the people who read this book make that conclusion.

—Charlotte Behm, educator, Oregon.

Singing For Equality: Musicians of the Civil Rights Era by Diane C. Taylor. *www.nomadpress.net*. Ages 12-15.

Singing for Equality focuses on the musicians who wrote and/or sung songs that influenced the 1950's, 1960's, and 1970's Civil Rights Movement. The book intertwines the stories and songs of the musicians with the history, politics, and events of the times.

The text, layout and graphics of the book are outstanding. The book starts with a timeline and description of historical events. Subsequent chapters are rich with questions, quotes and statements that promote critical thinking.

The music and other contributions of the musicians are vibrantly described as being the drivers and result of current events. Featured musicians (in order) are Bob Dylan, Mavis Staples and the Staple Sisters, Sam Cook, James Brown, and Nina Simone. In addition, there are paragraphs about and pictures of several other artists.

Throughout the book, there are links (using the camera on a smartphone) that bring up YouTube performances of the songs and events described in the book.

—Charlotte Behm, educator, Oregon.

This Is Our Rainbow. Editors: Katherine Locke & Nicole Melleby. *Alfred A. Knopf Books for Young Readers*. Ages 8-12.

This anthology for young people presents 16 short fiction stories that explore a variety of themes—friendship, crushes, family dynamics, gender and sexuality, race and ethnicity. But the one theme that unites them all is LGBTQ+ identity.

The lead story, "The Purr-cle of Life," explores the loss of a pet as seen from the perspective of a young adult narrator. LGBTQ+ is only alluded to, for example, as the narrator offhandedly recalls a relative saying "they" as a singular pronoun is not grammatical. In other stories LGBTQ+ identity forms the core conflict of the

story, as in “Balancing Acts.” In this story, Kai, who uses pronouns e/em/eir, grapples with eir gymnastic team’s response eir decision to change eir name and pronouns. A comic and a story told in verse are also included in the anthology.

The book foregrounds the unique experiences of LGBTQ+ youth, and also reminds us that the difficulties of youth—of seeking your own way and of finding new connections with others—remain universal.

—Daemion Lee, educator & our ex-editor.

Encounter: *When Religions Become Classmates—from Oregon to India and Back* by Kathy Beckwith. www.2wonders.com. Ages 13-18.

Have you traveled to a different country and experienced a totally different culture? Or lived in a place where your religion—whatever that may be—was not the predominant religion in the community?

Encounter offers an opportunity to experience life from diverse perspectives.

Annie is a high school student from a Christian family in rural Oregon. Her life is going smoothly, she has loving parents, a solid faith to live by, and her childhood friend, Danny, who wants to be her boyfriend. However, when Param, a student from India becomes her classmate, she feels attracted to him. He is smart, tall, handsome, and athletic. And, he likes her as well. Param is Sikh by birth, whereas Danny is Christian like her, and she has liked him ever since her childhood.

Annie’s life is thrown in turbulence when one of her classmates dies in an accident for which she feels responsible. As she struggles mentally and emotionally with this heavy burden, she has to write an essay in one of her classes. She chooses to write about the impact of studying abroad.

Annie writes about how if she had a chance to do it over, how she would choose to be curious, and how she would not be judgmental. She regretted having mistreated her classmate, and how she could have changed that for the better, but without identifying her classmate. Her essay had profound implications. As you read it, you felt she was writing about how we mistreat strangers—from different lands, religions, or cultures.

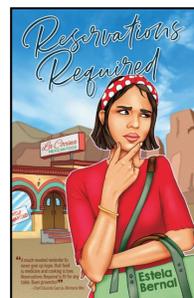
To her surprise, Annie wins a scholarship to study abroad for a semester in an international, Christian high school located in Southern India. She discovers a very fulfilling, multicultural, inter-religious life in her new school. Her classmates come from many countries and from different religions. The Service Learning Class offers her a unique opportunity to interact with villagers in Southern India. As she lives and works with classmates and teachers—Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, Buddhist, and Christians—Annie gains new perspectives, new experiences, and returns home to the United States as a broad-minded teenager. You will be surprised with the ending of this well-crafted book.

Encounter is a transformative novel for its teenage readers. Author Kathy Beckwith has woven an amazing story based on her long-term stay in South India as a Peace Corps volunteer and many subsequent travels there with her husband. Her first-hand life experiences in India, coupled with constructive comments by over a dozen readers and reviewers from many cultures, result in an outstanding and hard to put down novel. As an added bonus, Book Club Discussion Questions are also included in the back of the book. I believe **Encounter** makes a perfect addition to your library!

—Arun N. Toké, editor.

Reservations Required by Estela Bernal. Piñata Books/Arte Público. Ages 13-18.

Lucy Sanchez is a 17-year old with a dream of being a chef. **Reservations Required** tells her story with upbeat skilled writing that keeps a good pace and presents interesting characters.



Lucy leaves her abusive home before she finishes high school and sets out to go to Los Angeles. On the way, she sees a restaurant with a help wanted sign and hops off the bus.

This isn’t Los Angeles; it’s a small town in Arizona. Lucy works hard and makes the best of people who accept her or harass her. She takes the bus to the next town that has a community college and makes the education and certificate she needs.

The culinary skills Lucy learned from her grandmother

and her passion for cooking soon pay off for herself and the restaurant. Lucy grows from a cautious teenager to a confident happy young woman.

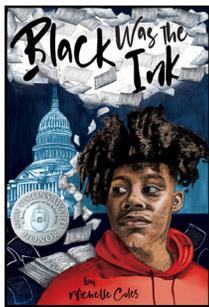
—Charlotte Behm, educator, Oregon.

Black Was The Ink by Michelle Coles; Illustr. Justin Johnson. Tu Books; www.leeandlow.com Ages 13–18.

Malcolm is only 16-years-old but he already has a police record. He has learned the hard way that all it takes in DC is to be black in the wrong place at the right time. In an effort to keep him out of trouble his mother puts him on a train to his father's family farm in Mississippi. He arrives with a bad attitude and two chips on his shoulder. All he wanted to do this summer was draw and play video games, and now he was plopped down in the middle of nowhere with two old people he doesn't know.

He found a quiet place to hideout and draw in peace when suddenly he was looking through the eyes of ones of his ancestors, Cedric Johnson in 1866. Cedric, a ghost who shows him his dairy and demands he find a way to save the family farm. Aunt Carol told him shortly after his arrival that the government wanted to buy the farm to expand the highway.

Cedric was a young man during the Reconstruction Era living in the South, then working in DC for Hiram Revels (U.S. Senator from Mississippi and first black member of Congress, 1870-1871). The only Cedric could get Malcolm to understand was to send him back to 1866 as himself. Malcolm becomes Cedric and he is amazed to learn firsthand what people of his color were accomplishing in DC (his stomping grounds) during reconstruction. He kept thinking; I never learned about this in history class, and why? Malcolm learned that much of African-American history has been buried. Malcolm continues to read Cedric's diary and travels back to the days of Reconstruction. He witnesses killings by the hooded Klan members after the federal troops were pulled out of the South. Finally, he gets to the day when Cedric, himself was killed, and he realizes how the farm can be saved—as a historical



landmark. He only has to find enough proof and get the right people to believe him.

This is a wonderful coming-of-age novel, based on historical facts. There is a timeline of all the African-American Congressmen and women from The Reconstruction period to 2021, when Madame Vice President Kamala Harris took the second-highest office in the nation. There also is a short biography of the African-American Congressmen during the eleven years of Reconstruction.

—Paulette Ansari, retired educator & our board member

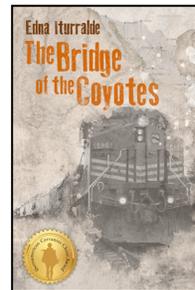
The Bridge of the Coyotes, a novel by Edna Iturralde; Trans.: Bruce Kernan. Available on Amazon. Ages 15-17.

Hilary could never predict that her story would somehow merge with Francisco and Robert when escaping El Salvador. Though their individual paths are different, their challenges are similar in affliction. Both Francisco and Robert must leave their beloved mother to dangerously flee the country for freedom in the United States. The Mara gang are willing to do anything necessary to recruit them, even kill them if necessary. Meanwhile, Hilary must plan a getaway from human trafficking with the help of Chata, a woman who lights the path for all three runaways to meet. Throughout their journey

they all encounter adventure and tough choices to make that will take them to their destination. They learn when to fight, take flight, and most of all show compassion. Their experience is one based on the real accounts of people who trek this voyage every day for a chance at happily ever after in the land of the free.

This realistic fiction is suspenseful and educational, sharing the common Spanish language of Chavas and Chavitas with footnotes for meaning sprinkled throughout the reading. Every page turned is an opportunity for the reader to learn about the stories of those who have helped to make the America we live in today. The path of the immigrant is filled with pain and uncertainty, but most of all, it is permeated with love.

—Melissa Harris, reading specialist & freelance writer, Illinois.



Nature and Ecology Books

A Tree Is A Home by Pamela Hickman; Illustr. Zafouko Yamamoto. Kids Can Press. Ages 5-8.

The dream of enjoying family in a place we call home also belongs to animals that nestle in a tree. Trees can provide shelter for several different animals at one time in its hidden crevices. Throughout the seasons, both the animals and trees they live in encounter changes to prepare for what fall, winter, spring and summer will bring, just as a home does for the people who occupy it. They help their residents sprout new life, a newborn baby, flower bed outlining a yard, or an acorn weevil emerging from an underground cocoon.

Through side-by-side comparisons to a home, where so much human life takes place, readers get a full view of how shelter assists animals that live there. The illustrations include close-up shots of tree animals with interesting captions that reveal detailed facts, and the pictures take the lead in telling the story. Readers can visualize the seasonal colors of an oak tree and connect to the division of weather and climate that help to sustain life.

—Melissa Harris, reading specialist & freelance writer, Illinois.

Listen to the Language of the Trees: A story of how forests communicate underground by Tera Kelley; Illustr. Marie Hermansson. Dawn Publications/Sourcebooks. Ages 5-9.

The animals and other living organisms of the forest are talking. Both predator and prey share a language, and even a tiny seedling that may go unnoticed plays a part in this exchange. Just because one cannot always hear or see this communication, does not mean it does not exist. Underground, the seedling's roots are in contact with other trees, and the mature trees that tower the forest are a life source, even to the fungi that thread between them.

This adventurous story unlocks a mystery to the under-

ground communication lines needed for all to dwell. The illustrations include various shades of green as a backdrop. This displays the significance of the trees that serve as shelter and protection. The words and visuals have movement to show the dynamic environment, and an addition of colorful arrows present the route nutrients take to flood the forest floor for various life to survive. Beyond the storyline is the science, and real-life photographs captioned with important information unveil how we all profit from this process.

—Melissa Harris, reading specialist & freelance writer, Illinois.

Where Wonder Grows by Xelena González; Illustr. Adriana M. Garcia. Cinco Puntos Press. Ages 5-9.

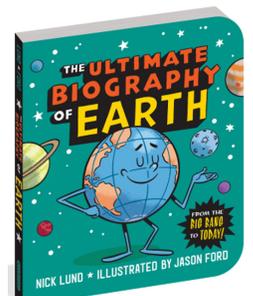
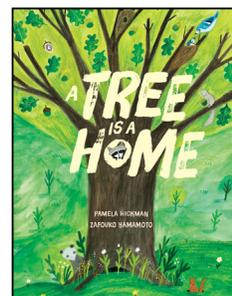
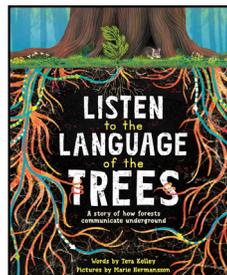
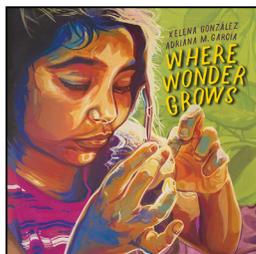
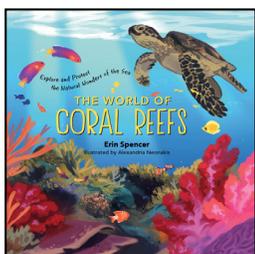
Recently I attended a dedication ceremony for a mural showing the Kalapuya—the people indigenous to Springfield-Eugene, Oregon, USA. The woman who designed and carved the “Kalapuya Talking Stones” (sacred basalt stones that have Kalapuya words with English translations) was describing to a group of people about how the stones talked to her and told her which word they wanted to be.

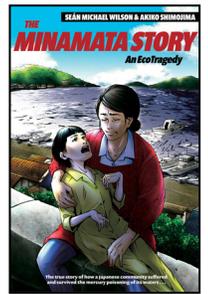
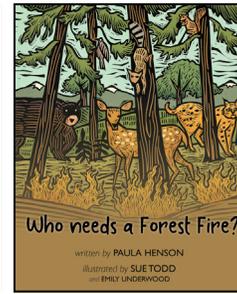
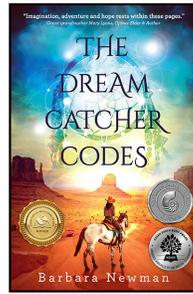
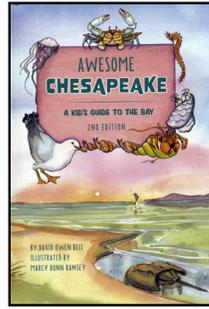
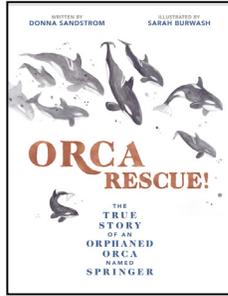
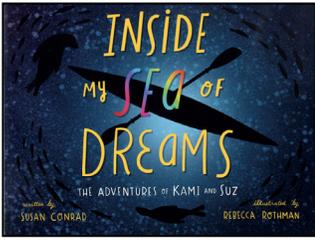
I thought of Lisa Ponder's words when I read **Where Wonder Grows**. The grandma in this book explains that rocks are beings and are alive with wisdom. They were here long before us and know more about our world than we ever will know.

I personally have experienced the strength the Talking Stones give that the grandmother describes, as I have sat with them when I needed to feel comforted and strong. The grandmother also shows the healing power of crystals and the mystery of the sea. “The earth gives us everything we need to survive” is a theme of this beautiful book.

—Charlotte Behm, educator, Oregon.

Inside my Sea of Dreams: The Adventures of Kami





and Suz by Susan Conrad; Illustr. Rebecca Rothman. Driftwood Publishing. Ages 3-9.

Inside my Sea of Dreams takes you on a journey that is filled with wildlife, glaciers, storms, and rainbows. The author, Susan or “Suz,” overcomes her fears and fulfills her dream of paddling her kayak she named “Kami” all the way up through the Inland Passage from Seattle to Juneau, Alaska. Her exciting journey is visually explained with simple, yet beautiful illustrations.

As a child Susan lived inland on a farm, but very early in her childhood she knew she wanted to paddle in faraway places. With her determination and persistence, she brings it to a reality and inspires others to follow their dreams.

This book was of special interest to me because of my love for sea kayaking. Although I haven’t kayaked the Inland Passage, I have paddled in Alaska and off the coast of British Columbia and closely identify with her adventures. Even if you haven’t kayaked yet, you can experience travels and have a vicarious good time.

—Paul Dix, photographer, naturalist, hiker, and kayaker.

The World of Coral Reefs by Erin Spencer; Illustr. Alexandria Neonakis. Storey Publishing. Ages 7-10.

There is a rainforest in the sea, and in this majestic world, countless sea creatures live in the nooks and crannies of coral reefs. In this picture book readers will explore coral reefs, the home to some familiar and unknown animals and plants. Readers can get up close and personal to discover the intricate details about their shape, size, color and texture.

Various shades of blue create the backdrop for a rainbow of colored sea creatures to illustrate a vivid view of what’s down under. Most importantly, readers also learn more about how these legendary reefs are memorialized by island natives, and how everyone on land and at sea work together, coexisting to maintain the cycle of life.

—Melissa Harris, reading specialist & freelance writer, Illinois.

Who Needs a Forest Fire? by Paula Henson; Illustr. Sue Todd and Emily Underwood. Terra Bella Books. Ages 8-11.

The Native people have lived in the Sierra Nevada region of California for the last 13 thousand years, and it is not the only place affected by large forest fires. Unlike the settlers and miners that came to California beginning 1840s, the Native people did not see wild-fires as enemies. They managed the forests near them in sensible ways.

Who Needs a Forest Fire? describes the forest as an ecosystem with plants and animals that live there, why “megafires” continue to happen in the region, and how we can make these forests more resilient to wildfires. Well-done illustrations and simple language make the important subject matter easy to understand!

—Arun N. Toké, *Skipping Stones* editor.

Awesome Chesapeake: A Kid’s Guide to the Bay, 2nd edition, by David Owen Bell; Illustr. Marcy Dunn Ramsey. Schiffer Kids. Ages 8-13.

Awesome Chesapeake is an excellent educational book, and it’s written in a kid-friendly way with lots of realistic, colorful illustrations. You will learn about the web of life—both marine and land—that’s found in and around this important ecosystem on the East Coast. As you read on, you will come to know many fun facts about this body of water and the area surrounding it, such as: The Chesapeake Bay is home to 2500 species of animals and plants, and it covers an area 2,500 sq. miles, whereas its watershed is 64,000 sq. miles!

—Arun N. Toké, *Skipping Stones* editor.

Orca Rescue! The True Story of an Orphaned Orca Named Springer by Donna Sandstrom; Illustr. Sarah Burwash. Kids Can Press. Ages 8-12.

No one had ever successfully reunited an orphaned

orca with its family before, but when a young orca was found separated from her family, there was little choice but to attempt the impossible. **Orca Rescue** tells the story of an orphaned orca named Springer and the thousands of people who were brought together in the attempt to reunite Springer with her family, from orca experts and veterinarians to the thousands that donated time and money for the months-long rescue operation.

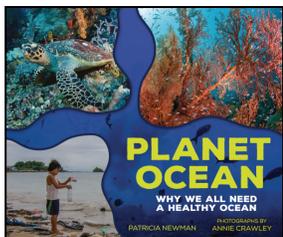
This heartwarming story serves as an inspiring reminder of what can be achieved with a common goal and inspiring individual actions. The book speaks beyond the story of Springer to a much wider scale, detailing the ways humans have hurt (and are continuing to endanger) whales, and at the same time, it provides the readers with practical steps they can take to ensure the safety of orcas and other whales.

This easy-to-follow story is interspersed with interesting facts about orcas, making it both engaging and educational. It describes many details—from orca cultures to their autonomy in an engaging style. Beautiful watercolors accompany each page, bringing the story to life.

Orca Rescue is a perfect read for young nature-lovers, or anyone wanting an interesting read.

—Anna Dillon, *Third Culture Kid*, h.s. junior, Oregon.

Planet Ocean: Why We All Need A Healthy Ocean by Patricia Newman; Photos: Annie Crawley. Millbrook Press; www.lernerbooks.com. Ages 9-14.



Thought-provoking and immersing, **Planet Ocean** transports readers to a new and fascinating world. With its beautiful, immersive photography and clear language, it invites readers to explore a world swarming with creatures and colors, a world filled with life and vitality, the world that surrounds all of us—the world of the ocean. **Planet Ocean** clearly presents the essential, up-to-date information necessary to better our understanding of the ocean; after all, as the book points out, the ocean is vital to every part of our lives. It provides us with oxygen, drinking water, and is in every way crucial to our survival.

But sadly, the book can't stop there. It also delves into the ways the oceans' life and vitality are being stripped away through increasing temperatures and acidification caused by climate change. Photos of dead coral reefs are compared side-by-side to alive ones, revealing the tragedy of climate change in a visual, thought-provoking way. Statistics and facts are used to further our understanding of climate change and its impacts on the ocean, and provide the reader with saddening but true facts about the devastation the ocean faces.

While facing the devastation head-on, **Planet Ocean** also provides a glimmer of hope. The author describes the many men and women around the world working to combat climate change through beach clean ups, spreading good information and challenging the government's apathy towards climate change. It also provides practical ways we—as individuals and as communities—can use our voices and actions to combat climate change and protect our oceans.

I recommend this book to anyone wanting to learn more about the devastating impact of climate change on the ocean as well as the ways we can prevent more damage.

—Anna Dillon, *Third Culture Kid*, h.s. junior, Oregon.

The Ultimate Biography of Earth: From the Big Bang to Today! by Nick Lund; Illustr. Jason Ford. Workman. Ages 9-14.

Take advantage of a once and a lifetime opportunity by reading a detailed interview with the planet we live on, Earth! The possibility of viewing this transcript is now made available through the research scientists have collected about Earth's transformations over the timespan of 4.5 billion years. From the Big Bang Theory when an explosion of different elements resulted in the creation of the sun, to a time when plants killed everything, literally. Plants altered the Earth's atmosphere by decreasing carbon dioxide and increasing the levels of oxygen. This caused the extinction of fish and coral reefs due to lower sea levels where they once thrived, and that's just the tip of the iceberg in the billion-year timeline of earth.

Discover how Earth evolved to the place we now call home with nonfiction text and features that help all

types of readers easily navigate through the unknown. There is a combination of maps, diagrams, timelines, cartoon-style illustrations captioned with labels, and explanations of key terms. This biography of the Earth also allows for freedom while reading. Freedom to individualize learning based on the topics each reader finds interesting. Skim the Table of Contents before reading, the index during or afterwards, and if a word is difficult to pronounce, there is a guide for help that pulls double duty by providing visuals. The final notes of this interview leave readers with some ideas to consider on the future of Earth and how its residence can currently protect it for future inhabitants.

—Melissa Harris, reading specialist & freelance writer, Illinois.

The Minamata Story: An EcoTragedy by Seán Michael Wilson & Akiko Shimojima. Stone Bridge Press. Ages 12-18.

Many times, the stress of a tragic event can weigh heavy on a community and leave a divide. This graphic story illustrates how the carelessness of a large factory not only wedged a hole in the Minamata area of Kumamoto Japan, but destroyed the lives of numerous people in this southern part of the country. When Tomi receives a college research assignment, he is more concerned with just making the grade. However, this changes as he learns that his grandmother was affected by the assigned topic, the Minamata disease. Though it is difficult for his grandmother to relive, she musters up the courage to share her experience and even accompanies Tomi on a visit to Minamata Kumamoto for research. Although some people died from the disease that was caused by a factory contaminating the sea, others survived and lived to tell their story. Some of these survivors shared their story with Tomi and his grandmother. They were bullied and discriminated against because of the side effects of the disease, feeling like outsiders in their own land. Tomi and his grandmother also learned how these survivors sought hope from their experiences, dedicated to remembering those they lost to the disease.

This black and white graphic novel fills in the color with historic facts, animated action words, and emotional drawings that cast shadows and light when appropriate for the scene. Like any quality story, espe-

cially a factual one like this, it is written to promote action. When Tomi reports his research presentation in class, he questions them on what they can do to make the world better. He ends with how he plans to protest against injustices that affect the environment and the people who live in it, and that includes everyone.

—Melissa Harris, reading specialist & freelance writer, Illinois.

The Dreamcatcher Codes by Barbara Newman. www.greenwriterspress.com Ages 12-19.

The Dreamcatcher Codes tells the fantastical story of four girls who must use their mystical powers to restore the natural balance of the universe. When a fragment of the sacred Natural Codes is stolen, the Guardian of Mother Earth, Sophia Rose, must gather a diverse group of girls capable of retrieving the codes and restoring balance to the world. Each chosen girl, Maia, Falcon, Ava and Yue, represent the different directions and elements, and only when they work in harmony can they destroy the clouds of Greed attempting to bar them from their goal. As global warming continues to wreak havoc on Earth, the group of girls knows they have a limited time to restore nature before Greed destroys them all. With guidance from the Guardian of Mother Earth, the spirits, and their mystical horses, the sisterhood embarks on a once-in-a-lifetime journey to save the world.

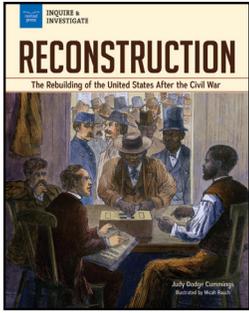
The Dreamcatcher Codes' writing style is almost like gentle poetry, enveloping the readers into a mystic, magical world. Its diverse choice of characters represent many ways of life and traditions, including Latinx, Black, and Asian, with an especial focus on Native American culture(s). The theme of self-discovery and finding one's voice remain central to the book as the four female protagonists journey to save Mother Earth.

Many types of justice are represented throughout the novel. Themes of climate justice run through the book and in a fantastical way reveal the ways our own world is being corrupted by greed and global warming. Social justice is openly addressed and discussed, creating many important talking points for the readers.

I recommend **The Dreamcatcher Codes** to anyone interested in fantasy with deep themes and analogies.

—Anna Dillon, *Third Culture Kid*, h.s. junior, Oregon.

Teaching Resources



Reconstruction: *The Rebuilding of the United States After the Civil War* by Judy Dodge Cummings; Illustr. Micah Rauch. www.nomadpress.net. Ages 12-15.

“To help navigate the present, Americans must understand their past.” A true statement, and the main reason this book is so timely

and should be greatly appreciated by teachers and high school students alike. From 1865 to 1877, democracy expanded because Americans (black & white) worked across racial lines to bring about positive change. Author Judy Cummings weaves the nearly eleven years following the Civil War (known as the Reconstruction Era) with events in the last ten years in America. She compares the criminal acts of today, fueled by white supremacy doctrines and racism with the violence, which destroyed the progress achieved during reconstruction. These criminal acts have opened the eyes of “white America” and forced some laws to change. The justice system has been compelled to apply the laws we have fairly to each person regardless of their race.

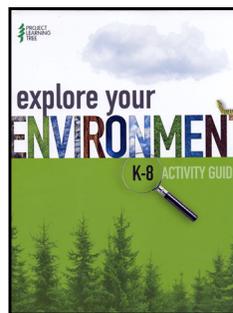
Students are asked to compare the politics of the reconstruction era with today’s policies regarding race. Readers are compelled to clearly study the platforms of the Democratic and the Republican parties. How are they the same and how are they different? All Americans need to understand that during the first eleven years after the Civil War there were black men seated in the House of Representatives and at least two senators were black. There were black men & women who owned and operated restaurants, hardware & clothing stores, etc.

Black people could sit anywhere they wanted to on public transportation and inside theaters. There were several flourishing (mostly) black towns. You may ask, what happened? Promises were broken. The federal troops were withdrawn from the rebel southern states. The KKK was formed and Jim Crow Laws were established in nearly every state. Black towns, and black owned business were burned down, destroyed. Hundreds, maybe thousands of black men, women & children were killed or run off of their property.

Reconstruction is often downplayed or overlooked entirely in the classroom. Usually students are just getting into the Civil War when school is over for the year. Today, most Americans, (both white & black) don’t know about the accomplishments achieved during this period. Even in 2022 there are still too many people who never want the truth to be told. That’s the real truth behind today’s controversy labeled “Critical Race Theory.” We are doomed to repeat the same mistakes over and over again if we are unwilling to make a hard, painful study of the Nation’s past, and determined to make changes for the future.

This book is well organized, which makes it easy to understand. It is divided into eight chapters. Each chapter contains many useful photos (both black & white and color), one purposeful comic strip, bullet points to consider and a list of suggestions to help readers better understand the era. In addition there is a two-page timeline with pictures in the front of the book. Also found in the back is a five-page glossary and an index. There is a list of useful resources readers can refer to for more information.

—Paulette Ansari, retired educator and *Skipping Stones* board member



Explore Your Environment: *K-8 Activity Guide* by Project Learning Tree; www.plt.org. Grades K-8.

Explore Your Environment collects a variety of lesson plans for young people focused on learning about the outdoors. It is divided into three sections, grades K-2, 3-5, and 6-8, based on student age.

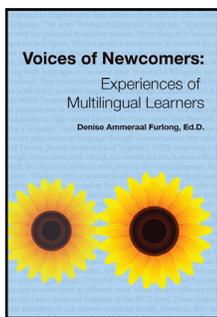
Project Learning Tree aims to create hands on lessons for educators, and this book clearly meets this goal. The curriculum focuses on the Forest Literacy Framework, which presents 100 different concepts divided into four questions: what is a forest, why do they matter, how are they sustained, and what is our responsibility to them?

Each lesson includes objectives, a section on background, how to prepare, and a step-by-step description of how to conduct the activity. Much of the information is present in bullet format, making it easy to digest

and translate into an engaging lesson. Activities include learning about the life stages of a tree, sorting and classifying plant seeds, identifying organisms living in a rotting log, and for the older students, learning about environmental justice through case studies and creating a plan for managing a forested area. It includes 50 different lessons in all.

Easy to read and filled with practical suggestions for creating lively lessons, this book would be useful for educators of all types.

—*Daemion Lee, educator & ex-editor of Skipping Stones.*



Voices of Newcomers:
Experiences of Multilingual Learners
by Denise Ammeraal Furlong, Ed.D.
Edumatch Publishing. For all teachers and educators.

This book provides practical suggestions and strategies for general education teachers for supporting multilingual learners in the classroom.

The book begins with definitions of terms. Most importantly, the author notes students learning English used to be referred to as ESL or ESOL students, but the term multilingual learners (ML) is more accurate, for some students may be learning English as their third or fourth language. Throughout the book the author is careful to use accessible language and defines key words, particularly important in a field that can be heavy with technical language and buzzwords. Each chapter provides useful suggestions for supporting MLs, with specific suggestions about what to do when a new ML enrolls in your classroom, cultural considerations, utilizing their native language skills, academic support and more. This book was written during COVID-related school closures, so a chapter about remote learning is included. Overall the author provides useful information, often citing studies and research, with easy to understand language.

—*Daemion Lee, educator & ex-editor of Skipping Stones.*

The 2023 Book Awards program will be announced this fall.

For more information, please visit www.SkippingStones.org

Our Autumn 2022 issue of *Skipping Stones* features the 2022 Youth Honor Awards, the Annual Book Awards, the Asian Celebration Haiku Contest, and the Celebrate America: Creative Writing Contest of the American Immigration Lawyer's Association. It will be available 1 Sept. 2022.

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