

Afghan Dreams: Young voices of Afghanistan

Tony O'Brien and Mike Sullivan, Photographs by Tony O'Brien ISBN: 978-1599902876

If the stories that come out of Afghanistan are ever to contain hope for the future, then the young people readers will meet in these pages are that hope. From street workers to female students in newly formed academies, children who work in family businesses, and pickpockets who steal from visiting photographers, these are the faces of young Afghans who universally wish for peace in their neighborhoods, in their country, in their lifetimes.

American Born Chinese

Gene Luen Yang

ISBN: 978-0312384487

Jin Wang starts at a new school where he's the only Chinese-American student. When a boy from Taiwan joins his class, Jin doesn't want to be associated with an FOB like him. Jin just wants to be an all-American boy, because he's in love with an all-American girl. Danny is an all-American boy: great at basketball, popular with the girls. But his obnoxious Chinese cousin Chin-Kee's annual visit is such a disaster that it ruins Danny's reputation at school, leaving him with no choice but to transfer somewhere he can start all over again. The Monkey King has lived for thousands of years and mastered the arts of kung fu and the heavenly disciplines. He's ready to join the ranks of the immortal gods in heaven. But there's no place in heaven for a monkey. Each of these characters cannot help himself alone, but how can they possibly help each other? They're going to have to find a way—if they want fix the disasters their lives have become.

Antonio's Card / La Tarjeta de Antonio

Rigoberto Gonzalez, Cecilia Concepcion Alvarez (illustrator) ISBN: 978-0892392049

Mary Quattlebaum (Children's Literature), www.clcd.com

Antonio isn't sure how he feels about his mother's partner, a kind artist named Leslie. She meets him after school and reads to him--but his peers make fun of her red hair and paint-covered clothes. With compassion, author Rigoberto Gonzalez explores the boy's mixed feelings in the bilingual Antonio's Card/La Tarjeta de Antonio. When he draws a Mother's Day card of their family, Antonio doesn't want to call attention to it or to Leslie in a classroom display. His mother listens respectfully to his concerns and answers: "Well, I'll leave it up to you, Antonio. You're old enough now to decide what to do." At the end, when the boy sees Leslie's new painting of their family, he knows, with pride, just what to do. Through bright acrylic pictures, Cecilia Concepcion Alvarez helps bring to affectionate life an alternative family with a good-hearted boy at the center. 2005, Ages 5 to 9.

Any Small Goodness: a novel of the barrio

Tony Johnston

ISBN: 0-7362-2797-0

Vera from BookHive, www.bookhive.org, www.clcd.com

The Los Angeles barrio is home for Arturo and his family who moved to LA from Mexico. Arturo is lucky; he knows some English, but he isn't sure he wants to become so American that his name becomes Arthur instead of Arturo, when a teacher decides to make things "easier on herself." Arturo talks about school, friends, and family: his *abuelita* or Grandmother, sister Rosa, brother Luis, and Mami and Papi, his parents. Each chapter is a new story about the barrio. Some are funny, some are sad, and some are scary, like the time there is a drive-by shooting by some *malditos* or 'bad dudes'. Intermediate, 4th-6th grade, 2001. Ages 9 to 12.

Bringing the Rain to Kapiti Plain: A Nandi Tale

Verna Aardema, pictures by Beatriz Vidal

ISBN: 9780140546163

Jill Bennett (Books for Keeps No. 42, January 1987), www.clcd.com

This full size paperback uses the same structure as the familiar 'The House that Jack Built'.

Bringing the Rain to Kapiti Plain was discovered in Kenya some seventy years ago by an anthropologist and Verna Aardema's version with its cumulative refrain and rhythm ('This is the grass/ all brown and dead/ That needed the rain/ from the cloud overhead - /The big, black cloud/ all heavy with rain,/ That shadowed the ground/ on Kapiti Plain,') brings it closer to the English rhyme. This and the stylised illustration of men and animals extend children's imaginative experience to the less familiar African landscape. Ages 2 to 4.

*** Con Mi Hermano/With My Brother**

Eileen Roe, Robert Casilla (Illustrator)

ISBN: 9780689718557

CCBC (Cooperative Children's Book Center Choices, 1991), www.clcd.com

A preschool-aged Latino boy describes all the things he admires about his teenaged brother who rides a bus to school, has a paper route and plays on a baseball team. The younger brother looks forward to a time when he'll be big enough to do all those things, too, but in the meantime he enjoys the time he and his big brother spend together wrestling, playing catch, and reading stories. The simple, patterned text, in English and Spanish, is accompanied by realistic, full-page watercolor paintings. CCBC categories: Books For Toddlers; Picture Books. 1991, Ages 3-6.

Day of the Dead

Tony Johnson, Jeanette Winter (illustrator)

ISBN: 978152024468

Jan Lieberman (Children's Literature), www.clcd.com

The text and pictures abound with the rhythms of the Spanish language and the joyousness of the tradition of remembering relatives who have died. While watching members of their families prepare empanadas, gather fruit, fill tamales, and brew that famous mole sauce, the children express their impatience and excitement. We, too, rejoice in the singing, dancing and the symbols of the renewal of life--a true celebration. Johnston has written a gem of a book. 1997, Ages 4 to 8.

Everybody Bakes Bread

Norah Doodley, Peter J. Thornton (illustrator)

ISBN: 9780876148952

On a rainy Saturday, Carrie and her brother bicker so much that their mother sends Carrie on a fool's errand to borrow a "three-handled rolling pin." At the first neighbors' house, Carrie is offered a slice of freshly baked Barbadian coconut bread; at the next house, she has chapatis; and at the next, she sees corn bread cooling. Three more neighbors are baking, too, and by the time Carrie returns home, the bread at her own house is finished. In this companion to *Everybody Cooks Rice* (1991), Dooley evokes the warmth of a friendly, international neighborhood and includes recipes for each of the seven types of bread the families bake, several of which can be made quickly. Thornton's cozy pictures capture the faces found in the multiethnic neighborhood, and together the artist and the author make a rainy Saturday seem special. Ages 5-8

Everybody Cooks Rice

Norah Doodley, Peter J. Thornton (illustrator)

ISBN: 9780395732335

Carrie canvasses the neighborhood, trying to round up her younger brother in time for dinner. Every household she visits represents a different ethnic heritage--Fendra Diaz's grandmother lives in Puerto Rico, Madame Bleu hails from Haiti, the Huas have emigrated from China, etc. All the families are either preparing or consuming dinner, and Carrie discovers that despite

divergent backgrounds, "everybody cooks rice." The multicultural smorgasbord she samples includes rice and black-eyed peas from Barbados, biryani from India, Vietnamese nuoc cham . However correct politically, Dooley's first book is like food for an invalid: wholesome indeed but numbingly bland. Her plot unfolds in an atmosphere of vacant inevitability and her writing lacks style. Thornton's static illustrations, meanwhile, recall the false harmony of Sally, Dick and Jane. Recipes for the rice dishes are included, but most young readers will prefer to sink their teeth into a more highly seasoned story.

From Here to There

Margery Cuyler

ISBN-13: 978-0805031911

A little girl travels from the comforts of her own home to the far reaches of the universe. The journey begins in Maria's house and then moves outward to the street, town, country, continent, hemisphere, planet, solar system, galaxy, and, finally, the universe. With each new widening perspective, children can explore the vastness of the world around them as they discover their own special place in space. 1999. Ages 4-9.

Grandfather's Journey

Allen Say

ISBN: 978-0547076805

Annie (BookHive (www.bookhive.org)), www.clcd.com

Do you ever wonder what it would be like to visit another country on a whim and explore it from coast to coast? This is just what the author's grandfather did. Allen Say chronicles the life of his grandfather and his love affair with the United States and Japan. Through beautiful and intimate portraits, the reader will witness this extraordinary man as he explores the States by train, riverboat, and believe it or not, by foot. He experiences the deserts, the huge cities with factories and tall buildings, but loves California best. However, as the grandfather watches his own daughter grow, he realizes how much he misses his childhood friends and the landscapes of Japan. Experience the celebration of two cultures as Allen Say lovingly recounts the life of his grandfather. This 1994 Caldecott Medal Winner is a good read to share with armchair travelers from elementary school kids on up. 1993. Ages 5 to 12.

I Hate English!

Ellen Levine, Steve Bjorkman (Illustrator)

ISBN: 0590423045

Publishers Weekly (Publishers Weekly), www.clcd.com

Such a lonely language. Each letter stands alone and makes its own noise. Not like Chinese." Mei Mei, a bright and articulate immigrant from Hong Kong, is having much difficulty adjusting to the new language and culture at school in New York City. When she hears a story in English about traveling by covered wagon, Mei Mei cries. "She didn't want English to have words that she didn't know in Chinese. . . . She felt she might lose something." A sensitive teacher takes Mei Mei under her wing, literally bombarding the girl with words, and succeeds in breaking through her fear of losing her identity. This story of cultural adjustment rings true, and Mei Mei's dilemma is strongly affecting. Her disgruntlement with English, the fun of an outing to Jones Beach, to cite two contrasting examples, are brought vividly to life by Bjorkman's cartoon-style illustrations (watercolor with pen-and-ink outline). Ages 5-7.

In My Family/En mi familia

Carmen Lomas Garza

ISBN: 978-0892391639

In My Family/En mi familia is Carmen Lomas Garza's continuing tribute to the family and community that shaped her childhood and her life. Lomas Garza's vibrant paintings and warm personal stories depict memories of growing up in the traditional Mexican-American community of her hometown of Kingsville, Texas.

Jalapenos Bagels

Natasha Wing, Robert Casilla (Illustrator)

ISBN-13: 9780689805301

Jan Lieberman (Children's Literature), www.clcd.com

For multicultural units or a celebration of International Day, this book will add a touch of spice. Pablo's parents own a panaderia/bakery and when he has to bring something to school for International Day, he decides that he will bring a taste treat that is a mixture of both parents: Jalapeno Bagels. Recipes are included for Chango bars and the bagels, which are from an authentic Mexican-Jewish-American bakery in Arcata, California. Rich watercolor paintings extend the story and convey a feeling of family togetherness. 1996, Ages 5 to 8.

One Green Apple

Eve Bunting, Ted Lewin (Illustrator)

ISBN: 9780547350110

Mary Quattlebaum (Children's Literature), www.clcd.com

Farah, a Muslim girl, knows her dupatta and incomprehension of English make her stick out at her new school. She has recently emigrated from a country that has had difficulties with the United States, and she wonders if she will be accepted by the other children. On a school field trip to an orchard, Farah finds some similarities between her new country and her home country that make her feel less homesick. There are the friendly faces of two classmates, Anna and Jim, and farm dogs, with the insides of ears as "pink and shiny" as her dog Haddis's ears. She attends to sounds that are universal: the crunch-crunch of dogs eating, the ka-chunk of apples in the cider press and laughter, including her own. In saying her first English word, "App-ell," aloud, Farah begins to take her place in this new culture just as the apple she chose mingles with those of her classmates in the cider press. Master author Bunting brings a compassionate eye and light touch to this story of resilience and self-acceptance, a story that will resonate with children of all cultures. Lewin's stunning watercolors capture the sun-dappled orchard, the day's shifting light and the changing expressions of Farah and her classmates. 2006, Ages 5 to 10.

Mama's Sari

Pooja Makhijani, Elena Gomez (illustrator)

ISBN: 9780316011051

Gillian Engberg (Booklist, Apr. 15, 2007 (Vol. 103, No. 16)), www.clcd.com

On her seventh birthday, an Indian girl watches her mother put on a sari ("so different from the gray sweaters and brown pants that she wears to work"), and she yearns to wear one, too. After all, she's growing up: "I don't need a nightlight anymore, and I can pour my own glass of milk." Together, mother and daughter remember the occasions when Mama wore each sari. Finally, Mama relents, and the girl drapes herself in brilliant blue fabric. The Hindi phrases are clearly defined in an introductory glossary, making this both a good choice for Indian children seeking stories about themselves and a welcome introduction for kids of all backgrounds. The story's universal themes transcend cultural specifics, though. Many kids will relate to the little girl who uses grown-up outfits to try on grown-up identities, and Gomez's paintings, as richly colored and patterned as Indian cloth, show the love and closeness as mother and daughter remember the past and think about the future together. 2006.

*** Margaret and Margarita**

Lynn Reiser

ISBN: 9780688122393

Janice Del Negro (Booklist, Sept. 15, 1993 (Vol. 90, No. 2)) , www.clcd.com

Margaret unwillingly goes to the park with her mother, and Margarita (also unwillingly) goes to the park with hers. The two little girls meet, and although their mothers are dismayed that neither speaks the other's language (Margaret speaks English, and Margarita speaks Spanish), the two girls communicate with each other very well, trading words and information in both English and Spanish. Reiser's watercolor-and-ink illustrations show the pleasant interaction between the girls as they get to know each other and, in the end, understand the Spanish and English words for *friend*. This is a well-conceived, well-executed bilingual picture book with a narrative that does more than serve as a vehicle for a language lesson. A valuable addition to school and public libraries. 1993. *Ages 5-8*.

Miss Mary Mack

Mary Ann Hoberman, Nadine Bernard Westcott (Illustrator) ISBN: 0316076147

Gillian Engberg (Booklist, Feb. 15, 2001 (Vol. 97, No. 12)), www.clcd.com

Hoberman's 1998 picture-book version of a bouncy clapping rhyme has been nicely translated into a smaller, board-book format. Most of the original delightful adaptation is here, in a font that's large enough for precocious children to follow. Westcott's magic-marker-bright illustrations bloom from the pages, with the spunky Mary Mack and her rambunctious elephant pal just the right size to avoid cluttered layouts. The hand-clapping exercises that appeared on the picture book's endpapers are missing here, but this is still a lively version of a perennial favorite. Category: Books for the Young--Nonfiction. 2001, *Ages 2-4*.

Monsoon

Uma Krishnaswami, Jamel Akib (illustrator)

ISBN: 978-0374350154

Annie (BookHive (www.bookhive.org)), www.clcd.com

It is summertime somewhere in a city in India. It is hot, dry and very dusty. The heat and humidity is just too hot to handle. But for this family and their community, one word is all the buzz-- MONSOON!! Everyone tries to go about their daily routines in this sweltering heat. But everyone is waiting for the rain. When will it come? The hot, humid heat can be felt through the rich illustrations and the minds of the people who only long for the rains. This is a great rainy day and everyday story. 2003, *Ages 5 to 12*.

Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters

John L. Steptoe, Clarita Kohen (Translator)

ISBN: 9780688040451

Debra Briatico (Children's Literature), www.clcd.com

This African tale from Zimbabwe evokes the Cinderella story in its portrayal of Mufaro's daughters, Manyara and Nyasha, who are summoned before a king looking for a suitable wife. The scheming, selfish Manyara plots to appear first at the palace, while her considerate, loving sister takes time on the journey to care for hungry and elderly people. Manyara's haste does not work to her benefit and eventually causes her undoing. The colorful and richly textured illustrations are breath-taking and help make this picture book a favorite among children and adults. 1987,

Muslim Child: Understanding Islam Through Stories and Poems

Rukhsana Khan, Patty Gallinger (illustrator)

ISBN: 978-0807553077

Karen Leggett (Children's Literature), www.clcd.com

Many young children can identify with the trauma of being lost from their parents at a shopping mall or in a park and that is the point of empathy for Rukhsana Khan's story about the Muslim pilgrimage, or hajj, to Mecca. Mecca is crowded with hundreds of thousands of people. A little American boy tells the story of being lost in the midst of the throng and the kindly old man who helps him find his parents. Along the way, young readers learn about this important obligation of the Muslim faith. Congenial, touching, and even humorous stories describe Islamic beliefs as they are practiced by children in America, accompanied by definitions or explanations in the margins. There are several poems, a few short readings from the Quran, a craft and a recipe, as well as a guide to Arabic pronunciation and a timeline for the life of Mohammed. Soft black and white sketches illustrate the text. The stories are very accessible for Muslim and non-Muslim children, read aloud or independently. Several of the stories would be appropriate for school use as an introduction to cultural and ethnic diversity, including one about the difficulty of avoiding pork products as a Muslim in America and another about a Muslim child and his non-Muslim friend who come to understand and accept a mother who dresses head-to-toe in a flowing black robe. "A big black ghost!" said Danny; until the "big black ghost" climbed a tree to rescue Danny when he had climbed too high and pulled a lollipop from the pocket of her black dress. 2002, Ages 7 to 12.

My Diary From Here to There

By Amada Irma Paerez

ISBN-13: 978-0892392308

Publishers Weekly (Publishers Weekly), www.clcd.com

The team behind *My Very Own Room/Mi propio cuartito* again takes its inspiration from an event in the author's childhood, this time exploring the feelings of a Mexican girl on the verge of starting a new life in Los Angeles. While the rest of the family proclaims excitement at their imminent move ("They have escalators to ride!" says one of her five brothers), Amada confides her fears to her journal: "Am I the only one who is scared of leaving our home, our beautiful country, and all the people we might never see again?" Her father tells her, "You are stronger than you think," but Amada isn't sure. In the end, she indeed discovers her strength, as well as a way to keep beloved friends and relatives back in Mexico "in my memories and in my heart." Pérez sensitively explores her protagonist's emotional journey, peppering the narrative with details of specific moments—Amada's last walk in the park with her best friend, an uncle's magic trick to keep up the children's spirits. Gonzalez's color-saturated vignettes unfold against eye-catching backdrops of turquoise, yellow, green and purple, and the sweeping brush strokes and bold, slightly stylized features of her characters lend the pages a folk art feel. English and Spanish versions of the text are cleanly worked into the compositions. Ages 6-up. 2002

My Name Is Maria Isabel

Alma Flor Ada, K. Dyle Thompson (illustrator)

ISBN: 978-0780752955

Armed with her new blue book bag, Maria Isabel bravely faces her first day at a new school. But when she meets her new teacher, she is told there are already two other Marias in the class. "Why don't we call you Mary instead?" her teacher suggests, unaware that Maria was named for both her grandmothers, a grandfather and her father. Maria's inability to respond to "Mary" leads to more problems. Simply told, this story combines the struggle of a Puerto Rican family's efforts to improve their life with a shared sense of pride in their heritage. The author's carefully drawn characterizations avoid stereotypes, thus increasing their appeal and believability. An

essay involving a wish list gives Maria a chance to reclaim her name, and allows her teacher to make amends. Abetted by Thompson's straightforward black-and-white drawings, this contemporary tale serves as a good reminder that no two names are really alike. Ages 7-10.

My Name is Yoon

Helen Recorvits, Gabi Swiatkowska (illustrator)

ISBN: 9780374351144

Yoon does not want to learn how to write her name in English. Her family recently moved to America from Korea and she is homesick. Yoon does not want to lose her culture by writing her name in English. In Korean, the characters of her name look happy and "dance together," while her name in English consists of lines and circles, "each standing alone." Yoon struggles with the cultural differences while she is in school and avoids writing her name in English. Instead Yoon writes the names of objects she sees such as cats, birds and cupcakes. Yoon imagines herself as each of these things, which gives her a sense of security, freedom and acceptance. The illustrations vividly reflect Yoon's thoughts. Yoon soon realizes she will not relinquish her Korean identity by writing her name in English. This understanding is reinforced through the illustrations as they reflect her eventual cultural balance. This transformation is a bit premature, but the themes of acknowledging and accepting differences while preserving individuality offer positive reinforcements for children from multiple cultural backgrounds. 2003, Ages 4 to 8.

***My Very Own Room/Mi Propio Cuartito**

By Amada Irma Perez

ISBN-13: 978-0892392230

CCBC (Cooperative Children's Book Center Choices, 2001), www.clcd.com

In a tiny, two-bedroom home, an eight-year-old Mexican American girl shares a room with her five younger brothers and longs for a space of her own. She finds just what she's looking for in a tiny storage closet that is separated from their living room by a curtain. It's just big enough for a bed and a crate to hold her beloved library books. With the help of her entire family, she transforms it into a colorful, cozy bedroom. This shining bilingual (Spanish/English) story is based on author Amada Irma Perez's own childhood. The young girl's world is one of humble material things but bounty in the spirit of family. That spirit is celebrated in Maya Christina Gonzalez's dazzling illustrations in richly hued colors. CCBC categories: Picture Books for Older Children. 2000, Ages 5-8.

Nasreen's Secret School: A True Story from Afghanistan

Jeanette Winter

ISBN: 978-1416994374

CCBC (Cooperative Children's Book Center Choices, 2010), www.clcd.com

Based on a true story, Nasreen's tale opens with an author's note that details some of the changes in Afghanistan during the Taliban reign of 1996-2001, including the restriction on girls from attending school or university. Brave "citizens defied the Taliban in many ways, including supporting the secret schools for girls" both during and after the Taliban's control of Afghanistan. In the story that follows, Nasreen lives alone with her grandmother after her father is seized by soldiers and her mother leaves to search for him. Nasreen does not speak after her parents' disappearance, and her grandmother decides to send her to a secret school for girls, hoping that she will "learn about the world and speak again." Although her silence persists for a long time, eventually Nasreen begins to talk to another girl at the school and learns to read, write, and do math. "Windows opened for Nasreen in that little schoolroom Nasreen no longer feels alone. The knowledge she holds inside will always be with her, like a good friend." Illustrations are framed and surrounded by white space, serving as windows into Nasreen's world. 2009. Ages 6-10.

No English

Jacqueline Jules, Amy Huntington (illustrator)

ISBN: 978-1587264740

Mary Quattlebaum (Children's Literature), www.clcd.com

Recently arrived from Argentina, Blanca keeps saying "no English" when someone tries to talk with her. When the girl leaves for her ESL class, the teacher guides the other second graders to better understand Blanca's feelings of loneliness and isolation. Soon the children are learning about Argentina and trying to say Spanish words. Several days later, though, a substitute sends the first-person narrator and Blanca to the office for giggling and drawing (their only means of communication). The girls discover that their developing friendship helps them weather the ordeal. The story is especially strong in its portrayal of two youngsters being curious about and helping one another rather than showing the child of the dominant culture being the only one to provide assistance. 2007, Ages 4 to 8.

Paper Crane

Molly Bang, Molly Bang (Illustrator)

ISBN: 9780688073336

Lauren Peterson (Booklist, Sept. 15, 1995 (Vol. 92, No. 2)), www.clcd.com

Poignantly told from the first-person perspective of a young African American girl, this heartfelt poem takes readers on an emotional journey in which the girl escapes her tragic world of senseless violence. After learning about the legend of Sadako and the thousand paper cranes in school, the girl summons the peace crane to life with her imagination and relates her anxieties to the magical bird: "When the sun falls in the city, when I hear shooting on my street, I hold my ears and hope in my heart that it's not a friend of mine." What begins as a story of hopelessness and despair ultimately becomes an optimistic vision for the future "of a world without borders, of a world without guns, of a world that loves its children, each and every one." Dramatic oil paintings depict the horror of the atomic bomb blast that killed Sadako and also the disturbing street violence of today's world. Mostly, though, the artwork shows a journey that culminates in the discovery that people everywhere are working toward peace. 1995, Ages 6-9.

*** Pepita Talks Twice: Pepita Habla Dos Veces**

Ofelia Dumas Lachtman, Alex Pardo Delange

ISBN: 9781558850774

Tim Whitney (Children's Literature) (www.clcd.com)

Pepita is tired of people who ask for her help because she can speak both Spanish and English. She wants to get home before her brother Juan so she can teach her dog Lobo a new trick. Therefore, she decides she no longer will speak Spanish. However, she later realizes the importance of speaking two languages when she must use Spanish to save Lobo's life. The story, with its text in both English and Spanish, will delight children who speak either language. 1995. Ages 6 to 10.

Seedfolks

Paul Fleischman, Judy Pedersen (Illustrator)

ISBN: 9780064472074

Margaret Jackson (Children's Literature), www.clcd.com

With *Seedfolks*, Newbery Medal winner Paul Fleischman has written a kind of modern-day folk tale about disconnected urban dwellers coming together one-by-one to join in a rather accidental community garden. It all starts with the simple act of a young immigrant girl honoring her dead father by planting a few lima beans in vacant lot in her downtrodden Cleveland neighborhood. She tells her story in chapter one and the chapters that follow are the voices of the other gardeners--spanning all ages and many nationalities--and how they came to be a part of the garden and the new community spirit that blossomed there. *Seedfolks* is just a slip of a book but a

very interesting story well told. 1997, Ages 10 up.

Silent Music

James Rumford

ISBN: 978-1596432765

Diane Carver Sekeres, Ph.D. (Children's Literature), www.clcd.com

The story of a young boy's dream to be able to draw Arabic letters beautifully is, on the surface, a simple expression of the passions of childhood. Ali's hero is the most famous calligrapher in history, Yakut al-Musta'simi, and it is no coincidence that Yakut's life was disrupted by war in Baghdad, just as Ali's is. Ali's days are not portrayed as filled with horror; quite the contrary. He and his friends enjoy a full family life, and his soccer ball is as important to him as his pens. Yet the ease of writing the sliding hooks of the word "war," and the difficulty of writing the intricate waves and slanted staff of the word "peace," is an unambiguous metaphor for the ubiquitous presence of war in Baghdad since 2003. Ali's world is illustrated in pencil and charcoal and enhanced on the computer. Pages are collages of calligraphy and fabric in the warm browns, golds and blues of the desert. They call to mind the ornate tiling and complex openwork of the floors and walls of a beautiful mosque. This is a book with many levels of significance, for all ages. 2008, Ages 4 to 8.

*** Sopa de frijoles/Bean Soup**

Jorge Argueta, Rafael Yockteng (Illustrator)

ISBN: 9780888998811

For people who have left their homeland for a new country, comfort foods from home take on a huge emotional importance. This delightful poem teaches readers young and old how to make a heartwarming, tummy-filling black bean soup, from gathering the beans, onions, and garlic to taking little pebbles out of the beans to letting them simmer till the luscious smell indicates it's time for supper. Jorge Argueta's vivid poetic voice and Rafael Yockteng's vibrant illustrations make preparing this healthy and delicious Latino favorite an exciting, almost magical experience

Subway Sparrow

Leyla Torres

ISBN: 978-0374471293

Graciela Italiano (Booklist, Jan. 15, 1994 (Vol. 90, No. 10)), www.clcd.com

There is a sparrow in the New York City subway. Four passengers, whose differences in age, culture, and language may appear insurmountable, find a way to catch it before the train gets into the next station and fills with people. Torres develops her story smoothly, weaving text and images into a simple, warm, and appealing plot. The text is enriched and extended through the use of original angles and perspectives in the full-color illustrations that effectively contrast the stark reality of urban public transportation with the human concern for a vulnerable sparrow. A good choice to read aloud to young ones, though older children may prefer to enjoy the detailed illustrations in the intimacy of a private reading. The interjection of foreign phrases does not break the continuity of the plot, which is carefully maintained through the illustrations; the text of the Spanish language edition is clear, reading with the ease of a native speaker's language. 1993. Ages 3-8.

Tea with Milk

Allen Say

ISBN: 978-0547237473

Annie (BookHive (www.bookhive.org)), www.clcd.com

Born and raised in San Francisco, May, a young Japanese-American only knows the American way of life. When her father decides that he is homesick for the land of his birth, he takes his wife and a very unhappy May with him back to Japan. May trades her American clothes for a kimono,

tasty American food for an unsatisfying diet of rice, and has to go back to high school to learn Japanese. However, May takes control of her life when she learns that her parents have hired a matchmaker to find her a husband. Tired of being a "gaijin" which is Japanese for "foreigner", she wears the attire of a gaijin and leaves the old world of her parents' village to find her destiny in the modern city of Osaka. Grade Level: Intermediate (4th-6th grade); 1999, Ages 9 to 12.

The Arrival

Shaun Tan

ISBN: 978-0439895293

L. F. Wade (Children's Literature), www.clcd.com

Shaun Tan depicts the experience of immigration in 124 pages of wordless illustration. The sepia toned illustrations guide the reader through a journey divided into six parts. The images depict the story of an immigrating family from the father's departure; his passage by boat to a new land; learning to negotiate a new city; finding a job; and sending for his family to join him. The absence of words and the use of an untranslatable 'language' forces the reader to interpret the story and allows him to experience the same problems as the family. Along the way, Tan uses dragons, nameless creatures, and even bizarre fruit to underline the experience of a stranger in a strange land. Illustrations range from double-spread epics to tiled one- and one-half inch insets evoking the feeling of a yearbook or scrapbook. In the author's note Tan lists his inspiration as images from historical documents, movies, and paintings. The portraits found on the end pages were inspired by photos from Ellis Island and depict some disturbing images of war, including skeletons. Teachers and parents will find this a useful tool for delving into the challenges facing immigrants. 2006, Ages All.

The Best Eid Ever

Asma Mobin-Uddin, Laura Jacobson (illustrator)

ISBN: 9781590784310

Ken Marantz and Sylvia Marantz (Children's Literature), www.clcd.com

Aneesa's parents have gone on the Hajj pilgrimage to Saudi Arabia, while she stays home in America with her grandmother. She misses them, especially on the holiday of Eid. Her grandmother tries to cheer her with a gift of beautiful new clothes. She is also making her favorite dinner, lamb korma. After the service at the Prayer Hall, Aneesa meets two young sisters, refugees from trouble abroad, and decides to give the poor girls her new clothes and the special dinner. At first their father says that they must not take charity. But then he accepts as long as he can share with their needy neighbors. Aneesa and her Nonni are happy to eat pizza for dinner, feeling good about their holiday celebration. The detailed double-page illustrations focus on the characters while including objects from their lives. Jacobsen uses pastel pencils to create the sequence of scenes that reflect the changes in mood in this moral tale. Notes add information about the holiday and the pilgrimage. There is also a glossary with pronunciation information. 2007, Ages 4 to 8.

The Bicycle Man

Allen Say

ISBN: 9780395506523

The amazing tricks two American soldiers perform on a borrowed bicycle are a fitting finale for the school sports day festivities in a small village in occupied Japan. "A delightful story." – Kirkus, 1982.

*** The Bossy Gallito/El Gallo de Bodas: A Traditional Cuban Folktale**

Retlod by Lucia M. Gonzalez, Lulu Delacre (illustrator)

ISBN: 978-0439067577

Jan Lieberman (Children's Literature), www.clcd.com

This is a Cuban version of a Spanish story I learned in Judy Sierra's *MultiCultural Folktales: Stories to Tell Young Children*. "The Elegant Rooster" was accompanied by flannel board patterns and retold rhythmically. This version has delightful paintings that set the scene in the Cuban area of Miami. The rooster, on his way to the wedding of his uncle, Tio Perico, can't resist picking up two kernels of corn, which dirty his beak. He asks the grass to clean his beak but the grass refuses. All refuse to help the bossy rooster until finally the sun agrees to help. The Spanish text accompanies the English on each page. This is similar to *The Old Woman and the Pig* and the Passover song *Had Gadya*. 1994, Ages 3 to 8.

The Dancing Turtle: A folktale from Brazil

Pleasant Despain, David Boston (illustrator),

ISBN: 978-0874835021

Julie Corsaro (Booklist, May 1, 1998 (Vol. 94, No. 17)), www.clcd.com

DeSpain's extensive storytelling experience comes through in this well-honed trickster tale from Latin America. It opens in the Brazilian rain forest as a flute-playing turtle is captured by a hungry man. Locked in a cage, Turtle tells the man's children that she will dance for them if they let her out. Turtle twirls, bobs, weaves, jumps, and crawls. Then pretending to be hot and tired, she escapes. The quality of the artwork isn't up to that of the text. However, the paintings, dominated by shades of green and punctuated by reds, oranges, and yellows, capture the diverse flora and fauna (people included) of the region. This lighthearted tale ends on an understanding note as the boy and girl try--but fail--to pass off a painted rock as their missing dinner. For large collections. Category: For the Young. 1998, Ages 5-8.

The Dragon Prince: A Chinese Beauty and the Beast Tale

Laurence Yep, Kam Mak (Illustrator)-

ISBN: 0-7362-2795-4

Kathleen Karr (Children's Literature), www.clcd.com

Seven, the seventh and youngest daughter of a poor old farmer, has a kind and gentle heart. When the serpent she saves from her family's fields returns as a magical dragon, she willingly agrees to marry him to save her father's life. After the dragon transforms himself into a handsome prince, wicked sister Three puts a crimp in the happiness of the young couple until the prince recognizes the importance of true inner beauty. This Chinese variant on the classic French fairytale comes to life through the delightful images of an irresistible dragon and his kingdom beneath the sea. 1997, Ages 5 to 8.

The Empty Pinata

Alma Flor Ada, Vivi Escriva (illustrator),

ISBN: 978-1581052022

An empty piñata provides the occasion for this gentle tale of sharing, generosity and reciprocity. Elena spends all of her pocket money buying presents for others... How will her piñata get filled?

The Name Jar

Yangsook Choi

ISBN: 0-440-41799-6

CCBC (Cooperative Children's Book Center Choices, 2002), www.clcd.com

On the bus heading to her first day in an American school, Korean Unhei tells her name to a fellow passenger. After he mispronounces it and thoughtlessly teases Unhei, she becomes reluctant to tell her new classmates her name, stating that she hasn't chosen one yet. Brimming with suggestions, the other students fill a jar with offerings of Daisy, Tamela, and Miranda. As she

contemplates her choices, Unhei realizes that her own name is special, and worth keeping. Her classmates agree, and with a little coaching they master the correct pronunciation. Many children share Unhei's fears of not fitting in with her peers. Her ability to overcome her worries and remain true to herself offers a realistic solution to her problem. The illustrations feature a diverse classroom of young school-age children. 2001, Ages 4-6.

Three Little Javelinas/Los Tres Pequeños Jabalies: Bilingual

Susan Lowell, Jim Harris (Illustrator)

ISBN: 9780873589550

Deborah Zink (Children's Literature), www.clcd.com

Most kids know the "Three Little Pigs", so try this Wild West version of an old fable. Scurrying from a tumbleweed shack to a saguro rib hut to an adobe brick house, three pint-sized wild pigs try to outwit a huffing, puffing big, bad coyote. Life lessons on preparation, teamwork and common sense make this a good reminder for intermediate students. 1992, Ages 3 up.

Throw Your Tooth on the Roof: Tooth Traditions from Around the World

Selby Beeler, G. Brian Karas (illustrator)

ISBN: 978-0618152384

What do you do when you lose a tooth? Do you put it under your pillow and wait for the tooth fairy? Not if you live in Botswana! In Botswana, children throw their teeth onto the roof. In Afghanistan they drop their teeth down mouse holes, and in Egypt they fling their teeth at the sun! Travel around the world and discover the surprising things children do when they lose a tooth. Selby B. Beeler spent years collecting traditions from every corner of the globe for this whimsical book, and G. Brian Karas adds to the fun, filling every page with humorous detail. He perfectly captures the excitement and pride that children experience when a tooth falls out.

Too Many Tamales

Gary Soto, Ed Martinez

ISBN: 978-0698114128

Maria was feeling very grown-up on Christmas Eve as she helped her mother prepare the tamales for Christmas dinner. When she slipped her mother's diamond ring onto her finger, she only meant to wear it for a minute. But suddenly, the ring was gone, and there were 24 tamales that just might contain the missing ring. "A warm family story that combines glowing art with a well-written text to tell of a girl's dilemma."--School Library Journal, starred review.

Maria tries on her mother's wedding ring while helping make tamales for a Christmas family get-together. Panic ensues when hours later, she realizes the ring is missing.

Under the Lemon Moon

Edith Hope Fine, Rene King Moreno (Illustrator)

ISBN: 9781584300519

Susan Dove Lempke (Booklist, May 15, 1999 (Vol. 95, No. 18)), www.clcd.com

Young Rosalinda loves her lemon tree and is distraught when she discovers that a man has stripped it of its lemons and left it damaged. She seeks advice from people in her village, but it's not until she meets up with La Anciana, the Old One, that she learns how to heal the tree and heal her heart. The story deals honestly with the pain of being robbed of a treasure, and also, by showing the thief with his impoverished family, conveys the need for compassion. Moreno's watercolor-and-pastel illustrations give the Mexican countryside a warm, softly textured appearance. The double-page spread showing the tree bursting with lemons, the yellow moon overhead, and the overjoyed little girl dancing underneath is particularly appealing. 1999. Ages 5-8.

Wangari's Trees of Peace: A True Story from Africa

Jeanette Winter

ISBN: 9780152065454

CCBC (Cooperative Children's Book Center Choices, 2009), www.clcd.com

Jeanette Winter's striking acrylic illustrations, in a warm palette of colors, bring a vibrant sense of importance to the story of Wangari Maathai and the Green Belt Movement in Kenya. Beginning with Maathai's childhood growing up beneath an umbrella of green in the shadow of Mount Kenya, Winter's words root readers in a faraway landscape. Following Wangari's study-abroad experience in the United States, she returns home to find the land deforested, with serious consequences to her people and the agriculture. Wangari launches a mission to replant the trees of Kenya, and she gradually recruits an army of women across the land to join her despite social and political obstacles. Together they plant more than 30 million trees, and the land is renewed. An author's note provides information on the chronology of events as well as details on the Nobel Peace Prize awarded to Wangari Maathai in 2004. This straightforward and vivid picture book biography both works on its own and complements other materials on this topic. CCBC Category: Contemporary People, Places, and Events. 2008, Ages 5-9.

We're Sailing to Galapagos: A Week in the Pacific

Laurie Krebs & Grazia Restelli

ISBN: 978-1846861024

Travel to the Galapagos Islands on the wave of this lilting rhyme and see the indigenous animals replete in beautiful island colors in this story set in some of the most unusual islands in the Pacific. Youngsters will love the rhyme as they learn about the creatures that populate the Galapagos. Restelli's collages are bright and colorful and seem to move across the page as the reader moves from one page to the next. In addition to the rhythmic text is a song at the bottom of the page that serves as a refrain throughout the book. It just begs to be used with a whole group in story time where the little ones can sing along. At the end of the book are pages containing factual information about the Galapagos, the creatures mentioned in the book, as well as information on Charles Darwin who visited the Galapagos on the HMS Beagle expedition. The inclusion of all these facts makes for a book that can be used in a variety of ways in classrooms and libraries and on Mama's lap. 2005, Ages 4 to 7.

Yo! Yes?

Chris Raschka, Chris Raschka (Illustrator)

ISBN: 9780439921855

Lanette (BookHive (www.bookhive.org)), www.clcd.com

This is a fun, beautifully illustrated story of two kids who meet and become friends. They don't look alike and they each have a different way of talking. But somehow, with the use of only a few words, they find a universal language: friendship. Join these two strangers as they find a way to say the same thing to each other in this realistic story. 1993, Ages 5 to 12.

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