

## Center for the Study of Multicultural Children's Literature

### BEST MULTICULTURAL CHILDREN'S BOOKS OF 2020

Curated by Dr. Claudette Shackelford McLinn, Lessa Kanani'opua Pelayo-Lozada, Lettycia Terrones, Dr. Sujin Huggins, and Dr. Naomi Caldwell

**ABOVE THE RIM: HOW ELGIN BAYLOR CHANGED BASKETBALL**, by Jen Bryant, Illustrated by Frank Morrison, unpagged, published by Abrams Books for Young Readers, an imprint of ABRAMS, ©2020, ISBN 978-1-4197-4108-1 (Elementary school, nonfiction/biography, picture book)

**ALL BECAUSE YOU MATTER**, by Tami Charles, illustrated by Bryan Collier, unpagged, published by Orchard Books, an imprint of Scholastic Inc., ©2020, ISBN 978-1-338-57485-2 (Elementary school, fiction, lyrical poetry, picture book)

**ALL THE DAYS PAST, ALL THE DAYS TO COME**, by Mildred D. Taylor, 483 pages, published by Viking, an imprint of Penguin Random House LLC, ©2020, ISBN 978-0-399-25730-8 (Middle school/High school, fiction)

**ANTIRACIST BABY**, by Ibram X. Kendi, illustrated by Ashley Lukashevsky, unpagged, published by Kokila, an imprint of Penguin Random House LLC, ©2020, ISBN 978-0-593-11050-8 (Toddler/Preschool, nonfiction, picture book)

**APPLE, SKIN TO THE CORE: A MEMOIR IN WORDS AND PICTURES**, by Eric Gansworth, 339 pages, published by Levine Querido, distributed by Chronicle Books LLC, ©2020, ISBN 978-1-64614-013-8 (Middle school/High school, nonfiction/autobiography, poetry, memoir)

**BARREN GROUNDS, THE**, by David A. Robertson, 247 pages, published by Puffin, an imprint of Penguin Random House Canada Young Readers, a Penguin Random House Company, ©2020, ISBN 978-0-73526-610-0 (Upper elementary school/Middle school, fiction, fantasy)

**BEDTIME FOR SWEET CREATURES**, by Nikki Grimes, pictures by Elizabeth Zunon, unpagged, published by Sourcebooks Jabberwocky, an imprint of Sourcebooks Kids, ©2020, ISBN 978-1-4926-3832-2, (Preschool/Elementary school, fiction, picture book)



**BECOMING MUHAMMAD ALI: A NOVEL**, by James Patterson and Kwame Alexander, illustrated by Dawud Anyabwile, 310 pages, map, published by Jimmy Patterson Books, an imprint of Little Brown and Company, a division of Hachette Book Group Inc., and Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company, ©2020, ISBN 978-0-316-49816-6, (Upper elementary school/Middle school, prose, novel in verse)

**BEFORE THE EVER AFTER**, by Jacqueline Woodson, 161 pages, published by Nancy Paulsen Books, an imprint of Penguin Random House LLC, ©2020, ISBN 978-0-399-54543-6, (Upper elementary school/Middle school, fiction)

**BLACK IS A RAINBOW COLOR**, by Angela Joy, illustrated by Ekoa Holmes, unpagged, published by Roaring Brook Press, a division of Holtzbrinck Publishing Holdings Limited Partnership, ©2020, ISBN 978-1-62672-631-4, (Kindergarten/Elementary school, poetry, picture book)

**BOY WHO DREAMED OF INFINITY, THE: A TALE OF THE GENIUS RAMANUJAN**, by Amy Alznauer, illustrated by Daniel Miyares, unpagged, published by Candlewick Press, ©2020, ISBN 978-0-7636-0-9048-9, (Upper elementary school, nonfiction, picture book)

**CHANCE: ESCAPE FROM THE HOLOCAUST**, written and illustrated by Uri Shulevitz, 329 pages, maps, photographs, published by Farrar Straus Giroux Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Macmillan Publishing Group, LLC, ©2020, ISBN 978-0-374-31371-5, (Upper elementary school/Middle school, nonfiction, memoir)

**CLAP WHEN YOU LAND**, by Elizabeth Acevedo, 417 pages, published by Harper Teen, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers, ©2020, ISBN 978-0-06-288276-9, (Middle school/High school, fiction)

**CLASS ACT**, written and illustrated by Jerry Craft, 249 pages, published by Quill Tree Books and Harper Alley, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers, ©2020, ISBN 978-0-06-288551-7 (Upper elementary school/Middle school, fiction, graphic novel)

**DARK WAS THE NIGHT: BLIND WILLIE JOHNSON'S JOURNEY TO THE STARS**, by Gary Golio, illustrated by E. B. Lewis, unpagged, published by Nancy Paulsen Books, an imprint of Penguin Random House LLC, ©2020, ISBN 978-1-5247-3888-4 (Elementary school, nonfiction/biography, picture book)

**DAY SAIDA ARRIVED, THE**, by Susana Gomez Redondo, illustrated by Sonja Wimmer, translated by Lawrence Schimel, unpagged, published by Blue Dot Press, ©2020, ISBN 978-1-7331212-5-5, (Kindergarten/Elementary school, picture book, fiction)



**DRAGON HOOPS**, written and illustrated by Gene Luen Yang, 445 pages, published by First Second, an imprint of Roaring Brook Press, ©2020, ISBN 978-1-62672-079-4, (Middle school/High school, nonfiction, graphic novel)

**EVERYTHING COMES NEXT: COLLECTED & NEW POEMS**, by Naomi Shihab Nye, illustrated by Rafael Lopez, with an introduction by Edward Hirsh, 241 pages, published by Greenwillow Books, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers, ©2020, ISBN 978-0-06-301345-2, (Upper elementary school/Middle school, poetry)

**EVERYTHING SAD IS UNTRUE**, by Daniel Nayeri, 356 pages, published by Levine Querido, an Arthur A. Levine Book, ©2020, ISBN 978-1-64614-000-8, (Upper elementary school/Middle school, nonfiction)

**FEATHERED SERPENT AND THE FIVE SUNS: A MESOAMERICAN CREATION MYTH**, written and illustrated by Duncan Tonatiuh, unpagged, published by Abrams Books for Young Readers, an imprint of ABRAMS, ©2020, ISBN 978-1-4197-4677-2, (Upper elementary school, mythology, picture book)

**FROM THE DESK OF ZOE WASHINGTON**, by Janae Marks, 291 pages, published by Katherine Tegen Books, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers, ©2020, ISBN 978-0-06-287585-3, (Upper elementary school/Middle school, fiction)

**GIRL AND THE GHOST, THE**, by Hanna Alkaf, 275 pages, published by Harper, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers, ©2020, ISBN 978-0-06-294095-7, (Upper elementary school/Middle school, supernatural)

**I AM EVERY GOOD THING**, by Derrick Barnes, illustrated by Gordon James, unpagged, published by Nancy Paulsen Books, an imprint of Penguin Random House LLC, ©2020, ISBN 978-0-525-51877-8, (Elementary school, fiction, picture book)

**KAMALA HARRIS: ROOTED JUSTICE**, by Nikki Grimes, illustrated by Laura Freeman, unpagged, published by Atheneum Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing Division, ©2020, ISBN 978-1-5344-6267-0, (Elementary school, nonfiction/biography, picture book)

**KING AND THE DRAGON FLIES**, by Kacen Callender, 259 pages, published by Scholastic Press, ©2020, ISBN 978-1-33812-933-5, (Upper elementary school/Middle school, fiction)

**LAND OF THE CRANES**, by Aida Salazar, 243 pages, published by Scholastic Press, ©2020, ISBN 978-1-33834-380-9, (Upper elementary school/Middle school, fiction, novel in verse)



**LEAVING LYMON**, by Lesa Cline-Ransome, 199 pages, published by Holiday House, ©2020, ISBN 978-0-8234-4442-7, (Upper elementary school/Middle school, fiction)

**LETTERS FROM CUBA**, by Ruth Behar, 255 pages, published by Nancy Paulsen Books, an imprint of Penguin Random House LLC, ©2020, ISBN 978-0-525-51647-7, (Upper elementary school/Middle school, fiction)

**LITTLE MERMAID, THE**, written and illustrated by Jerry Pinkney, unpagged, published by Little Brown Company, Hachette Book Group Inc., ©2020, ISBN 978-0-316-44031-8, (Elementary school, fiction, picture book)

**LIZZIE DEMANDS A SEAT! ELIZABETH JENNINGS FIGHTS FOR STREETCAR RIGHTS** by Beth Anderson, illustrated by E.B. Lewis, unpagged, published by Calkins Creek, an imprint of Boyds Mills & Kane, ©2020, ISBN 978-1-62979-939-1, (Elementary school, nonfiction/biography, picture book)

**LORETTA LITTLE LOOKS BACK: THREE VOICES GO TELL IT, A MONOLOGUE NOVEL**, by Andrea Pinkney, illustrated by Brian Pinkney, 269 pages, published by Little Brown and Company, a division of Hachette book Group Inc., ©2020, ISBN 978-0-316-53677-6, (Upper elementary school/Middle school, fiction)

**LOVE, LOVE**, by Victoria Chang, 212 pages, published by Sterling Children's Books, an imprint of Sterling Publishing Co., Inc., ©2020, ISBN 978-1-4549-3832-3, (Upper elementary school/Middle school, fiction, novel in verse)

**MANAÑALAND**, by Pam Muñoz Ryan, 247 pages, published by Scholastic Press, ©2020, ISBN 978-1-338-15786-4, (Upper elementary school/Middle school fiction)

**NACHO'S NACHOS: THE STORY BEHIND THE WORLD'S FAVORITE SNACK**, by Sandra Nickel, illustrated by Oliver Dominguez, unpagged, published by Lee & Low Books, Inc., ©2020, ISBN 978-1-62014-369-8, (Elementary school, nonfiction/biography, picture book)

**NANA AKUA GOES TO SCHOOL**, by Tricia Elam Walker, illustrated by April Harrison, unpagged, published by Schwartz & Wade Books, an imprint of Random House Children's Books, a division of Penguin Random House LLC, ©2020, ISBN 978-0-525-58113-0, (Elementary school, fiction, picture book)

**OLDEST STUDENT, THE: HOW MARY WALKER LEARNED TO READ**, by Rita Lorraine Hubbard, illustrated by Oge Mora, unpagged, published by Schwartz & Wade Books, an imprint of Random House Children's Books, a division of Penguin Random House LLC, ©2020, ISBN 978-1-5247-6828-7, (Elementary school, nonfiction/biography, picture book)



**ONLY BLACK GIRLS IN TOWN, THE**, by Brandy Colbert, 355 pages, published by Little Brown and Company, a division of Hachette Book Group Inc., ©2020, ISBN 978-0-316-45638-8, (Upper elementary school/Middle school, fiction)

**OUR FAVORITE DAY OF THE YEAR**, by A.E. Ali, illustrated by Rahele Jomepour Bell, unpagged, published by Salaam Reads, an imprint of Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing Division, ©2020, ISBN 978-1-4814-8563-0, (Pre-school/Kindergarten, fiction, picture book)

**PAPER BOAT, THE: A REFUGEE STORY**, illustrated by Thao Lam, unpagged, published by Owlkids Books, Inc., ©2020, ISBN 978-1-77147-363-7, (Elementary school, fiction, wordless picture book)

**PRAIRIE LOTUS**, by Linda Sue Park, 261 pages, published by Clarion Books, an imprint of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company, ©2020, ISBN 978-1-328-78150-5, (Upper elementary school/Middle school, fiction)

**QUEEN OF TEJANO MUSIC: SELENA**, by Silvia López, illustrated by Paola Escobar, unpagged, published by Little Bee Books, ©2020, ISBN 978-1-4998-1142-1, (Elementary school, nonfiction/biography, picture book)

**SANTIAGO'S ROAD HOME**, by Alexandra Diaz, 325 pages, published by Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, A Paula Wiseman Book, an imprint of Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing Division, ©2020, ISBN 978-1-5344-4623-6, (Upper elementary school/Middle school, fiction)

**SHARUKO: EL ARQUEÓLOGO PERUANO/PERUVIAN ARCHAEOLOGIST: JULIO C. TELLO**, by Monica Brown, ilustraciones/illustrations by Elisa Chavarri, traducción al español/Spanish translation by Adriana Domínguez, unpagged, published by Children's Book Press, an imprint of Lee & Low Books Inc., ©2020, ISBN 978-0-89239-423-4, (Elementary school, nonfiction/biography, picture book, bilingual)

**SHE WAS THE FIRST!: THE TRAILBLAZING LIFE OF SHIRLEY CHISHOLM**, by Katheryn Russel-Brown, illustrated by Eric Velasquez, unpagged, published by Lee & Low Books Inc., ©2020, ISBN 978-0-316-43127-9, (Elementary school, nonfiction/biography, picture book)

**STAMPED: RACISM, ANTIRACISM, AND YOU**, by Jason Reynolds and adapted from *Stamped from the Beginning* by and with an introduction from Ibram X. Kendi, 294 pages, published by Little Brown and Company, ©2020, ISBN 978-0-316-45369-1, (Middle school/High school, nonfiction)



**TALES OF THE FEATHERED SERPENT: RISE OF THE HALFING KING (Tales of the Feathered Serpent series, Book 1)**, by David Bowles, illustrated by Charlene Bowles, 63 pages, published by Cinco Punto Press, 2020, ISBN 978-1-947627-37-6, (Elementary school/Middle school, graphic novel, fiction)

**TALK, THE: CONVERSATIONS ABOUT RACE, LOVE, & TRUTH**, edited by Wade Hudson and Cheryl Willis Hudson, 148 pages, illustrations, published by Crown Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Random House Children's Books, a division of Penguin Random House LLC. ©2020, ISBN 978-0-593-12161-0, (Upper elementary school, anthology, [multiple genres])

**THIS IS YOUR TIME**, by Ruby Bridges, 55 pages, published by Delacorte Press, an imprint of Random House Children's Books, a division of Penguin Random House LLC, ©2020, ISBN 978-0-593-37852-6, (Elementary school/Middle school/High school, nonfiction/autobiography)

**THREE KEYS: A FRONT DESK NOVEL**, by Kelly Yang, 271 pages, published by Scholastic Press, an imprint of Scholastic Inc., ©2020, ISBN 978-1-338-59138-5, (Upper elementary school/Middle school, fiction)

**TWINS**, by Varian Johnson, illustrated by Shannon Wright, 249 pages, published by Graphix, an imprint of Scholastic Inc., ©2020, ISBN 978-1-338-23617-0, (Upper elementary school/Middle school, graphic novel, fiction)

**¡VAMOS! LET'S GO EAT**, written and illustrated by Raúl the Third, colors by Elaine Bay, unpagged, published by Versify, an imprint of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company, ©2020, ISBN 978-1-28-55704-9, (Elementary school, fiction, picture book)

**WAYS TO MAKE SUNSHINE**, by Renée Watson, illustrated by Nina Mata, 177 pages, published by Bloomsbury Children's Books, 2020, ISBN 978-1-5476-00560-4, (Upper elementary school, fiction)

**WE ARE NOT FREE**, by Traci Chee, 384 pages, published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company, ©2020, ISBN 978-0-358-13143-4, (Middle school/High school, fiction)

**WE ARE NOT FROM HERE**, BY Jenny Torres Sanchez, 348 pages, published by Philomel Books, an imprint of Penguin Random House LLC, ©2020, ISBN 978-1-984-81226-1, (Middle school/High school, fiction)

**WE ARE WATER PROTECTORS**, by Carole Lindstrom, illustrated by Michaela Goade, unpagged, published by Roaring Brook Press, a division of Holtzbrinck Publishing Holdings Limited Partnership, ©2020, ISBN 978-1-250-20355-7, (Elementary school, fiction, picture book)



**WHEN STARS ARE SCATTERED**, by Victoria Jamieson and Omar Mohammed, Illustrated by Iman Geddy, 257 pages, published by Dial Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Penguin Random House LLC, ©2020, ISBN 978-0-525-55391-5, (Upper elementary school/Middle school, graphic novel, nonfiction)

**WHEN YOU TRAP A TIGER**, by Tae Keller, 297 pages, published by Random House, ©2020, ISBN 978-1-5247-1570-0, (Upper elementary/Middle school, fiction)

**WILLIAM STILL AND HIS FREEDOM STORIES: THE FATHER OF THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD**, written and illustrated by Don Tate, unpagged, published by Peachtree Publishing Company, ©2020, ISBN 978-1-56145-935-3, (Elementary school, nonfiction/biography, picture book)

**WITH A STAR IN MY HAND: RUBÉN DARÍO, POETRY HERO**, by Margarita Engle, 144 pages, published by Atheneum, an imprint of Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing Division, ©2020, ISBN 978-1-5344-2493-7, (Middle school, nonfiction/biography, novel in verse)

