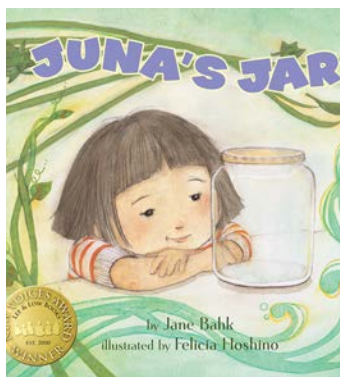


NOTABLE BOOKS FOR A GLOBAL SOCIETY - 2016 LIST OF WINNERS

Children's Literature and Reading Special Interest Group (CL/R SIG) of the International Reading Association

www.clrsig.org

Each year the NBGS Committee chooses 25 winners. These books for all levels (preK-12) reflect diversity in the broadest sense, celebrating a wide variety of voices and topics. Please look for a comprehensive article about these books (published in 2015) plus useful teaching tips in the Spring 2016 issue of *The Dragon Lode*, free to CL/R SIG members. Join today at clrsig.org, where you can also find NBGS winners from previous years.



JUNA'S JAR

by Jane Bahk;
illus. by Felicia Hoshino
Lee & Low; 32 pp.
Gr Pre K & up. Fiction.

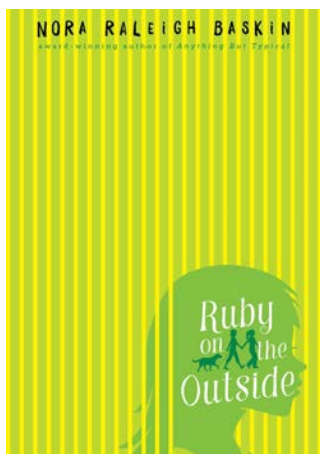
At Juna's home, kimchi is always available. Juna likes to keep the empty kimchi jar, filling it up again with found objects and her imagination. When her best friend Hector moves away, Juna uses her jar of imagination to fill in for his absence and, in sharing her fun, finds a new friend.



MAYA'S BLANKET/ LE MANTA DE MAYA

by Monica Brown; illus. by David Diaz
Lee & Low; 32 pp. Gr PreK & up.
Contemporary Realistic Fiction.

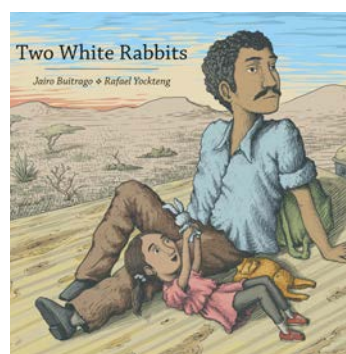
In this bilingual interpretation of the traditional Yiddish song, *I Had a Little Coat*, Maya has a special blue and green blanket that she loves. When it becomes worn, she and her grandmother/Abuelita transform it again and again into smaller and smaller items, finally leaving Maya with a treasured bookmark. When Maya loses her bookmark she decides to write the history of her blanket, creating a book she later reads to her own daughter.



RUBY ON THE OUTSIDE

by Nora Raleigh Baskin
Simon & Schuster; 176 pp. Gr 3-7.
Contemporary Realistic Fiction.

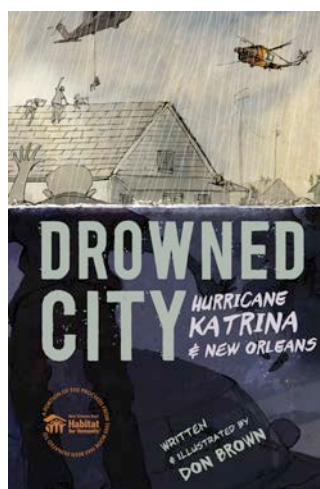
Ruby desperately wants to be "normal" as she enters middle school, but for years she has hidden the secret that her mother is in prison. Ruby makes a summer friend who might be the death of her secret or might be just what she needs. The story is filled with suspense intertwined with compassion and lessons of friendship.



TWO WHITE RABBITS

by Jairo Buitrago; illus. by Rafael Yockteng; trans. by Elisa Amado
Groundwood. 32 pp.
Gr K & up. Realistic Fiction.

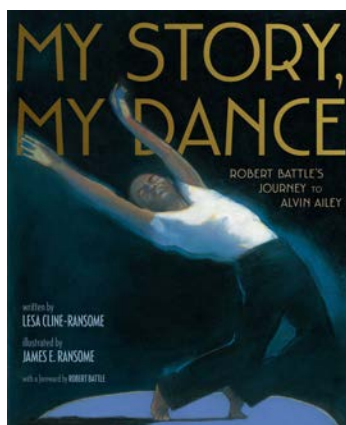
Two White Rabbits is a story of escape and immigration told through the perspective of a little girl as she travels with her father, day and night, day and night, with hundreds of others on top of trains, fleeing persecution and possible death to reach a place that might offer survival. The telling is simple and innocent, but Buitrago offers layers of allegory.



DROWNED CITY: HURRICANE KATRINA & NEW ORLEANS

by Don Brown
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. 96 pp.
Gr 6 & up. Nonfiction Graphic Novel.

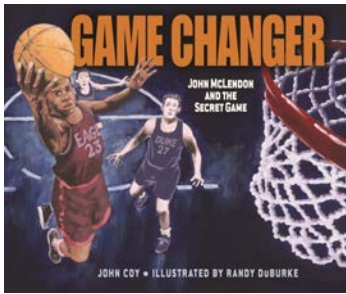
Powerful images coupled with vivid narrative detail and mind-boggling statistics tell the stories of wrenching human desperation and rampant bureaucratic failure in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. Don Brown captures the enormity of the crisis in a way that will move readers and engender meaningful conversation about how our society operates.



MY STORY, MY DANCE: ROBERT BATTLE'S JOURNEY TO ALVIN AILEY

by Lesa Cline-Ransome;
illus. by James E. Ransome
Simon & Schuster. 48 pp.
Gr 2 & up. Biography.

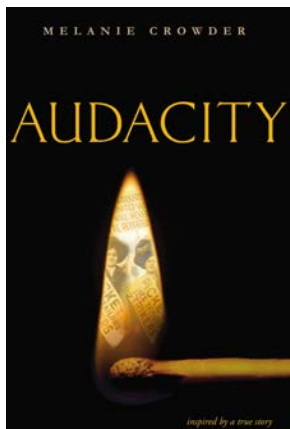
With steadfast support from his extended family and a series of dedicated teachers, Robert Battles grew from a bow-legged child to a premier professional dancer, choreographer, and artistic director of the famed Alvin Ailey Dance Company. The Ransomes never gloss over the struggles, but love and faith take center stage in this inspiring true story.



GAME CHANGER: JOHN MCLENDON AND THE SECRET GAME

by John Coy; illus. by Randy DuBurke
Carolrhoda Books. 32 pp. Gr 2 & up. Nonfiction.

Could the game of basketball diminish people's prejudices? Coach John McLendon believed it could, so he arranged for a secret illegal game to be played. His North Carolina College of Negroes' Eagles played and won against the best all white team of Duke University Medical School. Afterwards black and white players combined as teammates for another basketball game in segregated North Carolina. John McLendon helped change basketball and the world.



AUDACITY

by Melanie Crowder
Penguin Random House. 400 pp.
Gr 6 & up. Historical Fiction.

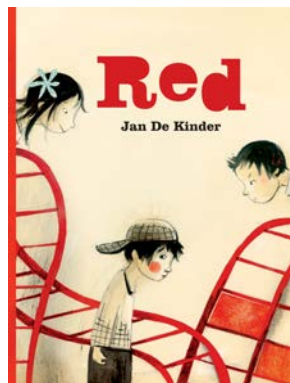
This powerful novel in verse is based on the life of Clara Lemlich, whose family fled the pogroms in Russia in the 19th century to make a new life in New York. Horrified by the working conditions in the garment factories, Clara embarks on a ferocious struggle to help secure labor rights for her fellow workers.



STELLA BY STARLIGHT

by Sharon Draper
Simon & Schuster. 322 pp.
Gr 5-8. Historical Fiction.

Stella is deeply shaken when she witnesses a Ku Klux Klan cross burning in South Carolina of 1932. As the community struggles for justice in the face of hate and discrimination, 11-year-old Stella strives to find her voice and power as a writer. She finds strength in family, faith, and a community that joins together to work toward change.



RED

by Jan De Kinder;
trans. by Laura Watkinson
Eerdmans. 32 pp.
Gr K-2. Contemporary Realistic Fiction.

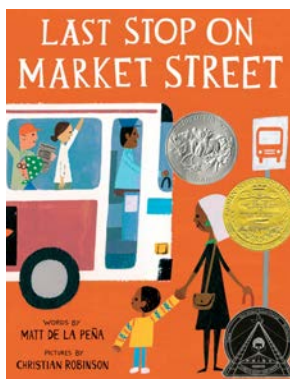
Lisa finds it funny that Tommy is blushing, but Paul takes it too far and soon even Lisa feels uncomfortable about the situation. Will Lisa stand up to Paul even if no one else in the class joins her? The color red, hot with shame, anger, and fear, predominates for much of the book but gives way to softer, quieter tones as justice prevails.



DRUM DREAM GIRL: HOW ONE GIRL'S COURAGE CHANGED MUSIC

by Margarita Engle;
illus. by Rafael López
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. 48 pp.
Gr PreK & up. Biography.

The music of drums filled the Cuban air but everyone thought only boys should play. In the charming picture book, Engle tells the story of Millo Castro Zaldarriaga whose courage to dream led her to become a world famous musician and to forever break the taboo against female drummers in Cuba.



LAST STOP ON MARKET STREET

by Matt De La Peña; illus. by Christian Robinson
Penguin/Putnam; 32 pp. Gr PreK & up.
Contemporary Realistic Fiction.

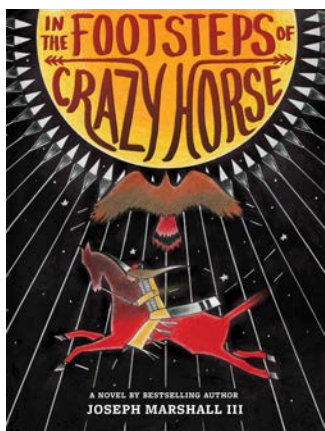
CJ and Nana catch a city bus every Sunday after church, but CJ feels disgruntled on this rainy day. He wishes he had a car like his friends and an mp3 player like the older boys on the bus. CJ's Nana, who finds something to celebrate in every place and face along the way, teaches him to find "beautiful where he never even thought to look."



GEORGE

by Alex Gino
Scholastic; 240 pp.
Gr 3-7. Contemporary Realistic Fiction.

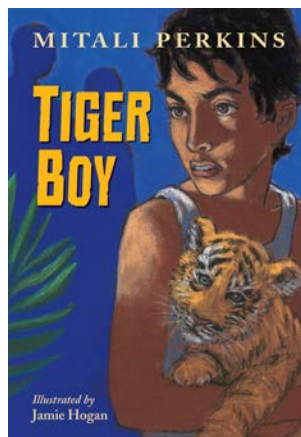
Everyone thinks that George is a boy, but George knows that she really is a girl. When George's class decides to present Charlotte's Web for the school play, George wants to try out for the part of Charlotte but runs into difficulties with her teacher and classmates. George's friend Kelly helps her begin to articulate and negotiate her own gender identity.



IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF CRAZY HORSE

by Joseph Marshall III;
illus. by Jim Yellowhawk
Abrams: Amulet, 176 pp. Gr 5 & up.
Contemporary Realistic Fiction.

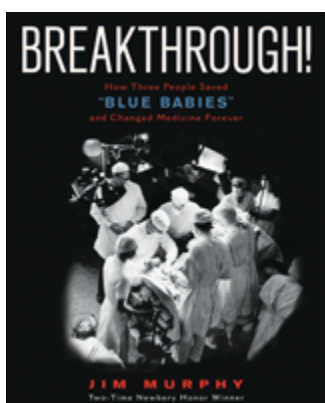
Jimmy and his grandfather set off on a road trip across the Dakotas to follow the heroic deeds of the Lakota leader, Crazy Horse. Marshall creates two parallel stories while weaving in key aspects of Lakota oral history as they follow Crazy Horse's fight to protect his people from the encroachments of the US federal government.



TIGER BOY

by Mitali Perkins
Charlesbridge. 144 pp. Gr 2-5.
Contemporary Realistic Fiction.

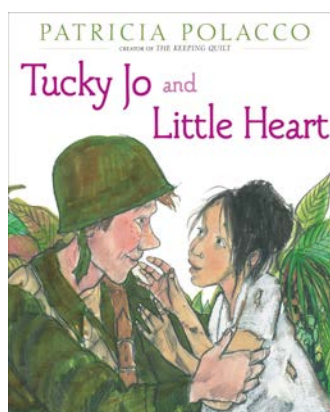
Set against the backdrop of the fast disappearing Sunderbans of Bengal, this novel's unpretentious and engaging narrative belies its underlying complexity as it addresses issues of poaching, climate change, challenging economic conditions, Indian class structure, and gender discrimination that exist in that region. The approachable, engaging text and universal themes of family and education welcome the reader to an area of the world few may know.



BREAKTHROUGH: HOW THREE PEOPLE SAVED "BLUE BABIES" AND CHANGED MEDICINE FOREVER

by Jim Murphy
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. 144 pp.
Gr 5 & up. Nonfiction.

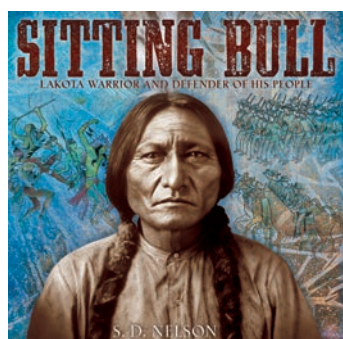
When Alfred Blalock performed the first operation to correct the heart defect that causes "blue baby syndrome," he and his colleague Helen Taussig quickly gained international fame. Vivien Thomas, an African American researcher who developed the procedure and guided Blalock through the operation, was largely ignored. A riveting look at the processes of medical innovation and social change, this carefully researched book is a biography of collaboration and determination.



TUCKY JO AND LITTLE HEART

by Patricia Polacco
Simon & Schuster. 48 pp.
Gr 1 & up. Historical Fiction.

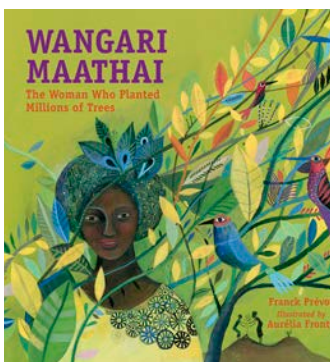
Fifteen-year-old soldier Johnnie Wallen, the "Kentucky Kid," is stationed in the Philippines during WWII, serving as a marksman and working with explosives. Working in the hot, bug-infested jungle, he happens upon a young girl who cares for his bug bites. The friendship that develops between the girl and Tucky Jo offers salvation for both of them.



SITTING BULL: LAKOTA WARRIOR AND DEFENDER OF HIS PEOPLE

by S. D. Nelson
Abrams. 56 pp. Gr 5-8. Biography.

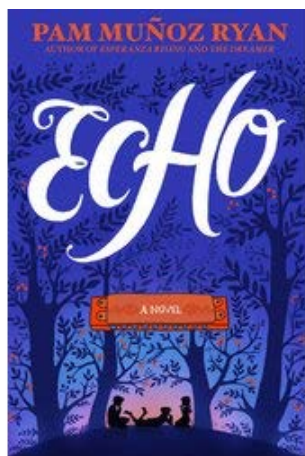
Lakota Chief Sitting Bull narrates the chronicle of his life from the tests of strength as a young man to the protection of the culture and resources of his people, spanning the decades of the settlement of the American West by the white man from 1860 to 1890. The book includes archival photographs, an extensive timeline, and rich back matter further detailing the history and art.



WANGARI MAATHAI: THE WOMAN WHO PLANTED MILLIONS OF TREES

by Franck Prévot;
illus. by Aurélia Fronty
Charlesbridge. 48 pp.
Gr 2 & up. Biography.

Throughout her life, Wangari Maathai "carried out her important work" with and for the people of Kenya. Courageously she rallied to save the animals and trees of Kenya from being destroyed. Tirelessly she enlisted the help of many women to plant millions of trees for her Green Belt Movement. Bravely she fought the corrupt Kenyan government to bring about democracy for the people. With a confident voice and her own hands, Wangari Maathai changed the world.



ECHO

by Pam Muñoz Ryan
Scholastic Press. 592 pp.
Gr 4 & up. Fiction.

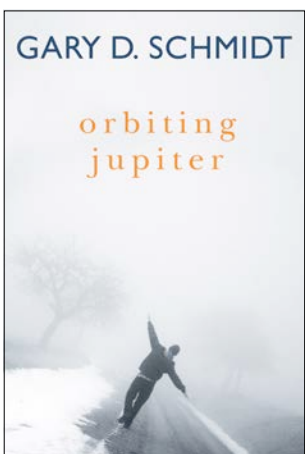
In this poignant story about the journey of a magical mouth harp through time and space, Ryan's masterful enmeshing of timeless fairytale and WWII era historical fiction highlights world events, prejudice, and social class distinctions. With rich characters and intriguing journeys, *Echo* is a uniquely compelling offering.



THE POETRY FRIDAY ANTHOLOGY FOR CELEBRATIONS

Sylvia Vardell & Janet Wong, Eds.
Pomelo Books. 370 pp.
Gr PreK-5. Poetry.

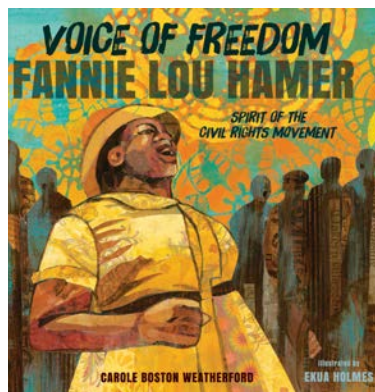
This compilation of short, simple poems from over 100 contemporary poets presents a poem for every celebration – year round – along with ideas for using the poem in the classroom, even if one has only five minutes. All poems are presented side by side in Spanish and English. Each mini-lesson presents fun ways to engage students, encourage play with words.



ORBITING JUPITER

by Gary B. Schmidt
Clarion. 96 pp. Gr 6 & up.
Contemporary Realistic Fiction.

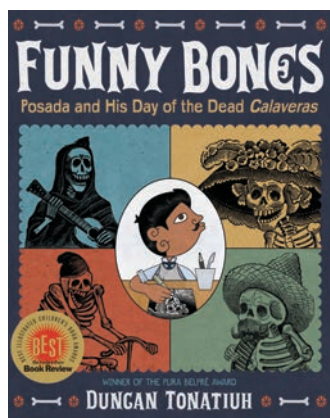
When 12-year-old Jack's family agrees to foster 13-year-old Joseph, they know that he has a troubled background. They also know that he fathered a daughter, Jupiter, whom he is desperate to find. Through the patience of the family and his strong association with the work and animals on the farm, Joseph slowly shares his story with Jack and the reader—and all learn something about what love and faithfulness really look like.



VOICE OF FREEDOM: FANNIE LOU HAMER: THE SPIRIT OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

by Carol Boston Weatherford;
illus. by Ekua Holmes
Candlewick. 56 pp.
Gr 3 & up. Biography.

A poor black woman in rural Mississippi in the 60's was in no position to stand up and be heard. Yet, Fannie Lou Hamer did—facing down fear and violence with determination. Hamer's voice rang out from the civil rights trenches of Mississippi to the national stage and beyond, as this sharecropper's daughter became one of our most influential activists for civil rights. Weatherford's vibrant verse and Holmes's multifaceted artwork brings the story to life.



FUNNY BONES: POSADA AND HIS DAY OF THE DEAD CALAVERAS

by Duncan Tonatiuh
Harry N. Abrams. 40 pp.
Gr 1 & up. Biography.

Tonatiuh details the life and art of José Guadalupe Posada, the creator of the famous calaveras associated with Mexico's Día de los Muertos celebration. *Funny Bones* is an exploration and celebration of the process and power of art, politics and society, and what it means to be human.



STONE ANGEL

by Jane Yolen;
illus. by Katie May Green
Philomel. 40 pp.
Gr K & up. Historical Fiction.

A beautiful stone angel graces the wall of an apartment house in Paris. A young Jewish girl, living nearby, believes the angel is her guardian. When the Nazis arrive in Paris, she and her family have to flee by train, hide in a forest, hike up a mountain, and travel by boat to safety in England. Throughout the ordeal, the girl believes the angel is watching over her. Upon the family's return to Paris, she is once again greeted by her beloved stone angel: they have both survived.