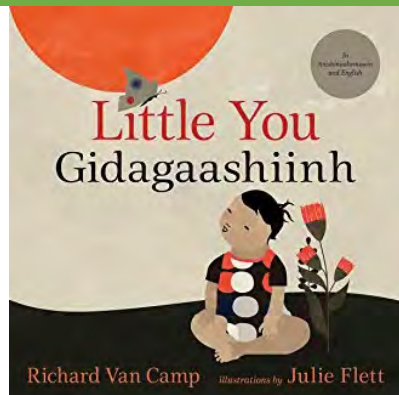


BUILDING A BIGGER BOOKCASE TO PROMOTE AWARENESS, BELONGING, AND ADVANCE EQUITY: CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

To build a bigger bookcase, this list features some books to get you started. The books, listed according to age, depict children of different races and cultures, which allows them to see themselves and their families reflected in the illustrations and stories. Building a bigger bookcase honors every child and family, and advances equity by promoting a sense of belonging.

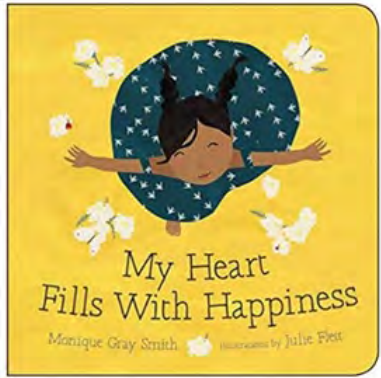
Low- or no-cost strategies or activities to introduce diverse literature:

- Visit your local library to find these or similar books to share with families and encourage them to use the library.
- Engage families in making books about a family member (or members), a story from their culture, or retelling their child's favorite book or story. Families can do this with their child at home and during a group socialization.
- Engage families in making a flannel board to tell stories. Involve parents in making the story pieces and model how they and their children can use the flannel board/story pieces to retell the story throughout the day. This can be done during a home visit or group socialization.
- Socialization strategy: Engage families, community members, or elders in telling stories and sharing songs or dances, if culturally appropriate to share. When inviting families, community members, or elders to share, ask about protocols for asking individuals to share a story, song, or dance from their culture.
- Engage your team in identifying low- or no-cost strategies for adding diverse literature to a parent lending library.



Little You Gidagaashiinh by Richard Van Camp (Author), Julie Flett (Illustrator) **0-2 years old**

This is a story about the love a family has for their baby. The text is in English and Anishinaabemowin.



My Heart Fills With Happiness by Monique Gray Smith (Author), Julie Flett (Illustrator)
0-2 years old

The sun on your face. The smell of warm bannock baking in the oven. Holding the hand of someone you love. What fills your heart with happiness? This beautiful board book, with illustrations from celebrated artist Julie Flett, serves as a reminder for little ones and adults alike to reflect on and cherish the moments in life that bring us joy.

International speaker and award-winning author Monique Gray Smith wrote *My Heart Fills with Happiness* to support the wellness of Indigenous children and families, and to encourage young children to reflect on what makes them happy.



My Face Book Star Bright Books (Publisher)
0-3 years old

Babies love looking at other babies and these charming baby faces—smiling, frowning, laughing, being silly or serious—are sure to captivate and delight toddlers and babies. Children will enjoy looking at this book repeatedly. Self-expression has never been more adorable! It is available in Spanish, Vietnamese, Somali, and more.



Carry Me (Babies Everywhere) Star Bright Books (publisher)
0-3 years old

Whether tucked in a blanket, peeking out of a basket, riding in a backpack, or wrapped in a parent's arms, babies worldwide are carried in unique ways. The simple, rhyming text of this board book introduces children to the ways their global neighbors travel. The beautiful photographs show that all babies are nurtured by their loved ones. (Part of the Babies Everywhere Board Book Series). Bilingual editions are available in Spanish, Haitian Creole, Hmong, Somali, and more.



Think Big, Little One by Vashti Harrison

0-3 years old

This board book edition of *Little Dreamers: Visionary Women Around the World* by New York Times bestselling author Vashti Harrison is a beautiful first book to teach your little dreamers to follow all their biggest ideas.

Featuring eighteen women creators, ranging from writers to inventors, artists to scientists, this board book adaptation of *Little Dreamers: Visionary Women Around the World* introduces trailblazing women like Mary Blair, an American modernist painter who had a major influence on how color was used in early animated films, environmental activist Wangari Maathai, and architect Zaha Hadid.

The irresistible full-color illustrations show the Dreamers as both accessible and aspirational so reader knows they, too, can grow up to do something amazing.



Love Makes a Family by Sophie Beer

0-3 Years

This fun, inclusive board book celebrates the one thing that makes every family a family . . . and that's LOVE.

Love is baking a special cake. Love is lending a helping hand. Love is reading one more book. In this exuberant board book, many different families are shown in happy activity, from an early-morning wake-up to a kiss before bed. Whether a child has two moms, two dads, one parent, or one of each, this simple read-aloud demonstrates that what's most important in each family's life is the love the family members share.



¡Bebé, Vamos A Comer! / Baby, Let's Eat! by Stephan Lomp

0-3 years old

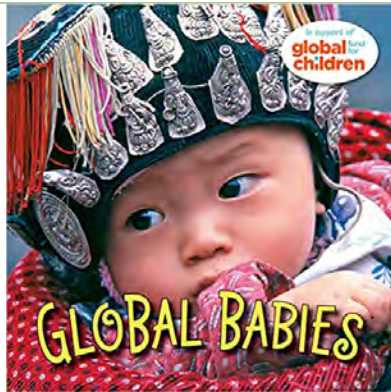
What green vegetable looks like a tree? Broccoli!

Can you find a fruit that's small and yellow? Lemon!

Can you pick out two berries so red and sweet? Raspberry and strawberry!

Explore a rainbow of delicious foods in a book that's INDESTRUCTIBLE.

INDESTRUCTIBLES are printed on lightweight, nontoxic paper material, easy to clean (even dishwasher safe), and 100% chew, rip, bend, and drool proof.



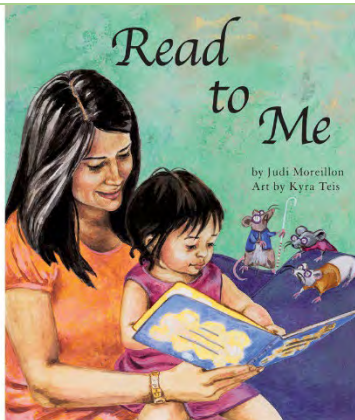
Global Babies (The Global Fund for Children)

0-3 years old

Meet babies from around the world in this best-selling celebration of global heritage! First in the Global Babies series.

From Guatemala to Bhutan, seventeen vibrantly colored photographs embrace our global diversity and give glimpses into the daily life, traditions, and clothing of babies from around the world. Simple text teaches the littlest readers that everywhere on earth, babies are special and loved.

Babies love to look at babies and this bright collection of photos is a ticket to an around-the-world journey. Part of the proceeds from this book's sales will be donated to the Global Fund for Children to support innovative community-based organizations that serve the world's most vulnerable children and youth.

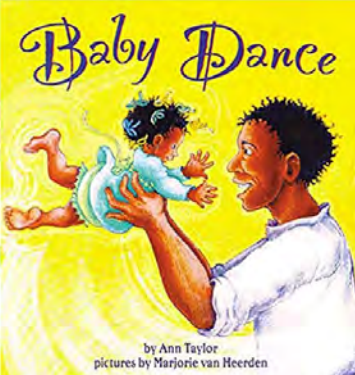


Read to Me by Judi Moreillon, Kyra Teis (Illustrator)

0-3 years old

This gentle rhyme illustrated with multicultural images will encourage adults to discover the joy of sharing books, stories, and songs with young children.

Title is available in bilingual editions (Spanish/English, Haitian Creole/English).

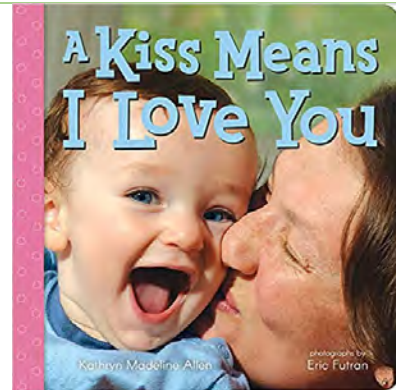


Baby Dance by Ann Taylor (author), Marjorie van Heerden (Illustrator)

0-3 years old

Up and down, to and fro, coo and crow baby, there you go. Up to the ceiling, down to the ground, backward and forward, round and round ... All babies love to be lifted, twirled, and held in loving arms.

Now a rhythmic poem by nineteenth century poet Anne Taylor makes a delightful board book perfect for baby and parent/caregiver to share. Marjorie van Heerden has captured the energy and joy of this playful text in vivid pastel illustrations full of the soft, gentle motion of dance.

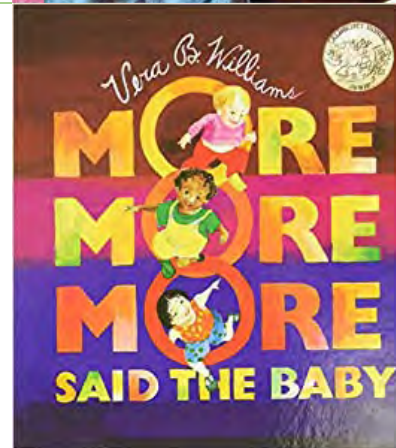


A Kiss Means I Love You by Kathryn Madeline Allen (author), Eric Futran (Photographer)

0-3 years old

Featuring engaging photographs of young children and sweet rhyming text, this fun read-aloud teaches little ones about nonverbal communication from a kiss and a clap to a wave and a yawn.

Also available in board book format with revised content perfect for even the youngest children.



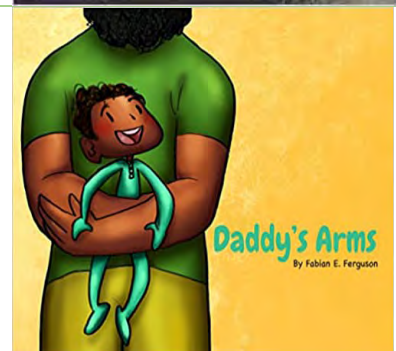
More More More Said the Baby by Vera B. Williams

0-5 years old

Vera B. Williams's tribute to babies and the people who love them is a happy celebration—you won't be able to stop smiling while reading the catchy refrains.

Here are Little Guy, Little Pumpkin, and Little Bird. Their grownups love them. So will you!

For lap time, classroom reading, or anytime, and for parents, teachers, grandparents, and anyone who enjoys chanting along "more more more" with babies.



Daddy's Arms by Fabian E. Ferguson

0-5 years old

"Daddy's Arms" tells the story of a little boy's adorable and amusing everyday interactions with his dad. Whether it's playtime, bath time, or bedtime, this wildly imaginative child has his dad's arms take center stage for every fantastic new adventure.

This book celebrates the bond between father and child as well as the joy of fatherhood.



First Laugh Welcome Baby by Rose Ann Tahe (Author), Nancy Bo Flood (Author), Jonathan Nelson (Author)

2-5 years old

In Navajo families, the first person to make a new baby laugh hosts the child's First Laugh Ceremony. Who will earn the honor in this story?

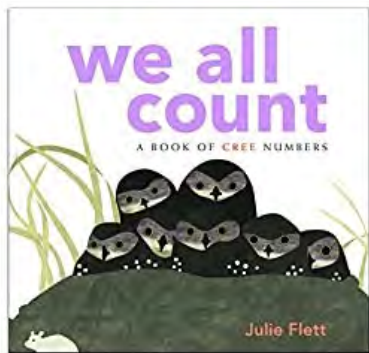
The First Laugh Ceremony is a celebration held to welcome a new member of the community. As everyone—from Baby's *nima* (mom) to *nadi* (big sister) to *cheii* (grandfather)—tries to elicit the joyous sound from Baby, readers are introduced to details about Navajo life and the Navajo names for family members.



The Snow Day by Ezra Jack Keats

2-5 years old

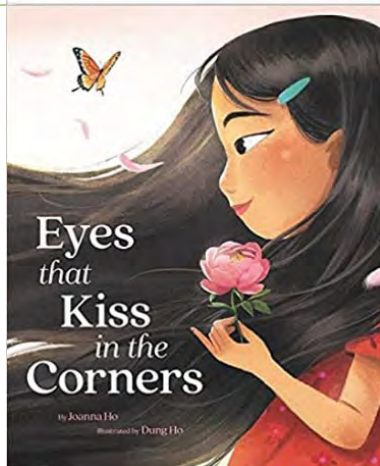
In 1962, a little boy named Peter put on his snowsuit and stepped out of his house and into the hearts of millions of readers. Universal in its appeal, this story beautifully depicts a child's wonder at a new world, and the hope of capturing and keeping that wonder forever. The quiet fun and sweetness of Peter's small adventures in the deep, deep snow is perfect for reading together on a cozy winter day.



We All Count: A Book of Cree Numbers by Julie Flett

2-6 years old

We All Count: A Book of Cree Numbers provides insight into contemporary Cree life. It teaches Cree numbers and provides pronunciation. This board book is wonderfully illustrated by Canadian based Cree/Metis artist Julie Flett. This book is important in enhancing learning of Cree numbers and making Cree culture accessible to young readers.



Eyes That Kiss in the Corners by Joanna Ho (Author), Dung Ho (Illustrator)

2-7 years old

This lyrical, stunning picture book tells a story about learning to love and celebrate your Asian-shaped eyes, in the spirit of *Hair Love* by Matthew A. Cherry, and is a celebration of diversity.

A young Asian girl notices that her eyes look different from her peers'. They have big, round eyes and long lashes. She realizes that her eyes are like her mother's, her grandmother's, and her little sister's. They have eyes that kiss in the corners and glow like warm tea, crinkle into crescent moons, and are filled with stories of the past and hope for the future.



We All Play by Julie Flett

0-7 years old

Animals and kids love to play! This wonderful book celebrates playtime and the connection between children and the natural world.

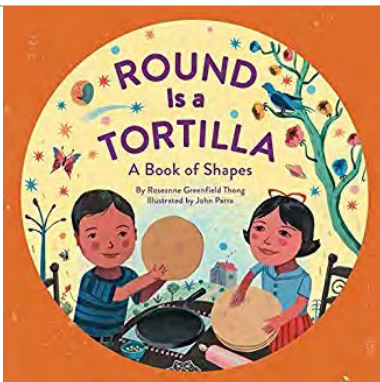


Mama, Do You Love Me? by Barbara M. Joose (Author), Barbara Lavallee (Illustrator)

0-12 years old

In this universal story, a child tests the limits of independence and comfortingly learns that a parent's love is unconditional and everlasting. The lyrical text introduces young readers to a distinctively different culture, while at the same time showing that the special love that exists between parent and child transcends all boundaries of time and place. The story is beautifully complemented by graphically stunning illustrations that are filled with such exciting animals as whales, wolves, puffins, and sled dogs. This tender and reassuring book is one that both parents and children will turn to again and again.

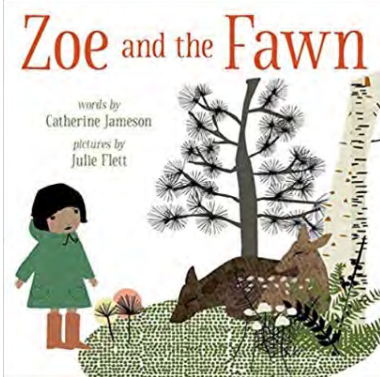
NOTE: Papa, Do You Love Me? is also available by the same author/illustrator.



Round is a Tortilla by Roseanne Thong (Author), John Parra (Illustrator)

3-5 years old

In this lively picture book, children discover shapes all around them: rectangles are ice-cream carts and stone metates, while triangles are slices of watermelon and quesadillas. Many of the featured objects are Latino in origin, and all are universal in appeal. With rich illustrations, a fun-to-read rhyming text, and an informative glossary, this playful concept book will reinforce the shapes found in every child's day!



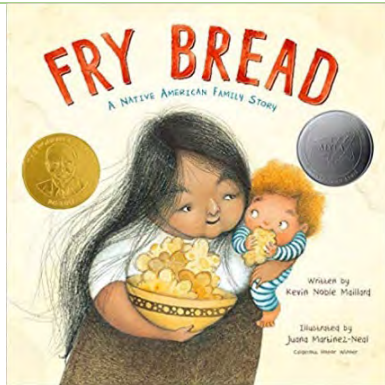
Zoe and the Fawn by Catherine Jameson (Author), Julie Flett (Illustrator)

3-5 years old

Zoe and her father are delighted to come across a fawn in the forest. But the fawn is alone—where is its mother? Join Zoe on her quest for the deer, as she encounters animals and learns their Okanagan (syilx) names along the way.

Repetition of phrased questions will enhance success for beginning readers while creating a playful rhythm for young listeners.

This sweet story is by Catherine Jameson, a mother who studied Children's Fiction Writing at the En'owkin Centre's Indigenous Creative Writing Graduate Program.



Fry Bread – A Native American Family Story by Kevin Noble Maillard

3-6 years old

(Author), Juana Martinez-Neal (Illustrator)

Told in lively and powerful verse, *Fry Bread* is an evocative depiction of a modern Native American family

Fry bread is food.

It is warm and delicious, piled high on a plate.

Fry bread is time.

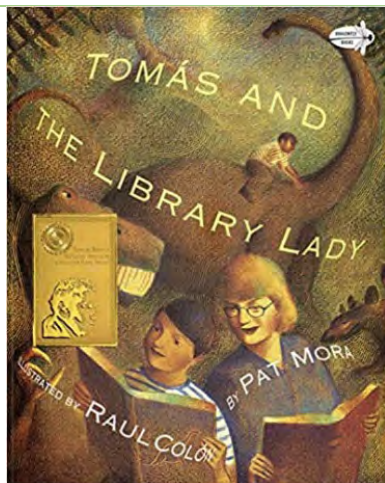
It brings families together for meals and new memories.

Fry bread is nation.

It is shared by many, from coast to coast and beyond.

Fry bread is us.

It is a celebration of old and new, traditional and modern, similarity and difference.



Tomás and the Library Lady by Pat Mora (Author), Raul Colón (Illustrator)

3-7 years old

Tomás is a son of migrant workers. Every summer he and his family follow the crops north from Texas to Iowa, spending long, arduous days in the fields. At night they gather around to hear Grandfather's wonderful stories. But before long, Tomás knows all the stories by heart. "There are more stories in the library," Papa Grande tells him. The very next day, Tomás meets the library lady and a whole new world opens up for him.

Based on the true story of the Mexican American author and educator Tomás Rivera, a child of migrant workers who went on to become the first minority Chancellor in the University of California system, this inspirational story suggests what libraries--and education--can make possible. Raul Colón's warm, expressive paintings perfectly interweave the harsh realities of Tomás's life, the joyful imaginings he finds in books, and his special relationships with a wise grandfather and a caring librarian.



Bowwow Powwow by Brenda J. Child (Author), Jonathan Thunder (Illustrator),

Gordon Jourdain (Translator)

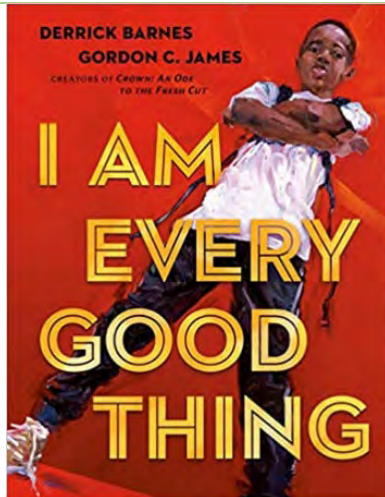
3-7 years old

Windy Girl is blessed with a vivid imagination. From Uncle she gathers stories of long-ago traditions, about dances and sharing and gratitude. Windy can tell such stories herself--about her dog, Itchy Boy, and the way he dances to request a treat and how he wriggles with joy in response to, well, just about everything.

When Uncle and Windy Girl and Itchy Boy attend a powwow, Windy watches the dancers in their jingle dresses and listens to the singers. She eats tasty food and joins family and friends around the campfire. Later, Windy falls asleep under the stars. Now Uncle's stories inspire other visions in her head: a bowwow powwow, where all the dancers are dogs. In these magical scenes,

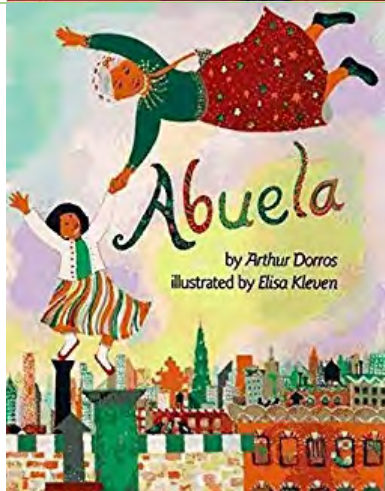
Windy sees veterans in a Grand Entry, and a visiting drum group, and traditional dancers, grass dancers, and jingle-dress dancers—all with telltale ears and paws and tails. All celebrating in song and dance. All attesting to the wonder of the powwow.

This playful story by Brenda Child is accompanied by a companion retelling in Ojibwe by Gordon Jourdain and brought to life by Jonathan Thunder's vibrant dreamscapes. The result is a powwow tale for the ages.



I Am Every Good Thing by Derrick Barnes (Author), Gordon C. James (Illustrator)
3-7 years old

The confident Black narrator of this book is proud of everything that makes him who he is. He's got big plans, and no doubt he'll see them through--as he's creative, adventurous, smart, funny, and a good friend. Sometimes he falls, but he always gets back up. And other times he's afraid because he's so often misunderstood and called what he is not. So slow down and really look and listen when somebody tells you--and shows you--who they are. There are superheroes in our midst!



Abuela by Arthur Dorros
3-7 years old

Come join Rosalba and her grandmother, her abuela, on a magical journey as they fly over the streets, sights, and people of New York City which sparkles below. The story is narrated in English and sprinkled with Spanish phrases as Abuela points out places that they explore together. The exhilaration in Rosalba's and Abuela's story is magnified by the loving bond that only a grandmother and granddaughter can share.



Birdsong by Julie Flett (Author and Illustrator)

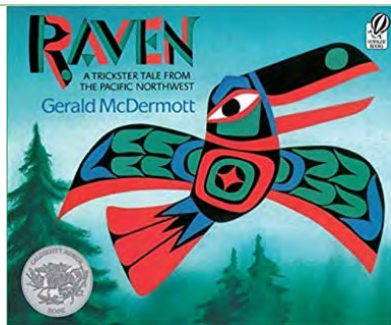
3-8 years old

When Katherena and her mother move to a small town, Katherena feels lonely and out of place. But when she meets an elderly woman artist who lives next door, named Agnes—her world starts to change.

Katherena and Agnes share the same passions for arts and crafts, birds, and nature. But as the seasons change, can Katherena navigate the failing health of her new friend?

Award-winning author and artist Julie Flett's textured images of birds, flowers, art, and landscapes bring vibrancy and warmth to this powerful story, which highlights the fulfillment of intergenerational relationships, shared passions, and spending time outdoors with the ones we love.

Includes a glossary and pronunciation guide to Cree words that appear in the text.



Raven: A Trickster Tale from the Pacific Northwest by Gerald McDermott (Author and Illustrator)

4-7 years old

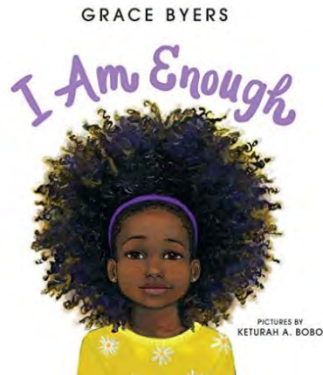
Raven, the trickster, wants to give people the gift of light. But can he find out where Sky Chief keeps it? And if he does, will he be able to escape without being discovered? His dream seems impossible, but if anyone can find a way to bring light to the world, wise and clever Raven can!



The Girl and the Wolf by Katherena Vermette (Author), Julie Flett (Illustrator)

4-7 years old

While picking berries with her mother, a little girl wanders too far into the woods. When she realizes she is lost, she begins to panic. A large grey wolf makes a sudden appearance between some distant trees. Using his sense of smell, he determines where she came from and decides to help her. Through a series of questions from the wolf, the little girl realizes she had the knowledge and skill to navigate herself—she just needed to remember that those abilities were there all along.

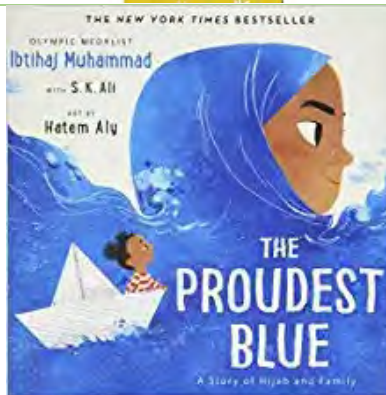


I Am Enough by Grace Byers (Author), Keturah A. Bobo (Illustrator)

4-8 years old

This gorgeous, lyrical ode to loving who you are, respecting others, and being kind to one another comes from *Empire* actor and activist Grace Byers and talented newcomer artist Keturah A. Bobo.

We are all here for a purpose. We are more than enough. We just need to believe it.



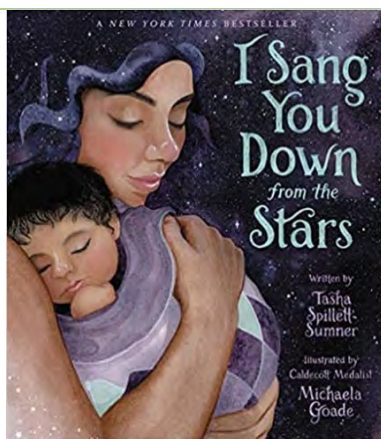
The Proudest Blue: A Story of Hijab and Family by Ibtihaj Muhammad (Author), S. K. Ali Hatem Aly (Illustrator)

4-8 years old

A powerful, vibrantly illustrated story about the first day of school--and two sisters on one's first day of hijab--by Olympic medalist and social justice activist Ibtihaj Muhammad.

With her new backpack and light-up shoes, Faizah knows the first day of school is going to be special. It's the start of a brand-new year and, best of all, it's her older sister Asiya's first day of hijab--a hijab of beautiful blue fabric, like the ocean waving to the sky. But not everyone sees hijab as beautiful, and in the face of hurtful, confusing words, Faizah will find new ways to be strong.

Paired with Hatem Aly's beautiful, whimsical art, Olympic medalist Ibtihaj Muhammad and Morris Award finalist S.K. Ali bring readers an uplifting, universal story of new experiences, the unbreakable bond between siblings, and of being proud of who you are.

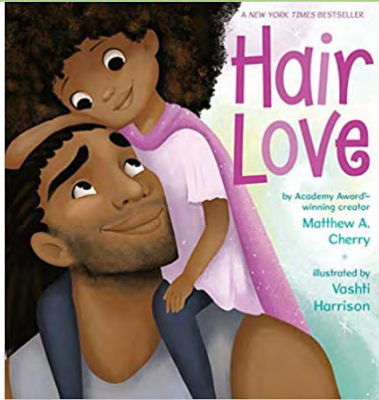


I Sang You Down From the Stars by Tasha Spillett-Sumner (Author), Michaela Goade (Illustrator)

4-8 years old

As she waits for the arrival of her new baby, a mother-to-be gathers gifts to create a sacred bundle. A white feather, cedar and sage, a stone from the river. Each addition to the bundle will offer the new baby strength and connection to tradition, family, and community. As they grow together, mother and baby will each have gifts to offer each other.

Tasha Spillett-Sumner and Michaela Goade, two Indigenous creators, bring beautiful words and luminous art together in a resonant celebration of the bond between mother and child.



Hair Love by Matthew A. Cherry (Author), Vashti Harrison (Illustrator)

4-8 years old

It's up to Daddy to give his daughter an extra-special hair style in this ode to self-confidence and the love between fathers and daughters, from Academy-Award winning director and former NFL wide receiver Matthew A. Cherry and *New York Times* bestselling illustrator Vashti Harrison.

Zuri's hair has a mind of its own. It kinks, coils, and curls every which way. Zuri knows it's beautiful. When Daddy steps in to style it for an extra special occasion, he has a lot to learn. But he LOVES his Zuri, and he'll do anything to make her -- and her hair -- happy.

Tender and empowering, *Hair Love* is an ode to loving your natural hair -- and a celebration of daddies and daughters everywhere. A perfect gift for special occasions including Father's Day, birthdays, baby showers, and more!

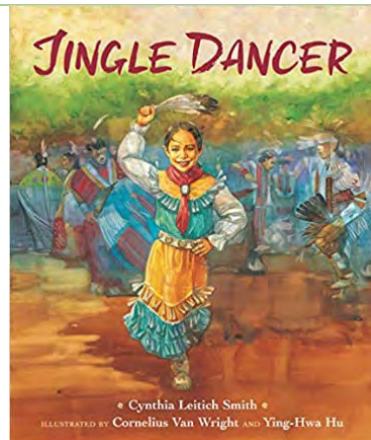


Saturday/Sabado by Oge Mora (Author and Illustrator)

4-8 Years Old

Join a mother and daughter on an up-and-down journey that reminds them of what's best about Saturdays: precious time together. In this heartfelt and universal story, a mother and daughter look forward to their special Saturday routine together every single week. But this Saturday, one thing after another goes wrong--ruining story time, salon time, picnic time, and the puppet show they'd been looking forward to going to all week. Mom is nearing a meltdown...until her loving daughter reminds her that being together is the most important thing of all.





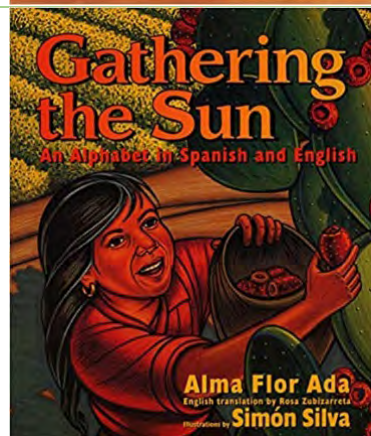
Jingle Dancer by Cynthia L. Smith (Author), Cornelius Van Wright (Illustrator), Ying-Hwa Hu (Illustrator)

4-8 years old

The cone-shaped jingles sewn to Grandma Wolfe's dress sing *tink, tink, tink, tink...*

Jenna loves the tradition of jingle dancing that has been shared over generations in her family and intertribal community. She hopes to dance at the next powwow.

But with the day quickly approaching, she has a problem—how will her dress sing if it has no jingles?

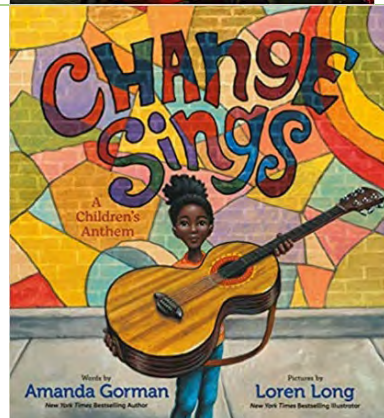


Gathering the Sun: An Alphabet in Spanish And English by Alma Flor Ada (Author), Simón Silva (Illustrator)

4-8 years

In simple words and sun-drenched paintings, Alma Flor Ada and Simón Silva take us into the fields and orchards, and into the lives of the people who work them.

Simple poems in Spanish and English, one for each letter of the Spanish alphabet, describe the wonder of the vegetable and fruit farms.



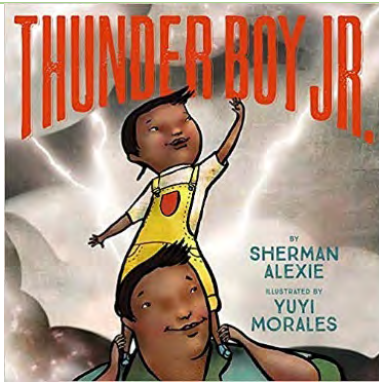
Change Sings: A Children's Anthem by Amanda Gorman (Author), Loren Long (Illustrator)

4-8 years old

A lyrical picture book debut from #1 *New York Times* bestselling author and presidential inaugural poet Amanda Gorman and #1 *New York Times* bestselling illustrator Loren Long

"I can hear change humming
In its loudest, proudest song.
I don't fear change coming,
And so I sing along."

In this stirring, much-anticipated picture book by presidential inaugural poet and activist Amanda Gorman, anything is possible when our voices join together. As a young girl leads a cast of characters on a musical journey, they learn that they have the power to make changes—big or small—in the world, in their communities, and in most importantly, in themselves.

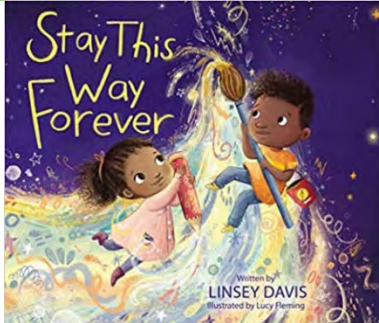


Thunder Boy Jr. by Sherman Alexie (Author), Yuyi Morales (Illustrator)

4-8 years old

Thunder Boy Jr. wants a normal name...one that's all his own. Dad is known as big Thunder, but little thunder doesn't want to share a name. He wants a name that celebrates something cool he's done like Touch the Clouds, Not Afraid of Ten Thousand Teeth, or Full of Wonder.

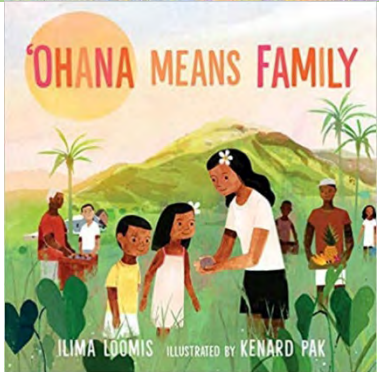
But just when Little Thunder thinks all hope is lost, dad picks the best name...Lightning! Their love will be loud and bright, and together they will light up the sky.



Stay This Way Forever by Linsey Davis (Author), Lucy Fleming (Illustrator)

4-8 years old

Celebrate the joy, wonder, and innocence of being a child with this love letter to the loved ones in your life, encouraging and affirming their own special qualities now and always.



Ohana Means Family by Ilima Loomis (Author), Kenard Pak (Illustrator)

4-8 years old

Join the family, or ohana, as they farm taro for poi to prepare for a traditional luau celebration with a poetic text in the style of *The House That Jack Built*.

An American Library Association Notable Children's Book

"This is the land that's never been sold, where work the hands, so wise and old, that reach through the water, clear and cold, into the mud to pick the taro to make the poi for our ohana's luau."

Acclaimed illustrator and animator Kenard Pak's light-filled, dramatic illustrations pair exquisitely with Ilima Loomis' text to celebrate Hawaiian land and culture.

The backmatter includes a glossary of Hawaiian terms used, as well as an author's note.

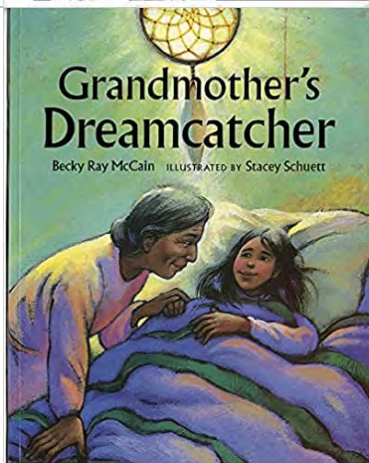


Wild Berries by Julie Flett (Author and Illustrator)

4-8 years old

Tch, tch, sh, sh, tup, tup.

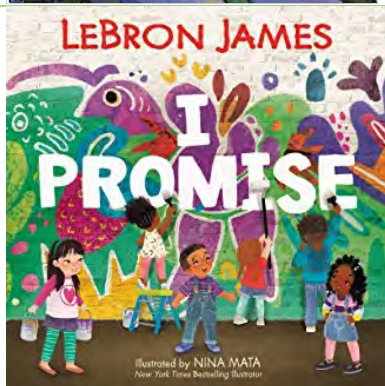
Spend the day picking wild blueberries with Clarence and his grandmother. Meet ant, spider, and fox in a beautiful woodland landscape, the ancestral home of author and illustrator Julie Flett. This book is written in both English and Cree, in particular the n-dialect, also known as Swampy Cree from the Cumberland House area. *Wild Berries* is also available in the n-dialect Cree, from the Cross Lake, Norway House area, published by Simply Read Books



Grandmother's Dreamcatcher by Becky Ray McCain (Author), Stacey Schuett (Illustrator)

4-8 years old

While Kimmy's parents look for a house close to Daddy's job, Kimmy stays with her Chippewa grandmother. The bad dreams she has had still bother her. But with her grandmother's help, she learns about dreamcatchers and together they make one.



I Promise by LeBron James (Author), Nina Mata (Illustrator)

4-8 years old

Just a kid from Akron, Ohio, who is dedicated to uplifting youth everywhere, LeBron James knows the key to a better future is to excel in school, do your best, and keep your family close.

I Promise is a lively and inspiring picture book that reminds us that tomorrow's success starts with the promises we make to ourselves and our community today. Featuring James's upbeat, rhyming text and vibrant illustrations perfectly crafted for a diverse audience by #1 *New York Times* bestselling and Geisel Honor winning artist Nina Mata, this book has the power to inspire all children and families to be their best.



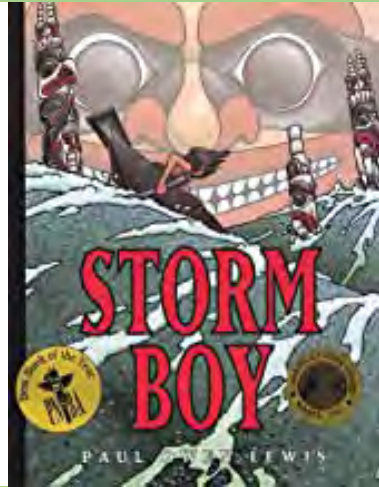
Muskrat and Skunk / Sinkpe na Maka by Donald F. Montileaux (Author and Illustrator)

5-8 years old

Animals stop and listen. A new sound is in the forest. The beat vibrates through the trees and across the meadows. What is it? Where is it coming from? Muskrat and Skunk thump on a hollow log BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! Birds begin to dance. Buffalo and Antelope join in. There is a rustle in the bushes; a large shape emerges. The animals scatter. Muskrat and Skunk drum on. The story of

the drum connects the instrument's sound to the heartbeat of Mother Earth a beat inside all of us. For the Lakota people, the drum is more than something to be played. Its rhythm is felt, and it is central to many ceremonies.

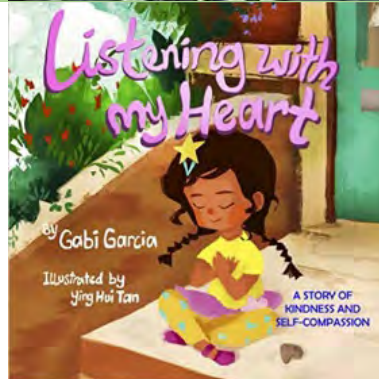
Donald F. Montileaux retells the origins of the drum, using traditional stories that Lakota people still tell today. His colorful images breathe life into Muskrat and Skunk, enhancing our understanding of the Lakota culture.



Storm Boy by Paul Owen Lewis

5-8 years old

After a violent storm, a Haida boy, the son of a chief, washes ashore in an unfamiliar village inhabited by strange colossal beings. There begins his spiritual adventure.



Listening with My Heart by Gabi Garcia (Author), Ying Hui Tan (Illustrator)

5-10 years old

Kindness matters! Especially with ourselves.

When Esperanza finds a heart-shaped rock, she sees it as a reminder to spread kindness and love in the world. But when the school play doesn't go the way she'd hoped, will she remember to show it to herself?

We talk to kids a lot about how to be friends to others, but not much about how to be friends to themselves. Yet self-acceptance and positive self-talk help them build emotional resilience, growth mindset, and well-being.

Listening with my Heart reminds us of the other golden rule-- to treat ourselves with the same understanding and compassion we give to others. It also touches on the universal themes of friendship and empathy. Includes kid-friendly mindfulness and self-compassion activities.





Thunder's Hair by Jessie Taken Alive-Rencountre (Author), Erin Walker-Jensen (Illustrator)

4 years and up

Thunder is tired of dealing with bullies at school who pick on him because of his long hair. They don't understand why a boy would grow his hair long. When he is sure he has made up his mind to cut it, his grandmother reminds him of the power of having long hair.



First One Hundred Collection (First One Hundred Institute - <https://www.firstonehundred.org/>)

This bookshelf holds a collection of picture books created especially for Native American communities by First One Hundred Institute, along with other books curated from the master collection at Unite for Literacy. First One Hundred books reflect the diverse and unique cultures of different tribes, and allow children to "see" themselves and imagine their full potential through the images. The books are narrated in a variety of indigenous languages and English, providing additional support for emergent readers and speakers.