

Multicultural Books for Kids

Easy

E ADA

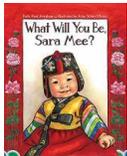
I Love Saturdays y Domingos by Alma Flor Ada



A young girl enjoys the similarities and the differences between her English-speaking and Spanish-speaking grandparents.

E AVR

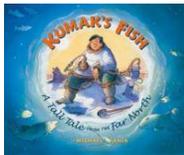
What Will You Be, Sara Mee? by Kate Aver Avraham



At her Tol, the first birthday party, Sara Mee plays the traditional Korean prophecy game--Toljabee--while her extended family and friends watch.

E BAN

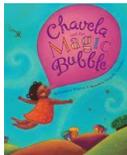
Kumak's Fish by Michael Bania



On a beautiful Arctic morning when Kumak and his family go ice fishing, Kumak hooks what seems like an enormous fish, and the entire village gets involved.

E BRO

Chavela and the Magic Bubble by Monica Brown



When Chavela blows a bubble with a strange new gum, she floats away to Mexico, where her great-grandfather once worked harvesting the tree sap that makes gum chewy.

E CAS

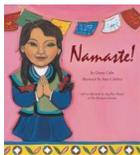
Abuela's Weave by Omar S. Castaneda



A young Guatemalan girl and her grandmother grow closer as they weave some special creations and then make a trip to the market in hopes of selling them.

E COH

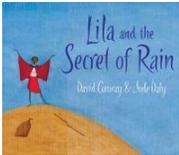
Namaste! by Diana Cohn



Whenever Nima meets someone on her long walk to the market village in Nepal, she brings her hands together with her fingers almost touching her chin, bows her head slightly, and says "Namaste," which means "the light in me meets the light in you." Includes information on the geography, culture, and people of Nepal.

E CON

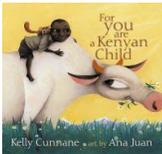
Lila and the Secret of Rain by David Conway and Jude Daly



This poignant story addresses the issue of drought. For months the sun has burned down on Lila's Kenyan village. When her grandfather whispers to her the secret of rain, she decides to talk to the sky herself.

E CUN

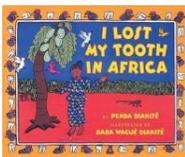
For You Are a Kenyan Child by Kelly Cunnane



From rooster crow to bedtime, a Kenyan boy plays and visits neighbors all through his village, even though he is supposed to be watching his grandfather's cows.

E DIA

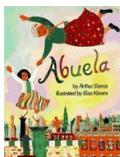
I Lost My Tooth in Africa by Penda Diakit 



While visiting her father's family in Mali, a young girl loses a tooth, places it under a calabash, and receives a hen and a rooster from the African Tooth Fairy.

E DOR

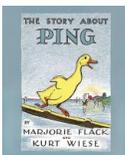
Abuela by Arthur Dorros



Readers are invited to join Rosalb and her grandmother on a magical journey, as they fly over the streets, sights, and people of Manhattan. The story is narrated in English and sprinkled with Spanish phrases.

E FLA

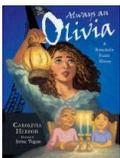
The Story About Ping by Marjorie Flack



A little duck finds adventure on the Yangtze River when he is too late to board his master's houseboat one evening.

E HER

Always an Olivia by Carolivia Herron



Herron, a Jewish-American of African descent, tells the unique story of her family's history.

E HOF

Amazing Grace by Mary Hoffman



Although a classmate says that she cannot play Peter Pan in the school play because she is black, Grace discovers that she can do anything she sets her mind to do.

E IYE

Romina's Rangoli by Malathi Michelle Iyengar



When her teacher asks each student to bring in something reflecting his or her heritage to display at an open house, Romina struggles over how to represent both her father's Indian culture and her mother's Mexican one.

E JOO

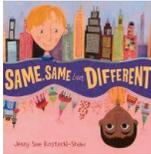
Mama, Do You Love Me? by Barbara M. Joosse



A child living in the Arctic learns that a mother's love is unconditional.

E KOS

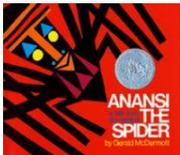
Same, Same but Different by Jenny Sue Kostecki-Shaw



Pen pals Elliott and Kailash discover that even though they live in different countries--America and India--they both love to climb trees, own pets, and ride school buses.

E MCD

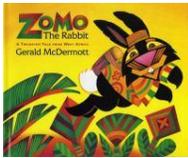
Anansi the Spider: A Tale from the Ashanti by Gerald McDermott



In trying to determine which of his six sons to reward for saving his life, Anansi the Spider is responsible for placing the moon in the sky.

E MCD

Zomo the Rabbit: A Trickster Tale from West Africa by Gerald McDermott



Zomo the rabbit, a trickster from West Africa, wants wisdom. But he must accomplish three apparently impossible tasks before Sky God will give him what he wants. Is he clever enough to do as Sky God asks?

E MOR

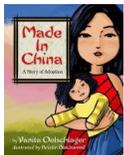
Tomás and the Library Lady by Pat Mora



While helping his family in their work as migrant laborers far from their home, Tomás finds an entire world to explore in the books at the local public library.

E OEL

Made in China by Vanita Oelschlager



Made in China tells the story of a girl adopted into an American family and the problems she encounters with her older sister. With help from her father, the adopted sister learns the value of her Chinese beginnings. Later the girls accept their differences and embrace the joy that comes from a loving family.

E PAT

Ganesha's Sweet Tooth by Sanjay Patel



An original story based on Hindu mythology, this book tells the story about how Ganesha's love of sweets led to a broken tusk and the writing of the epic poem, the Mahābhārata. Includes author's note about the myth.

E POL

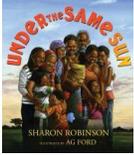
The Keeping Quilt by Patricia Polacco



A homemade quilt ties together the lives of four generations of an immigrant Jewish family, remaining a symbol of their enduring love and faith.

E ROB

Under the Same Sun by Sharon Robinson

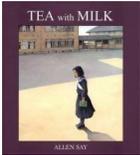


Auntie Sharon and Grandmother Bibi have come to visit the family in Tanzania--all the way from America!

But too soon, it's their last day together. And in a bittersweet moment, at the ruins of an old slave port, Bibi's African-born grandchildren come to learn what happened to their ancestors who went by slave ship to America.

E SAY

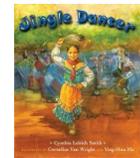
Tea with Milk by Allen Say



After growing up near San Francisco, a young Japanese woman returns with her parents to their native Japan, but she feels foreign and out of place. (We have lots more of Allen Say's books).

E SMI

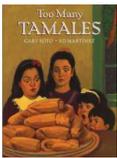
Jingle Dancer by Cynthia Leitich Smith



Jenna, a Native American girl, gathers metal jingles to sew onto her dress so she can make pleasant sounds when she dances in the next powwow.

E SOT

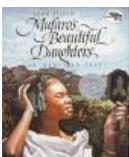
Too Many Tamales by Gary Soto



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.

E STE

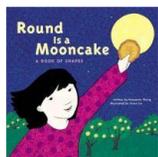
Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters: An African Tale by John Steptoe



Mufaro's two beautiful daughters, one bad-tempered, one kind and sweet, go before the king, who is choosing a wife.

E THO

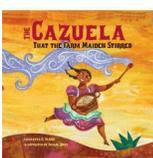
Round is a Mooncake by Roseanne Thong



As a little girl discovers things round, square and rectangular in her urban neighborhood, she is reminded of her Chinese American culture.

E VAM

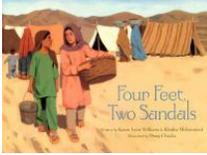
The Cazuela that the Farm Maiden Stirred by Samantha R. Vamos



This is the story of how the farm maiden and all the farm animals worked together to make the rice pudding that they serve at the fiesta.

E WIL

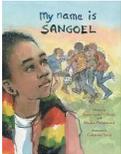
Four Feet, Two Sandals by Karen Lynn Williams and Khadra Mohammed



Two young Afghani girls living in a refugee camp in Pakistan share a precious pair of sandals brought by relief workers. Includes author's note about refugees.

E WIL

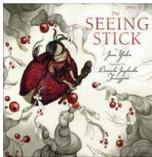
My Name is Sangoel by Karen Lynn Williams and Khadra Mohammed



As a refugee from Sudan to the United States, Sangoel is frustrated that no one can pronounce his name correctly until he finds a clever way to solve the problem.

E YOL

The Seeing Stick by Janet Yolen



Hwei Min, the only daughter of the emperor of China, has been blind since birth. Her father offers a reward to anyone who can find a cure for the little girl. It seems that no one from magicians to physicians can help her. Then, one day a wise old man with a mysterious seeing stick visits the princess. Will he be able to teach Hwei Min that there is more than one way to see the world?

E YUM

The Twins' Blanket by Hyewon Yum

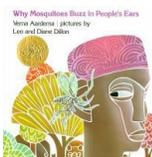


Two twin girls, who have always shared everything, sleep in separate beds with their own blankets for the first time.

Caldecott

J CALD AAR

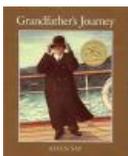
Why Mosquitoes Buzz in People's Ears: A West African Tale by Verna Aardema



Reveals the meaning of the mosquito's buzz.

J CALD SAY

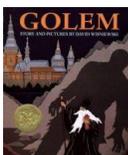
Grandfather's Journey by Allen Say



A Japanese American man recounts his grandfather's journey to America which he later also undertakes, and the feelings of being torn by a love for two different countries. (We have lots more of Allen Say's books).

J CALD WIS

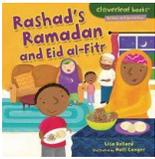
Golem by David Wisniewski



A saintly rabbi miraculously brings to life a clay giant who helps him watch over the Jews of sixteenth-century Prague.

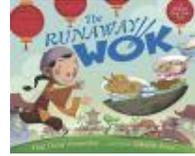
Holiday

JHOLE BUL ***Rashad's Ramadan and Eid al-Fitr*** by Lisa Bullard



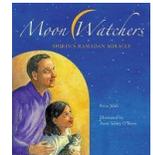
For Muslims, Ramadan is a time for fasting, prayer, and thinking of others. Rashad tries to be good all month. When it's time for Eid al-Fitr, he feasts and plays! Find out how people celebrate this special time of year.

JHOLE COM ***The Runaway Wok: A Chinese New Year Tale*** by Ying Chang Compestine



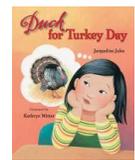
On Chinese New Year's Eve, a poor man who works for the richest businessman in Beijing sends his son to market to trade their last few eggs for a bag of rice, but instead he brings home an empty--but magic--wok that changes their fortunes forever. Includes information about Chinese New Year and a recipe for fried rice.

JHOLE JAL ***Moon Watchers: Shirin's Ramadan Miracle*** by Reza Jalali



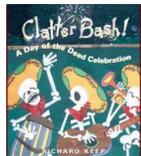
Nine-year-old Shirin wants to join her family and other Muslims in fasting for Ramadan but is told she is too young, and so she seeks other ways to participate including, perhaps, getting along better with her older brother, Ali.

JHOLE JUL ***Duck for Turkey Day*** by Jacqueline Jules



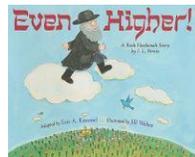
When Tuyet finds out that her Vietnamese family is having duck rather than turkey for Thanksgiving dinner, she is upset until she finds out that other children in her class did not eat turkey either.

JHOLE KEE ***Clatter, Bash!: A Day of the Dead Celebration*** by Richard Cleminson Keep



Rhyming text presents traditions used to celebrate the Day of the Dead.

JHOLE KIM ***Even Higher!: A Rosh Hashanah Story*** by Eric A. Kimmel



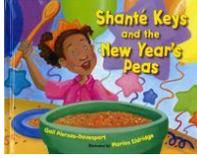
A skeptical visitor to the village of Nemirov finds out where its rabbi really goes just before the Jewish New Year, when the villagers claim he goes to heaven to speak to God.

JHOLE LIN ***Thanking the Moon: Celebrating the mid-Autumn Moon Festival*** by Grace Lin



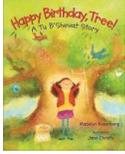
Each member of a Chinese family contributes to the celebration of the Mid-Autumn Moon Festival. Includes author's note explaining this festival's customs and traditions.

JHOL E PIE ***Shante Keys and the New Year's Peas*** by Gail Piernas-Davenport



When Shanté is sent to find black-eyed peas for her family's New Year's celebration, she learns about each of her neighbor's New Year's traditions in their home countries.

JHOL E ROS ***Happy Birthday, Tree!: A Tu B'Shevat Story*** by Madelyn Rosenberg



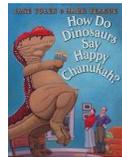
Joni and Nate figure out how to celebrate a tree's birthday for Tu B'Shevat, the Jewish "New Year for trees".

JHOL E STR ***The Elijah Door: A Passover Tale*** by Linda Leopold Strauss



For years the Galinskys and the Lippas have shared Seder, the special Passover dinner, together. But no more! Mama Lippa shuts her windows tight against Galinsky voices. Papa Galinsky cuts a new side door into the house to avoid seeing the Lippas. But David Lippa and Rachel Galinsky love each other, and fortunately, they have a trick up their sleeves. This charming folktale, stunningly illustrated with hand-painted woodcuts, celebrates the joys of love, freedom, and family.

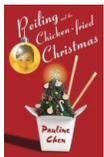
JHOL E YOL ***How Do Dinosaurs Say Happy Chanukah?*** by Janet Yolen



Illustrations and rhyming text present some of the different ways a well-behaved dinosaur can celebrate the eight days and nights of Chanukah.

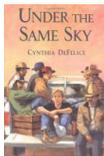
Fiction

J F CHE ***Peiling and the Chicken-friend Christmas*** by Pauline Chen



Fifth-grader Peiling Wang wants to celebrate "a real American Christmas," much to the displeasure of her traditional, Taiwanese-born father.

J F DEF ***Under the Same Sky*** by Cynthia C. DeFelice



While trying to earn money for a motor bike, fourteen-year-old Joe Pederson becomes involved with the Mexicans who work on his family's farm and develops a better relationship with his father.

J F HOU ***Same Sun Here*** by Silas House



A twelve-year-old Indian immigrant in New York City and a Kentucky coal miner's son become pen pals, and eventually best friends, through a series of revealing letters exploring such topics as environmental activism, immigration, and racism.

J F PAT

The Day of the Pelican by Katherine Paterson



to America.

In 1998 when the Kosovo hostilities escalate, thirteen-year-old Meli's life as an ethnic Albanian, changes forever after her brother escapes his Serbian captors and the entire family flees from one refugee camp to another until they are able to immigrate

J F RYA

Esperanza Rising by Pam Munoz Ryan



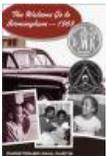
Depression.

Esperanza and her mother are forced to leave their life of wealth and privilege in Mexico to go work in the labor camps of Southern California, where they must adapt to the harsh circumstances facing Mexican farm workers on the eve of the Great

Way Back When

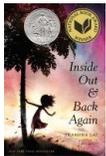
J F CUR

The Watsons Go to Birmingham - 1963 by Christopher Paul Curtis



J F LAI

Inside Out & Back Again by Thanhha Lai



The ordinary interactions and everyday routines of the Watsons, an African American family living in Flint, Michigan, are drastically changed after they go to visit Grandma in Alabama in the summer of 1963.

Through a series of poems, a young girl chronicles the life-changing year of 1975, when she, her mother, and her brothers leave Vietnam and resettle in Alabama.

J F LEV

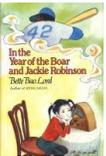
Dave at Night by Gail Carson Levine



In 1926, Dave, an orphan & resident of the Hebrew Home for Boys (also known as Hell Hole for Brats) sneaks out & meets Solly, a free spirit, who introduces the boy to the jazz world of the Harlem Renaissance.

J F LOR

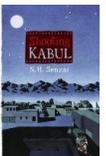
In the Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson by Bette Lore



Shirley Temple Wong sails from China to America with a heart full of dreams. Her new home is Brooklyn, New York. Shirley doesn't know any English, so it's hard to make friends. Then a miracle happens. It is 1947, and Jackie Robinson, star of the Brooklyn Dodgers, is everyone's hero. Jackie Robinson is proving that a black man, the grandson of a slave, can make a difference in America, the land of opportunity.

J F SEN

Shooting Kabul by N. H. Senzai



behind.

Escaping from Taliban-controlled Afghanistan in the summer of 2001, eleven-year-old Fadi and his family immigrate to the San Francisco Bay Area, where Fadi schemes to return to the Pakistani refugee camp where his little sister was accidentally left

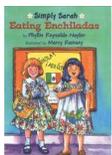
Series

J SER DEA ***The Fences Between Us: the Diary of Piper Davis*** by Kirby Larson



Thirteen-year-old Piper Davis records in her diary her experiences beginning in December 1941 when her brother joins the Navy, the United States goes to war, she attempts to document her life through photography, and her father--the pastor for a Japanese Baptist Church in Seattle--follows his congregants to an Idaho internment camp, taking her along with him. Includes historical notes.

J SER SIM ***Eating Enchiladas*** by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor



A sleepover inspires Sarah, who likes to do things differently, to chose Mexico for her "Countries of the World" presentation.

J SER YEA ***The Year of the Dog*** by Grace Lin



Frustrated at her seeming lack of talent for anything, a young Taiwanese American girl sets out to apply the lessons of the Chinese Year of the Dog, those of making best friends and finding oneself, to her own life.

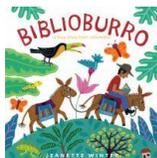
Biography

J B BUD ***Buddha: The Father of Buddhism*** by Anna Carew-Miller



A biography of Siddhartha Gautama, later called Buddha, who was a prince in India about 2,500 years ago who gave up earthly riches and power to seek enlightenment about the mysteries of life.

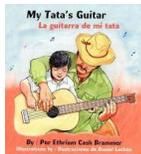
J B SOR ***Biblioburro: A True Story from Columbia*** by Jeanette Winter



A man, his burros, and his books bring joy to children in remote Colombian villages in this inspiring book based on a true story.

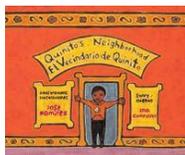
Spanish Easy

JSPA E BRA ***My Tata's Guitar*** by Ethriam Cash Brammer



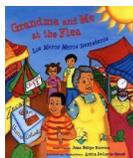
While sharing stories of their Mexican-American family's past, a father gives his young son the guitar he received from his own father.

JSPA E CUM ***Quinto's Neighborhood = El Vecindario de Quinto*** by Ina Cumpiano



A bilingual book that features a young Latino boy, Quinto, describing the jobs done by members of his immediate and extended family as well as others in his neighborhood. (See also *Quinto, Day and Night* JSPA E CUM).

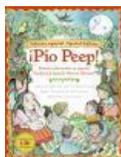
JSPA E HER ***Grandma and Me at the Flea = Los Meros Meros Remateros*** by Juan Felipe Herrera



Juanito accompanies his grandmother to a flea market in southern California, where he helps her and the other vendors and where they enjoy seeing old friends from their Mexican-American community.

Spanish Non-Fiction

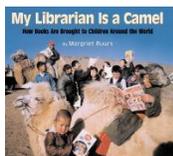
JSPA 398.8 PIO ***Pio Peep! Traditional Spanish Nursery Rhymes***



A collection of more than two dozen nursery rhymes in Spanish, from Spain and Latin America, with English translations.

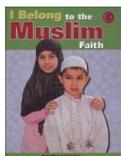
Non-Fiction

J 027.4 RUU ***My Librarian is a Camel*** by Margaret Ruurs



Do you get books from a public library in your town or even in your school library? In many remote areas of the world, there are no library buildings. In many countries, books are delivered in unusual way: by bus, boat, elephant, donkey, train, even by wheelbarrow. Why would librarians go to the trouble of packing books on the backs of elephants or driving miles to deliver books by bus? Because, as one librarian in Azerbaijan says, "Books are as important to us as air or water!"

J 297 DIC ***I Belong to the Muslim Faith*** by Katie Dicker and Zoha Azizi



Introduction to the Muslim religion from the perspective of a child belonging to that faith.

J 394.261 AND ***Kwanzaa*** by Sheila Anderson



Teaches young readers about the background, traditions, foods, and celebrations of the African-American holiday.

J 398.208 MAR ***The Rough-Face Girl*** by Rafe Martin



In an Algonquin village by the shores of Lake Ontario, many young women have tried to win the affections of the powerful Invisible Being who lives with his sister in a great wigwam near the forest. Then comes Rough-Face Girl, scarred from working by the fire. Can she succeed where her beautiful, cruel sisters have failed?

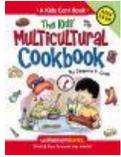
J 398.242 DEP ***The Legend of the Bluebonnet*** by Tomie DePaola



A retelling of the Comanche Indian legend of how a little girl's sacrifice brought the flower called bluebonnet to Texas.

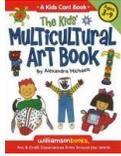
J 641.59 COO **The Kids' Multicultural Cookbook: Food & Fun from Around the World** by

Deanna F. Cook



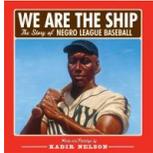
In this hands-on introduction to foods around the world, children will learn about other cultures through recipes for over 75 ethnic dishes. They will also get an introduction to many diverse cultures by enjoying games, traditions, and customs.

J 745.5 MIC **The Kids' Multicultural Art Book: Art & Craft Experiences from Around the World** by Alexandra Michaels



In these pages, children can explore roots, rhythms, and traditions from all corners of the earth while crafting their own art and artifacts. From Kachina dolls of the American Southwest to worry dolls from Central America to Egyptian paper beads, these crafts reveal details about cultures across the world.

J 796.357 NEL **We Are the Ship: The Story of Negro League Baseball** by Kadir Nelson



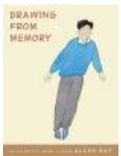
Describes the glory years of Negro league baseball in the early 1900s, profiling its star athletes and highlighting the challenges faced by the players and the sacrifices made to live out their dreams and play the game they loved.

J 811.52 HUG **My People** by Langston Hughes



Langston Hughes's spare yet eloquent tribute to his people has been cherished for generations. Now, acclaimed photographer Charles R. Smith Jr. interprets this beloved poem in vivid sepia photographs that capture the glory, the beauty, and the soul of being a black American today.

J 921 SAY **Drawing from Memory** by Allen Say



Drawing from memory is Allen Say's own story of his path to becoming the renowned artist he is today. Shunned by his father, who didn't understand his son's artistic leanings, Allen was embraced by Noro Shinpei, Japan's leading cartoonist and the man he came to love as his "spiritual father." As WWII raged, Allen was further inspired to consider questions of his own heritage and the motivations of those around him. He worked hard in rigorous drawing classes, studied, trained--and ultimately came to understand who he really is. (We have more books by Allen Say).