

Recently Published Multicultural Books ~ By Group 2006-2008

African

Appropriate for: P=primary, UG=upper grade, MS=middle school

Picture Books

Title/Author	Annotation Categories	
<u>Yatandou</u> by Gloria Whelan PB: Picture book/ UG	This is a tale about a young girl Yatandou who lives in Mali. She and the women in her village work together to bring a better future for their village, even if it means parting with something she holds dear.	Community and Culture
<u>Ikenna Goes to Nigeria</u> by Ifeoma Onyefulu PB: Picture book/UG	Ikenna travels for the first time from Lagos, a bustling modern city, to visit the countryside where his mother was born. In this heart warming story we read about his adventures but above all, his extended family that he will always treasure.	Family Identity

Old Favorites

Title/Author	Annotation Categories	
<u>Brothers in Hope: The Story of the Lost Boys of Sudan*</u> by Mary Williams PB: Picture book/UG Level: S	Orphaned by the ethnic and religious wars that have left two million dead we learn through, Garang, the story of children at war. Driven from his village home by the soldiers, Garang treks with other boys nearly 1,000 miles to Kenya. He finds shelter in refugee camps, but many other refugees die along the way. Eventually a special bond forms between Garang, a younger boy and an aid worker who helps them to reach America.	Living on the Margins, friendships

*Available from Lee & Low Books

African American

Appropriate for: P=primary, UG=upper grade, MS=middle school

Novels

Title/Author	Annotation Categories	for Use
<p><u>Fire From the Rock</u> by Sharon M. Draper</p> <p>N: Novel/ MS</p>	<p>An honor student, Sylvia Patterson is thrilled when she is chosen as one of the first black students to integrate all-white Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas, in 1957. But the racism in her town is terrifying, and she is not sure she can go through with it. What will she do?</p>	<p>Historical and Transformational Events that Shape Us</p> <p>Names and Taking up Identity</p>
<p><u>Slam Dunk</u> by Sharon Robinson</p> <p>N: Novel/MS</p>	<p>In this lively sequel to Safe At Home, Elijah "Jumper" Breeze is settling into his new home in Harlem-though after his father died and his mother moved them from the suburbs. He made friends at summer camp and he's eager to see them at his new middle school. He's also eager to hit the court for some serious b-ball. Then his best friend, Kelvin, talks him into running for student council and suddenly life gets a lot more complicated!</p>	<p>Friendship, identity, fitting-in</p>
<p><u>Chess Rumble*</u> by G. Neri</p> <p>N: Novel/MS</p> <p>Level: T</p>	<p>Marcus is having a hard time in school, at home and on the street. Life for him is a battle especially since his sister's death. In this novel written in verse we learn how Marcus comes to regain control of his life through the help of CM, the chess master.</p>	<p>Identity, friendship, family matters</p>

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<p><u>Elijah of Buxton</u> by Paul Christopher Curtis</p> <p>N: Novel/ UG</p> <p>Level: ukn</p>	<p>Eleven-year-old Elijah was the first child born free in the Canadian village of Buxton, founded by escaped slaves. This historical fiction novel tells about the lives and realities of the times.</p>	<p>Historical and Transformational Events that Shape Us</p>
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Picture Books

Title/Author	Annotation Categories	
<p><u>Oh, Brother!</u> by Nikki Grimes</p> <p>PB: Picture Book/UG Poetry</p> <p>Level P</p>	<p>Xavier’s new stepbrother, Chris, has moved into Xavier’s room, and also is trying to steal Mami, Xavier’s mom by being the perfect kid. Nikki Grimes captures the struggles of this story which tells how two strangers learn to become brothers and a loving family in twenty powerful poems.</p>	<p>Family</p>
<p><u>Philli’s Big Test</u> by Catherine Clinton</p> <p>PB: Picture Book/UG</p> <p>Biography</p>	<p>In 1773, Phillis Wheatley published a book of poetry. It was a great accomplishment that made her very famous. Only a year before, Phillis had had to take a test to prove that she was the actual author of these poems, because Phillis Wheatley was a slave. Who would believe that an African girl could be the author of such poetry? Phillis did! She believed in herself, and took every opportunity she could to make her life better. She believed in the power of her words, and her writing to prove her talent, and used the power of words to change a life.</p>	<p>Historical and Transformational Events that Shape Us</p>

<p><u>Pitching in for Eubie</u> by Jerdine Nolen</p> <p>PB: Picture Book/ UG</p> <p>Historical Fiction</p>	<p>Lily is so proud of her sister Eubie when she wins a college scholarship. This delightful story tells how a whole family rallies to earn the money so that Eubie's dream might come true. What can Eubie do to pitch in?</p>	<p>Family</p> <p>Historical and Transformational Events that Shape Us</p>
<p><u>Those Shoes</u> by Maribeth Boelts</p> <p>PB: Picture Book/ P</p>	<p>Jeremy desperately wants the latest shoes but his family can't afford new shoes. Readers will rejoice in the way he eventually resolves his problem with his too-small shoes.</p>	<p>Family</p> <p>Living on the Margins</p> <p>Identity</p>

Poetry

Title/Author	Annotation Categories	
<p><u>Jazz Baby</u> by Lisa Wheeler</p> <p>PB: Picture book/ Poetry/PR</p> <p>Level: unk</p>	<p>This finger snapping, hand clapping rhyme tells how a baby and his family make a joyful noise before he fall off to sleep.</p>	<p>Family</p>
<p><u>Jabber Wocky</u> by Christopher Myers</p> <p>PB: Picture book/ Poetry/UG</p> <p>Level: unk</p>	<p>This 2007 version of Lewis Carroll's famous poem teaches students that even a classic poem can have a fresh new appearance.</p>	<p>Identity</p>

Old Favorites

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Title/Author	Annotation Categories	
<p><u>a sweet smell of roses</u> by Angela Johnson</p> <p>PB: Picture Book/UG</p>	<p>This poetic picture book with gorgeously rendered, realistic charcoal illustrations tells the story of two young African American girls who sneak out to join a march through their hometown with Martin Luther King and a crowd from the community.</p>	<p>Historical and Transformational Events that Shape Us</p>
<p><u>Daddy Calls Me Man</u> by Angela Johnson</p> <p>PB: Picture Book/Poetry/P</p>	<p>This (gorgeously illustrated) picture book contains poetry about one African American boy's everyday life: shoes, playing with siblings, bedtime, and new baby sisters.</p>	<p>Names and Taking up Identity</p>
<p><u>Something Beautiful</u> by Sharon Dennis Wyeth</p> <p>PB: Picture Book/UG</p> <p>Level: L</p>	<p>This book is about a young girl only sees the rough edges, the ugliness, of her neighborhood. It offers a different perspective to preserving our environment by marking the importance of preserving ALL environments. It combines concepts of community organizing, social action and environmentalism.</p>	<p>Communities, Cultures and Celebration</p> <p>Bearing Witness</p>
<p><u>What They Found: Love on 145th St</u> by Walter Dean Myers</p> <p>SS: Short Stories/MS</p>	<p>A follow up to 145th Stories, short stories with intertwining characters and issues ranging from facing the death of a terminally ill parent to complicated love to the war in Iraq.</p>	<p>Names and Taking up Identity</p> <p>Hair, Clothing and Appearance (the body)</p> <p>Intersection of Cultures and Identities</p>
<p><u>Martin's BIG Words</u> by Doreen Rappaport</p>	<p>This award winning biography of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. tells not only of this great American hero's life and times. It highlights</p>	<p>History</p>

<p>PB: Picture book/ UG</p>	<p>the “big words” of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the words that helped change the nation forever.</p>	
<p><u>Deshawn Days*</u> by Tony Medina</p> <p>PB: Picture book/UG Poetry</p> <p>Level: M</p>	<p>This original story about Deshawn Williams who live s in the projects is told in verse. We learn all about Deshawn and life in the inner city.</p>	<p>Identity</p>

Asian/ Pacific Islander

Appropriate for: P=primary, UG=upper grade, MS=middle school

Picture Books

Title/Author	Annotation Categories	
<p><u>Ruby's Wish</u> by Shirin Yim Bridges</p> <p>PB: Picture Book/UG</p>	<p>In this story, set in the early half of the 1900's, a young Chinese girl who excels in her studies wants more to attend University more than anything else in the world, despite the cultural expectation for all girls to marry.</p>	<p>Names and Taking up Identity</p>
<p><u>Yoko</u> by Rosemary Wells</p> <p>PB: Picture book/P</p>	<p>Yoko is a Japanese girl who goes to school and is teased for eating sushi. The kids learn from Yoko that each of them has different foods and a culture that can be celebrated.</p>	<p>Communities, cultures, and celebrations</p>
<p><u>Willie Wins*</u> by Amira Astudillo Gilles</p> <p>PB: Picture book/UG</p> <p>Level: M</p>	<p>Willie's father tells him there is something special in an old coconut bank brought from the Philippines, but Willie is embarrassed to take it to school for a contest, especially since he knows that one of his classmates will make fun of him.</p>	<p>Immigration and Cultural Identity (stories of kids in America)</p>
<p><u>Hiromi's Hands*</u> by Lynne Barasch</p> <p>PB: Picture book/UG</p> <p>Level: Q</p>	<p>This biography of Hiromi Susuki, a Japanese American girl who, with her father's guidance, defies tradition and trains to become a sushi chef at her family's restaurant in New York City.</p>	<p>Immigration and Cultural Identity (stories of kids in America)</p>

Poetry

Title/Author	Annotation Categories	
<p><u>Shanghai Messenger*</u> by Andrea Cheng</p> <p>PB: Picture Book/Poetry/UG</p> <p>Level: S</p>	<p>Xiao Mei is eleven years old. She is excited and a bit apprehensive to travel to Shanghai, China to visit her extended family. In the story written in poetic verse we learn of her adventure and of her appreciation for her Chinese heritage.</p>	<p>Identity Family Culture</p>

Old Favorites

Title/Author	Annotation Categories	
<p><u>Sam and the Lucky Money*</u> by Karen Chinn</p> <p>PB: Picture book/PR</p> <p>Level: L</p>	<p>It is the Chinese New Year and Sam receives lucky money to spend. Sam can hardly wait to spend it. While out shopping with his mother Sam run into a dilemma on how to spend his New Year's gift money.</p>	<p>Social Justice Holiday & Traditions</p>
<p><u>The Have A Good Day Café *</u> by Frances Park & Ginger Park</p> <p>PB: Picture book/UG</p> <p>Level: N</p>	<p>Mike and his family drive to the city everyday with their food cart. One day two other food carts show up. Mike and his grandmother who has recently come from Korea work together to find a way to make the family business a success.</p>	<p>Family Culture Immigration</p>

Latino

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Picture Books

Title/Author	Annotation Categories	
<p><u>First Day in Grapes*</u> by L. King Perez</p> <p>PB: Picture book/UG</p> <p>Level: N</p>	<p>Growing up in a migrant family, Chico has experienced first school days in artichokes and first days in onions, and "now his first day in third grade would be in grapes." His encounters with bullies and the grumpy school bus driver shake Chico's confidence, but a friendly classmate and an understanding teacher help him adjust.</p>	<p>Immigration and Cultural Identity (stories of kids in America)</p>
<p><u>Armando and the Blue Tarp School*</u> by Edith Hope Fine and Judith Pinkerton Josephson</p> <p>PB: Picture book/UG</p> <p>Level: O</p>	<p>Armando and his father work at the dump, picking through trash to support the family. <i>Buh-beep! Buh-beep!</i> The truck horn of Senor David sounds. He has come to teach the children in Armando's neighborhood. Armando is overjoyed to attend school each afternoon with Senor David. This story of perseverance and of power teaches how one person can change the lives of others.</p>	<p>Social Justice Living on the Margins</p>

Poetry

Title/Author	Annotation Categories	
<p><u>My Feet are Laughing</u> by Lisette Norman</p> <p>PB: Picture Book/Poetry/UG</p>	<p>When her grandmother goes to live in heaven, Sadie, a young Dominican American, and her mother and sister move into Mama Didi's Harlem brownstone. This collection of narrative poems highlights familial love, the optimism of youth, and Sadie's irrepressible personality.</p>	<p>Religions and Cultural Identity</p> <p>Different Kinds of Families</p>

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<p><u>Yum! MmMm!</u> <u>Que' Rico!*</u> By Pat Mora</p> <p>PB:Picture Book/Poetry/PR</p> <p>Level: P</p>	<p>Learning about the fruits and vegetables found in the Americas is the theme of this poetry collection. Its colorful illustrations include the origins of each food found across the two continents.</p>	<p>Identity</p>
<p><u>The Pot that Juan Built*</u> by Nancy Andrews-Coebel</p> <p>PB: Picture Book/ Poetry/UG</p> <p>Level: P</p>	<p>Written in the form of "The House That Jack Built" this colorful book tells the story of the Mexican potter Juan Quezada. His inspiring work helps to transform his impoverished village into a thriving community.</p>	<p>Community Culture</p>

Old Favorites

Title/Author	Annotation Categories	
<p><u>The Most Beautiful Place In The World</u> by Ann Cameron</p> <p>N: Novel/UG</p> <p>Level: O</p>	<p>Juan's life is less than beautiful. His mother has abandoned him to his grandmother and Juan must work shining shoes to earn his keep. Juan overcomes all of this and convinces his grandmother to send him to school.</p>	<p>Child Labor</p> <p>Different Kinds of Families</p>

Middle Eastern

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Novels

Title/Author	Annotation Categories	
<p>Tasting the Sky: A Palestinian Childhood by Ibtisam Barakat</p> <p>Novel/ MS</p> <p>Level: unk</p>	<p>This memoir written by Barakat provides children with insight into the Six Days' War through the eyes of a child. It is a wonderful way for readers to learn about the Palestinian world through this literary treasure.</p>	<p>Living on the Margins, Children and War</p>

Picture Books

Title/Author	Annotation Categories	
<p><u>Alia's Mission: Saving the books of Iraq</u> by Mark Alan Stamaty</p> <p>PB: Picture Book GN: Graphic Novel/MS</p>	<p>This very short graphic novel tells the story of the librarian, Alia, who saves the books in Basra's library by sneaking them to her home bit by bit before American soldiers invade her village and the library is burned to the ground. This book tells the same true story as <i>The Librarian of Basra</i>, by Jeanette Winter.</p>	<p>Historical and Transformational Events that Shape Us</p>
<p><u>The Librarian of Basra</u> by Jeanette Winter</p> <p>PB: Picture Book/UG</p>	<p>In this picture book, Alia, a librarian knows that war is coming to her town. In order to keep the library books safe, she sneaks 30,000 books to her home with the help of others. This book is based on the same true story as <i>Alia's Mission: Saving the books of Iraq</i> by Mark Alan Stamaty.</p>	<p>Historical and Transformational Events that Shape Us</p>

<p><u>Ziba Came on a Boat</u> by Liz Lofthouse</p> <p>PB: Picture book/ UG</p>	<p>Immigration</p>	<p>and Cultural Identity (stories of kids in America)</p>
<p><u>Four Feet, Two Sandals</u> by Karen Lynn Williams & Khadra Mohammed</p> <p>PB: Picture book/ UG</p>	<p>This touching story of friendship between two Afghani girls living in a refugee camp in Pakistan and how they share a precious pair of sandals brought to them by relief workers.</p>	<p>Living on the Margins</p>
<p><u>One Green Apple</u> by Eve Bunting</p> <p>PB: Picture book/ UG</p>	<p>Farah goes on a school trip to the apple orchard. While on the trip she makes cider and gains self-confidence when the green apple she picks perfectly complements the other students' red apples.</p>	<p>Immigration and Cultural Identity (stories of kids in America)</p>
<p><u>Bringing Asha Home*</u> by Uma Krishnaswami</p> <p>PB: Picture book/ UG</p> <p>Level: M</p>	<p>Arun longs for a sister, so he is excited when his parents tell him that they are adopting a baby girl from India, his father's native country. As the year drags on and his parents speak of forms and permissions, Arun studies the baby's photograph and eagerly plans for her arrival. Finally, a full year later, his father returns with baby sister Asha and a special <i>rakhi</i> or bracelet for brother Arun.</p>	<p>Families Holiday & Traditions</p>