

Identity & Diversity

Compiled by Joan Pearce

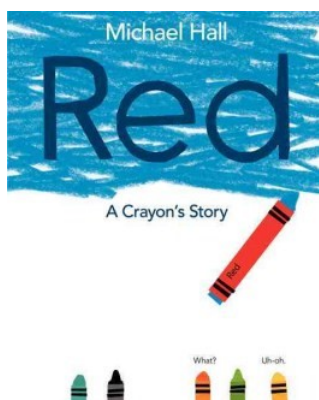
Picture Books *IL from publisher, then reviewers



Being Wendy

by Fran Drescher, c2011

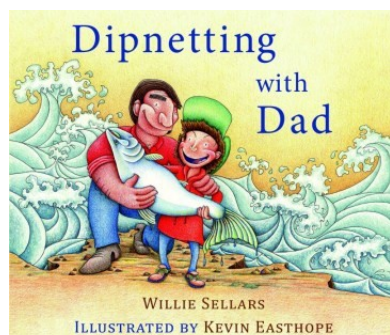
"In this delightful picture book, we meet Wendy, a girl who lives in an odd town where everyone has to wear a box. These boxes are labeled with what each person does....These boxes are worn for life and Wendy has to choose hers soon. How will she ever decide on just one box? She's interested in so many things! Wendy's moxie makes her break out of her box . . . And she sets the whole town on end when she does!" - Amazon.ca



Red a Crayon's Story

by Michael Hall, c2015 (IL: K-3, RL: 1.5)

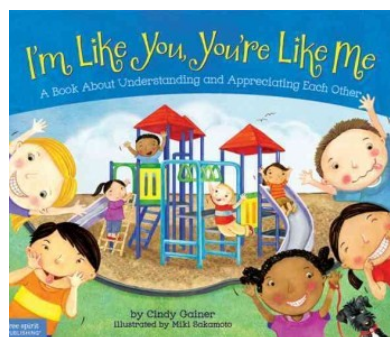
"Red's factory-applied label clearly says that he is red, but despite the best efforts of his teacher, fellow crayons and art supplies, and family members, he cannot seem to do anything right until a new friend offers a fresh perspective." - Follett



Dipnetting With Dad

by Willie Sellars, c2014 (IL: K-3, RL: 2.9)

"...a story of a father teaching his son the Secwepemc method of fishing known as dipnetting. Together they visit the sweat lodge, mend the nets, select the best fishing spot and catch and pack their fish through rugged bush back to the family home for traditional preparation." - OCLC



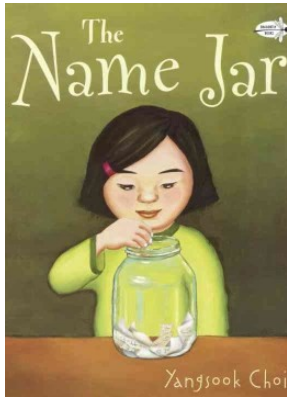
I'm Like You, You're Like Me

by Cindy Gainer, c2011 (IL: K-3, RL: 2.2)

"Introduces children to the differences and similarities in people, from hair styles, body appearance, and family size." - Follett

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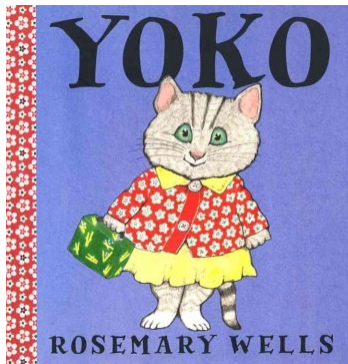
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The Name Jar

by Yangsook Choi, c2001 (IL: K-3, RL: 4.1)

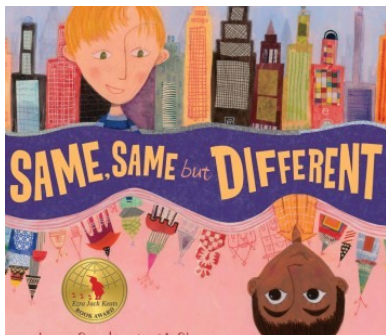
"...the heartwarming multicultural story of a young Korean girl, new to her American classroom, who says she will choose a name easier for her classmates to pronounce from a jar of names." - Pub.



Yoko

by Rosemary Wells, c1998 (IL: K-3, RL: 2.9)

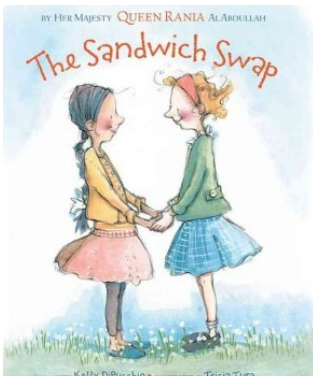
"When Yoko brings sushi to school for lunch, her classmates make fun of what she eats—until one of them tries it for himself." - Follett



Same, Same, But Different

by Jenny Sue Kostecki-Shaw, c2011 (IL: K-3, RL: 2.1)

"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." - Follett



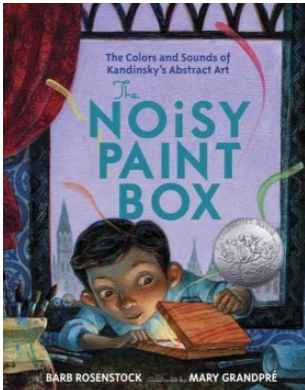
The Sandwich Swap

by Queen Rania Al Abdullah, c2010 (IL: K-3, RL: 3.3)

"Lily and Salma are best friends. They like doing all the same things, and they always eat lunch together. Lily eats peanut butter and Salma eats hummus—but what's that between friends? It turns out, a lot. Before they know it, a food fight breaks out. Can Lily and Salma put aside their differences? Or will a sandwich come between them?" - Pub.

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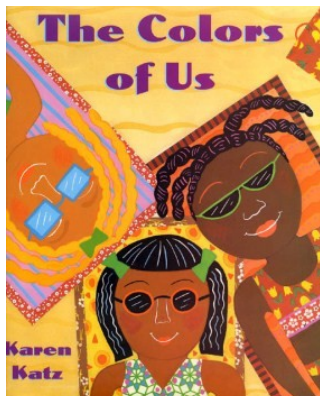
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The Noisy Paint Box

by Barb Rosenstock, c2014 (IL: K-3, RL: 4.4)

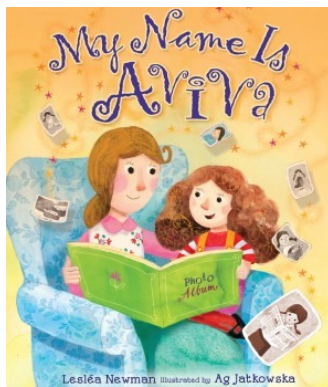
"Describes how Wassily Kandinsky's creative life was profoundly shaped by a neurological condition called synesthesia which caused him to experience colors as sounds and sounds as colors." - *Follett*



The Colours of Us

by Karen Katz, c1999 (IL: K-3, RL: 2.6)

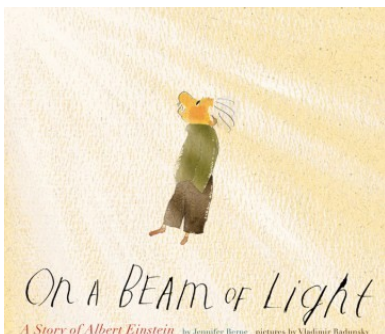
"Seven-year-old Lena and her mother observe the variations in the color of their friends' skin, viewed in terms of foods and things found in nature." - *Follett*



My Name is Aviva

by Leslea Newman, c2015 (IL: K-3, RL: 1.6)

"Aviva isn't happy with her unusual name until she hears the wonderful things her great-grandmother, who she was named in honor of, did." - *Pub.*



On a Beam of Light

by Jennifer Berne, c2013 (IL: K-3, RL: 4.4)

"A boy rides a bicycle down a dusty road. But in his mind, he envisions himself traveling at a speed beyond imagining, on a beam of light. This brilliant mind will one day offer up some of the most revolutionary ideas ever conceived. From a boy endlessly fascinated by the wonders around him, Albert Einstein ultimately grows into a man of genius recognized the world over for profoundly illuminating our understanding of the universe." - *Pub.*

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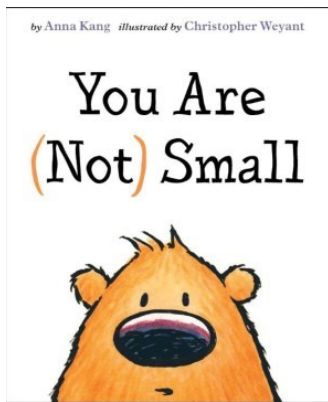
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Stella Brings the Family

by Miriam B. Schiffer, c2015 (IL: K-3, RL: 3.2)

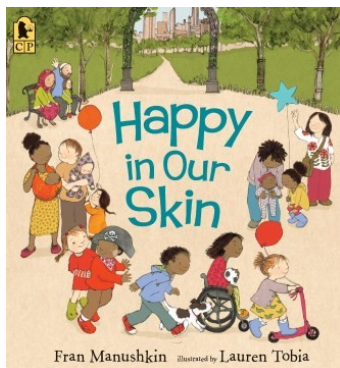
"Stella's class is having a Mother's Day celebration, but what's a girl with two daddies to do? It's not that she doesn't have someone who helps her with her homework, or tucks her in at night. Stella has her Papa and Daddy who take care of her, and a whole gaggle of other loved ones who make her feel special and supported every day. She just doesn't have a mom to invite to the party. Fortunately, Stella finds a unique solution to her party problem in this sweet story about love, acceptance, and the true meaning of family." - Pub.



You Are (Not) Small

by Anna Kang, c2014 (IL: K-3, RL: 0.7)

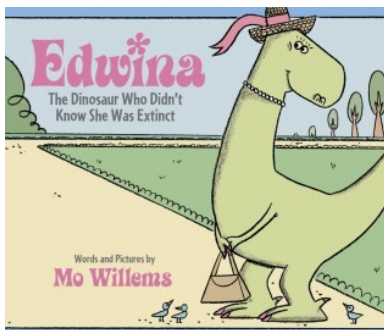
"Two fuzzy creatures can't agree on who is small and who is big, until a couple of surprise guests show up, settling it once and for all!" - Follett



Happy in Our Skin

by Fran Manushkin, c2015 (IL: K-3, RL: 3.0)

"Is there anything more splendid than a baby's skin? For families of all stripes comes a sweet celebration of what makes us unique—and what holds us together." - Pub.



Edwina: The Dinosaur Who Didn't Know She Was Extinct

by Mo Willems, c2009 (IL: K-3, RL: 2.5)

"Edwina the friendly neighborhood dinosaur, friend to children and grown-ups alike, finds a foe in young Reginald Von Hoobie-Doobie, who insists that she is extinct." - Follett

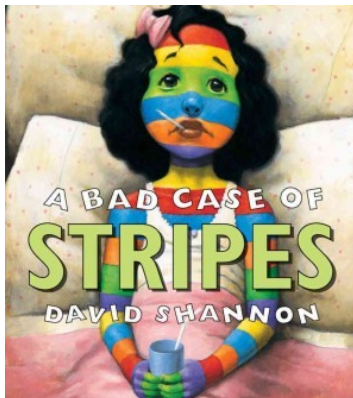
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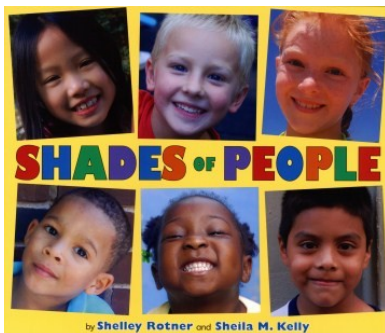
Spaghetti in a Hot Dog Bun; Having the Courage to Be Who You Are
by Maria Dismondy, c2008 (IL: K-3, RL: 3.0)

"Lucy is teased by a boy at school because she is different. She has the courage to be true to herself and to make the right choice when that same boy needs her help." - Pub.



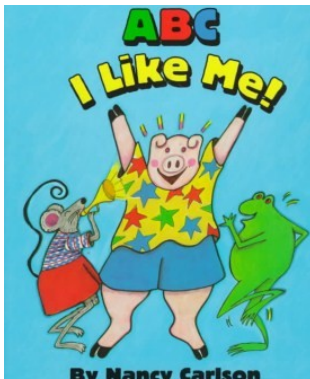
A Bad Case of Stripes
by David Shannon, c1998 (IL: K-3, RL: 3.8)

"Camilla Cream loves lima beans, but she never eats them. Why? Because the other kids in her school don't like them. And Camilla Cream is very, very worried about what other people think of her. In fact, she's so worried that she's about to break out in...a bad case of stripes!" - Pub.



Shades of People
by Shelley Rotner, c2009 (IL: K-3, RL: 3.7)

"A thoughtful exploration of one of our most noticeable physical traits in an engaging picture book for preschoolers." - Pub.



ABC I Like Me!
by Nancy Carlson, c1997 (IL: K-3, RL: 1.5)

"The letters of the alphabet are illustrated with brightly-colored, action-packed pictures and are accompanied by read-along text. Introduce children to the alphabet and reinforce positive self-esteem with the lovable characters of *ABC I Like Me!*" - Pub.

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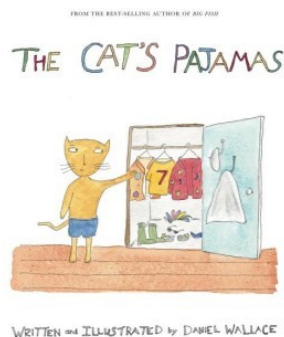
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Stellaluna

by Janell Cannon, c2018 (IL: K-3, RL: 2.3)

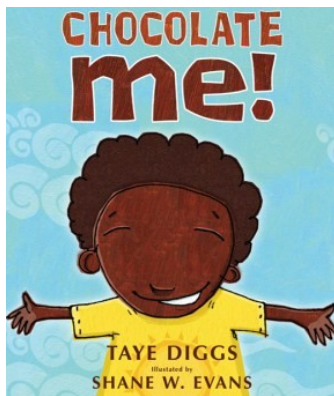
"After she falls headfirst into a bird's nest, a baby bat is raised like a bird until she is reunited with her mother." - Follett



The Cat's Pajama's

by Daniel Wallace, c2014 (IL: K-3, RL: 3.4)

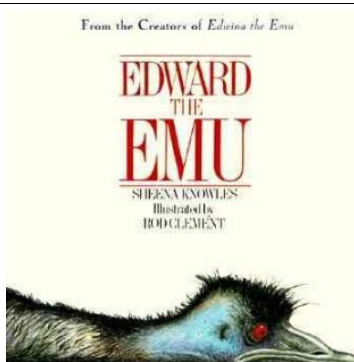
"Though he lived in a time long ago when cats all dressed alike, Louis Fellini was a different sort of cat who liked to be himself, instead of just a copy cat." - Follett



Chocolate Me!

by Taye Diggs, c2011 (IL: K-3, RL: 2.1)

"The boy is teased for looking different than the other kids. His skin is darker, his hair curlier. He tells his mother he wishes he could be more like everyone else. And she helps him to see how beautiful he really, truly is." - Pub.



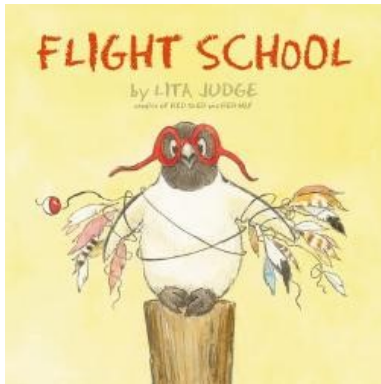
Edward the Emu

by Sheena Knowles, c1988 (IL: K-3, RL: 3.6)

"Tired of being an emu, Edward decides to try being like other animals at the zoo, but he soon discovers that being himself is the best after all." - Follett

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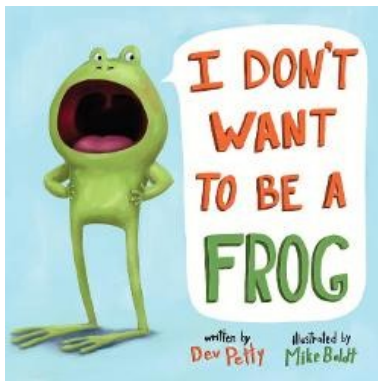
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Flight School

by Lita Judge, c2014 (IL: K-3, RL: 1.8)

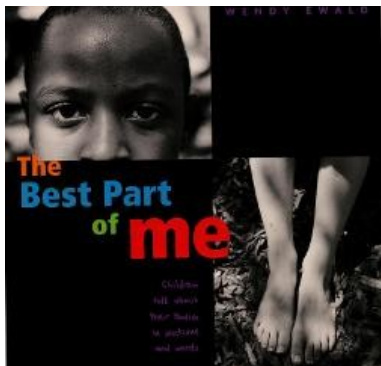
"Though little Penguin has the soul of an eagle, his body wasn't built to soar. But Penguin has an irrepressible spirit, and he adamantly follows his dreams to flip, flap, fly! Even if he needs a little help with the technical parts, this penguin is ready to live on the wind." - Pub.



I Don't Want to Be a Frog

by Dev Petty, c2015 (IL: K-3, RL: 1.6)

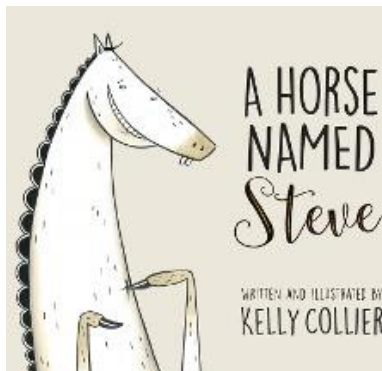
"Frog wants to be anything but a slimy, wet frog. A cat, perhaps. Or a rabbit. An owl? But when a hungry wolf arrives—a wolf who HATES eating frogs—our hero decides that being himself isn't so bad after all." - Pub.



The Best Part of Me

by Wendy Ewald, c2002 (IL: K-3, RL: 3.1)

"An award-winning photographer asked several children "What is the best part of you?", and presents their answers in this sometimes funny, sometimes moving, deeply personal book that includes striking black-and-white photographs taken by the author. Ideal for parents and teacher to use to discuss body image, self-esteem, and diversity with children." - Pub.



A Horse Named Steve

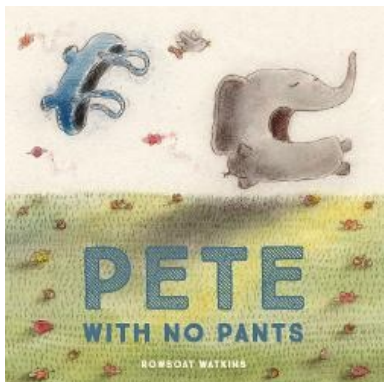
by Kelly Collier, c2017 (IL: K-3, RL: 2.1)

"Steve is a fine horse... But he thinks he could be finer. He wants to be EXCEPTIONAL. When Steve finds a beautiful gold horn lying on the ground in the forest, he realizes he has found his path to the exceptional! He immediately ties the horn to the top of his head and prances off to show his friends." - Pub.

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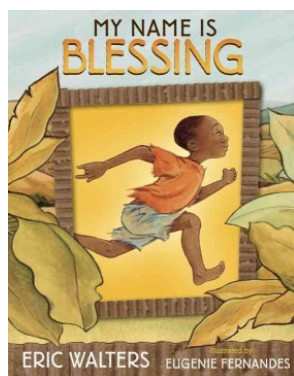
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Pete With No Pants

by Rowboat Watkins, c2017 (IL: K-3, RL: 1.5)

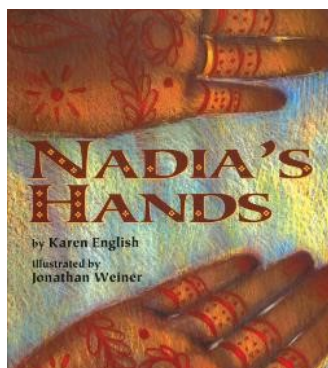
"Join Pete in his quest to answer the world's oldest question: Why do I have to wear pants? Wait, that's the second oldest. Features a satisfying and touching ending that will encourage young readers to be true to themselves as it reminds the adults in their lives to support them no matter what." - Pub.



My Name is Blessing

by Eric Walters, c2013 (IL: K-3, RL: 2.4)

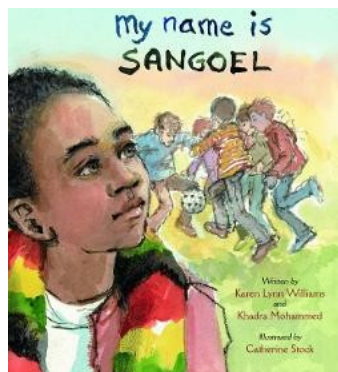
"Based on the life of a real boy, this warm-hearted, beautifully illustrated book tells the story of Baraka, a young Kenyan boy with a physical disability. Baraka and eight cousins live with their grandmother. A difficult choice must be made, and grandmother and grandchild set off on a journey to see if there is a place at the orphanage for Baraka." - Pub.



Nadia's Hands

by Karen English, c1999 (IL: K-3, RL: 3.9)

"Nadia is excited to be asked to be flower girl in her aunt's wedding, but she is concerned about what her friends will say when they see her hands which have been decorated for the ceremony with traditional Pakistani henna designs." - Pub.



My Name is Sangoel

by Karen Lynn Williams, c2009 (IL: K-3, RL: 2.3)

"Sangoel is a refugee from Sudan adapting to his new life in the United States. He tries to cope with the fact that no one can pronounce his name at school." - Pub.

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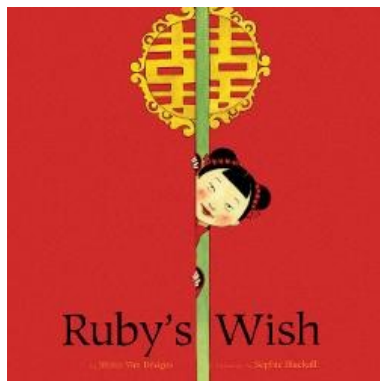
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Now

by Antoinette Portis, c2017 (IL: K-3, RL: 2.4)
Adrienne Gear—Connect

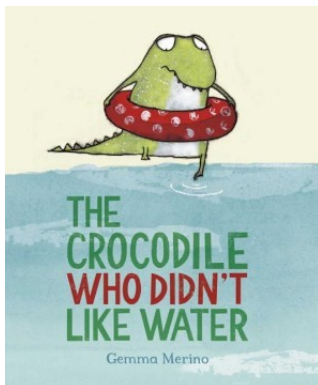
"Follow a little girl as she takes you on a tour through all of her favorite things, from the holes she digs to the hugs she gives in *Now*, a clever and poignant picture book by award-winning artist Antoinette Portis." - Pub.



Ruby's Wish

by Shirin Yim Bridges, c2002 (IL: K-3, RL: 4.3)

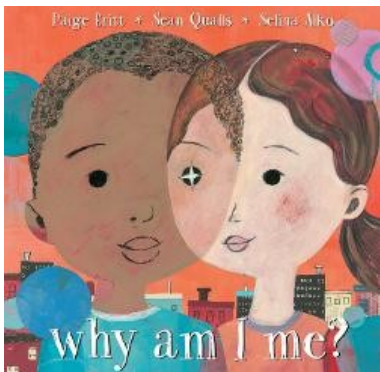
"In a story set in a bygone era in China, a girl's wish to continue her education rather than marry is fulfilled when her perseverance with her at-home studies attracts her grandfather's notice. In a celebratory New Year's Day climax, Ruby's grandfather presents her with a letter of acceptance to a university." - Pub.



The Crocodile Who Didn't Like Water

by Gemma Merino, c2014 (IL: K-3, RL: 2.5)

"Everybody knows that crocodiles love water, but this little crocodile is different—he doesn't like it at all! He tries to his best to change, but when attempt at swimming causes a shiver then a sneeze—could it be that this little crocodile isn't a crocodile at all?" - Pub.



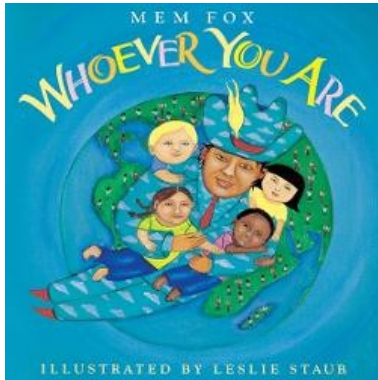
Why Am I Me?

by Paige Britt, c2017 (IL: K-3, RL: 1.6)
Adrienne Gear—Transform.

"Have you ever wondered why you are you? Or who you would be if you were someone else? Someone taller, faster, smaller, smarter? Someone lighter, older, darker, bolder? This beautiful celebration of our humanity and diversity invites readers of all ages to imagine a world where there is no you or me, only we." - Pub.

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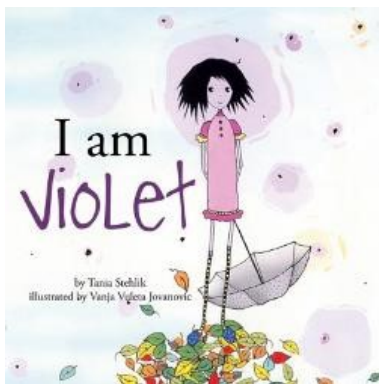
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Whoever you Are

by Mem Fox, c1997 (IL: K-3, RL: 3.3)

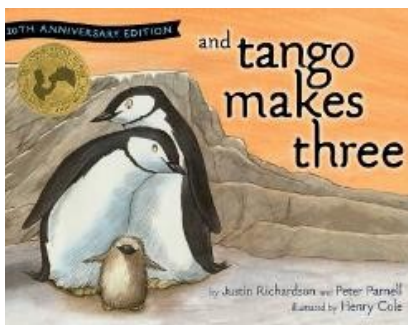
"Despite the differences between people around the world, there are similarities that join us together, such as pain, joy, and love." - *Follett*



Violet

by Tania Stehlik, c2020 (IL: K-3, RL: 2.2)

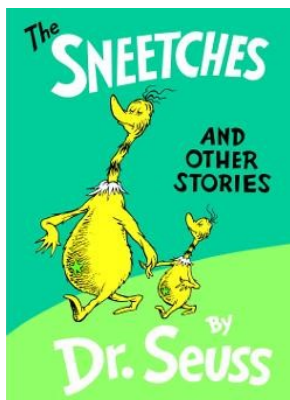
"Like many people in the world, Violet is a beautiful mix of colors. But color isn't really that important. After all, it is what's inside us that counts." - *Pub.*



Tango Makes Three

by Justin Richardson, c2005 (IL: K-3, RL: 3.2)

"At the penguin house at the Central Park Zoo, two penguins named Roy and Silo were a little bit different from the others. But their desire for a family was the same. And with the help of a kindly zookeeper, Roy and Silo get the chance to welcome a baby penguin of their very own." *Pub.*



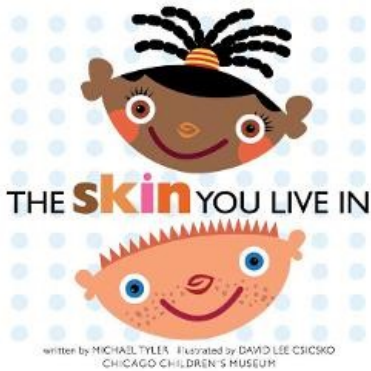
The Sneetches and Other Stories

by Dr. Seuss, c1989 (IL: K-3, RL: 3.5)

"After the regular Sneetches get stars, the star-bellied Sneetches take off their stars in order to stay special. They continue desperately switching until they all run out of money and, ultimately, become friends." - *Pub.*

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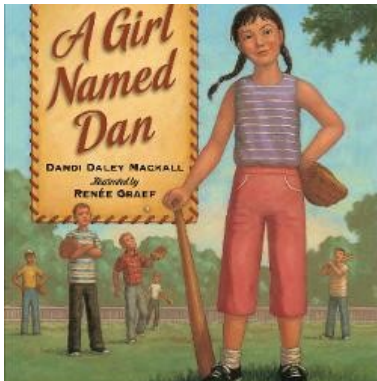
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The Skin You Live In

by Michael Tyler, c2005 (IL: K-3, RL: 4.4)

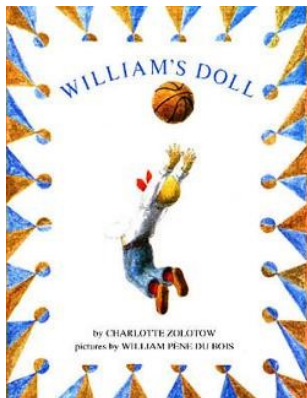
"With the ease and simplicity of a nursery rhyme, this lively story delivers an important message of social acceptance to young readers ." - Pub.



A Girl Named Dan

by Dandi Daley Mackall, c2008 (IL: K-3, RL: 3.6)

"Dandi enjoys nothing more than baseball, and so after the boys at school tell her their lunchtime game is now boys only, she enters an essay contest hoping to become a bat boy for the Kansas City A's, not realizing the contest is for boys only." Follett

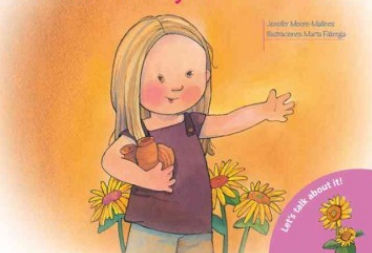


William's Doll

by Charlotte Zolotow, c1972 (IL: K-3, RL: 3.3)

"More than anything, William wants a doll. "Don't be a creep," says his brother. "Sissy, sissy," chants the boy next door. Then one day someone really understands William's wish, and make it easy for others to understand, too. William gets a doll, so he can learn to be a loving parent someday." - Pub.

My Friend Has Down Syndrome



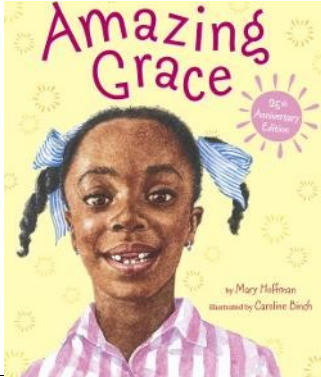
My Friend Has Down Syndrome

by Jennifer Moore-Mallinos, c2008 (IL: K-3, RL: 3.3)

"Explains some of the challenges and rewards of having a friend with Down syndrome, using everyday kid-friendly examples." - Follett

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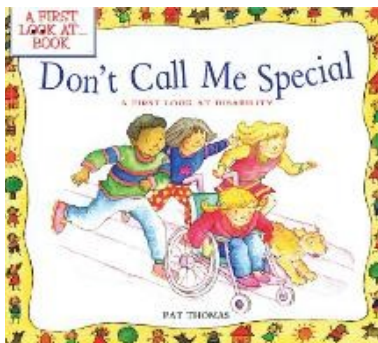
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Amazing Grace

by Mary Hoffman, c1999 (IL: K-3, RL: 4.1)

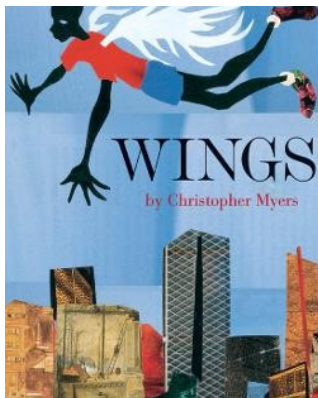
Sequel: *Boundless Grace*. "Although a classmate says that she cannot play Peter Pan in the school play because she is African-American, Grace discovers that she can do anything she sets her mind to do." - *Follett*



Don't Call Me Special: A First Look at Disability

by Pat Thomas, c2002 (IL: K-3, RL: 4.6)

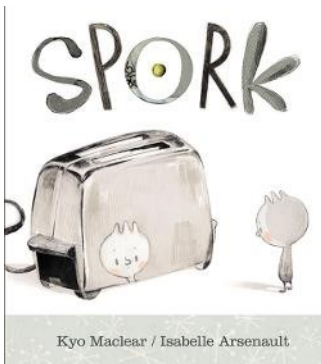
"Introduces young children to the topic of disabilities, leading them to realize that everyone is different in some way, and that people should not be judged because of how they look or because they may need special help." - *Follett* (*First Look At Series*)



Wings

by Christopher Myers, c2000 (IL: 3-6, RL: 4.3)

"Ikarus Jackson, the new boy in school, is outcast because he has wings, but his resilient spirit inspires one girl to speak up for him and recognize his individuality." - *Follett*

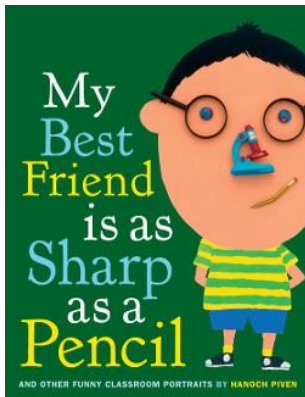


Spork by Kyo Maclear, c2010 (IL: K-3, RL: 3.2)

"His mum is a spoon. His dad is a fork. And he's a bit of both. He's Spork! Spork sticks out in the regimented world of the cutlery drawer. The spoons think he's too pointy, while the forks find him too round. He never gets chosen to be at the table at mealtimes until one day a very messy ... thing arrives in the kitchen who has never heard of cutlery customs. Will Spork finally find his place at the table?" - *Pub.*

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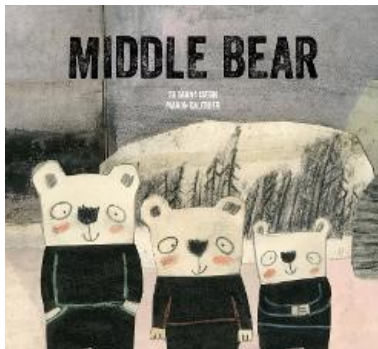
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My Best Friend is as Sharp as a Pencil and Other Funny classroom Portraits

by Hanoch Piven, c2010 (IL: K-3, RL: 3.8)

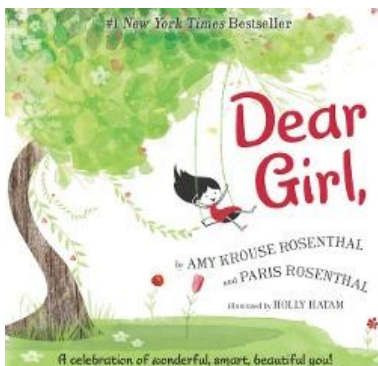
"Learn how to create a funny librarian, a colorful art teacher, or your best friend by seeing how one girl does it in this simple, playful picture book that's comprised of portraits made of objects." - Pub.



Middle Bear

by Susanna Isern, c2017 (IL: K-3, RL: 3.3)

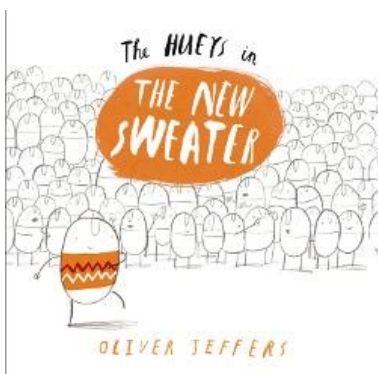
"A middle child discovers his own unique gifts. He was the second of three brothers. He was not big, but he was not little, either. When you're always in the middle, sometimes it's hard to feel special. Until one day, his parents needed an important task to be done. And suddenly, middle-sized was the perfect size to be." - Follett



Dear Girl,

by Amy Krouse Rosenthal, c2017 (IL: K-3, RL: 1.3)

"Dear Girl, is a remarkable love letter written for the special girl in your life; a gentle reminder that she's powerful, strong, and holds a valuable place in the world." - Pub.



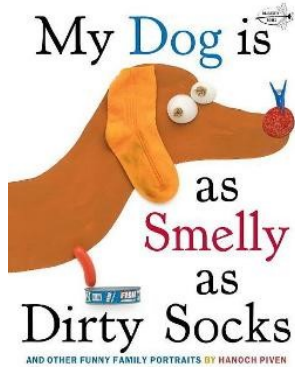
The Hueys in The New Sweater

by Oliver Jeffers, c2015 (IL: K-3, RL: 1.9)

"The Hueys are small and mischievous, unique compared to the world's other creatures—but hardly unique to one another. You see, each Huey looks the same, thinks the same, and does the same exact things. So you can imagine the chaos when one of them has the idea of knitting a sweater!" - Pub.

Identity & Diversity

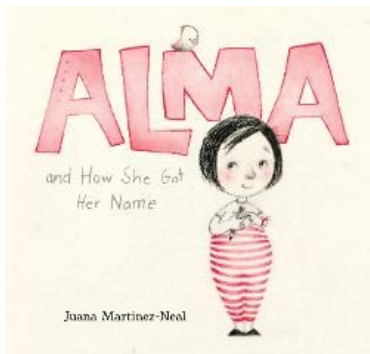
Compiled by Joan Pearce
Picture Books



My Dog is as Smelly as Dirty Socks and Other Funny Family Portraits

by Hanoch Piven, c2007 (IL: K-3, RL: 2.4)

"A young girl draws a family portrait, then makes it more accurate by adding common objects to show aspects of each member's personality, such as her father's playfulness, her mother's sweetness, and her brother's strength." - Follett



Alma and How She Got Her Name

by Juana Martinez-Neal, c2018 (IL: K-3, RL: 2.0)

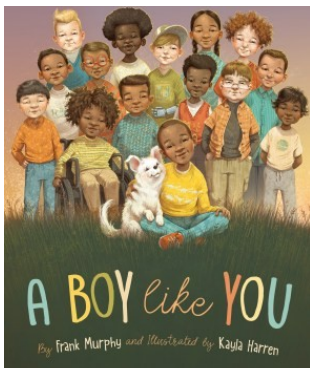
"What's in a name? For one little girl, her very long name tells the vibrant story of where she came from—and who she may one day be. If you ask her, Alma Sofia Esperanza Jose Pura Candela has way too many names: six! How did such a small person wind up with such a large name? Alma turns to Daddy for an answer and learns of Sofia, the grandmother who loved books and flowers; Esperanza, the great-grandmother who longed to travel..." - Pub.



Hello, My Name is... How Adorabilis Got His Name

by Marisa Polansky, c2018 (IL: K-3, RL: 3.2)

"Meet Adorabilis—the newest, cutest, fits-in-the-palm-of-your-hand octopus in the ocean. He wasn't always called Adorabilis; in fact, when all the other sea creatures "meet" him on the ocean floor, he's nameless! Those sea creatures know what's in a name: Anglerfish uses his hook like an angler, Mimic Octopus can change shape and color, and Giant Squid is huge and powerful. But this little guy can't do any of those things. What will this adorable little octopus's name be?" - Pub.



A Boy Like You

by Frank Murphy, c2019 (IL: K-3, RL: 1.5)

"Encourages every boy to embrace all of the things that make him unique, and to be curious, brave, kind, thoughtful, and more." - OCLC

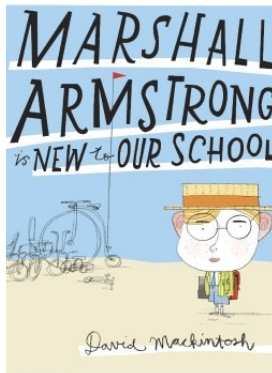
Identity & Diversity

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Picture Books



I Like Bees But I Don't Like Honey
by Sam Bishop, c2017 (IL: K-3, RL: 1.6)

"An . . . illustrated, . . . and thought-provoking book for building confidence and encouraging children to express their feelings—about anything and everything. This book will help enable a much broader conversation about individuality, fear and hopes." - OCLC



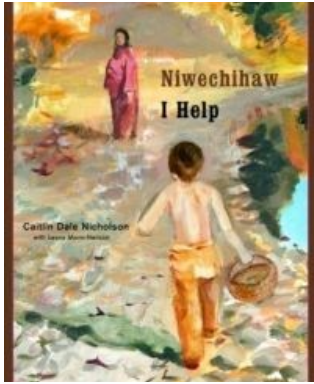
Marshall Armstrong Is New to School
by David Mackintosh, c2012 (IL: 3-6)

"Quirky, witty and brilliant, Marshall Armstrong is new to school and he definitely stands out from the crowd; but will he find it easy to make friends? A highly original take on a perennially popular theme from an exciting talent." - Pub.

Identity & Diversity

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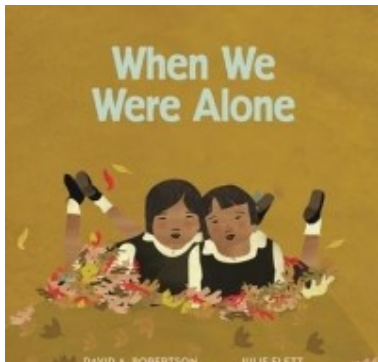
Picture Books—Indigenous Focus



Niwechihaw / I Help

by Caitlin Dale Nicholson, c2008 (IL: K-3, RL: 0.6)

"Written and illustrated by members of the Tahltan and Cree nations, this sweet, simple story looks at a very special relationship. A young boy goes for a walk with his kohkom, or grandmother, listening, picking, praying, eating...just as she does. In doing so, he begins to learn the rich cultural traditions and values of his Cree heritage." - *Strong Nations Pub.*



When We Were Alone

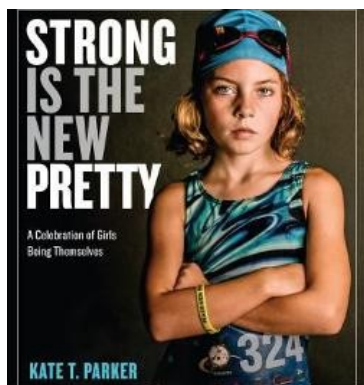
by David A. Robertson, c2016 (IL: K-3, RL: 3.6)

"When a young girl helps tend to her grandmother's garden, she begins to notice things that make her curious. Why does her grandmother have long, braided hair and beautifully coloured clothing? Why does she speak another language and spend so much time with her family? As she asks her grandmother about these things, she is told about life in a residential school a long time ago, where all of these things were taken away." - *Strong Nations Pub.*

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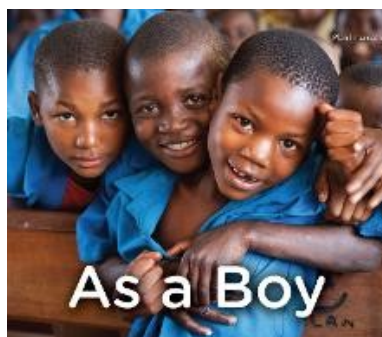
Non-fiction



Strong is the new Pretty: A Celebration of Girls Being Themselves

by Kate T. Parker, c2017 (IL: Adult, 3-6, RL: 5.8)

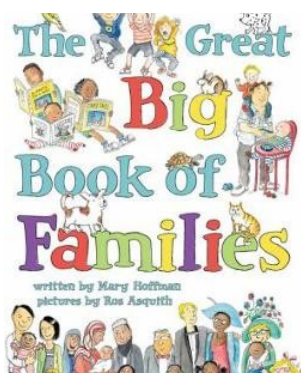
"Real beauty isn't about being a certain size, acting a certain way, wearing the right clothes, or having your hair done (or even brushed). Real beauty is about being your authentic self and owning it. Kate T. Parker is a professional photographer who finds the real beauty in girls, capturing it for all the world to see in candid and arresting images." - Amazon.ca.



As a Boy

by Plan International, c2016 (IL: K-3, 1-5, RL: 2.2)

"Boys around the world are treated differently than girls just because of their gender. They are given an education and choices, but are also expected to be men, to work, to fight, to be brave. Amazing photographs of children are paired with simple text showing that these boys wish for the same choices and freedoms they have to be given to the girls and women in their lives. *As a Boy* is a valiant call for all children's voices to be heard." - Pub.



The Great Big Book of Families

by Mary Hoffman, c2010 (IL: K-3, RL: 2.8)

"This fun and fascinating treasury features all kinds of families and their lives together. Each spread showcases one aspect of home life-from houses and holidays, to schools and pets, to feelings and family trees." - Pub.



Helen's Big World: The Life of Helen Keller

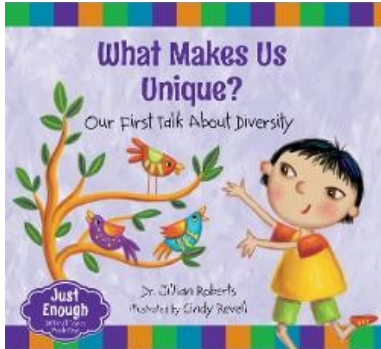
by Doreen Rappaport, c2012 (IL: K-3, RL: 4.9)

"This oversize picture book about Helen Keller focuses primarily on her innovative education by Anne Sullivan, but the presentation goes beyond Keller's youth to include her later work supporting pacifism, workers' unions, women's suffrage, civil rights, and opportunities for those with disabilities." - Booklist

Identity & Diversity

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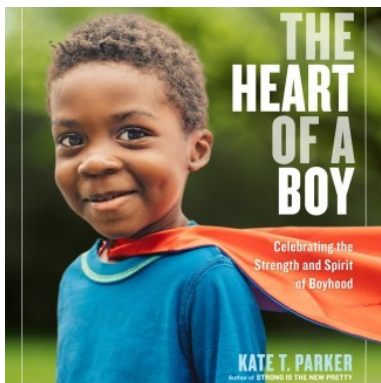
Non-fiction



What Makes Us Unique? Our First Talk About Diversity

by Dr. Jillian Roberts, c2016 (IL: K-3, RL: 4.2)

"When it comes to explaining physical, cultural and religious differences to children, it can be difficult to know where to begin. *What Makes Us Unique?* provides an accessible introduction to the concept of diversity, teaching children how to respect and celebrate people's differences and that ultimately, we are all much more alike than we are different." - Pub.



The Heart of a Boy: Celebrating the Strength and Spirit of Boyhood

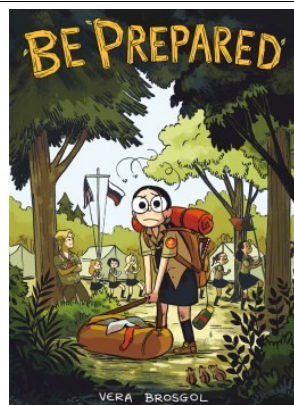
By Kate T. Parker, c2019 (IL: AD, 5-8, RL: 5.8)

"Boys can be wild. But they can also be gentle...With inspiring and joyful quotes from the boys themselves, this book spreads a heartfelt, uplifting message of openness, self-confidence, and warmth." - Pub.

Identity & Diversity

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Novels

*IL from publisher, then reviewers



Be Prepared

by Vera Brosgol, c2018 (IL: 5-8, 6-9; RL: 3.2)

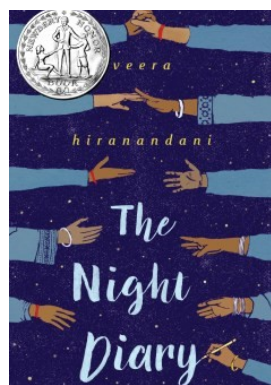
"All Vera wants to do is fit in—but that's not easy for a Russian girl in the suburbs. Her friends live in fancy houses and their parents can afford to send them to the best summer camps. Vera's single mother can't afford that sort of luxury, but there's one summer camp in her price range—Russian summer camp. Vera is sure she's found the one place she can fit in, but camp is far from what she imagined. And nothing could prepare her for all the 'cool girl' drama, endless Russian history lessons, and outhouses straight out of nightmares!" - Follett



Front Desk

by Kelly Yang, c2018 (IL: 3-6, RL: 4.5)

"Recent immigrants from China and desperate for work and money, ten-year-old Mia Tang's parents take a job managing a rundown motel in Southern California, even though the owner, Mr. Yao is a nasty skinflint who exploits them; while her mother (who was an engineer in China) does the cleaning, Mia works the front desk and tries to cope with demanding customers and other recent immigrants—not to mention being only one of two Chinese in her fifth grade class, the other being Mr. Yao's son, Jason." - Follett



The Night Diary

by Veera Hiranandani, c2018 (IL: 5-8; RL: 4.5)

"Shy twelve-year-old Nisha, forced to flee her home with her Hindu family during the 1947 partition of India, tries to find her voice and make sense of the world falling apart around her by writing to her deceased Muslim mother in the pages of her diary." - Follett



Lions and Liars

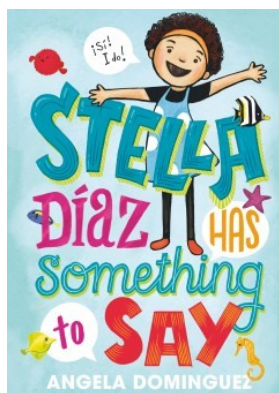
by Kate Beasley, c2018 (IL: 3-6, 4-7; RL: 5.8)

"Fifth-grader Frederick is sent to a disciplinary camp where he and his terrifying troop mates have just started forging a friendship when they learn a Category 5 hurricane is headed their way." - Follett

Identity & Diversity

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Novels

*IL from publisher, then reviewers



Stella Diaz Has Something to Say

by Angela Dominguez, c2013 (IL: 3-6, 2-5 RL: 4.2)

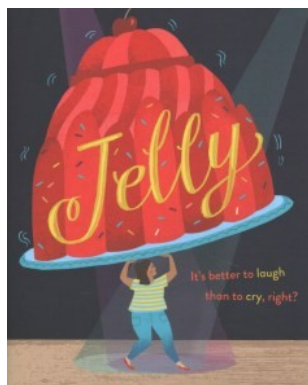
"Stella feels very lonely. When a new boy arrives in Stella's class, she really wants to be his friend, but sometimes Stella accidentally speaks Spanish instead of English and pronounces words wrong, which makes her turn roja. Plus, she has to speak in front of her whole class for a big presentation at school! But she better get over her fears soon, because Stella Diaz has something to say!" - Follett



The First Rule of Punk

by Celia Perez, c2017 (IL: 5-8, RL: 4.5)

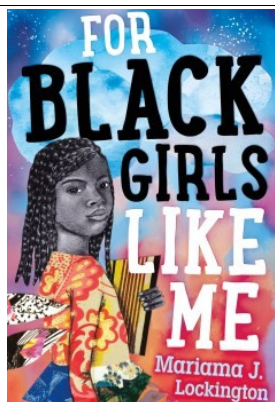
"Twelve-year-old Maria Luisa O'Neill-Morales (who really prefers to be called Malu) reluctantly moves with her Mexican-American mother to Chicago and starts seventh grade with a bang—violating the dress code with her punk rock aesthetic and spurning the middle school's most popular girl in favor of starting a band with a group of like-minded weirdos." - Follett



Jelly

by Jo Cotteril, c2018 (IL: 5-8, 4-7; RL: 4.1)

"Angelica (Jelly for short) is the queen of comedy at school. She has a personality as big as she is, and everyone loves her impressions. But Jelly isn't as confident as she pretends to be. No one knows her deepest thoughts and feelings. She keeps those hidden away in a secret notebook...Can Jelly risk letting people see the real her? What if it all goes wrong?" - Pub.



For Black Girls Like Me

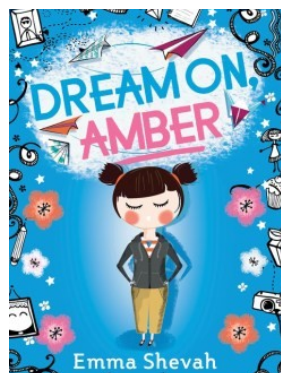
by Mariama Lockington, c2019 (IL: 3-6, 4-7; RL: 5.2)

"Eleven-year-old Makeda dreams of meeting her African American mother, while coping with serious problems in her white adopted family, a cross-country move, and being homeschooled." - Pub.

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Novels

*IL from publisher, then reviewers



Dream on Amber

by Emma Shevah, c2014 (IL: 3-6, 4-7; RL: 4.5)

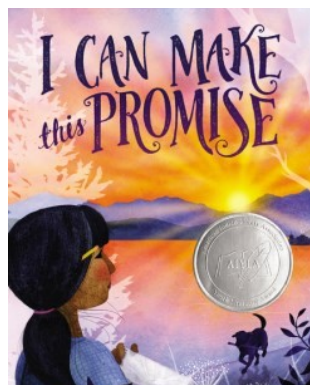
"Amber's Japanese father left when she was little, and her sister Bella was just a baby, so now she fills in the frustrating gap in her life with imagined conversations, and writes letters to Bella that seem to come from their father." - Follett



Amina's Voice

by Hena Khan, c2017 (IL: 3-6, 4-6; RL: 4.6)

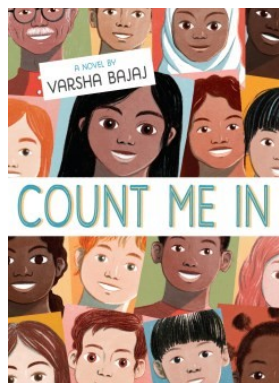
"A Pakistani-American Muslim girl struggles to stay true to her family's vibrant culture while simultaneously blending in at school after tragedy strikes her community." - Follett



I Can Make This Promise

by Christine Day, c2019 (IL: 5-8, 4-7, 3-4; RL: 6.2)

"When twelve-year-old Edie finds letters and photographs in her attic that change everything she thought she knew about her Native American mother's adoption, she realizes she has a lot to learn about her family's history and her own identity." - Follett



Count Me In

by Varsha Bajaj, c2019 (IL: 5-8, 4-8; RL: 4.4)

"Karina Chopra would have never imagined becoming friends with the boy next door... Then Karina's grandfather starts tutoring Chris, and she discovers he's actually a nice, funny kid. But one afternoon something unimaginable happens—the three of them are assaulted by a stranger who targets Indian-American... Karina uses her newfound social media reach to help celebrate both his homecoming and a community coming together." - Pub.

Identity & Diversity

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Novels

*IL from publisher, then reviewers



The Barren Grounds

by David Robertson, c2020 (IL: 5-8, RL: 4.6)

"Morgan and Eli, two Indigenous children forced away from their families and communities, are brought together in a foster home in Winnipeg, Manitoba. They each feel disconnected, from their culture and each other, and struggle to fit in at school and at their new home --until they find a secret place, walled off in an unfinished attic bedroom. A portal opens to another reality, Aski, bringing them onto frozen, barren grounds, where they meet Ochek (Fisher). Accompanied by Arik, a sassy Squirrel they catch stealing from the trapline, they try to save Misewa before the icy grip of winter freezes everything—including them."

- Pub.



The Best at It

by Maulik Pancholy, c2019 (IL: 5-8, RL: 4.0)

"Rahul Kapoor is heading into seventh grade in a small town in Indiana. The start of middle school is making him feel increasingly anxious, so his favorite person in the whole world, his grandfather, Bhai, gives him some well-meaning advice: Find one thing you're really good at and become the BEST at it. Those four little words sear themselves into Rahul's brain...But what if he discovers he isn't the best at anything? Funny, charming, and incredibly touching, this is a story about friendship, family, and the courage it takes to live your truth."

- Pub.



One for the Murphys

By Lynda Mullaly Hunt, c2013 (IL: 5-8, RL: 3.5)

"Carley struggles with being open to love after she suffers a betrayal that forces her to move in with a foster family." - Pub.



GEORGE

ALEX GINO

SCHOLASTIC

George

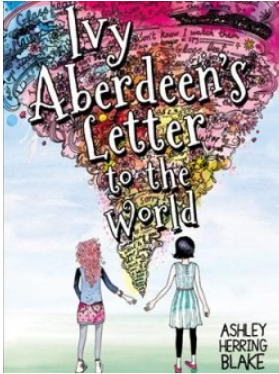
By Alex Gino, c2017 (IL: 3-6, 4-6; RL: 5.0)

"When people look at George, they think they see a boy. But she knows she's not a boy. She knows she's a girl. George thinks she'll have to keep this a secret forever. Then her teacher announces that their class play is going to be Charlotte's Web. George really, really, REALLY wants to play Charlotte. But the teacher says she can't even try out for the part...because she's a boy." - Pub.

Identity & Diversity

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Novels

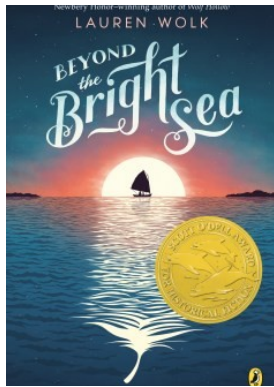
*IL from publisher, then reviewers



Ivy Aberdeen's Letter to the World

by Ashley Herring Blake, c2019 (IL: 3-6, 4-7; RL: 4.9)

"Twelve-year-old Ivy Aberdeen's house is destroyed in a tornado, and in the aftermath of the storm, she begins to develop feelings for another girl at school." - Pub.



Beyond the Bright Sea

by Lauren Wolk, c2018 (IL: 5-8; RL: 4.8)

"Crow has lived her entire life on a tiny piece of the starkly beautiful Elizabeth Islands off the coast of Massachusetts. Her only companions are Osh, the man who rescued her from a tiny skiff as an infant and raised her, and Miss Maggie, their neighbor across the sandbar. But it isn't until the night when a mysterious fire appears across the water that an unspoken question of her own history forms in her heart and an unstoppable chain of events is triggered." - Pub.