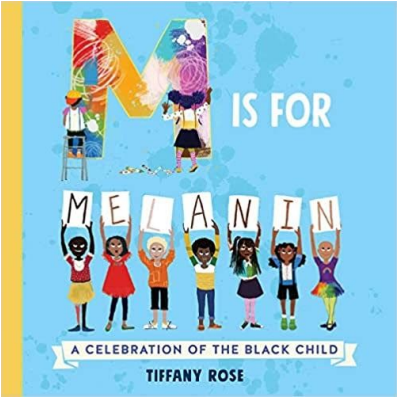
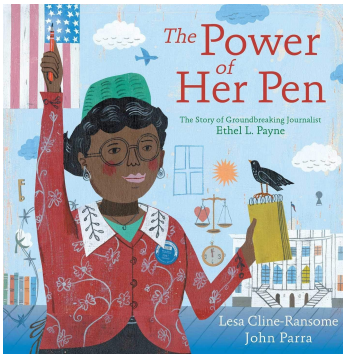
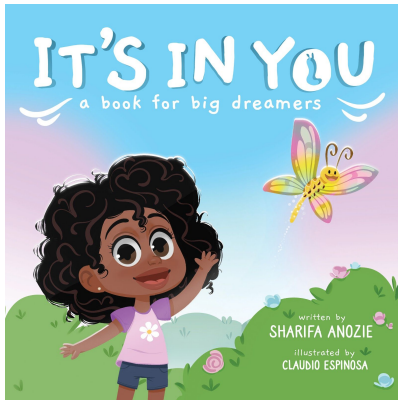


50 DIVERSE/MULTICULTURAL CHILDREN’S PICTURE BOOKS 2020

These books are in no particular order and include both Indie authors and some traditionally published. This list aims to include books that specifically feature characters of different backgrounds, races, and cultural ethnicities.

<p>1</p> 	<p><u>M is For Melanin</u></p> <p>By: Tiffany Rose (Ages 3-6)</p> <p>M is for Melanin shining in every inch of your skin. Every shade, every hue. All beautiful and unique.</p> <p>Each letter of the alphabet contains affirming, Black-positive messages, from A is for Afro, to F is for Fresh, to W is for Worthy. This book teaches children their ABCs while encouraging them to love the skin that they're in.</p> <p>Be bold. Be fearless. BE YOU.</p>
<p>2</p> 	<p><u>The Power of Her Pen: The Story of Groundbreaking Journalist Ethel L. Payne</u></p> <p>By: Lesa Cline-Ransome, John Parra (Ages 4 – 8)</p> <p>Ethel Payne always had an ear for stories. Seeking truth, justice, and equality, Ethel followed stories from her school newspaper in Chicago to Japan during World War II. It even led her to the White House briefing room, where she broke barriers as the only black female journalist. Ethel wasn't afraid to ask the tough questions of presidents, elected officials, or anyone else in charge, earning her the title, "First Lady of the Black Press."</p>

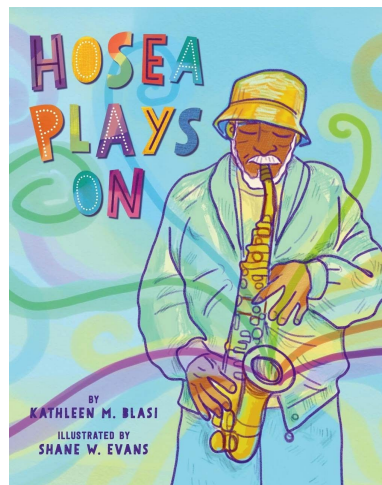


3

[It's In You: A Book For Big Dreamers](#)

By: Sharifa Anozie, Claudio Espinosa (Illustrator)
(Ages 0-7)

Through playful rhyme, humor and dazzling illustrations, *It's In You* inspires young readers to dream big and to follow their instincts. It uses the life cycle of a butterfly to metaphorically teach them that even through the many obstacles or failures they may encounter, everything they need to succeed is already within. This fun story explores themes like: Friendship, Courage, Resilience, Self Belief.

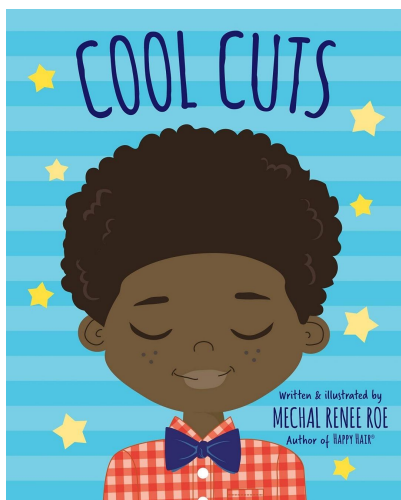


5

Hosea Plays On

by Kathleen M. Blasi (Author), Shane W. Evans (Illustrator)
Ages 3 – 9

This heartwarming picture book (based on a true story) depicts a day in the life of **Hosea Taylor**, a musician who—with his charm, talent, and generosity—brought joy to everyone he met. Every day, Hosea takes the Number 42 bus into the city to play his shiny brass saxophone—and to hopefully earn enough money. Setting up in his favorite place, Hosea makes sweet music as people greet him with a smile, a little girl dances, and crowds surround him. A surprise ending reveals what the money is really for.

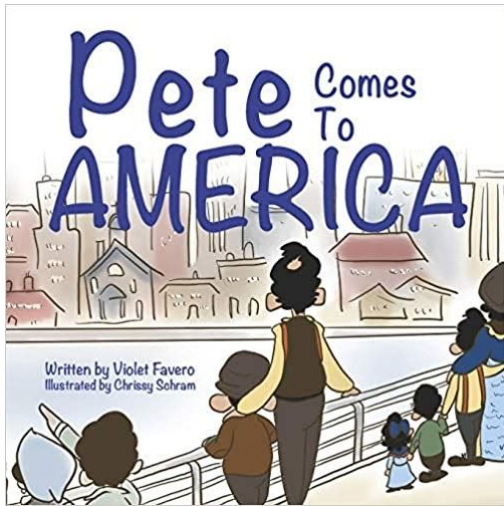


6

Cool Cuts

by Mechal Renee Roe
Ages 3 – 7

African-American boys will love seeing strong, happy reflections of themselves in this vibrant, rhythmic picture book celebrating a diversity of hip black hairstyles. From a ‘fro-hawk to mini-twists and crisp cornrows, adorable illustrations of boys with cool curls, waves, and afros grace each page, accompanied by a positive call-and-response affirmation that will make boys cheer. It’s a great read-aloud to promote positive self-esteem to boys of all ages, building and growing the foundation of self-love (and hair love!) and let every boy know that “You are born to be awesome!”



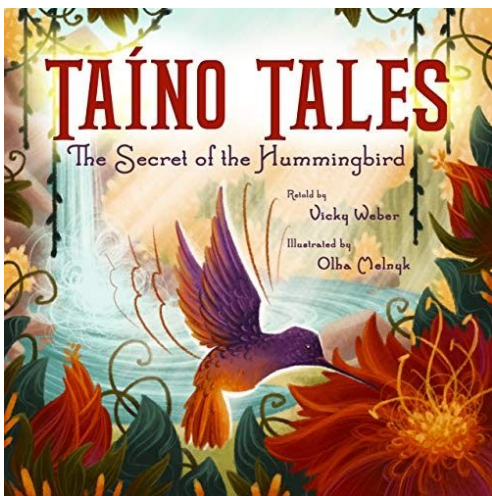
7

[Pete Comes To America](#)

By: Violet Favero, Chrissy Schram

In 1910, six-year-old **Panagiotis (Pete)** embarks on an adventurous journey with his family as they make *America* their new home. The powerful emotions, hopes, and dreams of this young boy are delightfully brought to life with classic illustrations of the era.

This uplifting story of childhood immigration highlights the emotions that creating a life in a new place holds for Pete and his family. Follow Pete from the beginning of his family's immigration from *Greece to America*, as he grows into a young man and graduates high school.



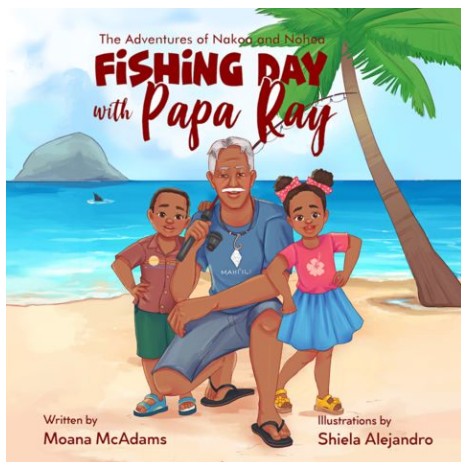
8

[Taino Tales : The Secret of the Hummingbird](#)

By: Vicky Weber, Olha Melnyk (Illustrator) Ages 4-8

With all the magic of a Disney fairytale, the Secret of the Hummingbird is sure to capture the hearts of children and adults alike. You won't just enjoy the story, you will feel like a part of it.

Created by an elementary teacher to educate and inspire, children will love learning about the Taino culture through the retelling of their indigenous folklore, bringing an ancient culture— and a young love—to colorful life.



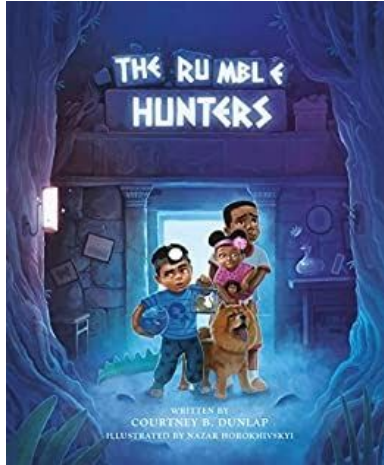
9

[Fishing Day with Papa Ray](#)

By: Moana McAdams, Shiela Alejandro

Nakoa and Nohea unlock a treasured family secret and learn the importance of kindness and community.

Fishing Day with Papa Ray is a heart-warming bi-lingual story young children will love and families will enjoy for years to come, told in both English and 'Ōlelo Hawai'i (Hawaiian) languages.



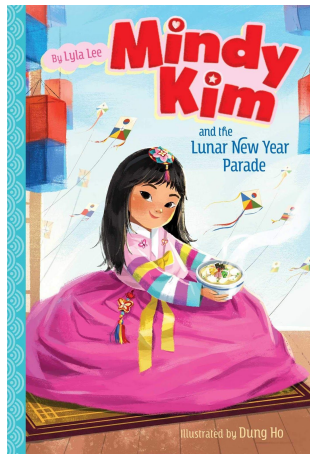
10

[The Rumble Hunters](#)

By: Courtney Dunlap, Nazar Horokhivskiy

Join James, and his heroic band, better known as the Rumble Hunters, on a rhyming adventure to hunt a mysterious rumble in the middle of the night!

Fondly reminiscent of many other classic Dr. Seuss books, *The Rumble Hunters* will quickly join the ranks amongst your family's beloved kids' book classics!



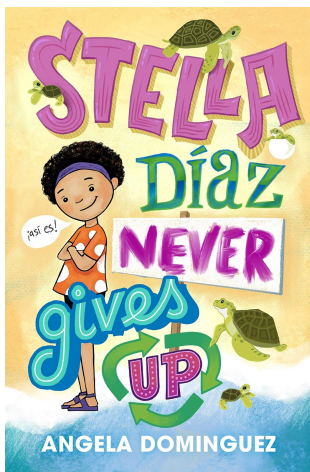
11

[Mindy Kim and the Lunar New Year Parade](#)

By Lyla Lee, Dung Ho Ages 6 – 9

Mindy is excited to celebrate the Lunar New Year! Even though it's the first one without her mom, Mindy is determined to enjoy the day. She decides to make traditional Korean New Year food, a rice cake soup that's her favorite. But things aren't going quite to plan, and the celebration doesn't feel the same as it did before.

With the help of her family and friends, can Mindy find a way to still enjoy her old holiday traditions, and create new ones along the way?

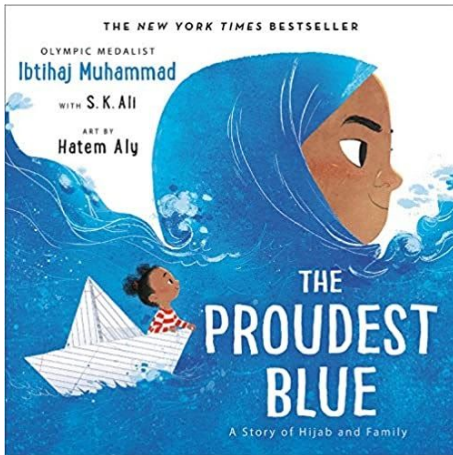


12

[Stella Diaz Never Gives Up](#)

By Angela Dominguez

Stella gets a big surprise when her mom plans a trip to visit their family in Mexico! Stella loves marine animals, and she can't wait to see the ocean for the first time . . . until she arrives and learns that the sea and its life forms are in danger due to pollution. Stella wants to save the ocean, but she knows she can't do it alone. It's going to take a lot of work and help from old and new friends to make a difference, but Stella Diaz never gives up!



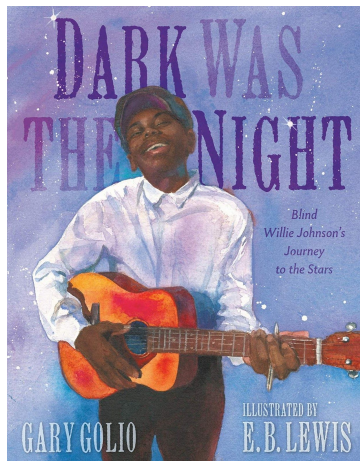
13

[The Proudest Blue](#)

By: Ibtihaj Muhammad, S.K. Ali, Hatem Aly (Ages 4-8)

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

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

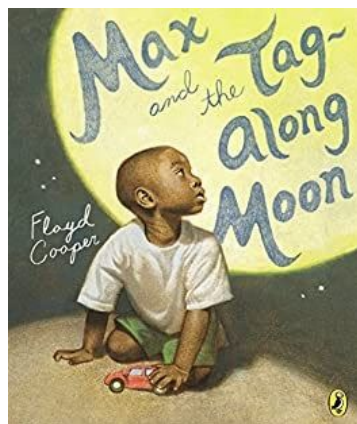


14

[Dark Was the Night: Blind Willie Johnson's Journey to the Stars](#)

By Gary Golio, illustrated by E.B. Lewis (Ages 5 – 8)

Willie Johnson was born in 1897, and from the beginning he loved to sing--and play his cigar box guitar. But his childhood was interrupted when he lost his mother and his sight. *How does a blind boy make his way in the world?* Fortunately for Willie, the music saved him and brought him back into the light. His powerful voice, combined with the wailing of his slide guitar, moved people.



15

[Max and the Tag-Along Moon](#)

By: Floyd Cooper (Ages 3-7)

Max loves his grandpa. When they must say good-bye after a visit, Grandpa reminds Max that the moon above them at Grandpa's house is the same moon that will follow him all the way home. And on that swervey-curvy car ride back home Max smiles as the moon tags along, thinking of Grandpa. But when the sky darkens and the moon disappears behind clouds, Max worries that it did not follow him home after all. Yet when the clouds part and light streams through his window, he realizes that Grandpa was right--the moon was with him all along.



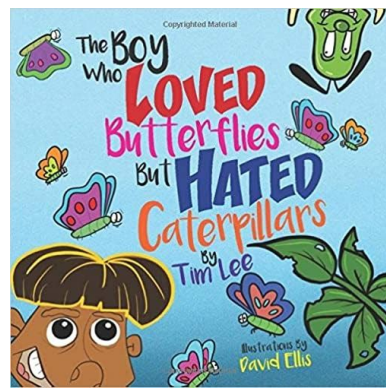
16

[I Am Me](#)

By: Jennifer Francis , Ages 0-10

The book I Am Me is a young girl empowerment book. The book teaches the power of words using visual illustrations and definitions.

The simple, yet profound aim of the book I AM ME is to show young girls that they are amazing, and that they have everything within them to accomplish all their dreams and goals.

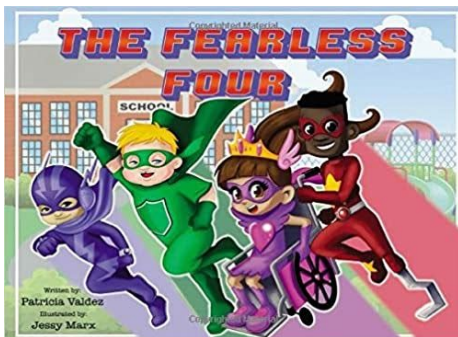


17

[The Boy Who Loved Butterflies but Hated Caterpillars](#)

By: Tim Lee, David Ellis

James is a young boy whose favorite season is summer. In his innocent effort to keep his garden beautiful for the butterflies he loves, he begins killing all the caterpillars he sees—until his mother teaches him a valuable lesson.

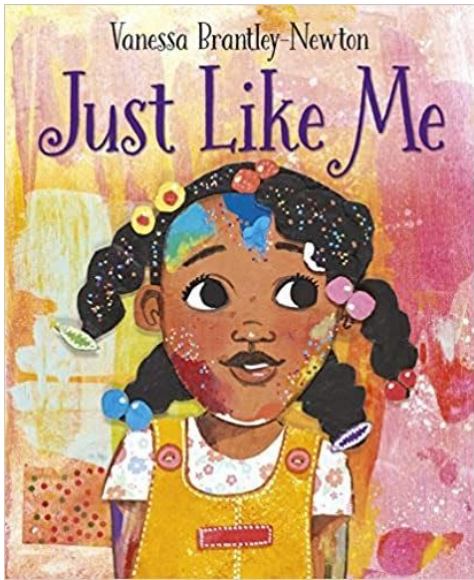


18

[The Fearless Four](#)

By: Patricia Valdez , Jessie Marx

Meet Nadia, Zeke, Javin and Ace! A group of kids who let nothing stop them from fighting off bullying and making the world a better place to be. This book features disabled kids of different races as superheroes.

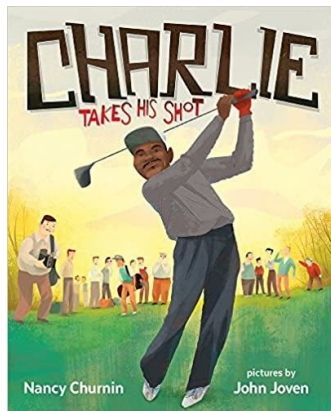


19

[Just Like Me](#)

By: Vanessa Brantley Newton

From Vanessa Brantley-Newton, the author of *Grandma's Purse*, comes a collection of poetry filled with engaging mini-stories about girls of all kinds: girls who feel happy, sad, scared, powerful; girls who love their bodies and girls who don't; country girls, city girls; girls who love their mother and girls who wish they had a father. With bright portraits in Vanessa's signature style of vibrant colors and unique patterns and fabrics, this book invites readers to find themselves and each other within its pages.

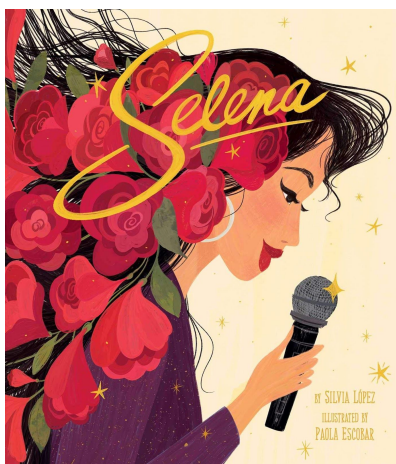


20

[Charlie Takes His Shot](#)

By: Nancy Churmin, John Joven

Charlie Sifford loved golf, but in the 1930's only white people were allowed to play in the Professional Golf Association. Sifford had won plenty of black tournaments, but he was determined to break the color barrier in the PGA. In 1960 he did, only to face discrimination from hotels that wouldn't rent him rooms and clubs that wouldn't let him use the same locker as the white players. But Sifford kept playing, becoming the first black golfer to win a PGA tournament and eventually ranking among the greats in golf



21

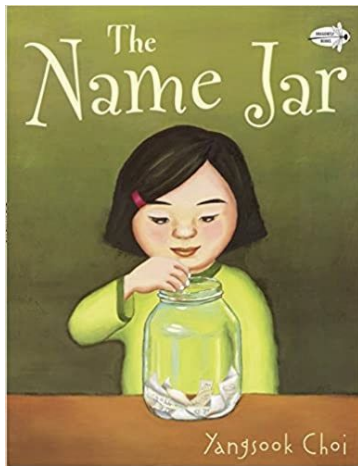
[Selena](#)

By: Silvia Lopez, Paola Escobar

This is a moving and impassioned picture book about the iconic Queen of Tejano music, Selena Quintanilla, that will embolden young readers to find their passion and make the impossible, possible!

Selena Quintanilla's music career began at the age of nine when she started singing in her family's band. She went from using a hairbrush as a microphone to traveling from town to town to play gigs. But Selena faced a challenge: People said that she would never make it in Tejano music, which was dominated by male performers. Selena was determined to prove them

wrong.

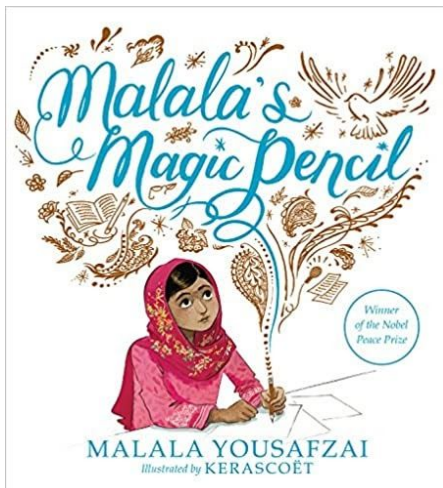


22

[The Name Jar](#)

By: Yangsook Choi

Being the new kid in school is hard enough, but what about when nobody can pronounce your name? Having just moved from Korea, Unhei is anxious that American kids will like her. So instead of introducing herself on the first day of school, she tells the class that she will choose a name by the following week. Her new classmates are fascinated by this no-name girl and decide to help out by filling a glass jar with names for her to pick from. But while Unhei practices being a Suzy, Laura, or Amanda, one of her classmates comes to her neighborhood and discovers her real name and its special meaning. Encouraged by her new friends, Unhei chooses her own Korean name and helps everyone pronounce it—*Yoon-Hey.a*



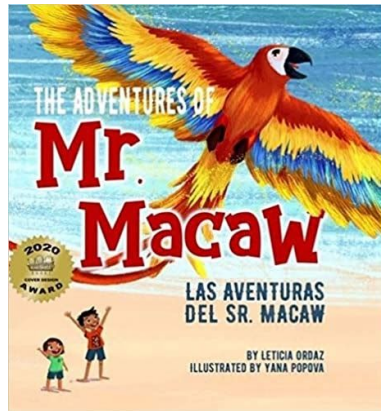
23

[Malala's Magic Pencil](#)

By: Malala Yousafzai, Kerascoët

As a child in Pakistan, Malala made a wish for a magic pencil. She would use it to make everyone happy, to erase the smell of garbage from her city, to sleep an extra hour in the morning. But as she grew older, Malala saw that there were more important things to wish for. She saw a world that needed fixing. And even if she never found a magic pencil, Malala realized that she could still work hard every day to make her wishes come true.

This beautifully illustrated volume tells Malala's story for a younger audience and shows them the worldview that allowed Malala to hold on to hope even in the most difficult of times.

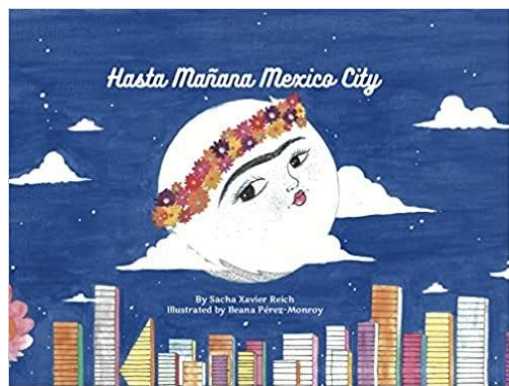


24

[The Adventures of Mr. Macaw](#)

By: Leticia Ordaz, Yana Popova (Ages 4-8)

ENGLISH & SPANISH PICTURE BOOK
 THE ADVENTURES OF MR. MACAW is a story full of imagination, magic, and wonder. It has colorful illustrations, featuring both English and Spanish on every page. This book strengthens reading skills with its bilingual format and is ideal for helping 4-8-year-olds with foreign language comprehension. Parents and educators love it.

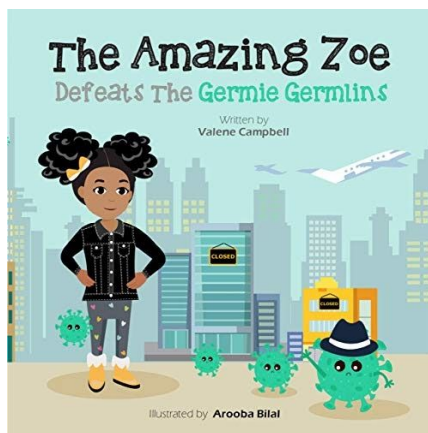


25

[Hasta Manana Mexico City](#)

By: Sacha Xavier Reich, Ileana Perez-Monroy (Illustrator)

Hasta Manana Mexico City is for any child who celebrates culture and history and wants to be transported to Mexico City where they can learn about local festivals, food, beautiful parks and more, which makes it a great place to be with your family. Most importantly, kids will learn that there are children just like them a half-a-world away that share their curiosity for discovery and experiencing new things. This story takes children through the heart of the city, which is full of wonderful history and vibrant places.

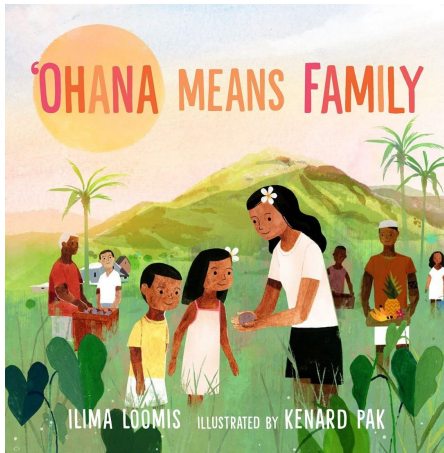


26

[The Amazing Zoe: Defeats The Germie Germlins](#)

By: Valene Campbell, Arooba Bilal

When the Germie Germlins invade planet Earth, they attack people and make them sick. Nothing seems to stop them, so the mayor of Niceville announces a lockdown - No school. No work. No going outside! Your children will learn an important lesson about health and hygiene, find a way to cope with coronavirus-related anxiety, and make sure their forcefields stay activated all the time!



27

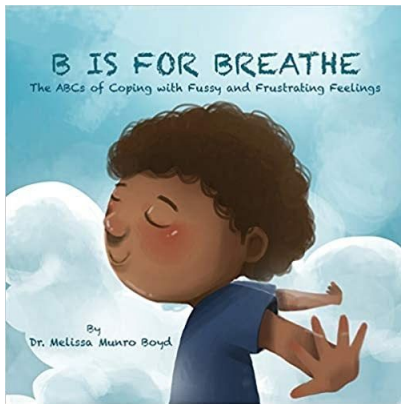
[Ohana Means Family](#)

By: Ilima Loomis, Kenard Pak (Illustrator)
Ages 4-8

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

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

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

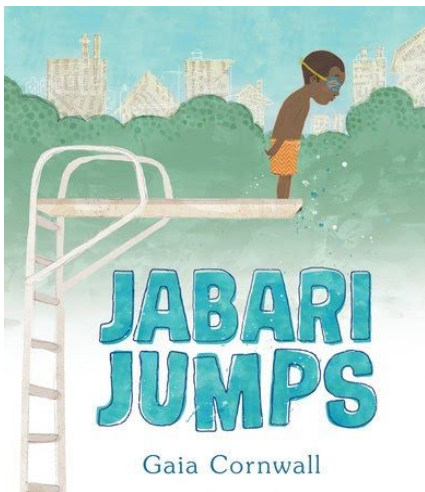


28

[B IS FOR BREATHE](#)

By: Melissa Munro Boyd

From the letter A to the letter Z, B is for Breathe celebrates the many ways children can express their feelings and develop coping skills at an early age. Fun, cute, and exciting illustrations, this colorful book teaches kids simple ways to cope with fussy and frustrating emotions. This book will inspire kids to discuss their feelings, show positive behaviors, and practice calm down strategies.

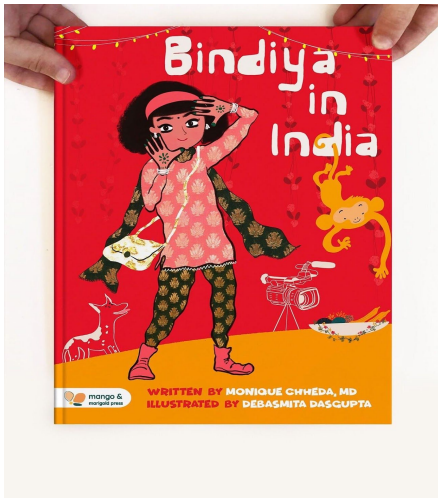


29

[JABARI JUMPS](#)

BY: Gaia Cornwall (Ages 4 - 8)

Little Jabari is definitely ready to jump off the diving board, at least he thinks he is. He passed his swim test and completed his swimming lessons. So jumping off the diving board should be easy, right? With a little encouragement and a pep talk from his dad, Jabari overcomes his fear and works up the courage to make a big splash. I love the fact that this book features a father with the kids instead of a mother. Perfect for the summer season or Father's Day!

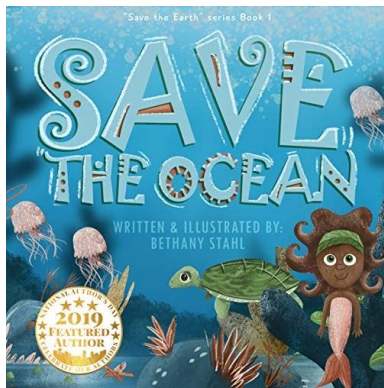


30

[Bindiya in India](#)

**By: Author: Monique Kamaria Chheda, MD |
Illustrator: Debasmita Dasgupta**

Bindiya in India is the story of a young Indian American girl's first trip to India for an Indian wedding. Weaving together Hindi and English, the children's illustrated book takes place in the 1990s. Follow Bindiya as she meets her extended family for the first time, celebrates Indian wedding traditions, and creates memories and bonds to last a lifetime.

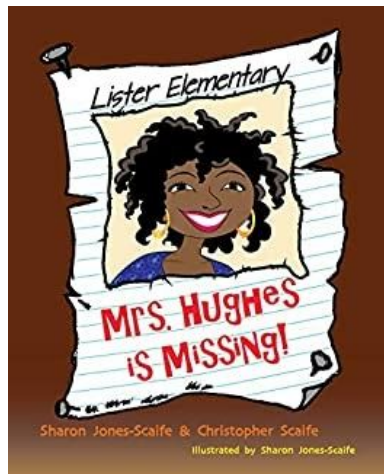


31

[Save The Ocean](#)

By: Bethany Stahl

From exciting and adventurous to educational and captivating, Bethany Stahl's immersive stories express heartfelt messages while engaging parents and children. With beautiful and charming illustrations, as well as a lovable sea turtle named Agwe, this is a book adults will love reading over and over again with their kids. Save the Ocean has a heartwarming lesson of recycling and conservation that will stay with the reader for a lifetime.

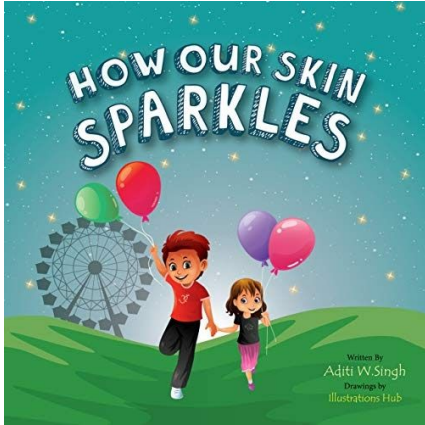


32

[Mrs. Hughes is Missing](#)

By: Sharon Jones-Scaife, Christopher Scaife

When the students of Mrs. Hughes' class walk in one day and discover their favorite teacher is gone, they cry "Oh me! Oh my! Oh boy!" in disappointed voices. Days go by and no Mrs. Hughes. Weeks go by and still no Mrs. Hughes. When months pass with a substitute teacher who is as mean as mean can be, the students decide Mrs. Hughes is definitely missing and it is up to them to find her

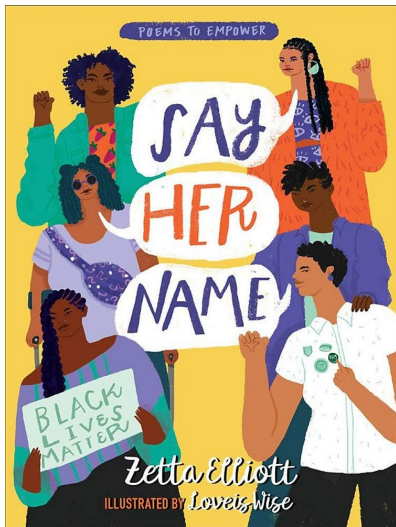


33

[How Our Skin Sparkles: A Growth Mindset Children's Book for Global Citizens About Acceptance](#)

By: Aditi Singh (Ages 3-10)

With easy to read rhymes, sibling love and thoughts to explore, this story talks about how one can truly see everyone as they are inside. This book is a must have for any child who wants to learn a little more about themselves, the world around them and how we truly sparkle!

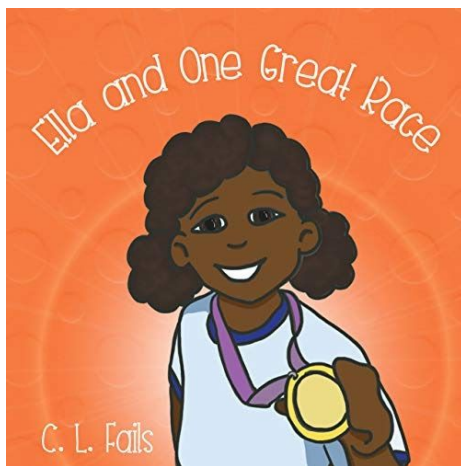


34

[Say Her Name](#)

By: Zetta Elliott, Loveis Wise (Ages 12 and up)

Inspired by the #SayHerName campaign launched by the African American Policy Forum, these poems pay tribute to victims of police brutality as well as the activists insisting that Black Lives Matter. Elliott engages poets from the past two centuries to create a chorus of voices celebrating the creativity, resilience, and courage of Black women and girls.

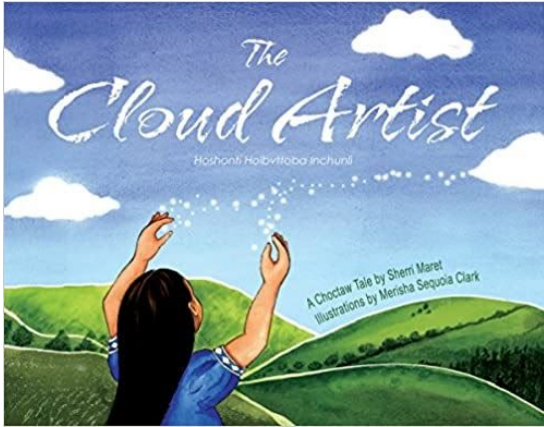


35

[Ella and One Great Race](#)

By: C.L. Fails

Ella finds herself comparing her stride to others in a long-distance race that requires both physical and mental strength. Find out how she faces the challenge head on, by using the Power of “Grit,” and reminding us that comparison will steal your joy.

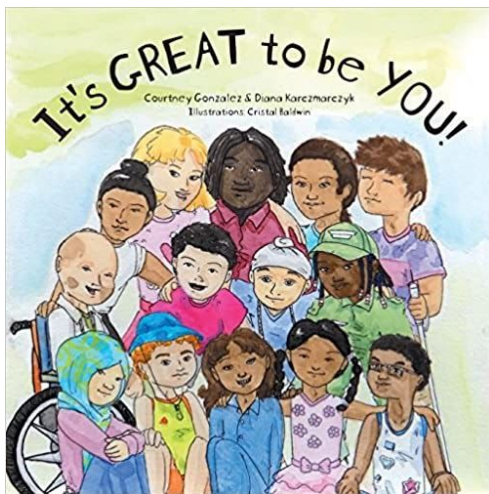


36

[The Cloud Artist--A Choctaw Tale \(Told in English & Choctaw\)](#)

By: Sherri Maret, Merisha Sequoia Clark (Illustrator) (Ages 4-8)

Born with the gift of painting with the clouds, Leona, a little Choctaw girl, uses the sky as her canvas to the delight of her people. When a traveling man learns of her gift and invites her to join the carnival, the Cloud Artist must make a decision about what kind of artist she wants to be. This picture book is part historical fiction, a lot of fantasy, and a little dab of tall tale. Over thirty follow-up activities are available on author's website. In English with Choctaw translation included.

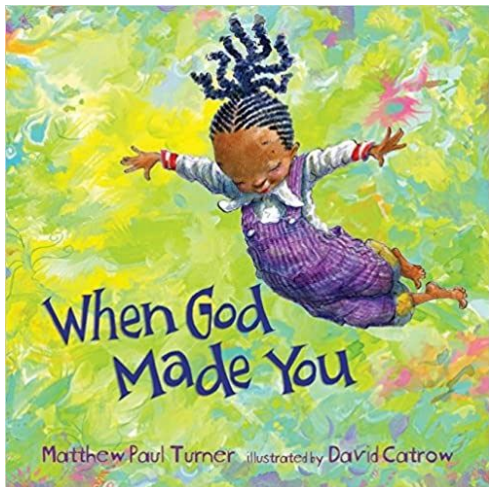


37

[It's Great To Be You](#)

By: Courtney Gonzalez,,Diana Karczmarczyk, Cristal Baldwin (Illustrator)

A book about children of many backgrounds, interests, and abilities. Children need to know that they are all important and valued. Everyone deserves respect, understanding and kindness. This book is a reminder that it is okay to play alone or with friends. It is okay to cry or to be sad. It is okay to do anything or be anything that you want to be. The most important thing is that you are yourself because...it is GREAT to be YOU!

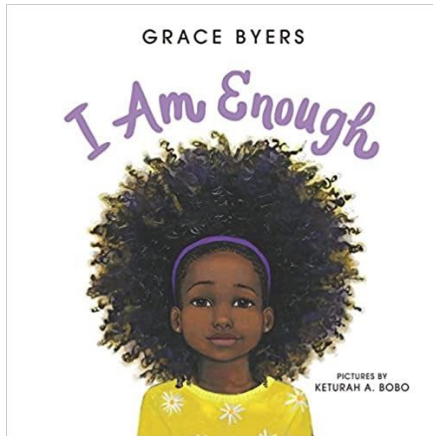


38

[When God Made You](#)

By: Matthew Paul Turner (Ages 3-7)

Through playful, charming rhyme and vivid, fantastical illustrations, *When God Made You* inspires young readers to learn about their own special gifts and how they fit into God's divine plan as they grow, explore, and begin to create for themselves.



39

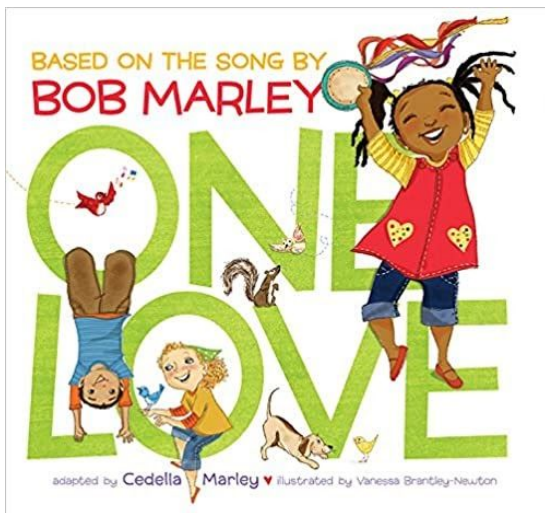
[I Am Enough](#)

By: Grace Bryers , Keturah A. Bobo

A New York Times bestseller and Goodreads Choice Awards picture book winner!

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

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



40

[One Love](#)

By: Cedella Marley, Vanessa Brantley-Newton (Ages 3-5)

One love, one heart, let's get together and feel all right: Adapted from one of Bob Marley's most beloved songs, *One Love* brings the joyful spirit and unforgettable lyrics to life for a new generation. Readers will delight in dancing to the beat and feeling the positive groove of change when one girl enlists her community to help transform her neighborhood for the better. It's a testament to the amazing things that can happen when we all get together with one love in our hearts. Heartwarming picture book filled with vibrant and upbeat illustrations

Omar, el jaguar

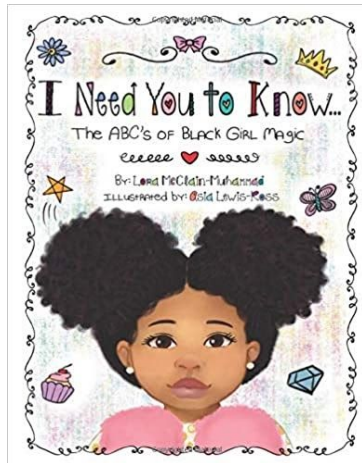


41

[Omar, el jaguar](#)

By: Andrea Olatunji

This is a beautifully illustrated story that teaches us about celebrating diversity while enabling children to learn and practice Spanish. Omar is a lonely jaguar that wants to make friends. He encounters other animals that invite him to play but he refuses because these don't look like him. Later on, however, he changes his mind as he realizes that they have more in common than he thought.

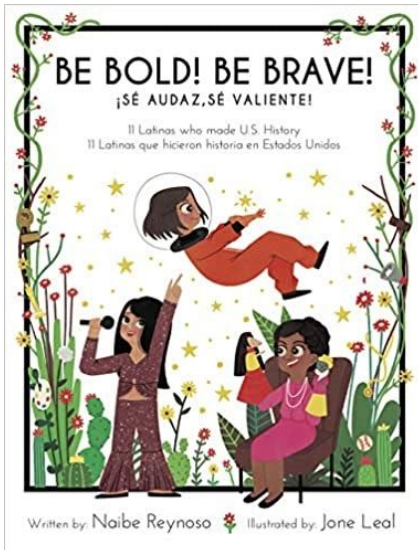


42

[I Need You to Know: The ABC's of Black Girl Magic](#)

By: Lora McClain-Muhammad , Asia Lewis-Ross

A children's coloring book filled with all things Black Girl Magic from A to Z! The “I Need You To Know...” series depicts our children beautifully from their skin complexion to their hair type. The book is educational and have encouraging words from A-Z. These coloring books have proven to speak to diversity through coloring when shared with children of all backgrounds!

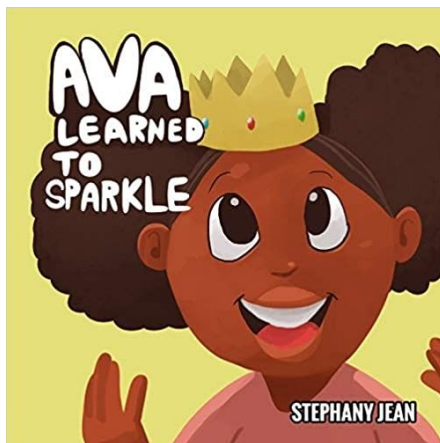


43

[Be Bold! Be Brave! 11 Latinas who made U.S. History](#)

By: Naibe Reynoso , Jone Leal (Illustrator)

A bilingual book that highlights 11 Latinas who excelled in various fields including medicine, science, sports, art and politics. By presenting the true biographical stories of these outstanding Latinas in rhyming verses, young readers will easily follow their journey to success. Some of the women highlighted include Antonia Novello (first female Surgeon General in the U.S.), Ellen Ochoa (first Latina to go to space), Sonia Sotomayor (first Latina Supreme Court Justice,) Rita Moreno (first Latina to win an Oscar), Selena, and Pura Belpre (first Latina to incorporate and promote bilingual literacy in Public Libraries).



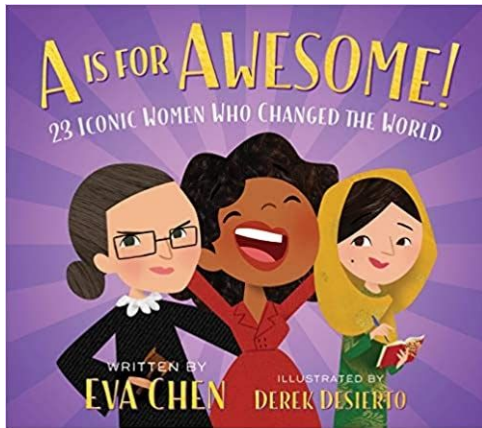
44

[Ava Learned To Sparkle](#)

By: Stephany Jean

Ava Learned to Sparkle is an interactive children's book designed to assist children develop confidence. The main character, Ava, uses positive affirmations to stop comparing herself to her peers and begins viewing herself as a purpose-filled individual.

Journey with Ava as she unlocks the tools needed to transform her mind and see herself as confident, poised, and unique. *Ava Learned To Sparkle* by seeing the importance of loving herself and her abilities. You can too!

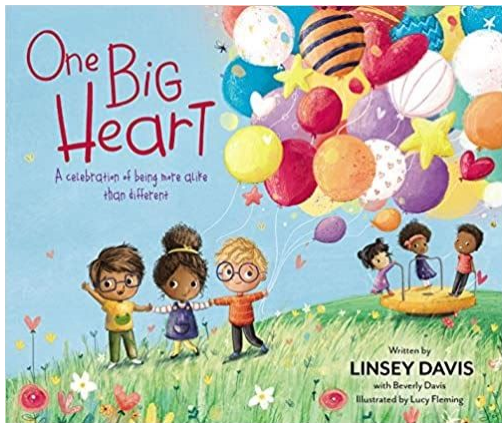


45

[A Is for Awesome!: 23 Iconic Women Who Changed the World](#)

By: Eva Chen, Derek Desierto (Ages 1-3)

Instagram superstar Eva Chen, author of *Juno Valentine and the Magical Shoes*, is back with an alphabet board book depicting feminist icons in *A Is for Awesome: 23 Iconic Women Who Changed the World*, featuring spirited illustrations by Derek Desierto.

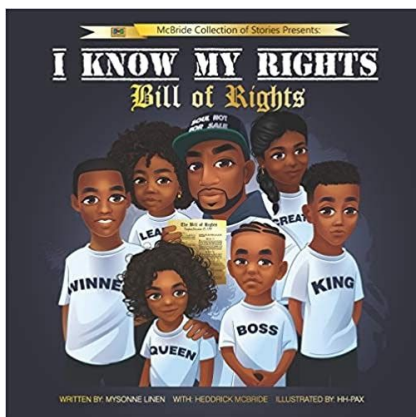


46

[One Big Heart: A Celebration of Being More Alike than Different](#)

By: Linsey Davis, Lucy Fleming (Illustrator) Ages (4-8)

A culture-rich picture book that proudly showcases the beauty of diversity while also celebrating all the wonderful things we have in common. From skin, hair, and eyes in a multitude of colors to different personalities and interests, God gave us all special traits and characteristics that make us uniquely ourselves. And we all have things in common too: like sharing fun and laughter on the playground, a sense of curiosity, big feelings, and so many other things that show how we are all more alike than we are different.

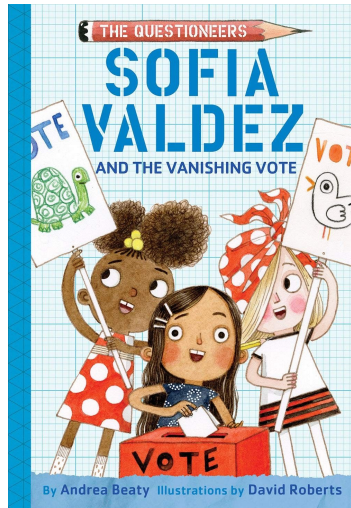


47

[I Know my Rights: Bill of Rights](#)

By: Mysonne Linen, Heddrick McBride, HH-Pax (Illustrator)

I Know My Rights: Bill of Rights is a colorful book that will inform readers about the rights that they are guaranteed under the first ten amendments to the U.S. Constitution. Being a productive and responsible citizen requires having knowledge of the law. This is a book that the entire family will enjoy.

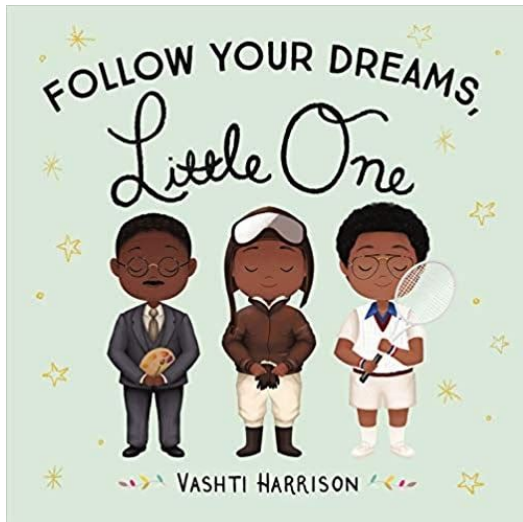


48

Sofia Valdez and the Vanishing Vote

By Andrea Beaty and David Roberts Ages 6 – 9

Miss Lila Greer announces it's time for Grade Two to get a class pet, and she wants the kids to participate in choosing which one. After all, they will all have to share the responsibility of caring for it. The class narrows it down to two options: Team Turtle and Team Bird. Sofia is named Election Commissioner, in charge of overseeing a fair and honest election between the two teams. There's a class-wide campaign, complete with posters, articles, and speeches.



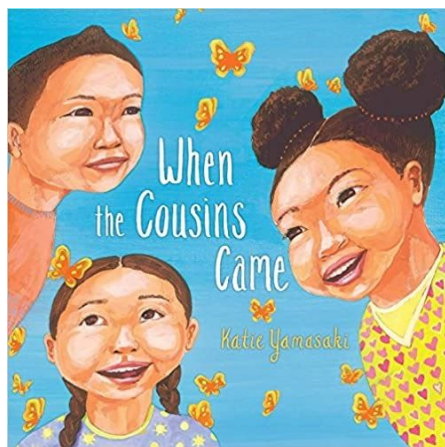
49

Follow Your Dreams Little One

By: Vashti Harrison

This beautifully illustrated board book highlights true stories of black men in history. The exceptional men featured include artist Aaron Douglas, civil rights leader John Lewis, dancer Alvin Ailey, lawman Bass Reeves, tennis champion Arthur Ashe, and writer James Baldwin.

The legends in this book span centuries and continents, but what they have in common is that each one has blazed a trail for generations to come.



50

When the Cousins Came

By: Katie Yamasaki (Ages 4-8)

A multicultural family story that celebrates kindness and differences Lila is excited for her cousins Takeo and Rosie to visit. They're going to ride bikes, paint, and camp together! But when the cousins arrive, everything's wrong: Rosie and Takeo are better painters than Lila, have skateboards instead of bikes, and don't want to camp outside.