

Center for the Study of Multicultural Children's Literature

BEST MULTICULTURAL CHILDREN'S BOOKS OF 2022

Curated by Dr. Claudette S. McLinn, Dr. Naomi Caldwell, Amber Hayes, Dr. Sujin Huggins, Lessa Kanani'opua Pelayo-Lozada, and Susan Polos

AIN'T BURNED ALL THE BRIGHT, by Jason Reynolds, illustrated by Jason Griffin, unpagged, published by Anthenum, A Caitlyn Dlouhy Book, an imprint of Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing Division, ©2022, ISBN 978-1-5344-3946-7, (Middle school/High school, fiction, picture book)

ALICIA AND THE HURRICANE: A STORY OF PUERTO RICO/ALICIA Y EL HURACÁN: UN CUENTO DE PUERTO RICO, by Lesléa Newman, illustrated by Elizabeth Erazo Baez, unpagged, published by Children's Book Press, an imprint of Lee & Low Books Inc., ©2022, ISBN 978-0-89239-455-5, (Elementary school, fiction, picture book, bilingual)

ALONE LIKE ME, written and illustrated by Rebecca Evans, unpagged, published by Anne Schwartz Books, an imprint of Penguin Random House, ©2022, ISBN 978-0-593-18192-8, (Elementary school, fiction, picture book)

AVIVA VS. THE DYBBUK, by Mari Lowe, 171 pages, published by Levine Querido, distributed by Chronicle Books LLC, ©2022, ISBN 978-1-64614-125-8, (Upper elementary school/Middle school, fiction)

BECAUSE CLAUDETTE, by Tracey Baptiste, illustrated by Tonya Engel, unpagged, published by Dial Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Penguin Random House LLC, ©2022, ISBN 978-0-593-32640-4 (Elementary school, nonfiction/biography, picture book)

BERRY SONG, written and illustrated by Michaela Goade, unpagged, published by Little Brown and Company, Hachette Book Group, ©2022, ISBN 978-0-316-49417-5, (Elementary school, fiction, picture book)

BIG DREAMS, SMALL FISH, written and illustrated by Paula Cohen, unpagged, published by Levine Querido, distributed by Chronicle Books, LLC, ©2022, ISBN 978-1-64614-126-5, (Elementary school, fiction, picture book)

BLUE: A HISTORY OF THE COLOR AS DEEP AS THE SEA AND AS WIDE AS THE SKY, by Nana Ekua Brew-Hammond, illustrated by Daniel Minter, unpagged, published by Alfred A. Knopf, an imprint of Penguin Random House LLC, ©2022, ISBN 978-1-9848-9436-6, (Elementary school, nonfiction, picture book)



CALL ME MISS HAMILTON: ONE WOMAN'S CASE FOR EQUALITY AND RESPECT, by Carole Boston Weatherford, illustrated by Jeffery Boston Weatherford, unpagged, published by Millbrook Press, an imprint of Lerner Publishing Group, Inc., ©2022, ISBN 978-1-5415-6040-6, (Upper elementary/Middle School, nonfiction/biography, picture book)

CASTE: THE ORIGINS OF OUR DISCONTENTS; ADAPTED FOR YOUNG ADULTS, by Isabel Wilkerson, 338 pages, published by Delacorte Press, an imprint of Penguin Random House LLC, ©2022, ISBN 978-0-593-42794-1, (Middle school/High school, nonfiction)

CHOOSING BRAVE: HOW MAMIE TILL-MOBLEY AND EMMETT TILL SPARKED THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT, by Angela Joy, illustrated by Janelle Washington, unpagged, published by Roaring Brook Press, a division of Holtzbrinck Publishing Holdings Limited Partnership, ©2022, ISBN 978-1-250-22095-0, (Upper elementary school/Middle school, nonfiction/biography, picture book)

CURVE & FLOW: THE ELEGANT VISION OF L.A. ARCHITECT PAUL R. WILLIAMS, by Andrea J. Loney, illustrated by Keith Mallett, unpagged, published by Alfred A. Knopf, an imprint of Random House Children's Books, a division of Penguin Random House LLC, ©2022, ISBN 978-0-593-42907-5, (Elementary school, nonfiction/biography, picture book)

DADDY SPEAKS LOVE, by Leah Henderson, illustrated by E.B. Lewis, unpagged, published by Nancy Paulsen Books, an imprint of Penguin Random House LLC, ©2022, ISBN 978-0-593-35436-0, (Elementary school, fiction, picture book)

DOOR OF NO RETURN, THE, by Kwame Alexander, 418 pages, published by Little Brown and Company, Hachette Book Group, ©2022, ISBN 978-0-316-44186-5, (Upper elementary school/Middle school/High school, historical fiction, novel in verse)

EVICTED! THE STRUGGLE FOR THE RIGHT TO VOTE, by Alice Faye Duncan, illustrated by Charly Palmer, 63 pages, published by Calkins Creek, an imprint of Astra Books for Young Readers, a division of Astra House Publishing ©2022, ISBN 978-1-68437-979-8, (Upper elementary school/Middle school, nonfiction, picture book)

FAITH OF ELIJAH CUMMINGS, THE: THE NORTH STAR OF EQUAL JUSTICE, by Carole Boston Weatherford, illustrated by Laura Freeman, unpagged, published by Random House Studio, an imprint of Random House Children's Books, a division of Penguin Random House LLC, ©2022, ISBN 978-0-593-30650-5, (Elementary school, nonfiction/biography, picture book)



FALLING SHORT, by Ernesto Cisneros, 292 pages, published by Quill Tree Books, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers, ©2022, ISBN 978-0-06-288172-4, (Upper elementary school/Middle school, fiction)

FINDING MY DANCE, by Ria Thundercloud, illustrated by Kalila J. Fuller, unpagged, published by Penguin Workshop, an imprint of Penguin Random House LLC, ©2022, ISBN 978-0-593-09389-4, (Elementary school, nonfiction/autobiography, picture book)

FLAMINGO, THE, written and illustrated by Guojing, unpagged, published by Random House Studio, an imprint of Random House, a division of Penguin Random House LLC., ©2022, ISBN 978-0-593-12731-5, (Elementary school, fiction, graphic novel)

GARVEY IN THE DARK, by Nikki Grimes, 170 pages, published by Wordsong, an imprint of Astra Books for Young Readers, a division of Astra Publishing House, ©2022, ISBN 978-1-63592-526-5, (Upper elementary/Middle school, novel in verse)

GOING PLACES: VICTOR HUGO GREEN AND HIS GLORIOUS BOOK, by Tonya Bolden, illustrated by Eric Velasquez, unpagged, published by Quill Tree Books, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers, ©2022, ISBN 978-0-06-296740-4, (Elementary school, nonfiction/biography, picture book)

GROWING AN ARTIST: THE STORY OF A LANDSCAPER AND HIS SON, written and illustrated by John Parra, unpagged, published by A Paula Wiseman Book, Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing Division, ©2022, ISBN 978-1-5344-6927-3, (Elementary school, nonfiction/autobiography, picture book)

H IS FOR HARLEM, by Dinah Johnson, illustrated by April Harrison, unpagged, published by Christy Ottaviano Books, Little Brown and Company, Hachette Book Group, ©2022, ISBN 978-0-316-32237-9, (Elementary school, nonfiction, alphabet picture book)

HARDCOURT: STORIES FROM 75 YEARS OF THE NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION by Fred Bowen, illustrated by James E. Ransome, unpagged, published by Margaret K. McElderry Books, an imprint of Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing Division, ©2022, ISBN 978-1-5344-6043-0, (Elementary school/Middle school, nonfiction, picture book)

HIGH SPIRITS: SHORT STORIES OF DOMINICAN DIASPORA, by Camille Gomera-Tavarez, 189 pages, published by Levine Querido, an Arthur Levine book, ©2022, ISBN 978-1-64614-129-6, (Middle school/High school, fiction, story collection)

HOLLER OF THE FIREFLIES by David Barclay Moore, 360 pages, published by Alfred A. Knopf, an imprint of Random House Children's Books, a division of Penguin Random House LLC, ©2022, ISBN 978-1-5247-0128-4, (Middle school, fiction)



HOPE IS AN ARROW: THE STORY OF LEBANESE AMERICAN POET KAHLIL GIBRAN by Cory McCarthy, illustrated by Ekuia Holmes, unpagged, published by Candlewick Press, ©2022, ISBN 978-1-5362-0032-4, (Elementary school, nonfiction/biography, picture book)

HOW TO HEAR THE UNIVERSE: GABY GONZÁLEZ AND THE SEARCH FOR EINSTEIN'S RIPPLES IN SPACE-TIME by Patricia Valdez, illustrated by Sara Palacios, unpagged, published by Alfred A. Knopf, an imprint of Random House Children's Books, a division of Penguin Random House LLC, ©2022, ISBN 978-1-9848-9459-5, (Elementary school, nonfiction/biography, picture book)

HUNDRED YEARS OF HAPPINESS by Thanhà Lai, illustrated by Nguyễn Quang and Kim Liên, unpagged, published by Harper, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers, ©2022, ISBN 978-0-06-302692-6, (Elementary school, fiction, picture book)

IDA B. WELLS, VOICE OF TRUTH: EDUCATOR, FEMINIST AND ANTI-LYNCHING CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER, by Michelle Duster, illustrated by Laura Freeman, unpagged, published by Henry Holt and Company, ©2022, ISBN 978-1-250-23946-4, (Elementary school, nonfiction/biography, picture book)

IN THE KEY OF US, by Mariama J. Lockington, 348 pages, published by Farrar Straus Giroux Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Macmillan Publishing Group, LLC, ©2022, ISBN 978-0-374-31410-1, (Middle school, fiction,)

JENNIFER CHAN IS NOT ALONE, by Tae Keller, 277 pages, published by Random House Children's Books, a division of Penguin Random House LLC, ©2022, ISBN 978-0-593-31052-6, (Upper elementary/Middle school, fiction,)

JUST LIKE JESSE OWENS, by Ambassador Andrew Young as told by Paula Young Shelton, illustrated by Gordon C. James, unpagged, published by Orchard Books, an imprint of Scholastic Inc., ©2022, ISBN 978-1-545-55465-7, (Elementary school, nonfiction/autobiography, picture book,)

KAPAEMAHU, by Hialeimoana Wong-Kalu, Dean Hamer and Joe Wilson, illustrated by Daniel Sousa, unpagged, published by Kokila, an imprint of Penguin Random House LLC, ©2022, ISBN 978-0-593-53006-1, (Elementary school, legend, picture book)

KEEPUNUMUK: WEEACHUMUN'S THANKSGIVING STORY, by Danielle Greendeer et al, illustrated by Gary Meeches, unpagged, published by Charlesbridge, ©2022, ISBN 978-1-62354-290-0, (Elementary school, traditional stories, picture book)

LAND OF BOOKS, A: DREAMS OF YOUNG MEXIHCAH WORD PAINTERS, written and illustrated by Duncan Tonatiuh, unpagged, published by ABRAMS, Books for Young Readers, ©2022, ISBN 978-1-41974-942-1, (Elementary school, historical fiction, picture book)



LAST MAPMAKER, THE, by Christina Soontornvat, 359 pages, published by Candlewick Press, ©2022, ISBN 978-1-5362-0495-7, (Middle school, historical fiction)

LEGEND OF THE SPIRIT SERPENT, THE, by Adaiyah Sanford, illustrated by Ken Daley, unpagged, published by Reycraft Books, an imprint of Newmark Learning LLC, ©2022, ISBN 978-1-4788-7517-8, (Elementary school, legend, picture book)

LOVE IN THE LIBRARY, by Maggie Tokuda-Hall, illustrated by Yas Imamura, unpagged, published by Candlewick Press, ©2022, ISBN 978-1-5362-0430-8, (Elementary school, historical fiction, picture book)

LULI AND THE LANGUAGE OF TEA, by Andrea Wang, illustrated by Hyewon Yum, unpagged, published by Neal Porter Books, Holiday House, ©2022, ISBN 978-0-8234-4614-8, (Elementary school, fiction, picture book)

MAIZY CHEN'S LAST CHANCE, by Lisa Yee, 276 pages, published by Random House Children's Books, a division of Penguin Random House LLC, ©2022, ISBN 978-1-9848-3025-8, (Upper elementary/Middle school, fiction)

MAMA'S HOME, by Shay Youngblood, illustrated by Lo Harris, unpagged, published by Make Me a World, an imprint of Random House Children's Books, a division of Penguin Random House LLC, ©2022, ISBN 978-0-593-18022-8, (Elementary school, fiction, picture book)

MAYA'S SONG, by Renée Watson, illustrated by Bryan Collier, unpagged, published by HarperCollins Children's Books, a division of HarperCollins Publishers, ©2022, ISBN 978-0-06-287158-9, (Elementary school, nonfiction/biography, picture book)

MERCI SUAREZ PLAYS IT COOL, by Meg Medina, 340 pages, published by Candlewick Press, ©2022, ISBN 978-1-53621-946-3, (Upper elementary school/Middle school, fiction)

MISS QUINCES, written and illustrated by Kat Fajardo, 234 pages, published by Graphix, an imprint of Scholastic Inc., ©2022, ISBN 978-1-338-53558-7, (Elementary school, fiction, graphic novel)

MOONWALKING, by Zetta Elliot and Lyn Miller-Lachman, 218 pages, published by Farrar Straus Giroux for Young Readers, an imprint of Macmillan Publishing Group LLC, ©2022, ISBN 978-0-374-31437-8, (Upper elementary/Middle school, fiction, novel in verse)

MY HANDS TELL A STORY, by Kelly Starling Lyons, illustrated by Tonya Engel, unpagged, published by Reycraft Books, an imprint of Newmark Learning LLC, ©2022, ISBN 978-1-4788-7061-6, (Elementary school, fiction, picture book)



NEW FROM HERE, by Kelly Yang, 361 pages, published by Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, ©2022, ISBN 978-1-5344-8830-4, (Upper elementary school/Middle school, fiction)

NOT DONE YET: SHIRLEY CHISHOLM'S FIGHT FOR CHANGE, by Tameka Fryer Brown, illustrated by Nina Crews, unpagged, published by Millbrook Press, an imprint of Lerner Publishing Group, Inc., ©2022, ISBN 978-1-7284-2008-0, (Elementary school, nonfiction/biography, picture book)

OMAR RISING, by Aisha Saeed, 216 pages, published by Nancy Paulsen Books, an imprint of Penguin Random House LLC, ©2022, ISBN 978-0-593-10858-1, (Upper elementary/Middle school, fiction)

OVERGROUND RAILROAD: THE GREEN BOOK AND ROOTS OF BLACK TRAVEL IN AMERICA, by Candacy Taylor, 254 pages, published by Amulet Books, an imprint of ABRAMS, ©2022, ISBN 978-1-4197-4949-0, (High school/Middle school, nonfiction)

POWWOW DAY, by Traci Sorell, illustrated by Madelyn Goodnight, unpagged, published by Charlesbridge Publishing Inc., ©2022, ISBN 978-1-58089-948-2, (Elementary school, fiction, picture book)

RIVER'S GIFT, A: THE MIGHTY ELWHA RIVER REBORN, by Patricia Newman, illustrated by Natasha Donovan, unpagged, published by Millbrook Press, an imprint of Lerner Publishing Group, Inc., ©2022, ISBN 978-1-5415-9870-6, (Elementary school, nonfiction, picture book)

SECRET BATTLE OF EVAN PAO, THE, by Wendy Wan-Long Shang, 259 pages, published by Scholastic Press, an imprint of Scholastic Inc., ©2022, ISBN 978-1-338-67885-7, (Middle school, fiction)

SEE YOU SOON, by Mariame Kaba, illustrated by Bianca Diaz, unpagged, published by Haymarket Books, ©2022, ISBN 978-1-64259-763-9, (Elementary school, fiction, picture book)

SEED IN THE SUN, A, by Aida Salazar, 255 pages, published by Dial Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Penguin Random House LLC, ©2022, ISBN 978-0-593-40660-1, (Upper elementary/Middle school, historical fiction, novel in verse)

STANDING IN THE NEED OF PRAYER: A MODERN RETELLING OF THE CLASSIC SPIRITUAL, by Carole Boston Weatherford, illustrated by Frank Morrison, unpagged, published by Crown Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Random House Children's Books, a division of Penguin Random House LLC, ©2022, ISBN 978-0-593-30634-5, (Elementary school, nonfiction, spiritual songs, picture book)



STAR CHILD: A BIOGRAPHICAL CONSTELLATION OF OCTAVIA ESTELLE

BUTLER, by Ibi Zoboi, 112 pages, published by Dutton Children's Books, an imprint of Penguin Random House LLC, ©2022, ISBN 978-0-399-18738-4, (Upper elementary school/Middle school, nonfiction/biography)

STILL THIS LOVE GOES ON, by Buffy Saint Marie, illustrated by Julie Flett, unpagged, published by Greystone Kids/Greystone Books Ltd., ©2022, ISBN 978-1-77164-807-3, (Elementary school, fiction, songs, picture book)

SWEET JUSTICE: GEORGIA GILMORE AND THE MONTGOMERY BUS BOYCOTT, by Mara Rockliff, illustrated by R. Gregory Christie, unpagged, published by Random House Studio, an imprint of Random House Children's Books, a division of Penguin Random House LLC, ©2022, ISBN 978-1-5247-2064-3, (Elementary school, historical fiction, picture book)

SWIM TEAM: SMALL WAVES, BIG CHANGES, written and illustrated by Johnnie Christmas, 245 pages, published by HarperAlley, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers, ©2022, ISBN 978-0-06-305676-3, (Upper elementary school/Middle school, fiction, graphic novel)

TALK, THE, by Alicia D. Williams, illustrated by Briana Mukodiri Uchensu, unpagged, published by A Caitlyn Dlouhy Book, Atheneum Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing Division, ©2022, ISBN 978-1-5344-9529-6, (Elementary school, fiction, picture book)

TEN BLOCKS TO THE BIG WOK: A CHINATOWN COUNTING BOOK written and illustrated by Ying-Hwa Hu, unpagged, published by Children's Book Press, an imprint of Lee & Low Books Inc., ©2022, ISBN 978-1-64379-068-8, (Elementary school, fiction, counting picture book, bilingual)

THEY CALL HER FREGONA by David Bowles, 244 pages, published by Kokila, an imprint of Penguin Random House LLC, ©2022, ISBN 978-0-593-46257-7, (Upper elementary/Middle school, fiction)

THOUSAND STEPS INTO NIGHT, A by Traci Chee, 373 pages, published by Clarion Books, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers, ©2022, ISBN 978-0-358-46998-8, (Middle school/High school, fantasy)

TÍA FORTUNA'S NEW HOME: A JEWISH CUBAN JOURNEY, by Ruth Behar, illustrated by Devon Holzwarth, unpagged, published by Alfred A. Knopf, an imprint of Random House Children's Books, a division of Penguin Random House LLC, ©2022, ISBN 978-0-593-17241-4, (Elementary school, fiction, picture book)



TODAY IS DIFFERENT, by Doua Moua, illustrated by Kim Holt, unpagged, published by Carolrhoda Books, an imprint of Lerner Publishing Group, Inc., ©2022, ISBN 978-1-7284-3029-4, (Elementary school, fiction, picture book)

TUMBLE, BY Celia C. Pérez, 352 pages, published by Kokila, an imprint of Penguin Random House LLC, ©2022, ISBN 978-0-593-32517-9, (Upper elementary school/Middle school, fiction)

VICTORY. STAND! RAISING MY FIST FOR JUSTICE by Tommie Smith and Derrick Barnes, illustrated by Dawud Anyabwile, 200 pages, published by Norton Young Readers, an imprint of W.W. Norton & Company, ©2022, ISBN 978-1-324-00390-8 (Middle school/High school, nonfiction/biography, graphic novel)

WE WERE THE FIRE: BIRMINGHAM 1963 by Shelia P. Moses, 159 pages, published by Nancy Paulsen Books, an imprint of Penguin Random House LLC, ©2022, ISBN 978-0-593-40748-6 (Upper elementary/Middle school, historical fiction)

WHERE WONDER GROWS, by Xelena González, illustrated by Adriana M. Garcia, unpagged, published by Cinco Punto Press, an imprint of Lee & Low Books Inc., ©2022, ISBN 978-1-947627-46-8 (Elementary school, fiction, picture book)

WORLD BELONGED TO US, THE, by Jacqueline Woodson, illustrated by Leo Espinosa, unpagged, published by Nancy Paulsen Books, an imprint of Penguin Random House LLC., ©2022, ISBN 978-0-399-54549-8 (Elementary school, fiction, picture book)

YEAR WE LEARNED TO FLY, THE, by Jacqueline Woodson, illustrated by Rafael López, unpagged, published by Nancy Paulsen Books, an imprint of Penguin Random House LLC, ©2022, ISBN 978-0-399-54553-5 (Elementary school, fiction, picture book)

YES WE WILL: ASIAN AMERICANS WHO SHAPED THIS COUNTRY, by Kelly Yang, illustrated by Nabi H Ali, Fahmida Azim, Marcos Chin, Salley Deng, Shreya Gupta, Julva Kuo, Julia Kwon, Nhung Lê, Kitkat Pecson, Dow Phumiruk, Sujean Rim, Dan Santat, Yuko Shimizu, Yuewei Shi and Yao Xiao, unpagged, published by Dial Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Penguin Random House LLC, ©2022, ISBN 978-0-593-46305-5 (Elementary school, nonfiction/biography, picture book)

