

BEST MULTICULTURAL CHILDREN'S BOOKS OF 2025

Curated by Michael McLinn, Lettycia Terrones, Lessa Kanai'opua PelayoLozada, Amber Hayes, and Patricia Miranda

ABUELA'S LETTER, by Debbie Zapata, illustrated by Alejandra Ruiz, unpagged, published by Magination Press, an imprint of the American Psychological Association, ©2025, ISBN 978-1-433-84368-6, (Elementary school, fiction, picture book)

ALBERTO SALAS PLAYS PAKA PAKA CON LA PAPA: JOIN THE QUEST WITH PERU'S FAMED SCIENTIST AND POTATO EXPERT, by Sara Andrea Fajardo, Illustrated by Juana Martinez-Neal, unpagged, published by Roaring Brook Press, ©2025, ISBN 978-1-25083-861-2, (Elementary school, nonfiction, picture book)

ALL THE BLUES IN THE SKY, by Renée Watson, 182 pages, published by Bloomsbury Children's Books, ©2025, ISBN 978-1-5476-0589-7, (Middle school, fiction)

AND SHE WAS LOVED: TONI MORRISON'S LIFE IN STORIES, by Andrea Davis Pinkney, illustrated by Daniel Minter, unpagged, published by Little, Brown and Company, a division of Hachette Group, Inc., ©2025, ISBN 978-0-316-18236-2, (Elementary school, fiction, picture book)

ANDRÉ: ANDRÉ LEON TALLEY -- A FABULOUSLY FASHIONABLE FAIRY TALE, by Carole Boston Weatherford and Rob Sanders, illustrated by Lamont O'Neal, unpagged, published by Henry Holt and Company ©2025, ISBN 978-1-250-88728-3, (Elementary school, nonfiction, picture book)

AT LAST SHE STOOD: HOW JOEY GUERRERO SPIED, SURVIVED, AND FOUGHT FOR FREEDOM, by Erin Entrada Kelly, 186 pages, published by Greenwillow Books, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers, ©2025, ISBN 978-0-06-321890-1, (Middle school, biography, nonfiction)

BIG ENOUGH, written and illustrated by Regina Linke, unpagged, published by Little, Brown and Company, ©2025, ISBN 978-0-316-53115-3, (Elementary school, fiction, picture book)

BLACK BOY, RISE, by Brynne Barnes, illustrated by Bryan Collier, unpagged, published by Chronicle Books LLC, ©2025, ISBN 978-1-7972-0073-6, (Elementary school, fiction, picture book)

BLACK MAMBAS, THE: THE WORLD'S FIRST ALL-WOMAN ANTI-POACHING UNIT, written and photographed by Kelly Crull, unpagged, published by Millbrook Press, an imprint of Lerner Publishing Group, Inc., ©2025, ISBN 978-8-7656-2725-9, (Elementary school, nonfiction, picture book)

BLOOD IN THE WATER, by Tiffany D. Jackson, 255 pages, published by Scholastic Press, an imprint of Scholastic Inc., ©2025, ISBN 978-1-338-84991-2, (Middle school, fiction)

BLUE SKY MORNING, written and illustrated by Kim Jihyun, translated by Polly Lawson, unpagged, published by Floris Books, ©2025, ISBN 978-1-78250-908-0, (Elementary school, fiction, picture book)

CEECEE: UNDERGROUND RAILROAD CINDERELLA, by Shana Keller, illustrated by Laura Freeman, unpagged, published by Charlesbridge Publishing, Inc., ©2025, ISBN 978-1-62354-389-1, (Elementary school, fiction picture book)

COACH, by Jason Reynolds, 248 pages, published by Atheneum Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing Division, ©2025, ISBN 978-8-3471-0237-2, (Middle school, fiction)

DEAR NEW FRIEND, by Taraneh Matloob, illustrated by Alida Massari, unpagged, published by Red Comet Press LLC, ©2025, ISBN 978-1-63655-146-3, (Elementary school, fiction, picture book)

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DISPLACED, by Patrick Ochieng, 209 pages, published by Carolrhoda Books, an imprint of Lerner Publishing Group, Inc., ©2025, ISBN 978-8-7656-4869-8, (Middle school, fiction)

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DREAM FOR THE LAND, by Laekan Zea Kemp, illustrated by Leo Espinosa, unpagged, published by Anne Schwartz Books, an imprint of Random House Children's Books, a division of Penguin Random House LLC, ©2025, ISBN 978-0-593-71030-2, (Elementary school, fiction, picture book)

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EL NIÑO, by Pam Muñoz Ryan, illustrated by Joe Cepeda, 243 pages, published by Scholastic Press, an imprint of Scholastic Inc., ©2025, ISBN 978-1-338-06855-9, (Middle school, fiction)

FAMILY FEAST! 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, ©2025, ISBN 978-0-593-89829-1, (Elementary school, fiction, picture book)

FISH FRY FRIDAY, by Winsome Bingham, illustrated by C. G. Esperanza, unpagged, published by Abrams Books for Young Readers, an imprint of ABRAMS, ©2025, ISBN 978-1-4197-6693-0, (Elementary school, fiction, picture book)

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GOLDEN NECKLACE, THE, by Mitali Perkins, illustrated by Maithili Joshi, 128 pages, published by Charlesbridge, ©2025, ISBN 978-1-62354-373-0, (Middle school, fiction)

GRACIELA IN THE ABYSS, by Meg Medina, illustrated by Anna and Elena Balbusso, 236 pages, published by Candlewick Press, ©2025, ISBN 978-1-5362-1945-6, (Middle school, fiction)

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HISTORY OF WE, THE, written and illustrated by Nikkolas Smith, unpagged, published by Kokila, an imprint of Penguin Random House LLC, ©2025, ISBN 978-0-593-61968-1, (Elementary school, nonfiction, picture book)

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HOW TO SAY GOODBYE IN CUBAN, written and illustrated by Daniel Miyares, 223 pages, published by Anne Schwartz Books, an imprint of Random House Children's Books, a division of Penguin Random House LLC, ©2025, ISBN 978-0-593-56829-3, (Upper Elementary/Middle school, memoir, graphic novel)

INCREDIBLY HUMAN HENSON BLAYZE, THE, by Derrick Barnes, 251 pages, published by Viking, an imprint of Penguin Random House LLC., ©2025, ISBN 978-1-9848-3675-5, (Middle school, fiction)



INVISIBLE PARADE, THE, by Leigh Bardugo and John Picacio, unpagged, published by Little, Brown and Company, a division of Hachette Group, Inc., ©2025, ISBN 979-0-316-29570-3, (Elementary school, fiction, picture book)

IF KAMALA CAN...YOU CAN TOO! by Carole Boston Weatherford, illustrated by Ariana Pacino, unpagged, published by Sourcebooks Jabberwocky, an imprint of Sourcebooks Kids, ©2025, ISBN 978-1-4642-4798-9, (Elementary school, fiction, picture book)

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KAHO'OLawe: THE TRUE STORY OF AN ISLAND AND HER PEOPLE, by Kamalani Hurley, illustrated by Harinani Orme, unpagged, published by Millbrook Press, an imprint of Lerner Publishing Group, ©2025, ISBN 979-8-7656-0501-1, (Elementary school, fiction, picture book)

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KNOT IS NOT A TANGLE, A, by Daniel Nayeri, illustrated by Vesper Stamper, unpagged, published by Alfred A. Knopf, an imprint of Random House Children's Books, a division of Penguin Random House LLC, ©2025, ISBN 978-0-593-80969-3, (Elementary school, fiction, picture book)

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LEAVING ROOM, THE, by Amber McBride, 203 pages, published by Feiwel and Friends Book, an imprint of Macmillan Publishing Group, LLC, ©2025, ISBN 978-1-250-90808-7, (Middle school/High school, fiction)

LEGENDARY FRYBREAD DRIVE-IN: INTERTRIBAL STORIES, edited by Cynthia Leitich Smith, 336 pages, published by Heartdrum, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers, ©2025, ISBN 978-0-06-331426-9, (Middle school/High school, fiction, Stories)

LEYENDAS, LEGENDES: 60 LATINE PEOPLE WHO CHANGED THE WORLD, by Mónica Mancillas, illustrated by Isadora Zeferino, 129 pages, published by Chronicle Books LLC, ©2025, ISBN 978-1-7972-1198-5, (Middle school, biography)

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NIC BLAKE AND THE REMARKABLES: THE BOOK OF ANANSI, by Angie Thomas, 463 pages, published by Clarion Books, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers, ©2025, ISBN 978-0-06-322518-3, (Middle school, fiction)

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ONE & ONLY GOOGOOSH, THE: IRAN'S BELOVED SUPERSTAR, written and illustrated by Azadeh Westergaard, unpagged, published by Viking, an imprint of Penguin Random House LLC, ©2025, ISBN 978-0-593-11463-6, (Elementary school, biography, picture book)

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TO THE TOP OF THE WORLD: BARBARA HILLARY, THE FIRST BLACK WOMAN TO REACH THE NORTH AND SOUTH POLES by Deborah Blumenthal, illustrated by Anastasia Magloire Williams, unpagged, published by Atheneum Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Simon & Schuster Publishing Division, ©2025, ISBN 978-1-6659-2773-4, (Elementary school, nonfiction, picture book)

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UNEXPECTED LIVES OF ORDINARY GIRLS, THE, by J. Anderson Coats, 251 pages, published by Atheneum Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing Division., ©2025, ISBN 978-1-6659-6861-4, (Middle school, fiction)



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