BEST MULTICULTURAL CHILDREN’S BOOKS OF 2017

Compiled by Dr. Claudette Shackelford McLinn, Lessa Kanani’opua Pelayo-Lozada, Lettycia Terrones, and Patricia Miranda


AMINA’S VOICE, by Hena Khan, 197 pages, published by Salaam Reads, ©2017 (Upper elementary school, fiction)


BRONZE AND SUNFLOWER, by Cao Wenxuan, translated from the Chinese by Helen Wang, illustrated by Meilo So, 386 pages, published by Candlewick Press, ©2017 (Upper elementary school, fiction)

CLAYTON BYRD GOES UNDERGROUND, by Rita Williams-Garcia, illustrated by Frank Morrison, 166 pages, published by Amistad, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers (Upper elementary school/Middle school, fiction)


CROSSING EBENEZER CREEK, by Tonya Bolden, 230 pages, published by Bloomsbury, ©2017 (Middle school/High school, historical fiction)

CROWN: AN ODE TO THE FRESH CUT, by Derrick Barnes, illustrated by Gordon C. James, 32 pages, published by Bolden, An Agate Imprint [A Denene Millner Book], ©2017 (Elementary school/Middle school, fiction, picture book)

DANZA! AMALIA HERNÁNDEZ AND EL BALLET FOLKLÓRICO DE MÉXICO, written and illustrated by Duncan Tonatiuh, 32 pages, published by Abrams Books for Young Readers, ©2017 (Elementary school, nonfiction/biology, picture book)
DIFFERENT POND, A, written by Bao Phi, illustrated by Thi Bui, 32 pages, published by Capstone Young Readers, ©2017 (Elementary school, fiction, picture book)

EPIC FAIL OF ARTURO ZAMORA, THE, by Pablo Cartaya, 236 pages, published by Viking (Upper elementary school/Middle school, fiction)


FIRST RULE OF PUNK, THE, written and illustrated by Celia C. Pérez, 310 pages, published by Viking, ©2017 (Upper elementary school/Middle school, fiction)


FRIDA KAHLO AND HER ANIMALITOS, by Monica Brown, illustrated by John Parra, 40 pages, published by North South, ©2017 (Elementary school, nonfiction/biography, picture book)


LET’S CLAP, JUMP, SING & SHOUT; DANCE, SPIN & TURN IT OUT!: GAMES,SONGS & STORIES FROM AN AFRICAN AMERICAN CHILDHOOD, collected by Patricia C. McKissack, illustrated by Brian Pinkney, 173 pages, published by Schwartz & Wade Books, ©2017 (Preschool/Elementary school, nonfiction & fiction [multiple genres])
LONG WAY DOWN, by Jason Reynolds, 320 pages, published by Bloomsbury, ©2017 (Middle school/High school, fiction/novel in verse)


MAYA LIN: THINKING WITH HER HANDS, by Susan Goldman Rubin, 112 pages, published by Chronicle Books, ©2017 (Upper elementary school/Middle school/High school, nonfiction/biography)


ONE LAST WORD: WISDOM FROM THE HARLEM RENAISSANCE, by Nikki Grimes, artwork by Cozbi A. Cabrera, R. Gregory Christie, Pat Cummings, et. al., 120 pages, published by Bloomsbury, ©2017 (Upper elementary school/Middle school, poetry)

OUT OF WONDER: POEMS CELEBRATING POETS, by Kwame Alexander with Chris Colderley and Marjory Wentworth, illustrated by Ekua Holmes, 40 pages, published by Candlewick Press, ©2017 (Upper elementary school/Middle school, nonfiction, poetry, picture book)

PATHFINDERS: THE JOURNEYS OF 16 EXTRAORDINARY BLACK SOULS, by Tonya Bolden, 124 pages, published by Abrams Books for Young Readers, ©2017 (Upper elementary school/Middle school, nonfiction/biography)

PIECING ME TOGETHER, by Renée Watson, 264 pages, published by Bloomsbury, ©2017 (Upper elementary school/Middle school/High school, fiction)


REFUGEE, by Alan Gratz, 338 pages, published by Scholastic Press, ©2017 (Upper elementary school/Middle school, fiction)


STARS BENEATH OUR FEET, THE, by David Barclay Moore, 294 pages, published by Alfred A. Knopf, ©2017 (Upper elementary school/Middle school, fiction)

STEF SOTO, TACO QUEEN, by Jennifer Torres, 166 pages, published by Little, Brown and Company, ©2017 (Upper elementary school/Middle school, fiction)
