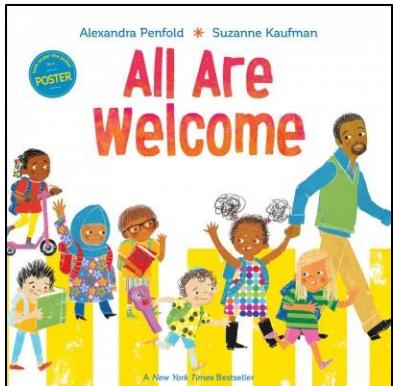


# Lucy Robbins Welles LIBRARY

## CHILDREN'S BOOKSLIST

### Talking About Race Books for Toddlers & Pre-K

Seeing diverse experiences represented in books helps children to explore their own identities and develop empathy for others. These books can offer a starting point for conversations about race and racism.



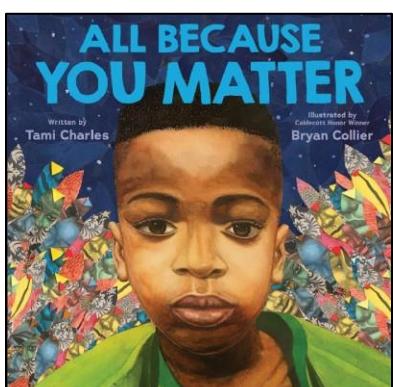
#### All Are Welcome

by Alexandra Penfold & Suzanne Kaufman

Picture Book (2018)  
P Penfold

Follow a group of children through a day in their school, where everyone is welcomed with open arms. A school where students grow and learn from each other's traditions and celebrate diversity. *All Are Welcome* lets young children know that no matter what, they have a place, they have a space, they are welcome in their school.

**Suggested for ages 3-7**



#### All Because You Matter

by Tami Charles; illustrated by Bryan Collier

Picture Book (2020)  
P Charles

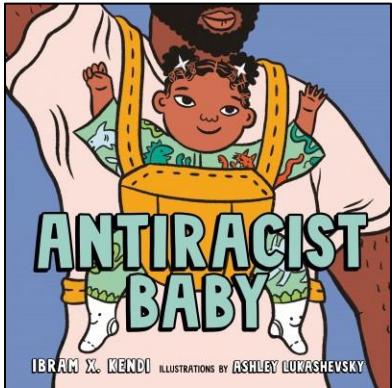
Discover *All Because You Matter*, a lyrical, heart-lifting love letter to Black and brown children everywhere. This powerful, rhythmic lullaby reassures readers that their matter and their worth is never diminished, no matter the circumstance: through the joy and wonder of their first

steps and first laughs, through the hardship of adolescent struggles, and the pain and heartbreak of current events, they always have, and always will, *matter*.

*Also available as a Hoopla E-Audiobook.*

**Suggested for ages 4-8**





## Antiracist Baby

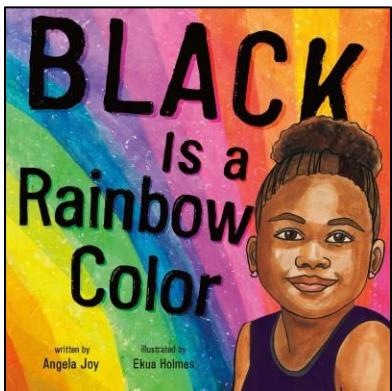
by Ibram X. Kendi; illustrated by Ashley Lukashevsky

Picture Book (2020)  
P Kendi

Take your first steps with *Antiracist Baby*! With bold art and thoughtful yet playful text, *Antiracist Baby* introduces the youngest readers and the grown-ups in their lives to the concept and power of antiracism. Babies and toddlers will be enchanted by bright images of diverse families

playing and snuggling with their babies.

Suggested for ages 1-4



## Black is a Rainbow Color

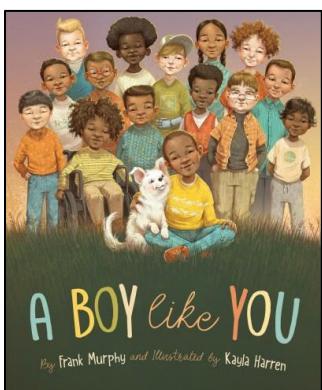
by Angela Joy; illustrated by Ekua Holmes

Picture Book (2020)  
P Joy

A child reflects on the meaning of being Black in this moving and powerful anthem about a people, a culture, a history, and a legacy that lives on. From the wheels of a bicycle to the robe on Thurgood Marshall's back, Black surrounds our lives. It is a color to simply describe some of

our favorite things, but it also evokes a deeper sentiment about the incredible people who helped change the world and a community that continues to grow and thrive.

Suggested for ages 4-10



## A Boy Like You

by Frank Murphy; illustrated by Kayla Harren

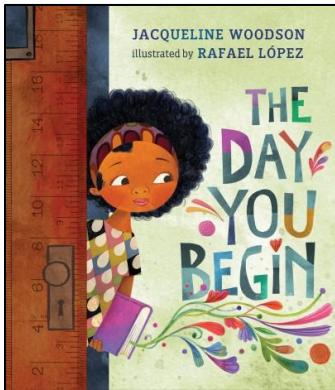
Picture Book (2019)  
P Murphy

There's more to being a boy than sports, feats of daring, and keeping a stiff upper lip. *A Boy Like You* encourages every boy to embrace all the things that make him unique, to be brave and ask for help, to tell his own story and listen to the stories of those around him. In an age when boys are expected to fit into

a particular mold, this book celebrates all the wonderful ways to be a boy.

Suggested for ages 4-8





## The Day You Begin

by Jacqueline Woodson; illustrated by Rafael López

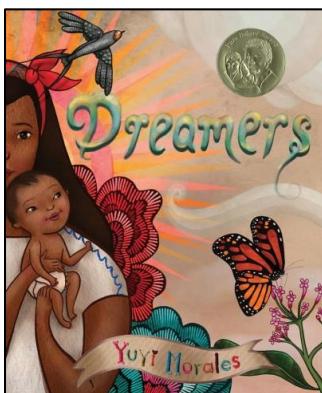
Picture Book (2018)  
P Woodson

There are many reasons to feel different. Maybe it's how you look or talk, or where you're from; maybe it's what you eat, or something just as random. It's not easy to take those first steps into a place where nobody really knows you yet, but somehow you do it. Jacqueline Woodson's lyrical text and

Rafael López's dazzling art reminds us that we all feel like outsiders sometimes – and how brave it is that we go forth anyway.

*Also available as an OverDrive Ebook.*

**Suggested for ages 4-8**



## Dreamers

by Yuyi Morales

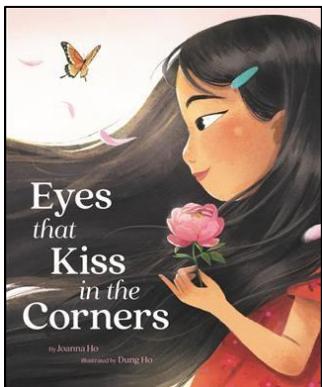
Picture Book (2018)  
P Morales

What if you dreamed of a new life, and it came to you? What if that new life led you to a new country? *Dreamers* is a celebration of making your home with the things you always carry: your resilience, your dreams, your hopes and history. It's the story of finding your way in a new place, of navigating an

unfamiliar world and finding the best parts of it. In dark times, it's a promise that you can make better tomorrows.

*Also available as a Hoopla E-Video.*

**Suggested for ages 4-8**



## Eyes That Kiss in the Corners

by Joanna Ho; illustrated by Dung Ho

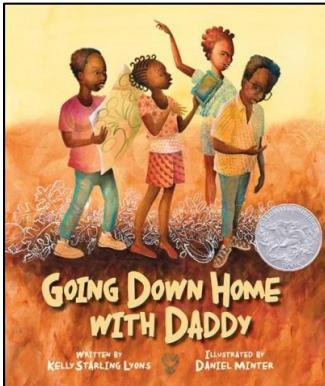
Picture Book (2021)  
P Ho

A self-confident young girl recounts how her eyes are like her mother's, her amah's, and her little sister's. They each have eyes that kiss in the corners and glow like warm tea, crinkle into crescent moons, and are filled with stories of the past and

hope for the future.

**Suggested for ages 4-8**





## Going Down Home with Daddy

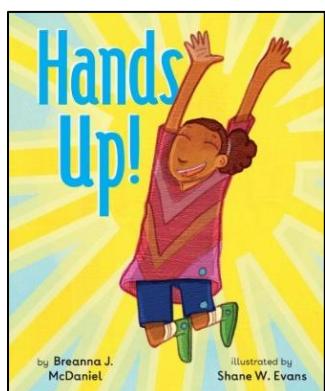
by Kelly Starling Lyons; illustrated by Daniel Minter

Picture Book (2019)  
P Lyons

Alan looks forward to the annual family reunion at the farm where Daddy grew up, but everyone is supposed to share something special and Alan worries about arriving with empty hands. A rich and moving celebration of history, culture and ritual that speaks to the power of family and multigenerational family traditions.

Also available as a Hoopla E-Video.

Suggested for ages 4-11



## Hands Up!

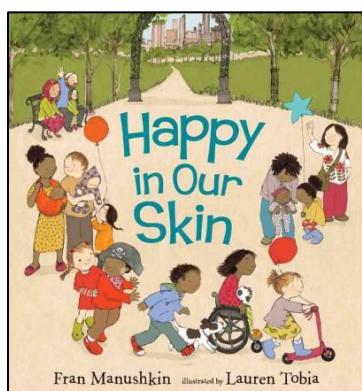
by Breanna J. McDaniel; illustrated by Shane W. Evans

Picture Book (2019)  
P McDaniel

A young black girl lifts her baby hands up to greet the sun, reaches her hands up for a book on a high shelf, and raises her hands up in praise at a church service. As she grows, she lives through everyday moments of joy, love, and sadness. And when she gets a little older, she joins together with her family

and her community in a protest march, where they lift their hands up together in resistance and strength.

Suggested for ages 4-8



## Happy in Our Skin

by Fran Manushkin; illustrated by Lauren Tobia

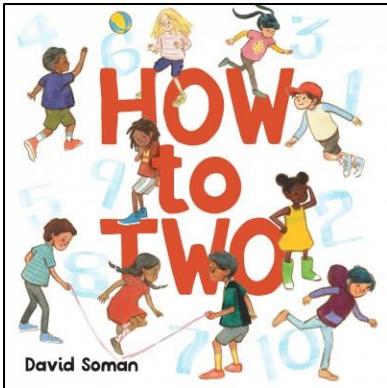
Picture Book (2015)  
P Manushkin

Is there anything more splendid than a baby's skin? Just savor these bouquets of babies, cocoa-brown and peaches and cream. As they grow, their clever skin does too, enjoying hugs and tickles, protecting them inside and out, and making them one of a kind. For families of all stripes comes a sweet

celebration of what makes us unique, and what holds us together.

Suggested for ages 3-7





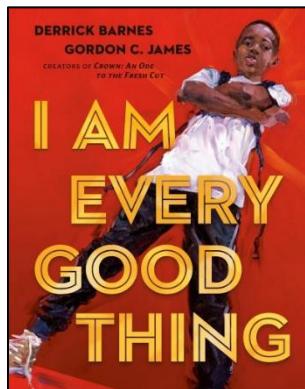
## How to Two

by David Soman

Picture Book (2019)  
P Soman

A quiet day at the playground turns into a boisterous park-wide adventure as one boy on the slide becomes two kids on the see-saw, then three jumping rope. Before long, ten new friends are playing like they've known one another forever. A joyful counting book about inclusivity, play, and the thrill of making new friends.

**Suggested for ages 3-6**



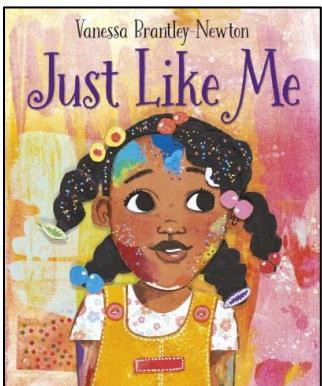
## I Am Every Good Thing

by Derrick Barnes; illustrated by Gordon C. James

Picture Book (2020)  
P Barnes

“I am brave. I am hope / ... I am every good thing.” This book’s confident Black narrator is proud of everything that makes him who he is. Barnes’ empowering text and James’ dynamic oil paintings celebrates Black boys and reminds children that they are special and worthy of being loved.

**Suggested for ages 4-10**



## Just Like Me

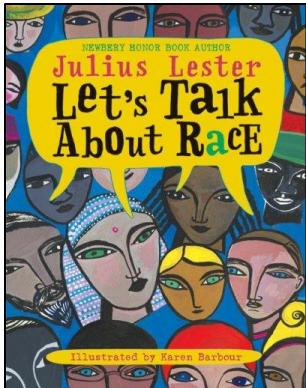
by Vanessa Brantley-Newton

Poetry Picture Book (2020)  
J811 Brantley-Newton

There are all kinds of girls! 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 mom and girls who wish they had a daddy. With bright portraits in vibrant colors and unique patterns and fabrics, this book invites you to find yourself within its pages.

**Suggested for ages 4-8**





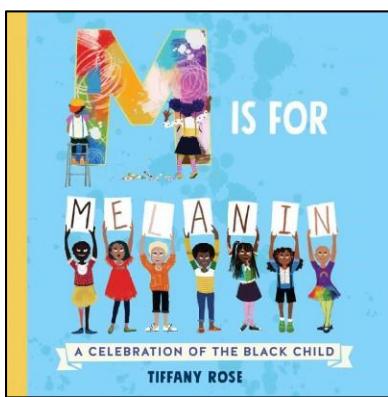
## Let's Talk About Race

by Julius Lester; illustrated Karen Barbour

Nonfiction Picture Book (2005)  
J305.8 Lester

“I am a story. So are you. So is everyone.” In this acclaimed book, Lester focuses on the sharing of personal stories to explore similarities and differences. He uses a friendly, conversational tone to explore the topic of race in a way that is clear and accessible to young children. Karen Barbour’s dramatic, vibrant paintings speak to the heart of Lester’s unique vision, truly a celebration of all of us.

**Suggested for ages 4-10**



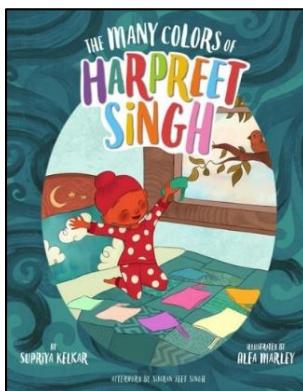
## M is for Melanin: A Celebration of the Black Child

by Tiffany Rose

Picture Book (2019)  
P Rose

Dive into this empowering alphabet book that teaches kids their ABCs and celebrates Black children! Each letter of the alphabet contains affirming, Black-positive messages, from “A is for Afro” and “F is for Fresh” to “V is for Voice” and “Z is for Zillion.” Skill-reinforcing word examples and striking multicolored artwork encourages children to love the skin that they’re in.

**Suggested for ages 3-7**



## The Many Colors of Harpreet Singh

by Supriya Kelkar; illustrated by Alea Marley

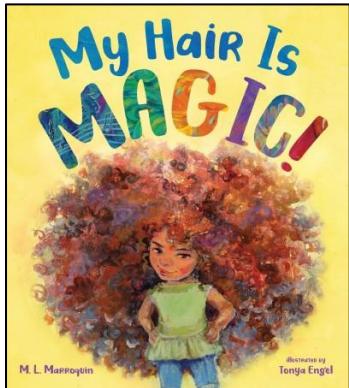
Picture Book (2019)  
P Kelkar

Harpreet Singh has a different color for every mood and occasion, from pink for dancing to bhangra beats to red for courage. He especially takes care with his patka – his turban – smoothing it out and making sure it always matches his outfit.

But when Harpreet’s mom finds a new job in a snowy city and they have to move, all he wants is to be invisible. Will he ever feel a happy sunny yellow again?

**Suggested for ages 3-7**





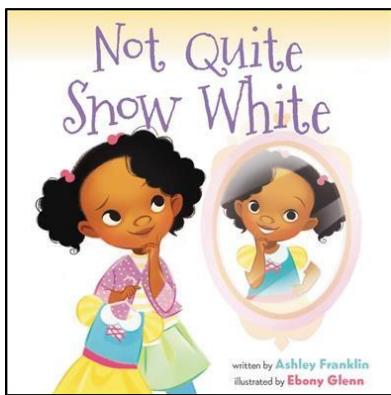
## My Hair is Magic!

by M. L. Marroquin; illustrated by Tonya Engel

Picture Book (2020)  
P Marroquin

This little girl knows her hair is great just as it is. When people ask, “Why is your hair so BIG?” she answers, “Why isn’t yours?” Her hair is soft, it protects her, it’s both gentle and fierce. While some might worry about how it’s different and try to contain it, she gives it the freedom to be extraordinary.

Suggested for ages 3-7



## Not Quite Snow White

by Ashley Franklin; illustrated by Ebony Glenn

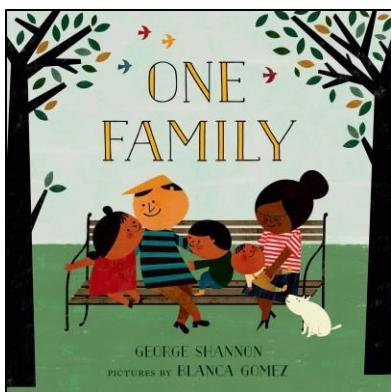
Picture Book (2019)  
P Franklin

Tameika is a girl who belongs on the stage. She loves to act, sing, and dance – and she’s pretty good at it, too. So where her school announces their *Snow White* musical, Tameika auditions for the lead princess role. But the other kids think she’s “not quite” right to play the role. They

whisper, they snicker, and they glare. Will Tameika let their harsh words be her final curtain call?

*Also available as a VOX book.*

Suggested for ages 4-8



## One Family

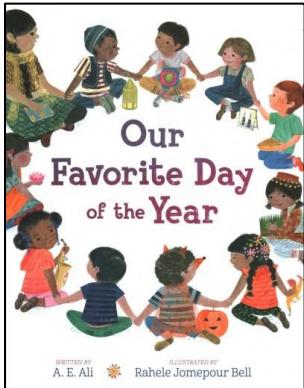
by George Shannon; illustrated by Blanca Gomez

Picture Book (2015)  
P Shannon

Just how many things can “one” be? One box of crayons. One batch of cookies. One world. One family. This playful, interactive book shows how a family can be big or small and comprised of people of a range of genders and races.

Suggested for ages 3-7





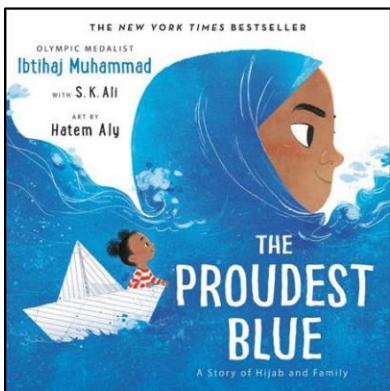
## Our Favorite Day of the Year

by A. E. Ali; illustrated by Rahele Jomepour Bell

Picture Book (2020)  
P Ali

Four kindergartners who think they have nothing in common become friends after sharing traditions of their holidays, including Eid-ul-Fitr, Rosh Hashanah, Christmas, and Pi Day.

**Suggested for ages 4-8**



## The Proudest Blue: A Story of Hijab and Family

by Ibtihaj Muhammad with S. K. Ali;  
illustrated by Hatem Aly

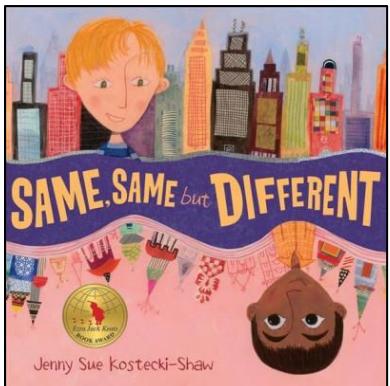
Picture Book (2019)  
P Muhammad

Faizah looks forward to the first day of school, and 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.

*Also available as an OverDrive Ebook & OverDrive Audiobook.*

**Suggested for ages 4-8**



## Same, Same but Different

by Jenny Sue Kostecki-Shaw

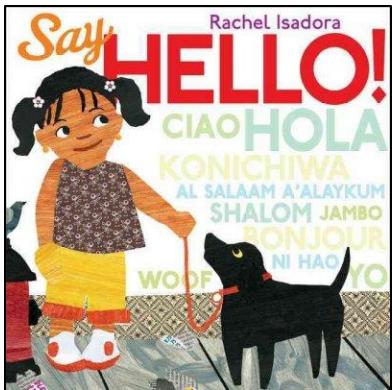
Picture Book (2011)  
P Kostecki-Shaw

Elliot lives in America, and Kailash lives in India. They are pen pals. By exchanging letters and pictures, they learn that they both love to climb trees, have pets, and go to school. Their worlds might look different, but they are actually similar. Same, same - but different!

*Also available as a Hoopla E-Video.*

**Suggested for ages 4-8**





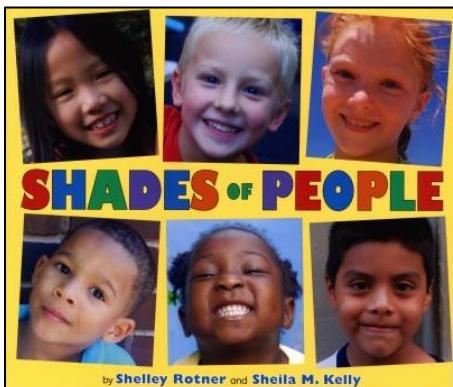
## Say Hello!

by Rachel Isadora

Picture Book (2010)  
P Isadora

Carmelita loves to greet everyone in her colorful neighborhood. There are people from so many different cultures! They all like to say hello too, so now Carmelita can say hello in Spanish, English, French, Japanese, and many other languages. And her dog, Manny? Well, he seems to understand everyone, and gives a happy "Woof!" wherever he goes.

**Suggested for ages 2-5**



## Shades of People

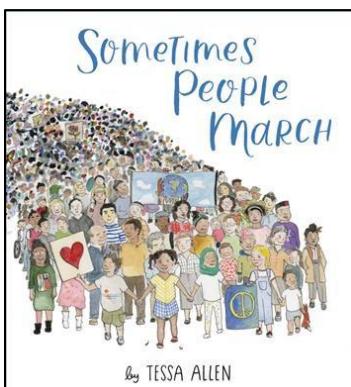
by Shelley Rotner & Sheila M. Kelly

Picture Book (2009)  
P Rotner

A celebration of the diversity of everyday life, this exploration of many different shades of human skin pairs simple text with vibrant photographs. At school, at the beach, and in the city, diverse groups of

children invite young readers both to take notice and to look beyond the obvious.

**Suggested for ages 2-5**



## Sometimes People March

by Tessa Allen

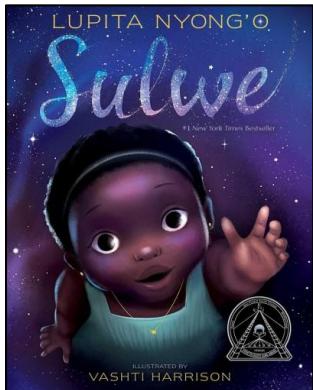
Picture Book (2020)  
P Allen

Throughout American history, one thing remains true: no matter how or why people march, they are powerful because they march together. With a spare, inspiring text and gorgeous watercolor illustrations, this is a timeless and important book for activists of all ages.

*Also available as an OverDrive Ebook & VOX book.*

**Suggested for ages 4-8**





## Sulwe

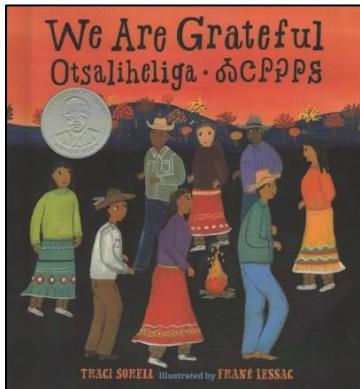
by Lupita Nyong'o; illustrated by Vashti Harrison

Picture Book (2019)  
P Nyong'o

Sulwe has skin the color of midnight. She is darker than everyone in her family. She is darker than anyone in her school. Sulwe just wants to be beautiful and bright, like her mother and sister. Then a magical journey in the night sky opens her eyes and changes everything. In this stunning debut picture book, actress Lupita Nyong'o creates a whimsical and heartwarming story to inspire children to see their own unique beauty.

Also available as an OverDrive Ebook.

**Suggested for ages 4-8**



## We Are Grateful: Otsaliheliga

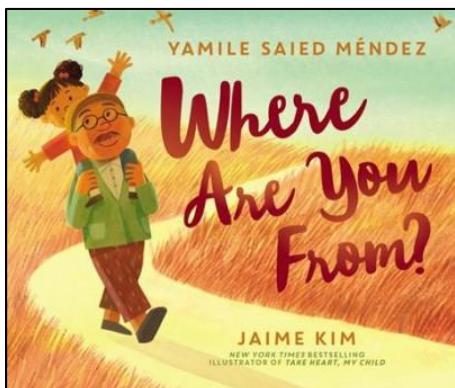
by Traci Sorell; illustrated by Frané Lessac

Nonfiction Picture Book (2018)  
J970.1 Sorell

“Cherokee people say *otsaliheliga* to express gratitude. It is a reminder to celebrate our blessings and reflect on struggles – daily, throughout the year, and across the seasons.” Follow an extended family through the months of the year as they take part in activities and traditions that

express gratitude and carry on Cherokee history and culture.

**Suggested for ages 4-8**



## Where Are You From?

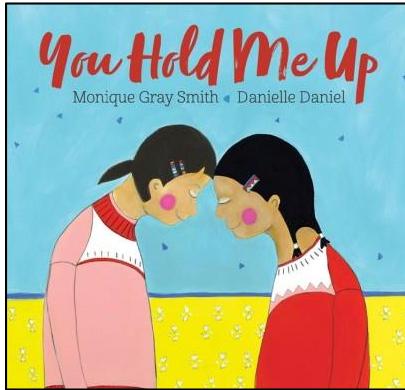
by Yamile Saied Méndez; illustrated by Jaime Kim

Picture Book (2019)  
P Méndez

When a young girl is asked where she's from – where she's really from – none of her answers seem to be the right one. She decides to turn to her dear abuelo for some help with this ever-persistent question. But he doesn't quite give her the answer she expects.

**Suggested for ages 4-8**





## You Hold Me Up

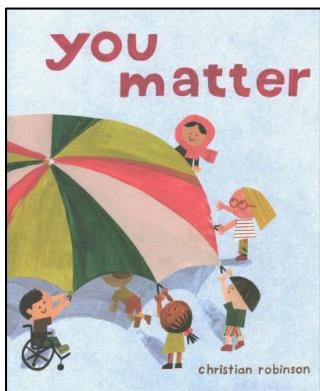
by Monique Gray Smith; illustrated by Danielle Daniel

Picture Book (2017)  
P Smith

This vibrant picture book encourages children to show love and support for each other and to consider each other's well-being in their everyday actions. Simple words and bright images underscore the importance of the connections children make with their friends, classmates

and families.

**Suggested for ages 3-7**



## You Matter

by Christian Robinson

Picture Book (2020)  
P Robinson

In this full, bright, and beautiful picture book, many different perspectives around the world are deftly and empathetically explored – from a pair of bird-watchers to the pigeons they're feeding. Young readers will be drawn into the luminous

illustrations inviting them to engage with the world in a new way and see how everyone is connected, and that everyone matters.

*Also available as a VOX book.*

**Suggested for ages 3-7**



*Lucy Robbins Welles*  
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