

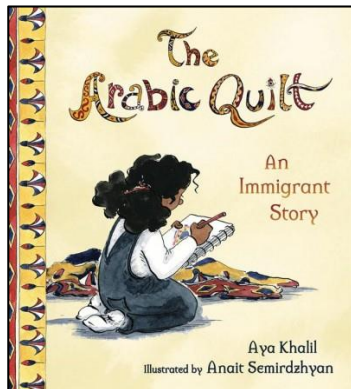
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CHILDREN'S BOOKSLIST

Talking About Race

Books for Grades K – 3

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.



The Arabic Quilt: An Immigrant Story

by Aya Khalil; illustrated by Anait Semirdzhyan

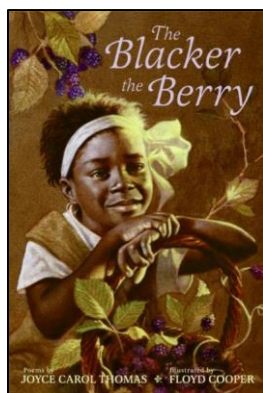
Picture Book (2020)
P Khalil

When Kanzi moves to a new town with her Mama and Baba, she is afraid of looking different as an Egyptian American. But when a classmate makes fun of Kanzi's Mama for speaking Arabic, Kanzi's teacher responds by assigning a class project that teaches the value of being bilingual: a classroom collage

quilt with all the students' names written on it in Arabic.

Also available as a Hoopla E-Video.

Suggested for ages 6-10



The Blacker the Berry: Poems

by Joyce Carol Thomas; illustrated by Floyd Cooper

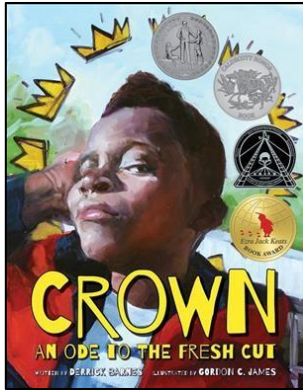
Poetry Picture Book (2008)
J811.54 Thomas

Black is dazzling and distinctive, like toasted wheat berry bread; snowberries in the fall; rich, red cranberries; and the bronzed last leaves of summer. This lyrical and luminous poetry collection explores themes of individuality, racially-mixed heritage and positive self-identity. Thomas celebrates the beauty and variety of Black

American skin shades, understanding that "When we measure who we are / We don't leave anybody out."

Suggested for ages 5-10





Crown: An Ode to the Fresh Cut

by Derrick Barnes; illustrated by Gordon C. James

Picture Book (2017)

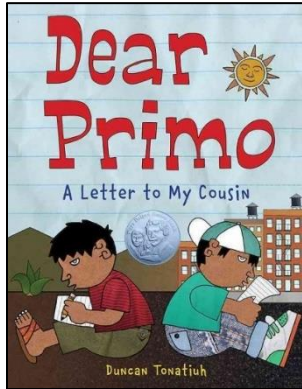
P Barnes

A fresh cut makes boys *fly*. Derrick Barnes's smooth, fresh words and Gordon C. James's lush, vibrant illustrations capture the confidence, pride, and magic black and brown boys feel the moment they get a new haircut and admire their own beautiful

reflections in the mirror.

Also available as an OverDrive Audiobook & Hoopla E-Video.

Suggested for ages 5-12



Dear Primo: A Letter to My Cousin

by Duncan Tonatiuh

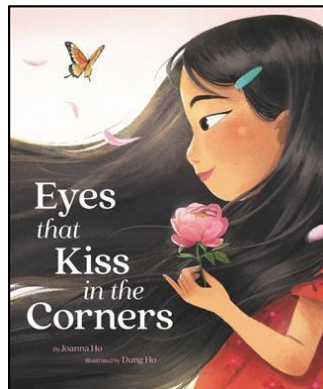
Picture Book (2010)

P Tonatiuh

Meet Charlie and Carlitos. Charlie lives in urban America, while Carlitos, his primo, lives in Mexico's countryside. Although they have never met, they exchange letters and describe their homes, games, foods, fiestas and holidays, and come to realize how

much they have in common.

Suggested for ages 5-9



Eyes That Kiss in the Corners

by Joanna Ho; illustrated by Dung Ho

Picture Book (2021)

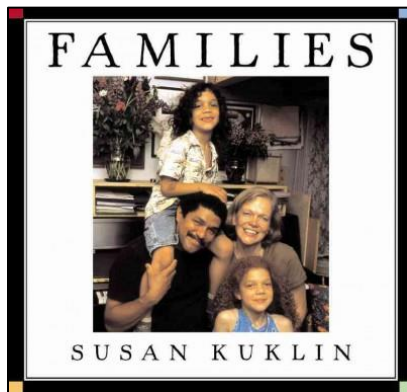
P Ho

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





Families

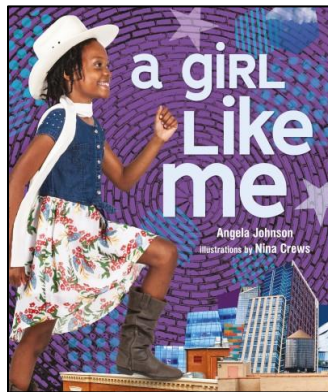
by Susan Kuklin

Nonfiction Picture Book (2006)
J306.85 Kuklin

Combining interviews and engaging color photos, acclaimed photo-essayist Susan Kuklin celebrates the diversity of families in America. In frank, funny, and touching interviews, children from 15 different families

talk about how they identify themselves as a family.

Suggested for ages 5-12



A Girl Like Me

by Angela Johnson; illustrated by Nina Crews

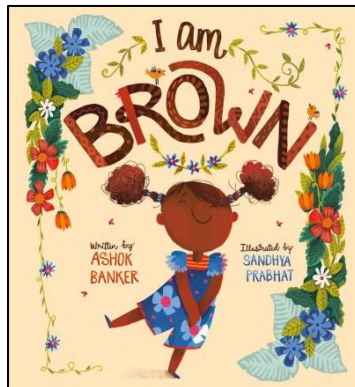
Picture Book (2020)
P Johnson

Empower young readers to embrace their individuality, reject societal limitations, and follow their dreams. This inspiring picture book brings together a poem by acclaimed author Angela Johnson and Nina Crews's distinctive photocollage

illustrations to celebrate girls of color.

Also available as an OverDrive Ebook.

Suggested for ages 5-10



I am Brown

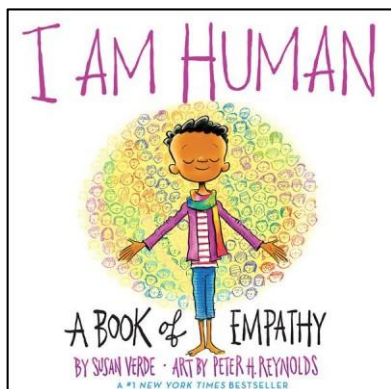
by Ashok Banker; illustrated by Sandhya Prabhat

Picture Book (2020)
P Banker

"I am brown. / I am beautiful. / I am perfect." A joyful celebration of the skin you're in – of being brown, of being amazing, of being you!

Suggested for ages 5-8





I am Human: A Book of Empathy

by Susan Verde; illustrated by Peter H. Reynolds

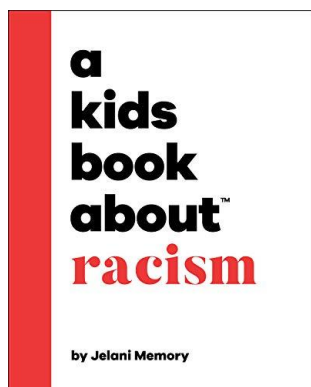
Picture Book (2018)
P Verde

Being human means we are full of possibility. We learn, we dream, we wonder at the world around us. But we also make mistakes and can feel fearful or sad. *I am Human* affirms that we can make good choices by acting with

compassion and having empathy for others and ourselves. When we find common ground, we can feel connected to the great world around us and mindfully strive to be our best selves.

Also available as a Freading Ebook.

Suggested for ages 5-9



a kids book about: racism

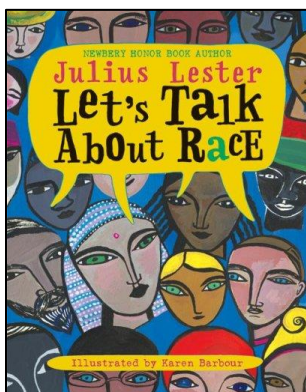
by Jelani Memory

Nonfiction Book (2019)
Parent P Better Together

Inside, you'll find a clear description of what racism is, how it makes people feel when they experience it, and how to spot it when it happens. This is one conversation that's never too early to start, and this book was written to be an introduction for kids

on the topic.

Suggested for ages 5-9



Let's Talk About Race

by Julius Lester; illustrated Karen Barbour

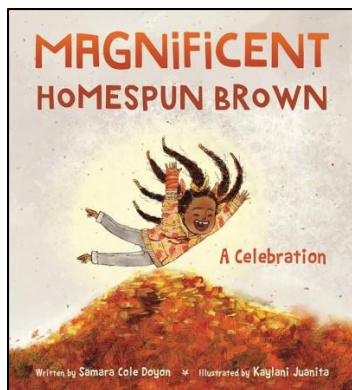
Nonfiction Picture Book (2005)
J305.8 Lester

"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





Magnificent Homespun Brown: A Celebration

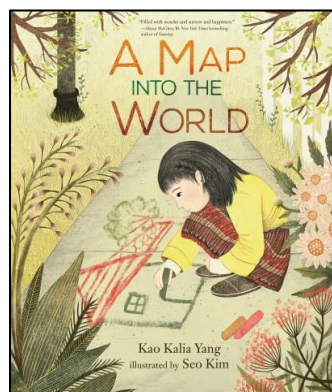
by Samara Cole Doyon; illustrated by Kaylani Juanita

Picture Book (2020)
P Doyon

Told by succession of exuberant young narrators, *Magnificent Homespun Brown* is a story – a song, a poem, a celebration – about feeling at home in one's own beloved skin.

Also available as an OverDrive Audiobook & Hoopla E-Video.

Suggested for ages 6-9



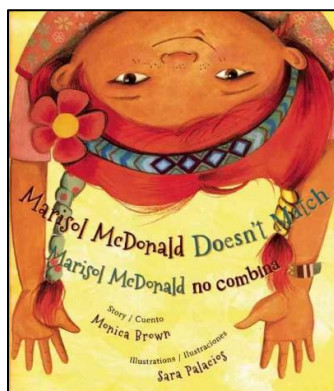
A Map into the World

by Kao Kalia Yang; illustrated by Seo Kim

Picture Book (2019)
P Yang

Paj Ntaub, a young Hmong American girl, spends a busy year with her family in their new home, and seeks a way to share the beauty of the world with a grieving neighbor.

Suggested for ages 6-10



Marisol McDonald Doesn't Match

= *Marisol McDonald no combina*

by Monica Brown; illustrated by Sara Palacios

Bilingual Picture Book (2011)
Spanish P Brown

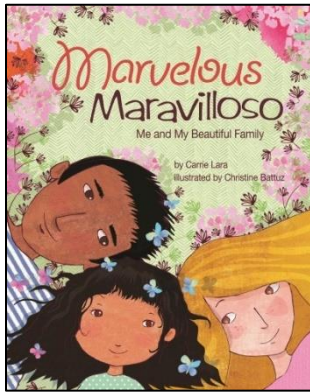
Marisol McDonald has flaming red hair and nut brown skin. Polka dots and stripes are her favorite combination. She prefers peanut butter and jelly burritos in her lunch box. To

Marisol, these seemingly mismatched things make perfect sense. But other people wrinkle their nose in confusion – can't she just be one or the other?

Parallel English and Spanish texts.

Suggested for ages 5-8



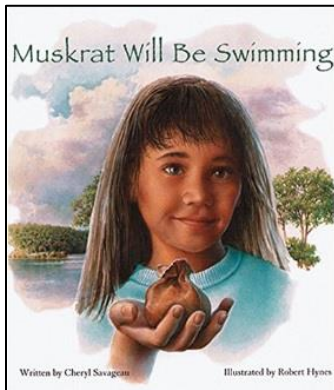


Marvelous Maravilloso: Me and My Beautiful Family

by Carrie Lara; illustrated by Christine Battuz

Picture Book (2018)
P Lara

Marvelous Maravilloso follows a young girl as she finds joy in the colors of the world all around her. She talks about being mixed race and what color means within the dynamics of race, ethnicity, and culture. "The world is full of different colors... hundreds of colors, everywhere. People are different colors too. Our colors make us beautiful and unique."
Suggested for ages 5-8



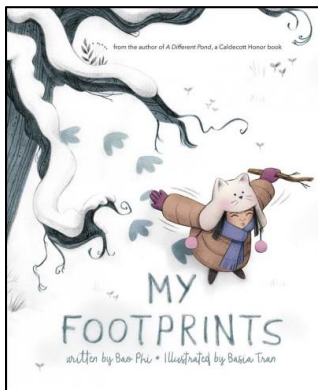
Muskrat Will Be Swimming

by Cheryl Savageau; illustrated by Robert Hynes

Picture Book (1996)
P* Savageau

Although Jeannie loves her lakeside neighborhood, her feelings are hurt by her schoolmates who live in fancier homes and call her a Lake Rat. When she confides her troubles to her grandfather, he shares a Seneca creation story and helps her find strength, not fear, in her identity as a Native person living in an Anglo society. A heartwarming story for all who have dealt with the fear of being different.

Suggested for ages 6-10



My Footprints

by Bao Phi; illustrated by Basia Tran

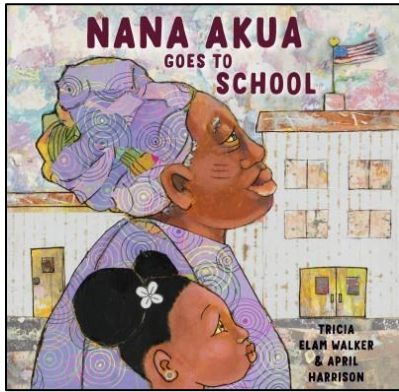
Picture Book (2019)
P Phi

Thuy walks home one winter afternoon, upset after being bullied at school. It hurts when kids laugh at her for having two moms, or tell her to "go back to where you come from." Noticing a bird's footprints in the snow, Thuy works through her emotions of anger and sadness by turning her own footprints into the prints of different animals.

Also available as a VOX book.

Suggested for ages 5-10





Nana Akua Goes to School

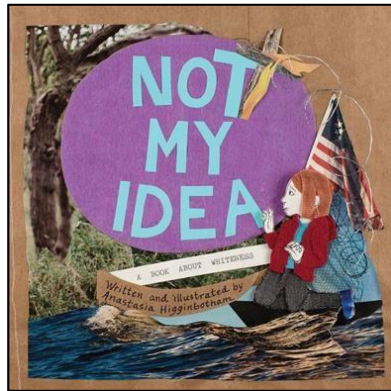
by Trisha Elam Walker; illustrated by April Harrison

Picture Book (2020)

P Walker

Next Monday is Grandparent's Day, and everyone is very excited. Zura, however, is worried about how her classmates will react to her Ghanaian Nana's tribal markings. Can she and Nana find a way to show how special and meaningful they are?

Suggested for ages 5-9



Not My Idea: A Book About Whiteness

by Anastasia Higginbotham

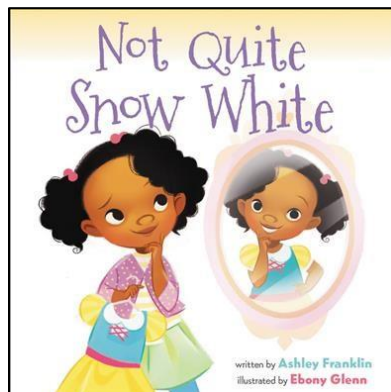
Nonfiction Picture Book (2018)

J305.8 Higginbotham

A white child sees a TV news report of a white police officer shooting and killing a black man. "In our family, we don't see color," his mother says, but he sees the colors plain enough. An afternoon in the library's history stacks uncover the truth of white supremacy in America. Racism was not his idea and he refuses to defend it.

Also available as a Hoopla Ebook.

Suggested for ages 6-12



Not Quite Snow White

by Ashley Franklin; illustrated by Ebony Glenn

Picture Book (2019)

P Franklin

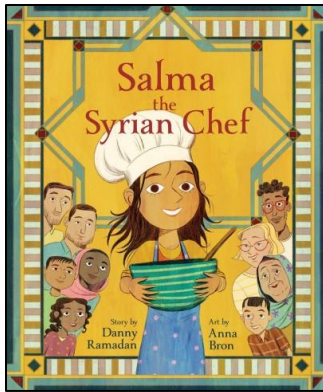
Tameika is a girl who belongs on the stage. She loves to act, sing, and dance – and she's pretty good at it, too. So where her school announces their *Snow White* musical, Tameika auditions for the lead princess role. But the other kids that she's "not quite" right to play the role. They

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





Salma the Syrian Chef

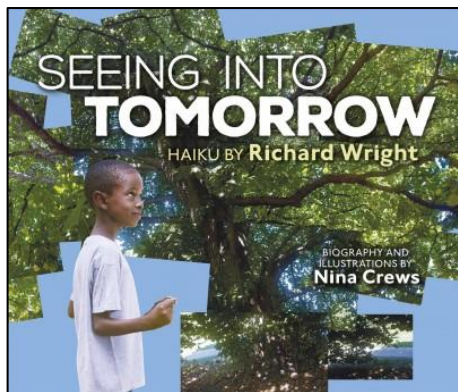
by Danny Ramadan; illustrated by Anna Bron

Picture Book (2020)

P Ramadan

All Salma wants is to make her mama smile again. Between English classes, job interviews, and missing Papa back in Syria, Mama always seems busy or sad. A homemade Syrian meal might cheer her up, but Salma doesn't know the recipe, or what to call the vegetables in English, or where to find the right spices! Luckily, the staff and other newcomers in her Welcome Home are happy to lend a hand.

Suggested for ages 5-8



Seeing into Tomorrow: Haiku by Richard Wright

by Richard Wright; illustrated by Nina Crews

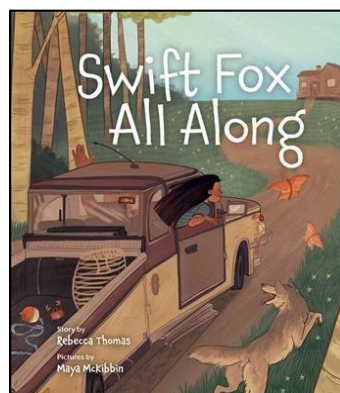
Poetry Picture Book (2018)

J811.52 Wright

From watching a sunset to finding a beetle, Richard Wright's haiku puts everyday moments into focus. Paired with photo-collage artwork by Nina Crews,

Seeing into Tomorrow celebrates the lives of contemporary African American boys. Also available as an *OverDrive Ebook*.

Suggested for ages 6-9



Swift Fox All Along

by Rebecca Thomas; illustrated by Maya McKibbin

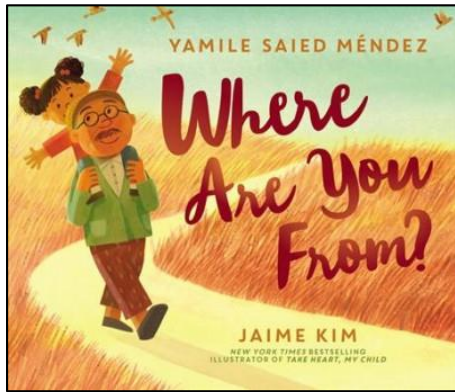
Picture Book (2020)

P Thomas

When Swift Fox's father picks her up to go visit her aunts, uncles, and cousins, her belly is already full of butterflies. And when he tells her that today is the day that she'll learn how to be Mi'kmaq, the butterflies grow even bigger. What if she doesn't fit in with her family?

Suggested for ages 5-9





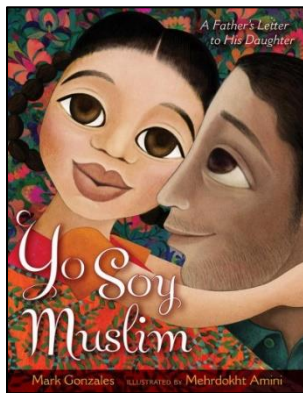
Where Are You From?

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



Yo Soy Muslim: A Father's Letter to his Daughter

by Mark Gonzales; illustrated by Mehrdokht Amini

Picture Book (2017)
P Gonzales

From Muslim and Latino poet Mark Gonzales comes a touching and lyrical picture book about a parent who encourages his child to find joy and pride in all aspects of their multicultural identity.

Suggested for ages 5-10



Your Name is a Song

by Jamilah Thompkins-Bigelow;
illustrated by Luisa Uribe

Picture Book (2020)
P Thompkins-Bigelow

Frustrated by a day full of teachers and classmates mispronouncing her beautiful name, a little girl tells her mother she never wants to come back to school. In response, the girl's mother teaches her about the musicality of African, Asian, Black-American, Latinx, and Middle Eastern names on their lyrical walk home through the city. *Also available as a Hoopla Ebook.*

Suggested for ages 5-10



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