



Project Suitcase

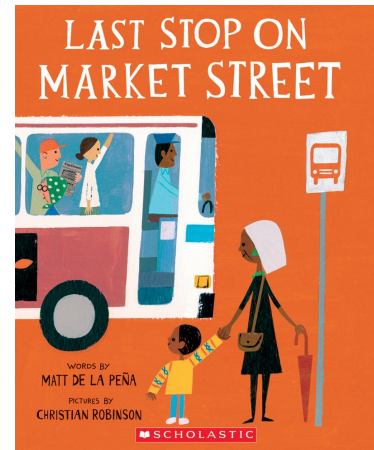
Unpacking Exciting New Worlds of Learning



Last Stop On Market Street

Matt de la Peña

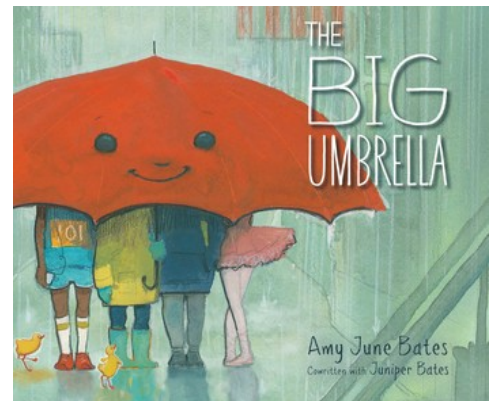
- Grades: PreK-4
- Genre: Fiction
- Suitcase Topics: Kindness, Community, Gratitude, Grandparents
 - ***Sneak Peek:** Every Sunday after church, CJ and his grandma ride the bus across town. But today, CJ wonders why they don't own a car like his friend Colby. Why doesn't he have an iPod like the boys on the bus? How come they always have to get off in the dirty part of town? Each question is met with an encouraging answer from Grandma, who helps him see the beauty and fun in their routine and the world around them.*

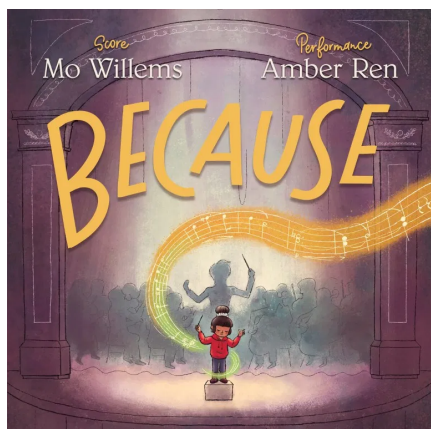


The Big Umbrella

Amy June Bates
Cowritten with Juniper Bates

- Grades: PreK-5
- Genre: Fiction
- Suitcase Topics: Acceptance, Inclusion, Tolerance
 - *Sneak Peek: By the door there is an umbrella. It is big. It is so big that when it starts to rain there is room for everyone underneath. It doesn't matter if you are tall. Or plaid. Or hairy. It doesn't matter how many legs you have. Don't worry that there won't be enough room under the umbrella. Because there will always be room.*





Because

Mo Willems

Amber Ren

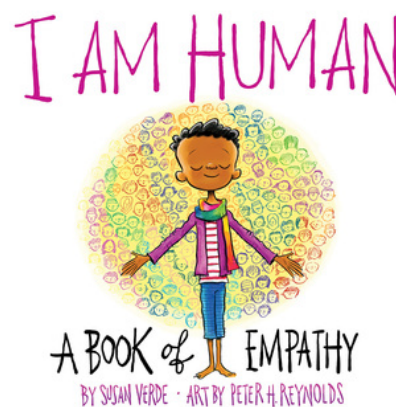
- Grades: PreK-2
- Genre: Fiction
- Suitcase Topics: Chance, Discovery, Persistence, Magic, Music
 - **Sneak Peek:** *This lovely picture book shows both the life-changing power of music and the way chance encounters can influence a person's path in life. It also shows all the people involved in putting on a show, from the different musicians who make up the orchestra to the workers who hang the lights to the artist who designs the poster to advertise the show to the train conductor who lets people off at the concert hall. It underscores how inspiration, hard work, and luck all contribute to what someone ultimately does for a living. And in the simplest terms, it shows how one thing leads to another.*

I Am Human: A Book of Empathy

Peter H. Reynolds

Susan Verde

- Grades: PreK-5
- Genre: Non-Fiction
- Suitcase Topic: Empathy, Compassion, Self-Worth
 - *Sneak Peek:* A hopeful meditation on all the great (and challenging) parts of being human, *I Am Human* shows that it's okay to make mistakes while also emphasizing the power of good choices by offering a kind word or smile or by saying "I'm sorry." At its heart, this picture book is a celebration of empathy and compassion that lifts up the flawed fullness of humanity and encourages children to see themselves as part of one big imperfect family — millions strong.



We are Family

Patricia Hegarty

- Grades: PreK-2
- Genre: Fiction
- Suitcase Topic: Family, Inclusivity
 - *Sneak Peek:* Through illness and health, in celebration and disappointment, families stick together. Some families are made up of many people, and some are much smaller. Sometimes family members look like each other, and sometimes they don't! But even though every family is different, the love is all the same.



Most People

Michael Leannah

- Grades: PreK-2
- Genre: Fiction
- Suitcase Topics: Community, Kindness
 - *Sneak Peek: The world can be a scary place filled with hardship, but isn't it still filled with kindness, too? And shouldn't children know that? Readers will be led through the busy urban neighborhood in which the good deeds of people are on display. The adage, "Don't judge a book by its cover," is seen throughout.*



Be Kind

Pat Zietlow Miller

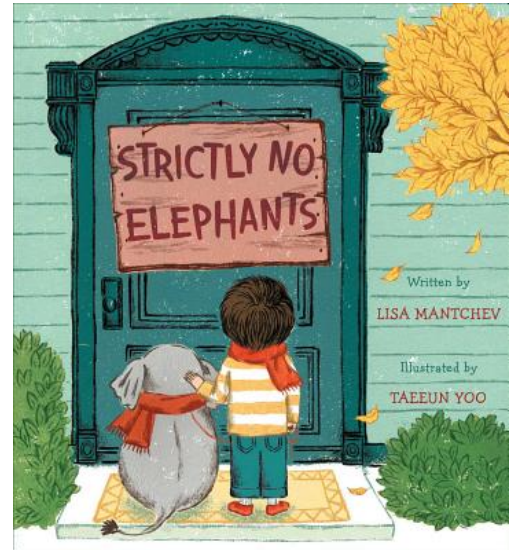
- Grades: PreK-2
- Genre: Fiction
- Suitcase Topics: Kindness, Friendship, Empathy
 - *Sneak Peek: What could have been a sentimental exercise is elevated to a meaningful exploration of kindness in this lovely picture book with Jen Hill's charming watercolor-and-ink illustrations. The little kid narrator of Be Kind not only offers examples of reaching out to others to make them feel good or feel better when they're down, but also acknowledges that it's not always easy. "And sticking up for someone when other kids aren't kind is really hard. (And really scary.)" This is a great book for opening up a discussion about what it means to be kind and identifying simple, practical ways we can show kindness to those around us.*



Strictly No Elephants

Lisa Mantchev

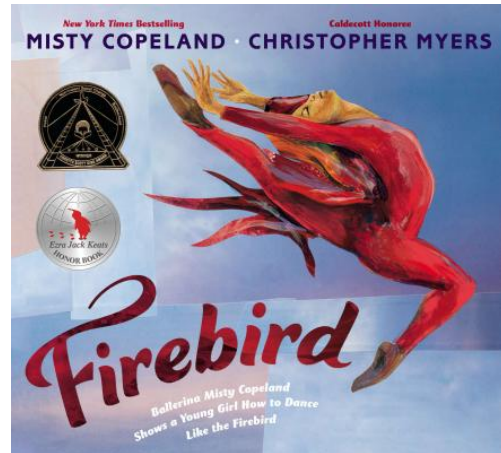
- Grades: Pre-K-5
- Genre: Fiction
- Suitcase Topics: Friendship, Acceptance, Pets
 - *Sneak Peek: Today is Pet Club day. There will be cats and dogs and fish, but strictly no elephants are allowed. The Pet Club doesn't understand that pets come in all shapes and sizes, just like friends. Now it is time for a boy and his tiny pet elephant to show them what it means to be a true friend. Imaginative and lyrical, this sweet story captures the magic of friendship and the joy of having a pet.*



Firebird

Misty Copeland Christopher Myers

- Grades: PreK-5
- Genre: Non-Fiction
- Suitcase Topics: Dance, Courage, Perseverance, Role Models

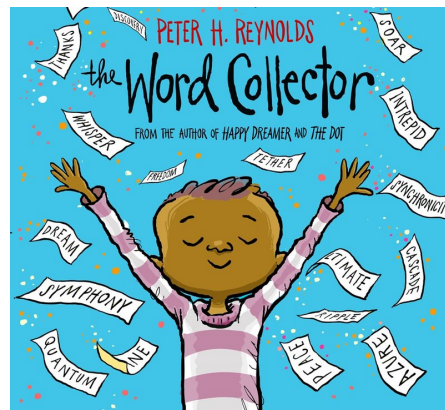


- *Sneak Peek: What do you do when you dream a dream almost too big for yourself? What can you do when you want to soar like the Firebird you see on TV when you are still so very small? Those are the questions a new ballerina finds herself asking as she longs to be like Misty Copeland, soloist for the American Ballet Theatre. Just when the young dancer is ready to give up, her idol steps in to share her journey as they dance through self-discovery together.*

The Word Collector

Peter H. Reynolds

- Grades: PreK-5
- Genre: Fiction
- Suitcase Topics: Empathy, Sharing, Kindness, Individuality, Power of Words



- *Sneak Peek: In THE WORD COLLECTOR, Jerome has a special collection -- words -- and he notes them wherever he finds them. He writes the words down, pastes them in scrapbooks, organizes them by category, pairs them in usual and striking ways, and uses them to write poems and songs. His most powerful words express empathy for others. When he empties his bags of words from a high hill to share his thoughts and feelings with the world, he watches "children in the valley below ... scurrying about collecting words from the breeze. Jerome had no words to describe how happy that made him."*

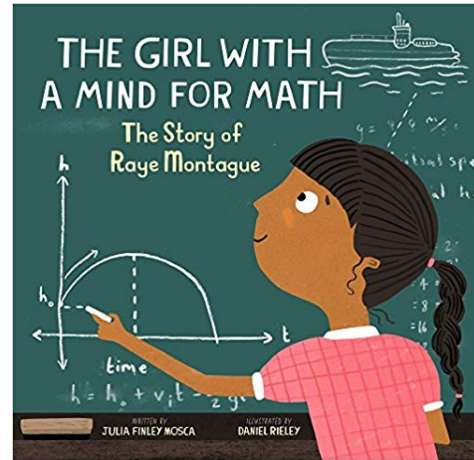
The Girl With a Mind for Math: The Story of Raye Montague (Amazing Scientists)

Julia Finley Mosca

- Grades: 2-5
- Genre: Non-Fiction
- Suitcase Topics: STEAM, Science, Girl Power ,Career

- *Sneak Peek:* After touring a German submarine in the early 1940s, young

Raye set her sights on becoming an engineer. Little did she know sexism and racial inequality would challenge that dream every step of the way, even keeping her greatest career accomplishment a secret for decades. Through it all, the gifted mathematician persisted—finally gaining her well-deserved title in history: a pioneer who changed the course of ship design forever.



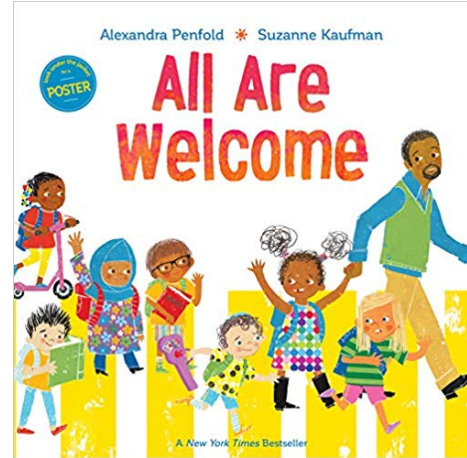
All Are Welcome

Alexandra Penfold

- Grades: PreK-3
- Genre: Fiction
- Suitcase Topics:
acceptance, friendship

- *Sneak Peek: Follow a group of children*

through a day in their school, where everyone is welcomed with open arms. A school where kids in patkas, hijabs, and yarmulkes play side-by-side with friends in baseball caps. A school where students grow and learn from each other's traditions and the whole community gathers to celebrate the Lunar New Year. 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.

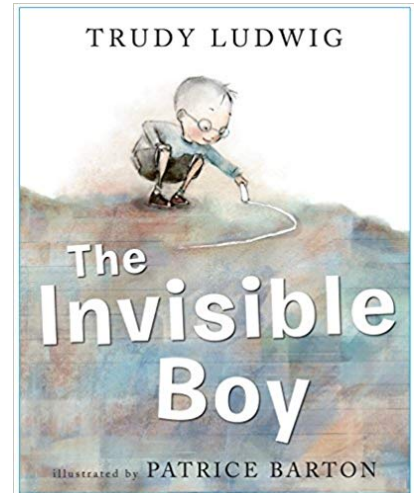


The Invisible Boy

Trudy Ludwig

- Grades: 1-4
- Genre: Fiction
- Suitcase Topics: self-esteem, emotions, acceptance, friendship, kindness

- *Sneak Peek: A simple act of kindness can transform an invisible boy into a friend...Meet Brian, the invisible boy. Nobody ever seems to notice him or think to include him in their group, game, or birthday party . . . until that is, a new kid comes to class. When Justin, the new boy, arrives, Brian is the first to make him feel welcome. And when Brian and Justin team up to work on a class project together, Brian finds a way to shine.*



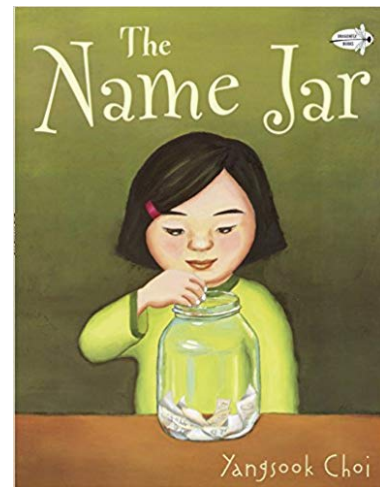
The Name Jar

Yangsook Choi

- Grades: PK-2
- Genre: Fiction
- Suitcase Topics: acceptance, immigration, traditions

- *Sneak Peek: The new kid in school needs a new name!*

Or does she? Being the new kid in school is hard enough, but what about when nobody can pronounce your name? Having just moved from Korea, Unhei is anxious that American kids will like her. So instead of introducing herself on the first day of school, she tells the class that she will choose a name by the following week. Her new classmates are fascinated by this no-name girl and decide to help out by filling a glass jar with names for her to pick from. But while Unhei practices being a Suzy, Laura, or Amanda, one of her classmates comes to her neighborhood and discovers her real name and its special meaning. On the day of her name choosing, the name jar has mysteriously disappeared. Encouraged by her new friends, Unhei chooses her own Korean name and helps everyone pronounce it--"Yoon-Hey.

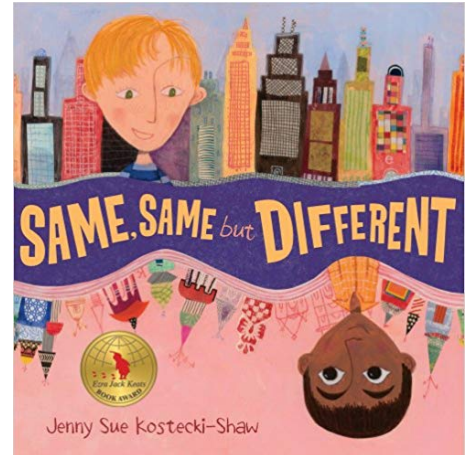


Same, Same But Different

Jenny Sue Kostecki-Shaw

- Grades: PK-2
- Genre: Fiction
- Suitcase Topics: culture, friendship

- *Sneak Peek: 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!*

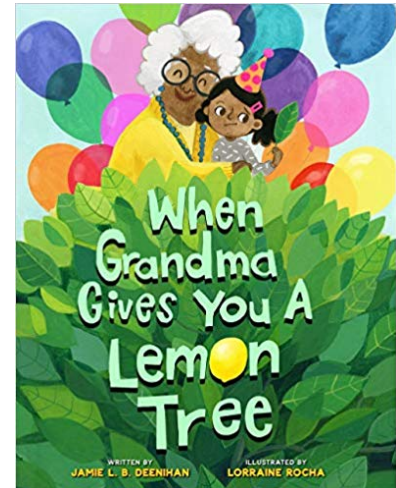


When Grandma Gives You a Lemon Tree

Jamie L.B. Deenihan

- Grades: PK-3
- Genre: Fiction
- Suitcase Topics: grandparents, technology

○ *Sneak Peek: "When life gives you lemons, make lemonade." In this imaginative take on that popular saying, a child is surprised (and disappointed) to receive a lemon tree from Grandma for her birthday. After all, she DID ask for a new gadget! But when she follows the narrator's careful—and funny—instructions, she discovers that the tree might be exactly what she wanted after all. This clever story, complete with a recipe for lemonade, celebrates the pleasures of patience, hard work, nature, community . . . and putting down the electronic devices just for a while.*



This Is How We Do It: One Day in the Lives of Seven Kids from around the World

Matt Lamothe

- Grades: K-3
- Genre: Fiction
- Suitcase Topics: culture, community

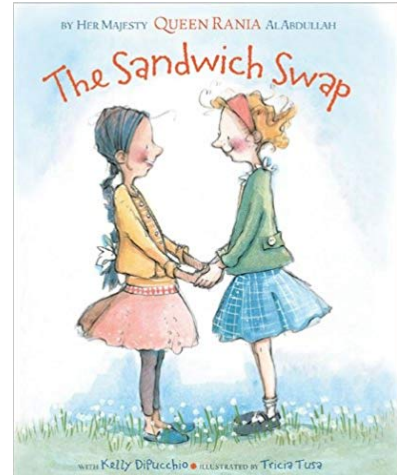
- *Sneak Peek: In Japan, Kei plays Freeze Tag, while in Uganda, Daphine likes to jump rope. While the way they play may differ, the shared rhythm of their days—and this one world we all share—unites them. This genuine exchange provides a window into traditions that may be different from our own as well as mirrors reflecting our common experiences.*



The Sandwich Swap

Queen Rania of Jordan Al Abdullah

- Grades: K-2
- Genre: Fiction
- Suitcase Topics: culture, friendship, acceptance, tolerance

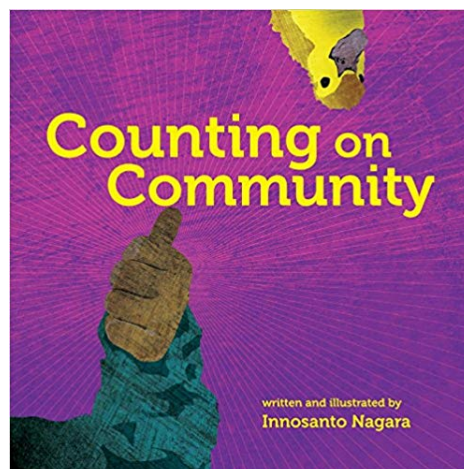


- *Sneak Peek: Lily and Salma are best friends. They like doing all the same things, and they always eat lunch together. Lily eats peanut butter and Salma eats hummus-but what's that between friends? It turns out, a lot. Before they know it, a food fight breaks out. Can Lily and Salma put aside their differences? Or will a sandwich come between them? The smallest things can pull us apart-until we learn that friendship is far more powerful than difference. In a glorious three-page gatefold at the end of the book, Salma, Lily, and all their classmates come together in the true spirit of tolerance and acceptance.*

Counting on Community

Innosanto Nagara

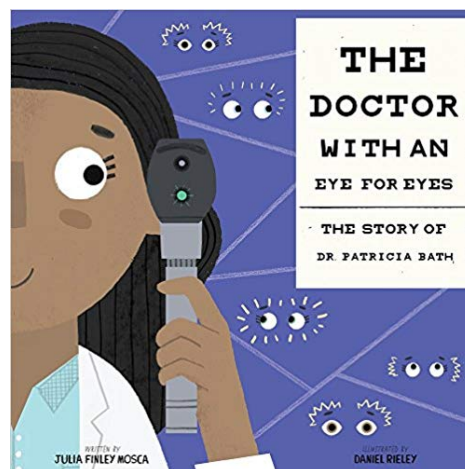
- Grades: K-2
- Genre: Fiction
- Suitcase Topics: culture, community
 - *Sneak Peek: Counting up from one stuffed piñata to ten hefty hens-and always counting on each other children are encouraged to recognize the value of their community, the joys inherent in gardening, and the agency they possess to make a change. A broad and inspiring vision of diversity is told through stories in words and pictures. And of course, there is a duck to find on every page!*



The Doctor with an Eye for Eyes: The Story of Dr. Patricia Bath

Julia Finley Mosca

- Grades: K-5
- Genre: Non-Fiction
- Suitcase Topics: science, career, girl power
 - *Sneak Peek: As a girl coming of age during the Civil Rights Movement, Patricia Bath made it her mission to become a doctor. When obstacles like racism, poverty, and sexism threatened this goal, she persevered—brightening the world with a game-changing treatment for blindness!*



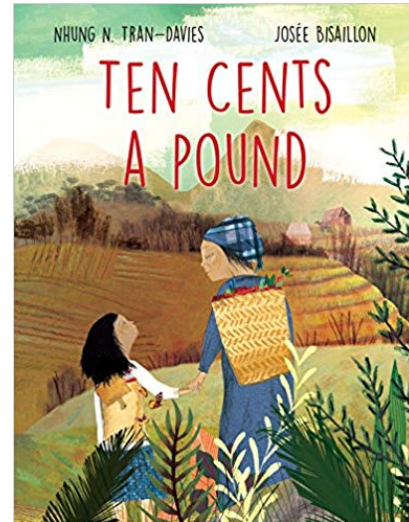
Ten Cents a Pound

Nhung N. Tran-Davies

- Grades:1-3
- Genre: Fiction
- Suitcase Topics: culture, individuality, ethnicity, family

- *Sneak Peek:* A young girl and her mother have a loving,

passionate conversation with each other. The girl is torn between her desire to stay home with her family and the familiarity of their village, and her desire to go to school and discover the world beyond the mountains that surround them. Every time the girl insists that she will stay, her mother repeats that she must go, that there is more to life than the labor in the coffee trees.



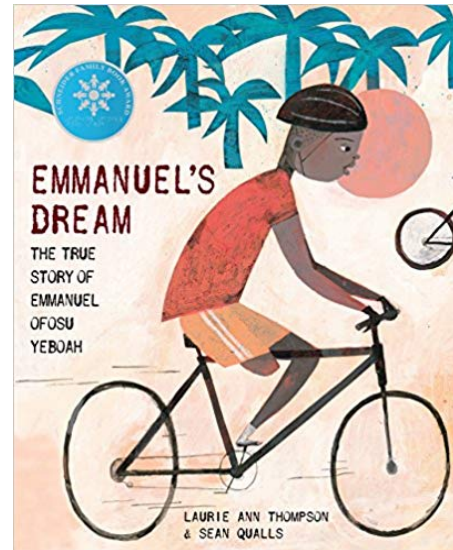
Emmanuel's Dream: The True Story of Emmanuel Ofosu Yeboah

Laurie Ann Thompson

- Grades: PK-3
- Genre: Non-Fiction
- Suitcase Topics: family, physical disability, overcoming obstacles

- *Sneak Peek: Gain a new perspective on overcoming obstacles by reading this*

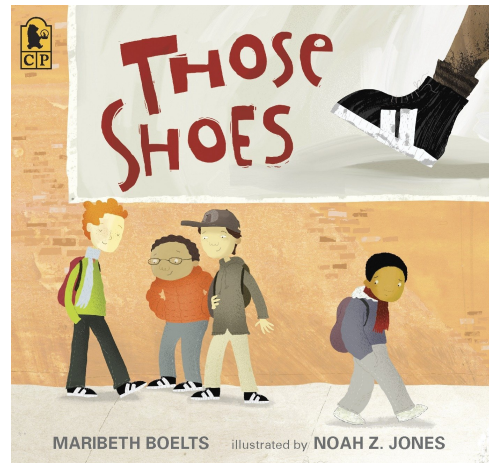
biographical book about Emmanuel Ofosu Yeboah. Born in Ghana with one leg, Emmanuel was considered "useless" and "a curse," but not by his mother, Comfort, who "had faith." She uses tough love to show her son that he can be independent. When Emmanuel loses his mother as a teenager, he is determined to honor her by showing everyone "that being a person with a disability does not mean being unable." Emmanuel organizes and completes a 400-mile bike ride across Ghana to bring attention to the difficulties individuals with disabilities in the country face.



Those Shoes

Maribeth Boelts

- Grades: K-3
- Genre: Fiction
- Suitcase Topics: culture, acceptance, family, friendship



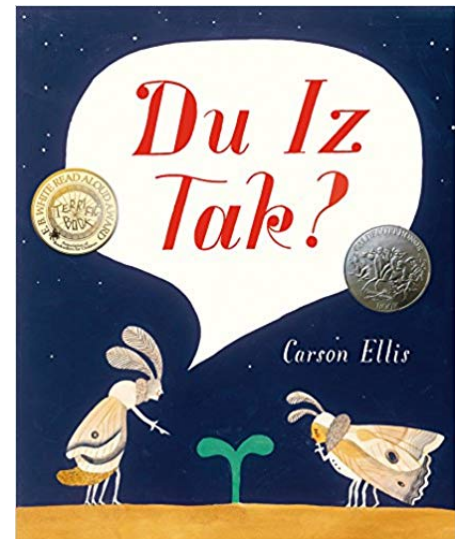
- *Sneak Peek: All Jeremy wants is a pair of those shoes, the ones everyone at school seems to be wearing. Though Jeremy's grandma says they don't have room for "want," just "need," when his old shoes fall apart at school, he is more determined than ever to have those shoes, even a thrift-shop pair that are much too small. But sore feet aren't much fun, and Jeremy soon sees that the things he has — warm boots, a loving grandma, and the chance to help a friend — are worth more than the things he wants.*

Du Iz Tak?

Carson Ellis

- Grades: PK-3
- Genre: Fiction
- Suitcase Topics: culture, language

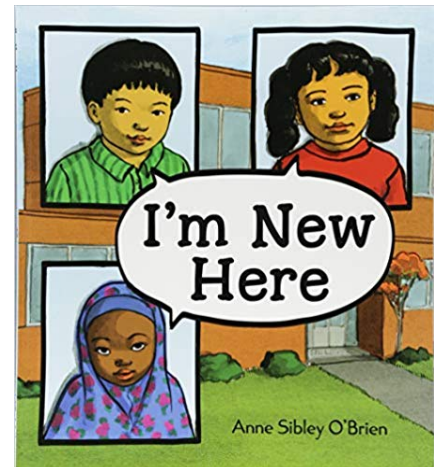
- *Sneak Peek: Multiple storylines intersect a mysterious plant bursting from the soil, the rise and fall of a spectacular fort, and a caterpillar's quiet then triumphant metamorphosis into a shimmering moth. The illustrations demand to be pored over, with exquisite attention to detail, from the extravagantly dressed anthropomorphized insects in top hats to the decor of lcky the pill bug's tree-stump home. Much of the book's action occurs on the lower halves of the pages, the ample white space emphasizing the small world of the critters. As the flower and fort grow together and larger animals come into play, the illustrations take up more vertical space until the climax, when the plant blooms and is revealed to be a "gladenboot" (flower) and all of the insects come out to rejoice. As the weather cools, readers are treated to a delightful nighttime spread of the moth finally emerging and flying to a cricket's tune as the decayed flower's seeds dance all around. Though this could nearly work as a wordless book, the invented, sometimes alienlike language seemingly contains real syntax and offers readers the opportunity to puzzle over the meanings of the words and tell the story using their own interpretations. This is a title that calls for multiple readings, as there is something new to be discovered each time.*



I'm New Here

Anne Sibley O'Brien

- Grades: K-3
- Genre: Fiction
- Suitcase Topics:
self-determination, community,
ethnicity, culture, language,
immigration

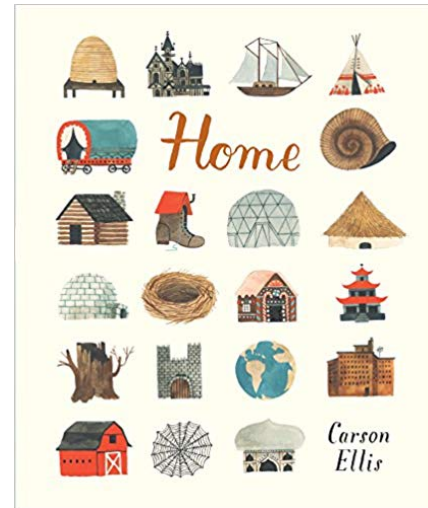


- ***Sneak Peek:** Three students are immigrants from Guatemala, Korea, and Somalia and have trouble speaking, writing, and sharing ideas in English in their new American elementary school. Through self-determination and encouragement from their peers and teachers, the students learn to feel confident and comfortable in their new school without losing a sense of their home country, language, and identity.*

Home

Carson Ellis

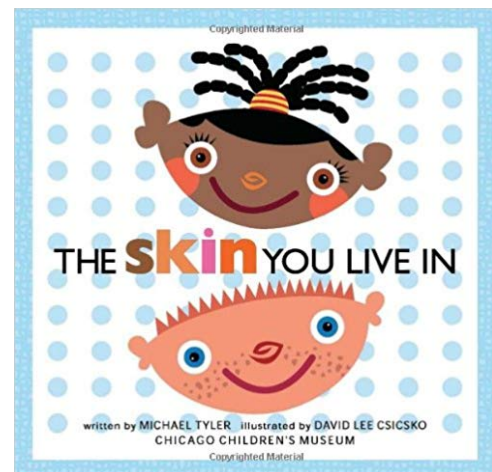
- Grades: PK-3
- Genre: Fiction
- Suitcase Topics: community, culture, language
 - *Sneak Peek: Home might be a house in the country, an apartment in the city, or even a shoe. A home may be on the road or the sea, in the realm of myth, or in the artist's own studio. This book is a loving look at the places where people live.*



The Skin You Live In

Michael Tyler

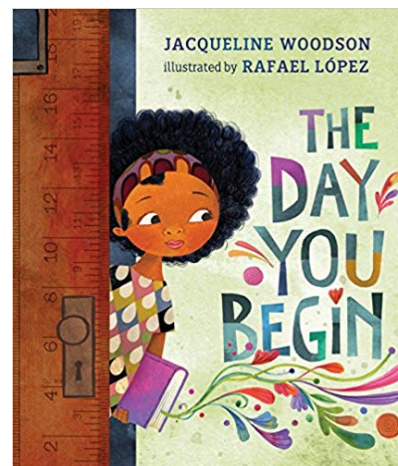
- Grades: PK-2
- Genre: Fiction
- Suitcase Topics: Friendship, Acceptance, Self-Esteem
 - *Sneak Peek: With the ease and simplicity of a nursery rhyme, this lively story delivers an important message of social acceptance to young readers. Themes associated with child development and social harmony, such as friendship, acceptance, self-esteem, and diversity are promoted in simple and straightforward prose.*



The Day You Begin

Jacqueline Woodson

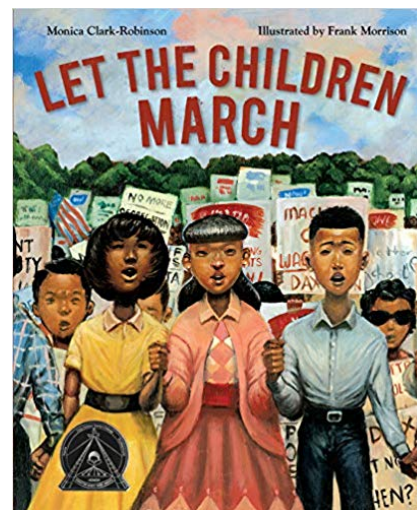
- Grades: K-3
- Genre: Fiction
- Suitcase Topics: Acceptance, Friendship
 - *Sneak Peek: When a little girl feels like she doesn't fit in, she discovers that sharing her story can be a way to celebrate her experiences and build friendships with her classmates.*



Let the Children March

Regan McMahon

- Grades: 1-4
- Genre: Non-Fiction
- Suitcase Topics: Acceptance, Historical
 - *Sneak Peek: In simple, dramatic scenes and spare text, a young girl walks readers through the momentous events of the historic Birmingham Children's Crusade of 1963. Let the Children March shows kids overcoming fear and risking danger and imprisonment to stand up for what's right -- and to protect their parents, who feared losing their jobs if they protested.*

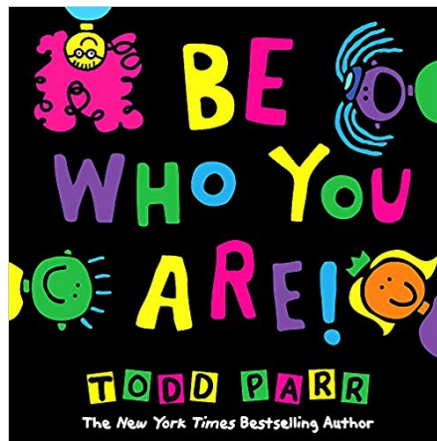


Be Who You Are

Todd Parr

- Grades: PK-2
- Genre: Fiction
- Suitcase Topics: Individuality, Language

- *Sneak Peek:* This book provides a wonderful opportunity to discuss identity and expression

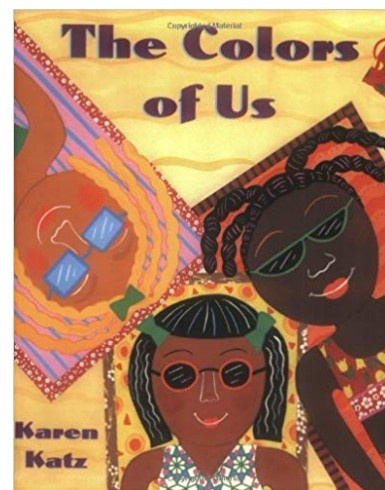


with young children. One of the learning objectives of this lesson is to teach children to accept and embrace the many ways students may choose to express who they are through clothing and hairstyles.

The Colors of Us

Karen Katz

- Grades: PK-2
- Genre: Fiction
- Suitcase Topics: Individuality
 - *Sneak Peek:* Seven-year-old Lena is going to paint a picture of herself. She wants to use brown paint for her skin. But when she and her mother take a walk through



the neighborhood, Lena learns that brown comes in many different shades. Through the eyes of a little girl who begins to see her familiar world in a new way, this book celebrates the differences and similarities that connect all people.

Say Something

Peter Reynolds

- Grades: PK-3
- Genre: Fiction
- Suitcase Topics:
Self-Esteem, Power of words

- *Sneak Peek: n this empowering new picture book, beloved*

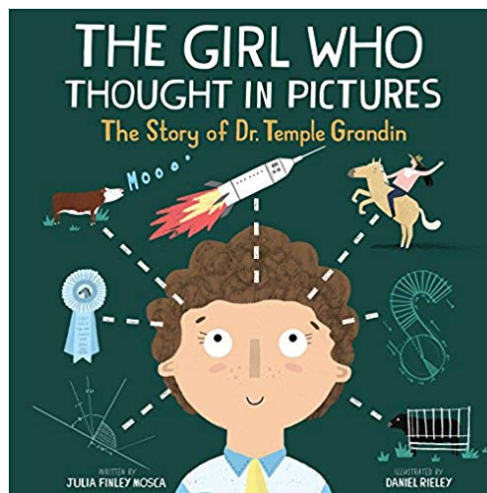
author Peter H. Reynolds explores the many ways that a single voice can make a difference. Each of us, each and every day, have the chance to say something: with our actions, our words, and our voices. Perfect for kid activists everywhere, this timely story reminds readers of the undeniable importance and power of their voice. There are so many ways to tell the world who you are... what you are thinking... and what you believe. And how you'll make it better. The time is now: SAY SOMETHING!



The Girl Who Thought in Pictures: The Story of Dr. Temple Grandin

Julia Finley Mosca

- Grades: K-5
- Genre: Fiction
- Suitcase Topics: Girl Power, Science, overcoming odds



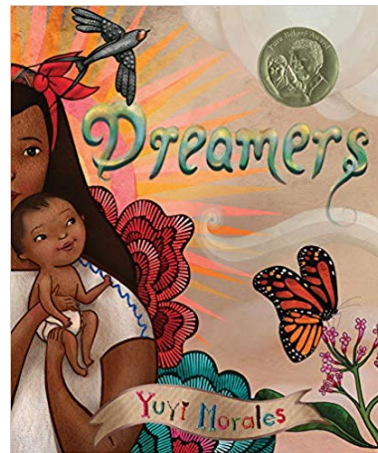
- *Sneak Peek: When young Temple was diagnosed with autism, no one expected her to talk, let alone become one of the most powerful voices in modern science. Yet, the determined visual thinker did just that. Her unique mind allowed her to connect with animals in a special way, helping her invent groundbreaking improvements for farms around the globe!*

Dreamers

Yuyi Morales

- Grades: PK-3
- Genre: Fiction
- Suitcase Topics: Immigration, Family, Language

○ ***Sneak Peek:** Dreamers is a celebration of what migrants bring with them when they leave their homes. It's a story about family. And it's a story to remind us that we are all dreamers, bringing our own gifts wherever we roam. Beautiful and powerful at any time but given particular urgency as the status of our own Dreamers becomes uncertain, this is a story that is both topical and timeless.*

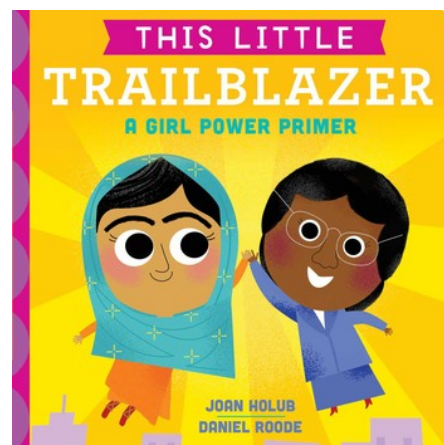


This Little Trailblazer

Joan Holub

- Grades: PK-K
- Genre: Non-Fiction
- Suitcase Topics: Girl Power

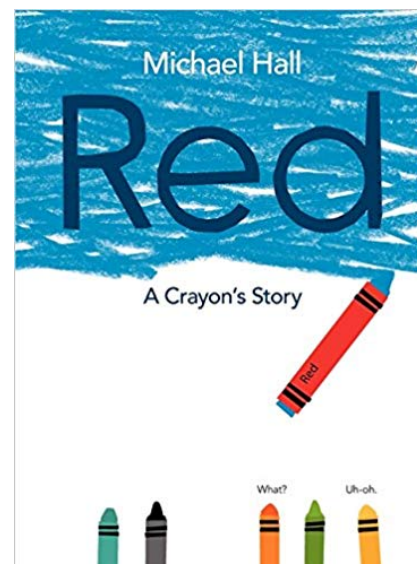
○ ***Sneak Peek:** Learn all about influential women who changed history in this engaging and colorful board book perfect for trailblazers-in-training!*



Red: A Crayon's Story

Michael Hall

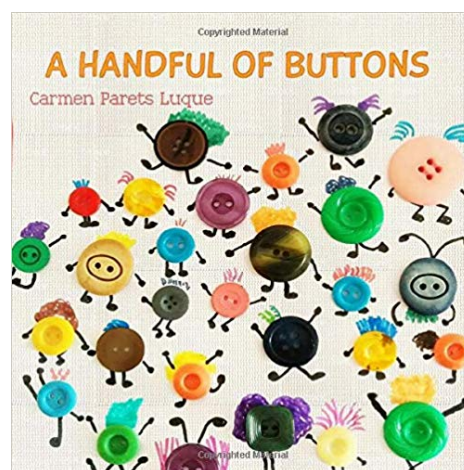
- Grades: PK-3
- Genre: Fiction
- Suitcase Topics: Self-Esteem
 - *Sneak Peek:* The label read, "Red." However, all of Red's strawberries and hearts come out blue. Friends and family try to fix Red until new buddy Berry helps this crayon discover his true color.



A handful of buttons: Picture book about family diversity

Carmen Paret Luque

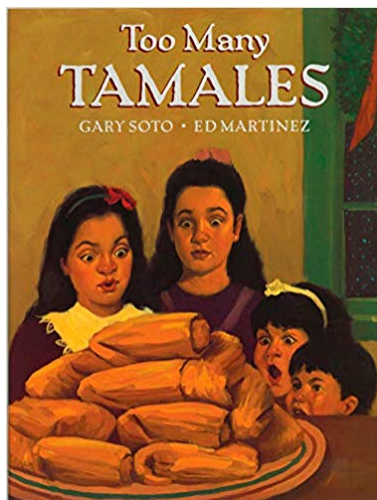
- Grades: PK-3
- Genre: Fiction
- Suitcase Topics: Family
 - *Sneak Peek:* Not all families are the same. Each family is different, unique and special. This is the beginning of a children's book about family diversity. What types of families are there? And what special thing makes them a family? These are some of the answers we want to offer to encourage tolerance towards others.



Too Many Tamales

Gary Soto

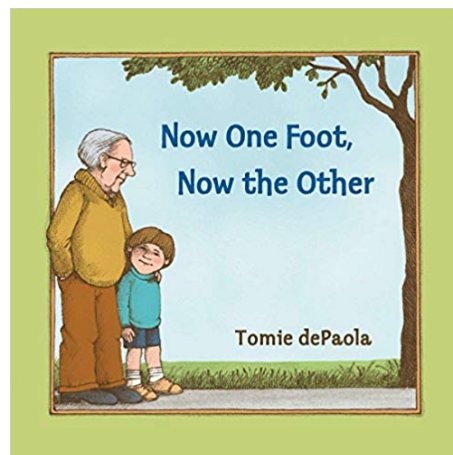
- Grades: PK-3
- Genre: Fiction
- Suitcase Topics: Family, Traditions
 - *Sneak Peek: Maria and her cousins put their stomachs to the test to find her mom's lost wedding ring. Learn about Mexican Christmas traditions.*



Now One Foot, Now the Other

Tomie dePaola

- Grades: K-3
- Genre: Fiction
- Suitcase Topics: Family, Grandparents
 - *Sneak Peek: This is a touching story about a young boy coping with his grandfather's disability.*



Full, Full, Full of Love

Trish Cooke

- Grades: PK-K
- Genre: Fiction
- Suitcase Topics: Family

- *Sneak Peek: For the youngest member of an exuberant extended family, Sunday dinner at Grannie's can be full indeed -- full of hugs and kisses, full of tasty dishes, full to the brim with happy faces, and full, full, full of love. With a special focus on the bond between little Jay Jay and his grannie, Trish Cooke introduces us to a gregarious family we are sure to want more, more, more of.*

