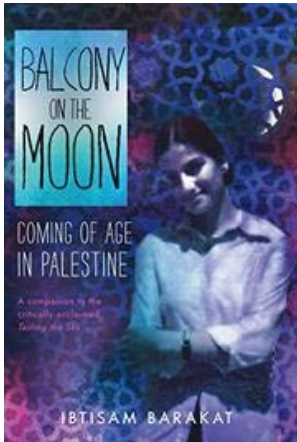


Notable Books for a Global Society - 2017 List of winners

Children's Literature and Reading Special Interest Group (CL/R SIG) of the International Reading Association

www.clrsig.org

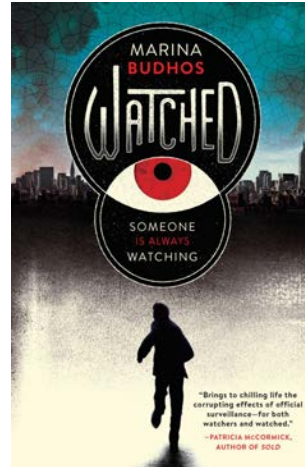
Each year the NBGS Committee chooses 25 winners. These books for all levels (preK-12) reflect diversity in the broadest sense, celebrating a wide variety of voices and topics. Please look for a comprehensive article about these books (published in 2016) plus useful teaching tips in the Spring 2017 issue of *The Dragon Lode*, free to CL/R SIG members. Join today at clrsig.org, where you can also find NBGS winners



BALCONY ON THE MOON

By Ibtisam Barakat
Farrar, Straus and Giroux/
Macmillan. 240 pp
Young Adult. Memoir.

This memoir traces the life of Barakat under Israeli occupation from 1972-1981. It chronicles the inspirations that created her love for education and writing, her father's illness and her mother's decision to further her own education were two. Barakat strongly articulates the tensions of occupation as an ever-present backdrop.



WATCHED: SOMEONE IS ALWAYS WATCHING

By Marina Budhos
Wendy Lamb Books. 272 pp.
Young Adult. Contemporary Realistic Fiction.

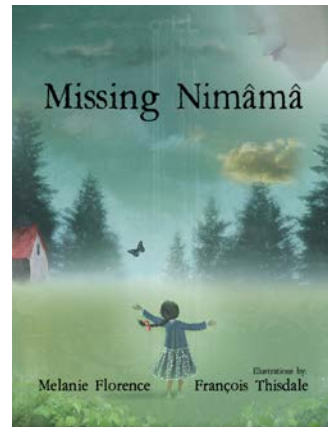
This fast-moving young-adult novel is based on the life of a Bangladeshi Muslim teen named Naeem in present day USA. Naeem is unfairly caught shoplifting and then coerced to work with the police to become the eyes and ears for the authorities against his own people.



TALKING LEAVES

By Joseph Bruchac
Dial Books. 256 pp.
GR 4 and Up. Historical Fiction.

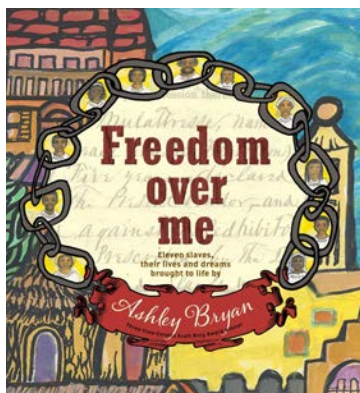
Joseph Bruchac tells the story of Sequoya, the creator of the Cherokee syllabary, through the eyes of Sequoya's son, Jesse. Bruchac weaves details of Cherokee customs, stories, and life while showing how the Cherokee language came to be written, a valuable perspective on Cherokee history and the life of Sequoya.



MISSING NIMAMA

By Melanie Florence. Illus. by
François Thisdale
Clockwise Press. 32 pp.
GR K and Up. Picture book.

This picture book is based on the stories of the missing indigenous women of Canada and the U.S. Told in alternating voices, the absent mother follows her daughter as she grows, enters school, and becomes a mother herself. Florence's lyrical, free-verse text and Thisdale's images portray the emotional journey of children coping.



FREEDOM OVER ME

By Ashley Bryan
Atheneum. 56 pp.
GR 4 and Up. Historical Fiction.

Based on a plantation estate auction in 1828, Bryan breathes life into eleven slaves from that record. He recreates their work assignments and imagines their dreams in a narrative poetic format. The book has two portraits for each slave: one embedded with documents in collage-style and the other in their dreams.



THE BONE SPARROW

By Zana Fraillon
Disney Hyperion. 240 pp.
GR 5 and Up. Contemporary Realistic Fiction.

Nine-year-old Subhi is a member of the Muslim Rohingya people of Burma, was born in a refugee camp in Australia, and has never seen his homeland. The description of the appalling food and living quarters, the enclosed spaces, and the forever-watchful guards create a stark reality of life for Subhi and his family.

The Tree in the Courtyard
Looking Through Anne Frank's Window



By Jeff Gottesfeld • Illustrated by Peter McCarty

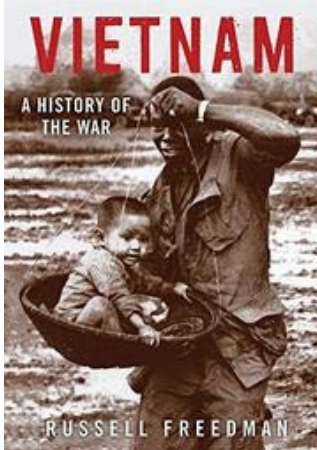
THE TREE IN THE COURTYARD

By Jeff Gottesfeld. Illus. by Peter McCarty
Knopf Books for Young Readers. 40 pp.
GR 5 and Up. Picture book.

This evocative and beautiful picture book tells Anne Frank's story from the point of view of a Horse Chestnut tree in the courtyard outside the apartment where her family hid. Historical pieces are woven throughout this unique perspective of Anne Frank's life, showing that through tragic death comes life and powerful memories.

VIETNAM: A HISTORY OF THE WAR

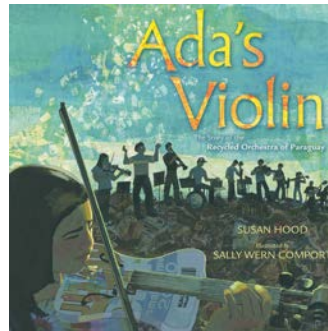
By Russell Freedman.
Holiday House. 160 pp.
GR 5 and Up. Nonfiction.



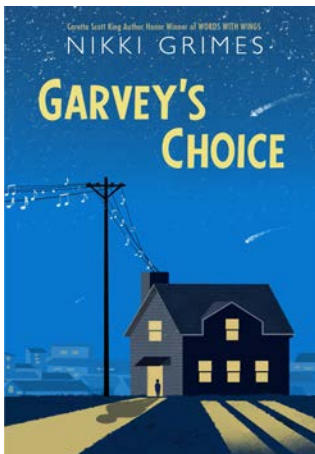
This history of Vietnam, recounts a people's resourcefulness, courage, and intelligence to defeat conquering powers dating back one thousand years. It chronicles the alliance between the United States and Vietnam during World War II in an effort to defeat Japan and, told from multiple perspectives, the complex events of thirty years of war in the 20th century in the torn, ancient country.

ADA'S VIOLIN: THE STORY OF THE RECYCLED ORCHESTRA OF PARAGUAY

By Susan Hood. Illus. by Sally Wern Comport
Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers. 40 pp.
GR Preschool and Up. Nonfiction.



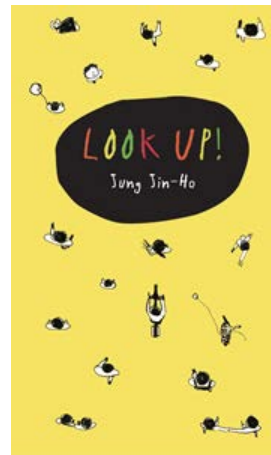
Instruments made from trash? Favio Chavez changed the lives of children living near the landfill in Paraguay by offering music lessons. With the help of Senor Gomez, garbage was transformed into cellos, flutes, guitars, and violins. This recycled orchestra shares their music and gift of hope with people all over the world.



GARVEY'S CHOICE

By Nikki Grimes
WordSong. 120 pp.
GR 3-6. Contemporary Realistic Fiction/Verse.

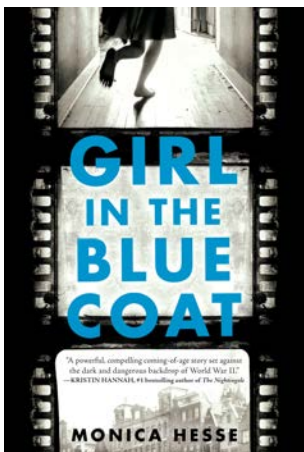
Award-winning poet Nikki Grimes tells the story of Garvey, a preteen who loves reading, telling jokes, science, and music. Unfortunately, his father worries that Garvey is not interested in sports, and it causes much angst. With time, Garvey is able to connect with his father through his gift.



LOOK UP!

By Jung Jin-Ho
Holiday House. 32 pp.
GR 1-4. Picture book.

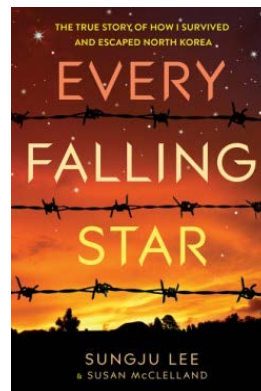
Jin-Ho's unique uses of perspective and color allow readers to search for meaning as they think through each carefully orchestrated page of this book. With very few words, this picture book conveys feelings and emotions about why every person deserves someone to stop and take notice. Look up!



GIRL IN THE BLUE COAT

By Monica Hesse.
Little, Brown. 320 pp.
GR 9 and Up. Historical Fiction.

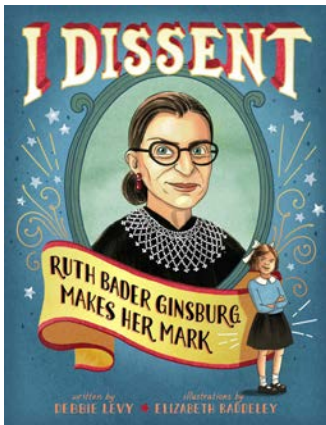
Nazis have invaded Amsterdam in 1943 and 15-year-old Hanneke helps provide food and supplies for her family by delivering black-marketed goods for an undertaker. Eventually she finds herself searching for a Jewish girl in a blue coat and gets involved in a complex youth-led resistance movement.



EVERY FALLING STAR

By Sungju Lee
Harry N. Abrams. 336 pp.
GR 8 and Up. Memoir.

Starting with a brief history of Korea, the book reminds audiences that Korea was once a nation without disjuncture. A North Korean defector, named Sungju Lee, recalls his survival amidst status changes from a Pyongyang-living privileged citizen in North Korea to a teen beggar (kotjebi) and more.



I DISSENT: RUTH BADER GINSBURG MAKES HER MARK

By Debbie Levy. Illus. by Elizabeth Baddeley.
Simon & Schuster. 40 pp.
GR K-4. Biography.

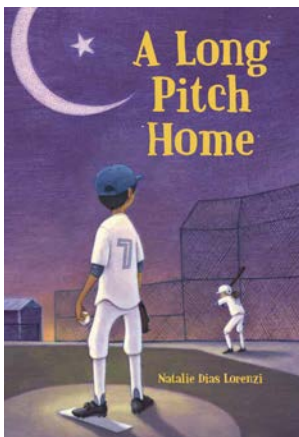
Ruth Bader Ginsburg dissented from the limitations placed on girls in school and work, deciding to go to college. In spite of the limitations on women she became a lawyer, professor of law, and judge, fighting for what was fair and just for people who had been silenced, before she was nominated, as the first Jewish woman, to the Supreme Court.



THIS LAND IS OUR LAND: A HISTORY OF AMERICA

By Linda Barrett Osborne.
Abrams. 128 pp.
GR 5 and Up. Nonfiction.

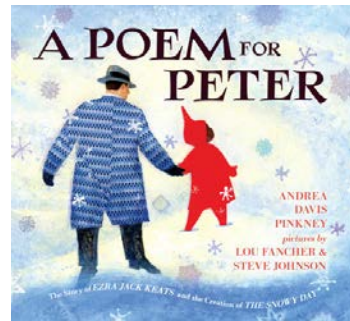
Teeming with sources such as anecdotal accounts, photographs, government policy, records, and popular responses to immigration, Barrett explores multiple perspectives about people coming to America during the past three centuries. Immigrants have varying experiences, some achieving the American dream while others face discrimination and exclusion.



A LONG PITCH HOME

By Natalie Dias Lorenzi
Charlesbridge. 256 pp.
GR 4-7. Contemporary Realistic Fiction.

Bilal is a 10-year-old whose family has just fled from Pakistan to the home of their extended family in Virginia. Life in America is very different –baseball instead of cricket, ESL classes instead of the best student in class, and life without his father who is still clearing his name.



A POEM FOR PETER: THE STORY OF EZRA JACK KEATS AND THE CREATION OF THE SNOWY DAY

By Andrea Davis Pinkney. Illus. by Steve Johnson and Lou Fancher.
Viking Books for Young Readers.
60 pp.

GR. 2 and Up. Biography.
Peter's playful adventures on a snowy day have delighted children for decades. Now readers can learn how Peter came to be. Through poetic verse, the life of Ezra Jack Keats is shared along with his creation of the first book for children featuring an African American child as a character.



JUANA & LUCAS

By Juana Medina
Candlewick Press. 88 pp.
GR 2-4. Contemporary Realistic Fiction.

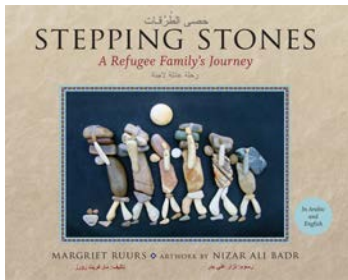
Juana lives in Bogotá, Columbia, and this story begins with the pronunciation of Juana's name, "WHO-AH-NAH." She shares important things to know about Bogotá and somewhat analytical opinions about her friends, school, family, and a trip. Spanish words included throughout the text accent Juana's childhood in Bogotá.



TOWERS FALLING

By Jewell Parker Rhodes
Little, Brown Books for Young Readers. 240 pp.
GR 3-7. Contemporary Realistic Fiction.

The night before Deja went to a new school in Brooklyn, she couldn't sleep. She kept wondering why her family was unexpectedly poor and living in the projects. In class, Deja learns about two towers falling, and feels confused. This new information gives Deja insights into her family's situation.



STEPPING STONES: A REFUGEE FAMILY'S JOURNEY

By Margriet Ruurs, Illus. by Nizar Badr.

Orca Press. 28 pp. All ages. Contemporary Realistic Fiction.

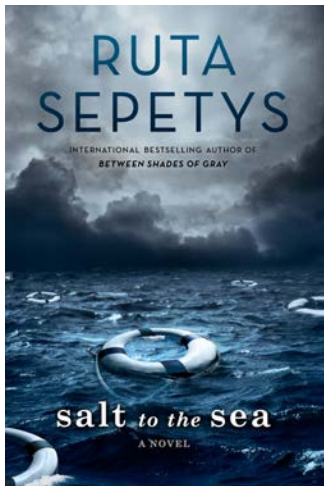
Inspired by the stone artwork of Syrian artist Badr, Ruurs writes a story of a refugee family fleeing from their peaceful village, carrying all they can on their person. The family walks to Europe to be free and is received well in their new land. The artwork is stunning, and speaks a strong second language within this text.



THE SOUND OF ALL THINGS

By Myron Uhlberg. Illus. by Ted Papoulas. Peachtree Publishers. 36 pp. 4-8 years. Nonfiction/memoir.

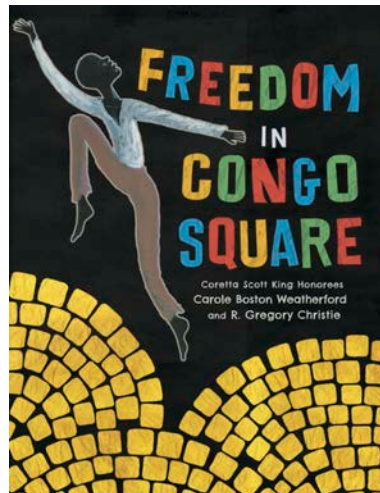
Your parents are deaf but you can hear. In this picture book a hearing son describes to his father through sign language all the noise and music that surround them as they enjoy the sights of the amusement park, Coney Island. When the son needs more words he discovers a wealth of language at their library.



SALT TO THE SEA

By Ruda Sepetis. Philomel Books. 400 pp. GR 8 and Up. Historical Fiction.

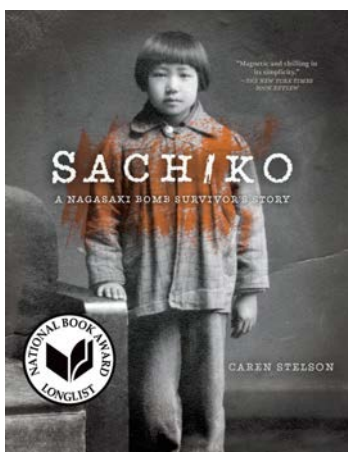
This is the mostly unknown story of one of the worst naval tragedies in history, the sinking of the Gustloff. The stories of three young adults escaping war torn Europe help readers understand the complexities and terrors of World War II.



FREEDOM IN CONGO SQUARE

By Carole Boston Weatherford. Illus. by R. Gregory Christie. Little bee books. 40 pp. Ages 4 and Up. Picture book.

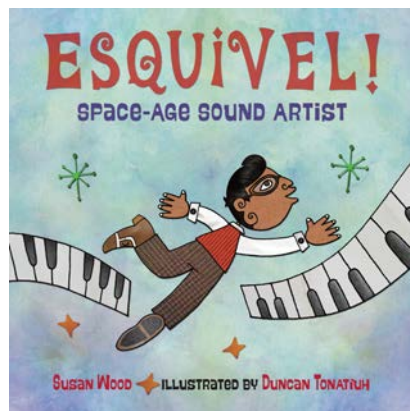
Weatherford creates a wonderful poetic account of a little known meeting place for slaves in New Orleans. Slave owners allowed slaves a day of rest on Sunday. They congregated in Congo Square to dance, sing, and participate in an open market. Congo Square offered a small taste of freedom.



SACHIKO: A NAGASAKI BOMB SURVIVOR'S STORY

By Caren Stelson. Lerner/Carolrhoda. 144 pp. Grade 5 and Up. Nonfiction.

Sachiko, a child of Nagasaki, recounts the day the atomic bomb was dropped. Her perspective on telling a story of survival in a destroyed city, rebuilding a life, and facing the tragedy of her family members dying of radiation sickness, is set against the backdrop of the history of World War II and the rebuilding of Japan.



ESQUIVEL! SPACE-AGE SOUND ARTIST

by Susan Wood. Illus. by Duncan Tonatuh. Charlesbridge. 32 pp. Gr. K and Up. Biography.

Blip-Bleep-Bleep-Bloop! Juan Garcia Esquivel tinkered with sound as soon as he could dismantle his family's player piano. His fascination led to exciting combinations of instruments in unusual tempos with the singing of flamboyant sounds. Juan's unique style transported listeners to outer space while pushing the boundaries for the future of music.