

Elementary School and older

A Game for Swallows: To Die, To Leave, To Return by Zeina Abirached

Gr 5-up. Zeina and her younger brother are growing up in Beirut, where civil war is a part of daily life. To protect against strikes and sniper fire, the family's living space has been reduced to the relative security of their apartment foyer, where a rug hanging on the wall, depicting Moses and the Hebrews fleeing Egypt, figures predominantly as a story background. This account chronicles one day in their lives, as the siblings await their parents' return and neighbors come and spend time with them, building an island of sanctuary for the children during this time of uncertainty. Bold, graphic, black-and-white images are visually and emotionally striking. Excellent use of maps and diagrams provides reference points and enhances understanding of spatial relationships. Unique panel placement includes several sequences of horizontal strips, read as columns. Images portray elapsed time, such as repeated smoking and countdown panels, and control pacing while revealing mounting tension. Excruciating wait time is depicted with cumulative "tic" and "toc" filling successive panels. Circular images of an embracing family contrast with the stark linear images of a war-torn country. Warmth and humor of daily life is shown in baking and storytelling, and wedding-dress close-ups touchingly highlight a mother's worry over soiling the hem, masking her worry over sniper fire. This superb memoir is destined to become a classic. -- Babara M. Moon, Suffolk Cooperative Library System, NYα(c) Copyright 2011. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc.

I Lived on Butterfly Hill by Marjorie Agosin, illustrated by Lee White

Gr 5–8. Celeste is a sixth-grader living in Valparaíso, Chile. Her life is idyllic, full of a loving, multigenerational family, a home she finds inspiring, and good friends. Things take a drastic turn when Valparaíso starts being affected by what Celeste's parents call "earthquakes of the soul"—the country falls under the grip of a ruthless dictator who is determined to eliminate dissent. Friends start disappearing, and Celeste's parents, who are seen as subversives for their work helping the disadvantaged, go into hiding. Celeste is sent to live with her aunt in the United States, where she struggles to acclimate, and to understand the larger picture of what is happening at home. Agosin has woven a historical story that draws on her own life experiences, with themes of exile, the quest for justice, and the power of the written word to preserve history. The story mirrors, but does not directly reference, the dictatorship of Augusto Pinochet and its accompanying turmoil. The language is poetic and full of imagery and, while the book is long, it moves at a smooth pace. Occasional illustrations reflect the mood of each phase of the story. This is Agosin's first book for a younger audience, and she

has managed to capture the wide-eyed curiosity and confusion of her narrator. Given its length and weighty themes, this book is best suited for serious readers. —Jenna Lanterman, formerly at The Calhoun School and Mary McDowell Friends School, New York City

Poems to Dream Together / Poemas para sonar juntos by Francisco Alarcon and Paula Barragan

A collection of poems in English and Spanish (age 7 and up) discusses imagination, dreams, family, and growing up in California and in Mexico. -- Amazon.com

Home of the Brave by Katherine Applegate

Age 10-14. Kek, a young Sudanese refugee, is haunted by guilt that he survived. He saw his father and brother killed, and he left his mother behind when he joined his aunt's family in Minnesota. In fast, spare free verse, this debut novel by nonfiction writer Applegate gets across the immigrant child's dislocation and loss as he steps off the plane in the snow. He does make silly mistakes, as when he puts his aunt's dishes in the washing machine. But he gets a job caring for an elderly widow's cow that reminds him of his father's herds, and he helps his cousin, who lost a hand in the fighting. He finds kindness in his fifth-grade ESL class, and also racism, and he is astonished at the diversity. The boy's first-person narrative is immediately accessible. Like Hanna Jansen's *Over a Thousand Hills I Walk with You* (2006), the focus on one child gets behind those news images of streaming refugees far away. Rochman, Hazel

Splash! Anna Hibiscus by Atinuke and Lauren Tobia

Gr 1–3. The irrepressible Anna is back in her seventh outing, but this time for a day at the beach with her extended family. Anna asks and asks, but everyone is too busy to splash in the waves with the little girl. Finally, there is no one left to ask. "There are only the waves jumping and splashing. They want to splash with somebody, too." Anna and the waves splash, jump, and play until her infectious laughter reaches her parents, aunties, uncle, cousins, and grandparents, who cannot resist jumping in the water. Atinuke's spot-on text is perfectly matched by Tobia's detailed illustrations, which feature joyful facial expressions. The images in the background hint at the African setting, but this story could easily take place in the Caribbean or the Outer Banks. This lovely story will leave readers pining for a family day in the sun. —Catherine Callegari, Gay-Kimball Library, Troy, NH

Olympic Gardens by Andrene Bonner

Winner of the 2009 Lorna Goodison Caribbean Award for Transformative Literature

By the time Roderick Brissett learns that he is being shipped away from his rural family home to live with his aunt in the city, it is too late. His mother's decision came without questions or answers. Roderick's youth is tested under the most adverse conditions. It is within the abyss of such harsh realities that he must find strength and seek some semblance of joy that will help him to survive, grow, and find his place in the world. – Amazon.com (set in Jamaica)

Where Angels Glide at Dawn: New Stories from Latin America ed. by Lori M. Carlson

Tinged with the surreal quality of dreams and fairy tales, this collection of translated stories amplifies the richness of Latin American culture. Reflecting a history of social upheaval and political changes, the selections reveal the quiet wisdom and deep emotions of a strong, enduring people. Ariel Dorfman's "The Rebellion of the Magical Rabbits" emerges as an allegory of the effects of a dictatorship in Chile. "Tarma," by Maria Rosa Fort, describes the eternal beauty of a small Peruvian village that has recently been invaded. Other stories focus on the traditions, dramas and contemporary lifestyles of families from Puerto Rico, Cuba, Panama, Mexico and El Salvador. Bolstered by a glossary of terms and brief

explanations of each entry's setting, these ten tales are as accessible as they are intriguing. Ages 10-up. Copyright 1990 Reed Business Information, Inc.

The Great Kapok Tree by Lynne Cherry

In this breathtakingly beautiful picture book, Cherry combines illustrations that reveal a naturalist's reverence for beauty with a myth-like story that explains the ecological importance of saving the rain forests. The text is not a didactic treatise, but a simply told story about a man who falls asleep while chopping down a kapok tree. The forest's inhabitants--snakes, butterflies, a jaguar, and finally a child--each whisper in his ear about the terrible consequences of living in "a world without trees" or beauty, about the interconnectedness of all living things. When the man awakens and sees all the extraordinary creatures around him, he leaves his ax and "walks out of the rain forest." A map showing the earth's endangered forests and the creatures that dwell within ends the book, which, like the rain forests themselves, is "wondrous and rare." Ages 4-8. Copyright 1990 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Revolution is Not A Dinner Party by Ying Chang Compestine

Picture book and cookbook author Compestine (*The Real Story of Stone Soup*) turns to 1972 China as the setting for her first YA novel. Eight-year-old Ling, the spunky daughter of two doctors, lives in Wuhan, China; dreamy and idealistic, she often describes her world in metaphor (about her neighbor, Ling notes, Mrs. Wong was fragrant and warm like a red peony, which always welcomed visitors). But the lives of Ling and her family are disrupted when Comrade Li, an officer of the Communist Party, moves into their apartment. Difficulties mount as friends and neighbors disappear, Ling's father is arrested and she endures vicious tormenting at school because of her bourgeois background ("At times I wished my family was poor and my parents worked on a vegetable farm ... so I could have friends. But if my parents worked on a farm, who would treat their patients?"). Although her father has been jailed, her family starved and their books burned, Ling fights to keep her long hair, a symbol of dignity and

individualism to her, though her classmates see it as emblematic of Ling's privilege. Ling survives on wit, hope, and courage until the death of Chairman Mao, after which she and her mother have a joyful reunion with Ling's father. Readers should remain rapt by Compestine's storytelling throughout this gripping account of life during China's Cultural Revolution. Ages 10-up. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Deep in the Sahara by Kelly Cunnane, illustrated by Hoda Hadadi

Grades K-3. Lalla lives in Mauritania where the sun burns, the sands shift, and all answer the call to prayer. It is her wish to wear, like the women around her, a malafa—or airy, colorful cloth worn over clothes and covering the head. Lalla wants to wear the malafa for its beauty, but her mother explains that the cloth's purpose is for more than beauty. She tells her sister, Selma, that she wants to wear it to be mysterious; Selma laughs and says that isn't a good enough reason. Neither is Lalla's desire to transition from a girl to a woman. Only when she tells her mother that I want a malafa so I can pray like you do does she receive her coveted cloth. Cunnane explains in an author's note that when she first lived in Mauritania, she believed wearing the veil was repressive, but the people's relaxed and colorful expression of their faith and culture changed her mind. She will certainly make readers think about their preconceived notions thanks to a text that is as thoughtful as it is charming. Hadadi, who is Iranian, creates paper collages with a whimsical beauty that work well with the story's sense of longing. The women, all individualized, exude true warmth, and readers will feel a quiet satisfaction when Lalla joins them. A special offering.

Iqbal by Francesco D'Adamo

From School Library Journal: Grade 4-7-Thirteen-year-old Iqbal Masih was murdered in his Pakistani village in April, 1995, a few months after he had received an international prize and traveled to Sweden and the United States, speaking about his six years as a bonded child in Lahore carpet factories. The murderers--perhaps part of the "Carpet Mafia"--have never been caught. In smoothly translated prose, D'Adamo retells the boy's story through the eyes of a fictional coworker. Also sold into servitude to pay her father's debt, Fatima worked in Hussain Khan's carpet factory for three years and had forgotten almost everything about her previous life. She had grown used to the long hours, the scanty rations, the heat, and the cramped quarters of a life spent tying carpet knots and sleeping beside her loom. She and the others in the workshop are stunned when Iqbal appears and tells them that their debts will never be paid. He tries to convince the children that their situations can change and he escapes to the market where he hooks up with members of the Bonded Labor Liberation Front. Fatima doesn't come alive as a

character in her own right, but the situation and setting are made clear in this novel. Readers cannot help but be moved by the plight of these youngsters. This thinly disguised biography makes little effort to go beyond the known facts of Iqbal's life. Nonetheless, his achievements were astounding, and this readable book will certainly add breadth to most collections.

14 Cows for America by Carmen Agra Deedy

Grade 2–5—Kimeli Naiyomah returned home to his Maasai village from New York City with news of 9/11 terrorist attacks. His story prompted the villagers to give a heartfelt gift to help America heal. Deedy and Gonzalez bring Naiyomah's story to life with pithy prose and vibrant illustrations. Each block of text consists of a few short, elegant sentences: "A child asks if he has brought any stories. Kimeli nods. He has brought with him one story. It has burned a hole in his heart." The suspenseful pace is especially striking when surrounded by Gonzalez's exquisite colored pencil and pastel illustrations. The colors of Kenya explode off the page: rich blues, flaming oranges, fire-engine reds, and chocolate browns. Full-page spreads depict the Maasai people and their land so realistically as to be nearly lifelike. Gonzalez manages to break the fourth wall and draw readers in as real-time observers. The book's only flaw is the less-than-concrete ending: "there is no nation so powerful it cannot be wounded, nor a people so small they cannot offer mighty comfort" is an important message, but not a particularly satisfying one for children. Fortunately, their questions will be answered by Naiyomah's endnote, and it provides a fitting conclusion to this breathtaking chronicle.—Rebecca Dash, New York Public Library Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Africa is My Home by Monica Edinger and Robert Byrd

Gr 4-8. The events surrounding the abduction, mutiny, and legal trials of the Amistad Africans have been retold in a number of books, but few are told from the point of view of the children on the ship. In this novel based on the experiences of a real person, nine-year-old Magulu sails for seven weeks to Cuba on a slave ship. After being sold, she boards the Amistad. A rebellion leads to fighting and eventual jail time and several trials. Now twelve years old, she and the other children are finally declared free and allowed to return home. How she earns her passage and an education are part of this remarkable story

of resilience, faith, and hope. Byrd's ink and watercolor illustrations show lush green areas of West Africa; as Magulu travels, the colors darken until she is returned to Africa. Highly detailed illustrations contrast life and dress in Africa with those in Cuba and Connecticut. The maps and recurring dream scenes are lovely and intriguing. Interspersed throughout the book are primary-image sources. Edinger gives Magulu a voice of her own as she narrates her story. The child's character is fleshed out as readers watch her grow from age nine when she is pawned during a drought to adulthood when she becomes a teacher in her beloved homeland. With more than forty stunning illustrations, this unique narrative should find an appreciative audience.—Glynis Jean Wray, Ocean County Library, Toms River, NJ(c)
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The Breadwinner Trilogy by Deborah Ellis

Ages 10-14. Deborah Ellis' trilogy has been a phenomenal success, both critically and commercially. Now young readers can experience this entire epic story in one volume. The Breadwinner is set in Afghanistan, where eleven-year-old Parvana lives with her family in a bombed-out apartment building in Kabul. When her father is arrested for the crime of having a foreign education, the family is left with no money or resources. Forbidden to earn money as a girl, Parvana must transform herself into a boy and become the breadwinner. In Parvana's Journey, her father has died and the family has scattered. Parvana, now thirteen years old, is determined to find them. Again masquerading as a boy, she joins a group of wandering children, all refugees from war, who exist mainly on courage. In Mud City, the focus shifts to fourteen-year-old Shauzia, who lives in the Widows' Compound in Pakistan and dreams of escaping to a new life in France. Deborah Ellis uses simple, compelling language, memorable characters, and a wealth of imaginative detail in this wrenching look at the human cost of war that is also a surprisingly hopeful story of survival. -- Amazon.com

A House of Tailors by Patricia Reilly Giff

Grade 4-8. It is 1870 and thirteen-year-old Dina leaves Germany to immigrate to Brooklyn and live with her Aunt Barbara, Uncle Lucas, and older sister in this novel by Patricia Giff Reilly (Wendy Lamb Books, 2004). In Germany, she worked at her family's dressmaking business and hated it, although she was a

very talented dressmaker. When she leaves Germany, she looks forward to a life free of sewing. But upon her arrival in Brooklyn, she discovers that she is expected to be a seamstress. Uncle is very strict and terribly overworked. The family struggles to make ends meet, and Dina begrudgingly begins her work as a seamstress. She finds that she has a passion for making hats, something that will lead to a successful future. At a nearby tailor shop, she meets a young German boy named Johann and they become friends. When a smallpox epidemic strikes, Dina nurses Aunt Barbara and her baby back to health. At first Dina is so homesick that she wants to earn enough money to return to Germany, but in the end she stays and her family joins her in Brooklyn. Blair Brown is a marvelous narrator, effectively conveying Dina's stubbornness, the Uncle's exasperation, and Barbara's kindness. Pacing is superb. The author reads the afterword, explaining that the story is based on events in her ancestors' lives. She also tells listeners what eventually happened to the story's characters. This novel deals with a dilemma facing immigrants and belongs in library collections for middle school readers. —B. Allison Gray, John Jermain Memorial Library, Sag Harbor, NY Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Hip Hop Speaks to Children: A Celebration of Poetry With A Beat by Nikki Giovanni, Michele Noiset, Jeremy Tugeau and Kristen Balouch

Grade 4–8. This anthology highlights the use of rhythm and vernacular in hip-hop, rap, and African-American poetry. The fifty-one pieces—which also include a passage from Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream" speech—use gospel rhythms, "hambone" rhythms (which Giovanni explains in her informative introduction), jazz and blues rhythms, and language from the fields and the city streets. Artists range from Langston Hughes to Kanye West, from Eloise Greenfield to Queen Latifah. Much of the subject matter focuses on hope, self-esteem, respect for the past, and determination to make a better future. A few selections are more playful, like an excerpt from "Principal's Office" by Young MC. The accompanying CD enables readers to hear many of the pieces spoken or performed by the artists. Meanwhile, a team of five illustrators provides colorful, lively pictures that add atmosphere and personality (without a lot of depth, however). This volume is much denser than it first appears and will provide classroom teachers with a substantial amount of material. The fact that an important historical writer like James Weldon Johnson appears in the same book as contemporary musician Lauryn Hill may help some kids see the older writers with a fresh eye, and may also introduce today's artists to teachers and librarians. Granted, not all of the rap and-or hip-hop verses have the concise nature of what has been considered "real" poetry, and, in this context, some of them work better in audio than on the printed page. Still, this is an interesting, worthwhile collection.—Lauralyn Persson, Wilmette Public Library, IL Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Whale Rider by Witi Ihimaera

Grade 5-8—Witi Ihimaera blends New Zealand's Maori legends with a modern girl's struggle to have her special gifts recognized in this novel (Harcourt, 2003). Though Kahu is the first child born in her generation and she is well loved by her extended family, she seeks the approval of Koro, the stern man who is not only her great grandfather but also her clan's chief. Family lore is filled with stories of Koro's ancestor who rode a giant whale to bring his people to New Zealand. Their village continues to have a special relationship with the sea and its creatures. When a pod of whales is stranded on a nearby beach, everyone in the community works to save them. Many animals are lost and only one desperately weak whale is turned toward the sea when Kahu climbs onto his back. Both the whale and the girl feel their ancient connection, and when Kahu rides off, her great grandfather finally sees that she is the next leader for her clan. Though the eight-year-old girl is feared lost, her whale companion has left her where she can be found and reunited with her family. Narrator Jay Laga'aia handles the book's poetic rhythm and its Maori words and phrases with an easy tempo and honest emotion. Occasionally the sound quality seems too quiet, but it reflects the novel's introspective sections. Though the Maori language may be a challenge for some listeners, the universal theme of a child looking for acceptance makes this a good additional purchase for middle school and public libraries. It's worth noting that *Whale Rider* was made into an award-winning film a few years ago.—Barbara Wysocki, Cora J. Belden Library, Rocky Hill, CT Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Red Scarf Girl by Ji-Li Jiang

Grade 5-9. A child's nightmare unfolds in Jiang's chronicle of the excesses of Chairman Mao's Cultural Revolution in China in the late 1960s. She was a young teenager at the height of the fervor, when children rose up against their parents, students against teachers, and neighbor against neighbor in an orgy of doublespeak, name-calling, and worse. Intelligence was suspect, and everyone was exhorted to root out the "Four Olds"—old ideas, old culture, old customs, and old habits. She tells how it felt to burn family photographs and treasured heirlooms so they would not be used as evidence of their failure to repudiate a "black"—i.e., land-owning--past. In the name of the revolution, homes were searched and

possessions taken or destroyed, her father imprisoned, and her mother's health imperiled--until the next round of revolutionaries came in and reversed many of the dicta of the last. Jiang's last chapter details her current life in this country, and the fates of people she mentions in her story. It's a very painful, very personal--therefore accessible--history. Copyright ©1997, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.

Breaking Through by Francisco Jimenez

Gr 5-8. Maturity means breaking through the cocoon into freedom for Panchito, whose adolescence is described in this sequel to *The Circuit: Stories from the Life of a Migrant Child* (Houghton, 2001). The simplicity of life and the unending work for the whole family continues here, but is mitigated by Panchito's increased awareness and gradual loss of innocence as he learns to make his life a success. His father's bitterness, pain, and need for unquestioning obedience is matched by his mother's ability to coax agreement out of her son. The clash of cultures between teen insolence in the U.S. and Mexican respect for elders' authority is vividly portrayed, as is the injustice and casual bigotry often endured by young and old. Fortunately, the protagonist, now often known as Frankie, finds friends and employers willing to recognize his strength of character and ability. While sure to be inspiring and reassuring to readers mesmerized by the first book, this follow-up lacks the intensity and voice so memorable in that one, and is consequently less affecting. Still, Jimenez ably helps readers see the world of 1950s and 1960s California through adolescent eyes. Rock 'n' roll, Kennedy versus Nixon, the old-boy network of service clubs, the humiliation of deportation, and the painful struggle to have the right clothes are among the pieces of that world that readers see with a startling clarity from a new perspective. The photos at the end are great additions. Carol A. Edwards, Sonoma County Library, Santa Rosa, CA
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A Life Like Mine by DK

10-17 years. Presented in conjunction with UNICEF, DK's *A Life Like Mine: How Children Live Around the World* profiles eighteen children and explores what life is like for them and other young people, spanning 180 countries. Organized into four sections--Survival, Development, Protection and

Participation—the handsomely designed volume, with a bounty of photographs that transport readers to exotic lands, stems from the mission set forth by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Charts, maps and children's quotes add to the thoughtful and informative presentation. Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc.

The Trumpeter of Krakow by Eric P. Kelly

Grade level: 3-7. For well over thirty years, Eric P. Kelly's Newbery Award winner has brought the color and romance of ancient times to young readers. Today, The Trumpeter of Krakow is as absorbing and dramatic as when it was first published in 1928. -- Amazon.com

Stones for My Father by Trilby Kent

Ages 10 and up. Corlie Roux's farm life in South Africa is not easy: the Transvaal is beautiful, but it is also a harsh place where the heat can be so intense that the very raindrops sizzle. When her beloved father dies, she is left with a mother who is as devoted to her sons as she is cruel to her daughter. Despite this, Corlie finds solace in her friend, Siphon, and in Africa itself and in the stories she conjures for her brothers. -- Amazon.com

King for a Day by Rukhsana Khan, illustrated by Christiane Kromer

Grades 2-4. Basant is here, with feasts and parties to celebrate the arrival of spring. But what Malik is looking forward to most is doing battle from his rooftop with Falcon, the special kite he has built for speed. Today is Malik's chance to be the best kite fighter, the king of Basant. In two fierce battles, Malik

takes down the kites flown by the bully next door. Then Malik moves on, guiding Falcon into leaps, swirls, and dives, slashing strings and plucking kites from the sky. By the end of the day, Malik has a big pile of captured kites. He is the king! But then the bully reappears, trying to take a kite from a girl in the alley below. With a sudden act of kingly generosity, Malik finds the perfect way to help the girl. This lively, contemporary story introduces readers to a centuries-old festival and the traditional sport of kite fighting, and to a spirited, determined young boy who masters the sport while finding his own way to face and overcome life's challenges.

Bundle of Secrets—Savita Returns Home by Mubina Kirmani

Grade level: K-5. This book is about a little girl, Savita, who travels back home to Kenya, East Africa after visiting relatives in her ancestral land of India. It provides a different perspective about culture and life in Africa through the eyes of Savita, her family and her African friend, Njeri. Based on the author's personal experiences, this story will keep young readers engaged as they follow Savita's journey in the dhow with a "bundle of secrets" from India that finally get revealed in her home in Kenya. The book is recommended for multicultural education in any classroom or home in Africa, Europe, Asia, Australia and the Americas. These places are becoming increasingly diverse due to migration. The book has a list of questions and activities for teachers to use with students to raise awareness and appreciation about their own and adopted cultures. -- Amazon.com

Inside Out and Back Again by Thanhha Lai

Grade level 3-7. Inside Out and Back Again is a New York Times bestseller, a Newbery Honor Book, and a winner of the National Book Award! Inspired by the author's childhood experience of fleeing Vietnam after the Fall of Saigon and immigrating to Alabama, this coming-of-age debut novel told in verse has been celebrated for its touching child's-eye view of family and immigration. -- Amazon.com

Kampung Boy by Lat

Grade 4 Up—Kampung Boy is a pleasure to read. It follows the early life of a Muslim boy growing up in a tiny town in Malaysia during the 1950s. Incidents are well chosen and illuminating, including the rituals surrounding birth, the solidity and pride of family, the joy of skinny-dipping, and the fanfare of a traditional circumcision ceremony. All are handled tastefully and with nostalgic reverence. Illustrations are simple, yet emotionally expressive and charming. As engaging as any travelogue, the book uses universal themes to connect readers to a time and place that may very well no longer exist, but sincere reflection and honest details will draw them into this other world and win their hearts. American audiences are lucky to finally receive this international classic.—Dawn Rutherford, King County Library System, Bellevue, WA Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Town Boy by Lat

Grade 5 Up—The follow-up to the critically successful Kampung Boy (Roaring Brook, 2006), this volume spans an equal number of years but with a less-successful focus. When Mat is ten, his family moves from the kampung to the town of Ipoh, and he has to adjust to the new environment. He meets Frankie, a Chinese boy his age, and is introduced to American rock-and-roll and mild rebellion. Readers then transition to 1968 where Mat is a well-aculturated teen, balancing being cool and getting decent grades, and is attracted to the prettiest girl in town. This volume strays from anecdote to wistful remembrance without any real sense of direction. While the large, silent depictions of the town, burgeoning with nascent industry and Westernization, are atmospheric and quite informative to one who has the visual literacy to decode them as historical depictions, the narration provides readers with almost no helpful context for interpretation. It finds itself content to flit between amusing moments without any real development, save for nods to the fact that Mat is a talented artist—which, it is implied, eventually allowed the author to bring readers this volume. Sweet but meandering, the visual details and charming cartooning fail to provide sufficient cogent substance to make this a successful sequel.—Benjamin Russell, Belmont High School, NH Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Facing the Lion: Growing Up Massai on the African Savanna by Joseph Lemasolai Lekuton and Herman Viola

Gr. 5-12. This simple memoir is the extraordinary story of a poor nomadic boy in Kenya who literally travels across the world but never abandons home. Lekuton grew up in Kenya's poorest tribe, herding cows and playing in trees and hyena holes before he entered a missionary boarding school and went to college in the U.S. Now he teaches in Virginia, but he has never lost his Maasai roots, and he returns home to help his people several months a year. Looking back without romanticism or self-pity, he remembers how it was: the joy and excitement, the constant hunger and moving, and the traditions, including the circumcision ceremony that made him a man. The Cinderella theme begins in Kenya where he's the shabby kid accepted at a fancy Nairobi high school. Later he travels to his college interview in a cattle truck with the cows. What gives this short, readable book its power is Lekuton's authoritative, intimate view of now and then. Hazel Rochman, Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

Burn My Heart by Beverley Naidoo

Alternating its focus between Mathew, a white farmer's son growing up in Kenya during the 1950s, and Mugo, a native African close to Mathew's age, this novel paints a grim picture of British imperialism and revolution. Mathew and Mugo have been lifelong friends, even though Mugo has been a trusted servant in Mathew's household since the day he saved the then six-year-old Mathew by killing a snake. But the friends' loyalty is tested when rumors of deadly uprisings against white settlers sweep the country, and two groups, the Mau Mau (a band of angry revolutionaries) and red hats (police guards trying to control the Mau Mau), become a threat. Examining the effects of hatred and distrust, Naidoo (*The Other Side of Truth*) casts steadfast Mugo as a far nobler and more likable figure than Mathew, who fails to stand up for Mugo at critical moments. If the author's political message overshadows characters' development at times, the book successfully evokes the fears and moral dilemmas plaguing both European and native Africans in the post-WWII era. Ages 10–up. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Habibi by Naomi Shihab Nye

Grade 5-9. An important first novel from a distinguished anthologist and poet. When Liyana's doctor father, a native Palestinian, decides to move his contemporary Arab-American family back to Jerusalem from St. Louis, fourteen-year-old Liyana is unenthusiastic. Arriving in Jerusalem, the girl and her family are gathered in by their colorful, warmhearted Palestinian relatives and immersed in a culture where only tourists wear shorts and there is a prohibition against boy-girl relationships. When Liyana falls in love with Omer, a Jewish boy, she challenges family, culture, and tradition, but her homesickness fades. Constantly lurking in the background of the novel is violence between Palestinian and Jew. It builds from minor bureaucratic annoyances and humiliations, to the surprisingly shocking destruction of grandmother's bathroom by Israeli soldiers, to a bomb set off in a Jewish marketplace by Palestinians. It exacts a reprisal in which Liyana's friend is shot and her father jailed. Nye introduces readers to unforgettable characters. The setting is both sensory and tangible: from the grandmother's village to a Bedouin camp. Above all, there is Jerusalem itself, where ancient tensions seep out of cracks and Liyana explores the streets practicing her Arabic vocabulary. Though the story begins at a leisurely pace, readers will be engaged by the characters, the romance, and the foreshadowed danger. Poetically imaged and leavened with humor, the story renders layered and complex history understandable through character and incident. Habibi succeeds in making the hope for peace compellingly personal and concrete ... as long as individual citizens like Liyana's grandmother Sitti can say, "I never lost my peace inside." Kate McClelland, Perrot Memorial Library, Greenwich, CT Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Look at This! Play by Ifeoma Onyefulu

Preschool-Kindergarten. Hopscotch, cat's cradle, the mud game, football, Waly? Many different ways to play, with games that are familiar all over the world as well as some traditional African games. Photographed in Mali by an award-winning photographer, this is a unique and culturally diverse word book, with lots to look at and talk about. Part of a series. -- Amazon.com

The Island on Bird Street by Uri Orlev

8-12 years old. During World War II a Jewish boy is left on his own for months in a ruined house in the Warsaw Ghetto, where he must learn all the tricks of survival under constantly life-threatening conditions. -- Amazon.com

When My Name was Keoko by Linda Park

A brother and sister alternate as narrators in Newbery Medalist Park's (*A Single Shard*) well-constructed novel, which takes place from 1940-1945 in Japanese-occupied Korea. The Japanese government forbids the Korean language to be spoken and the country's flag to be flown, and even forces Korean families like Tae-yul and Sun-hee's to change their names (Sun-hee becomes Keoko). Through the use of the shifting narrators, Park subtly points up the differences between male and female roles in Korean society; and the father's process of choosing the family's Japanese name speaks volumes about his strength and intelligence. As the war intensifies, each family member asserts his or her individuality, from Sun-hee, who continues to keep a journal after a soldier calls it "a crime against our Divine Emperor," to her uncle, who prints a revolutionary newspaper in hiding, to Tae-yul, who joins the Japanese army to avoid helping the military police capture his uncle only to be chosen as a kamikaze pilot. The son comes to an understanding of his father rather abruptly at the novel's close, and some readers may wonder why Tae-yul was not labeled a chin-il-pa ("lover of Japan"). But, in the end, telling details provide a clear picture of Sun-hee and Tae-yul and their world. Readers will come away with an appreciation of this period of history and likely a greater interest in learning more about it. Ages 10-14. Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc.

It's a Woman's World: A Century of Women's Voices in Poetry ed. by Neil Philip

This anthology of twentieth-century women's poems contains an impressive sampling from poets of diverse cultures. However, Philip's (*Singing America*) organizing principle, how poetry of this era "shows an attitude to love and marriage that would have been unthinkable in previous generations," necessarily results in a selection that is not representative. The poems here are heavily weighted toward pessimism and discontent, with little humor or joy. Eavan Boland's "It's a Woman's World," citing women's staying power; Judith Rodriguez's "Eskimo Occasion," which celebrates the joy of a new day; and May Sarton's "On a Winter Night," in which a woman contemplates her own burning desire to live and grow as she stares into a hearth fire, are the exceptions. More common are sentiments such as those expressed in Elizabeth Riddell's bleak "News of a Baby," which opens the section on childhood. After welcoming the baby "to the world of swords / and deadlier words" and promising other horrors, the poet concludes, "Welcome, baby, no dread thing will be omitted. / We are your eager hosts." Marvelous black-and-white

photographs of intriguing women from various countries preface each section, but they sometimes belie the contents of the poems to follow. The section on falling in love and getting married, for instance, features a cheery photograph of an embracing couple to usher in such poems as Dorothy Parker's sardonic "Chant for Dark Hours": "(All your life you wait around for some damn man!)." A narrow view of twentieth-century women's voices. Ages 11-up. Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc.

The Red Pencil by Andrea Davis Pinkney

Grade 4-up. Life in Amira's peaceful Sudanese village is shattered when Janjaweed attackers arrive, unleashing unspeakable horrors. After losing nearly everything, Amira needs to find the strength to make the long journey on foot to safety at a refugee camp. She begins to lose hope, until the gift of a simple red pencil opens her mind--and all kinds of possibilities. – Amazon.com

Cartwheeling in Thunderstorms by Katherine Rundell

Gr 4-6. Twelve-year-old Wilhelmina Silver—aka Will, Wildcat, Madman, Cartwheel—has what she considers to be an idyllic life. Since her mother's death when she was five, she has been "raised" on a remote farm in Zimbabwe by her father, the farm foreman. She has been free to explore and run like the wind; ride bareback on her horse, Shumba; and has a pet monkey to keep her company. She is at home in the bush and sleeps in trees, if necessary, and routinely steals fruit and sets fires with her best friend Simon and the rest of the farm boys. She's a good reader and keen observer, but her formal education has been sketchy at best. The things she knows to be true are not easily quantified or necessarily valued. When her father dies, she is left in the care of Captain Browne, the kindly farm owner, and his scheming and manipulative new wife. When it is announced that the farm is to be sold and Will is to be sent to a private school in England, the girl's golden world is shattered. Leaving behind all that she has known and loves and adjusting to a cold, inhospitable climate is just part of her challenge. She has always been a quick study and a fierce competitor and there is no place for her to shine in the snooty, highly regimented school. Driven by desperation and the girls' cruelty, Will runs away and has to work out for herself what is real, valuable, and true. Rundell's vivid and compelling prose brings both worlds to life on a visceral level and propels her characters forward. Readers will be engaged by Will's voice (and her

colorful linguistic twists), ache for her through her sorrow and loss, and celebrate her newly sparked confidence and resolve. Warning: there will be cartwheels! — Luann Toth, School Library Journal

The Mystery of Meerkat Hill by Alexander McCall Smith

Gr 2-5. Eight-year-old Precious Ramotswe lives in a village in Botswana and wants to be a detective when she grows up. There are two new students at her school, a brother and sister, Teb and Pontsho, who have a comical pet meerkat named Kosi. The three kids and Kosi quickly become friends as they begin an adventure to find Teb and Pontsho's family's missing cow. Precious is a caring soul who learns that her new friends are poor and that the missing cow has an extraordinary impact on a family that has very little. She then embarks on a journey to find the missing cow, learns a few lessons along the way, and helps her new friends. Listeners will enjoy collecting clues along the way to help Precious solve the mystery. In this tale (Anchor, 2013) rich with lessons about the culture and people of an African village, Smith weaves many lessons that can be taken from the audiobook and integrated into a classroom setting. Having the print version paired with the audio would be beneficial for some students as narrator Adjoa Andoh frequently rolls her r's, which could prove to be distracting for younger listeners as they attempt to understand and follow the storyline independently. — Jessica Gilcreast, Bedford, NH

If the World Were a Village by David Smith

Ages 8-12. The Second Edition of the best-selling book which has sold over 400,000 copies in seventeen languages updated with new content and insights about the world's people. First published to wide acclaim in 2002, this eye-opening book has since become a classic, promoting "world-mindedness" by imagining the world's population (all 6.8 billion of us?) as a village of just 100 people. Now, *If the World Were a Village* has been newly revised with updated statistics, several new activities and completely new material on food security, energy and health. By exploring the lives of the 100 villagers, children will discover that life in other nations is often very different from their own. *If the World Were a Village* is part of *CitizenKid*: A collection of books that inform children about the world and inspire them to be better global citizens. -- Amazon.com

Year of Impossible Goodbyes by Sook Nyul Choi

In 1945, ten-year-old Sookan's homeland of North Korea is occupied by the Japanese. Left behind while her resistance-fighter father hides in Manchuria and her older brothers toil in Japanese labor camps, Sookan and her remaining family members run a sock factory for the war effort, bolstered only by the dream that the fighting will soon cease. Sookan watches her people--forced to renounce their native ways--become increasingly angry and humiliated. When war's end brings only a new type of domination--from the Russian communists--Sookan and her younger brother must make a harrowing escape across the 38th parallel after their mother has been detained at a Russian checkpoint. Drawn partly from Choi's own experiences, her debut novel is a sensitive and honest portrayal of amazing courage. In clear, graceful prose, she describes a sad period of history that is astonishing in its horror and heart-wrenching in its truth. Readers cannot fail to be uplifted by this account of the triumph of the human spirit in an unjust world. Ages 10-up. Copyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Desmond and the Very Mean Word by Desmond Tutu

Grades 1-4. When Desmond takes his new bicycle out for a ride through his neighborhood, his pride and joy turn to hurt and anger when a group of boys shout a very mean word at him. He first responds by shouting an insult, but soon discovers that fighting back with mean words doesn't make him feel any better. With the help of kindly Father Trevor, Desmond comes to understand his conflicted feelings and see that all people deserve compassion, whether or not they say they are sorry. Brought to vivid life in A. G. Ford's energetic illustrations, this heartfelt, relatable story conveys timeless wisdom about how to handle bullying and angry feelings, while seeing the good in everyone.

Pharaoh's Boat by David Weitzman

Age 9-12. With poetic language and striking illustrations, David Weitzman tells the story of how one of the greatest boats of ancient Egypt came to be built and built again. In the shadow of the Great Pyramid at Giza, the most skilled shipwrights in all of Egypt are building an enormous vessel that will transport Cheops, the mighty pharaoh, across the winding waterway and into a new world. But no one could have imagined just where the journey of Pharaoh's boat would ultimately lead. -- Amazon.com

One Day We Had to Run! by Sybella Wilkes

Grade 5-9. Poignant first-person narratives of three young refugees form the heart of this book. In each case, their travels took them from their homelands in Sudan, Somalia, and Ethiopia to the Kakuma refugee camp in Kenya where they were interviewed. Each account is preceded by a couple of pages about the past and present of the narrator's country and a colorful map of the child's journey. The book opens, after a foreword about young refugees, with an explanation of how the author encouraged the camp children to paint and tell their folktales in order to help them talk about their experiences. Then, there is a summary of the worldwide refugee crisis. At the end are pages on Rwanda, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, and Save the Children. Unfortunately, some of this material is too difficult for the intended audience and makes the book unfocused. The illustrations are exceptional. Effective photographs and full-color reproductions of the children's paintings, and in many cases their comments about them, are interspersed throughout the book. Because of its shape and the childish appearance of the unsophisticated art, middle-grade readers may be reluctant to pick this title off the shelves. But with a booktalk or other introduction, they are likely to respond to the immediacy of what the children say and paint. Loretta Kreider Andrews, Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore, MD Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Sacred Places by Jane Yolen and David Shannon

Yolen and Shannon, previously paired for the rollicking *Ballad of the Pirate Queens*, turn solemn in this verse-and-picture tour of sacred places around the world. Visiting twelve sites, the book attempts, with mixed results, an empathetic introduction to a variety of beliefs and practices from past and present religions. Subjects range from the ambiguous oracle of Delphi, speaking truth "from the perfumed cave,

/ from the earth's dark center, / from the navel of the world," to the Shinto shrine Itsukushima. While she relies heavily on repetition, Yolen's approaches vary: "Wailing Wall" reflects a contemporary view of Jerusalem; "Easter Island" asks who made the great carved heads; "Cathedrals" echoes the rhythms of nursery rhymes ("This is the crypt, / This the nave, / This the apse, / These the graves"). Shannon's paintings more successfully capture different moods, as in a brooding and mist-shrouded Stonehenge, a glowing image of a stained glass window or a night view of Uluru (Ayers Rock) with animal forms from the Dreamtime creeping up its side. A bookend poem, "Hush," calls for respect and on its second appearance grandly but unconvincingly asserts that "Since you have been here, / truth has been shaped, / truth has been shifted, / truth has been shown in its many forms." Ages 6-12. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Street Rhymes Around the World by Jane Yolen

Yolen's latest anthology is a truly multicultural celebration: the thirty-two street rhymes here have been collected from seventeen countries, ranging from Brazil to England to Israel to the Republic of Armenia. Representing such universal pastimes as singing songs, finger-counting rhymes and games of differing sorts, the poems appear in their original languages, followed by lilting English translations. Just as the foreign verbiage fascinates in its use of exotic words and sounds, so too the artwork, by artists from various countries, proves arresting. And though some illustrations are more successful than others, all present youngsters with intriguing glimpses of playtime--and apparel--in distant lands. Through their coloration and degree of stylization, these pictures artfully evoke the cultures depicted. Vincent Maonde contributes a burnished landscape where children frolic around a straggly tree; the kewpie doll-like figures of Jiang Chengan (the People's Republic of China) gleefully clap hands. Kids may well follow the many cheery examples of their friends worldwide. Ages 4-10. Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Everything, Everything by Nicola Yoon

Gr 10 Up—From the first page, Madeline Whittier is a sympathetic character who has had to watch the world from the inside of a bubble—literally. Her diagnosed condition of Severe Combined Immunodeficiency is a life sentence that limits her to a world of two people: her mother, who is a doctor, and her nurse. Everything changes when Olly and his family move into the house next door. Olly is the kind of inventive guy who figures out a way to communicate with Madeline, and over the course of the next few months Madeline becomes Maddy, a young woman who takes potentially deadly risks to protect Olly emotionally, if not physically. Maddy's and Olly's hastily planned trip to Maui and their tastefully described liaison while there suggests a mature teen audience, but readers of Cammie McGovern's *Say What You Will* (HarperCollins, 2014) and Wendy Mills's *Positively Beautiful* (Bloomsbury, 2015) will fall in love with this humorously engaging story of a girl who discovers life, love, and forgiveness in new places. VERDICT Everything, Everything is wonderful, wonderful. — Jodeana Kruse, R. A. Long High School, Longview, WA

Rethinking Globalization: Teaching for Justice in an Unjust World

This comprehensive 400-page book from *Rethinking Schools* helps teachers raise critical issues with students in grades 4–12 about the increasing globalization of the world's economies and infrastructures, and the many different impacts this trend has on our planet and those who live here.