BEST MULTICULTURAL CHILDREN’S BOOKS OF 2016

Compiled by Dr. Claudette Shackelford McLinn, Lessa Kanani’opua Pelayo-Lozada, Dr. Sujin B.E. Huggins, and Ana-Elba Pavon


AS BRAVE AS YOU, by Jason Reynolds, 410 pages, published by A Caitlyn Dlouhy Book/Atheneum Books for Young Readers, ©2016 (Upper elementary school/Middle school, fiction)

BOOKED, by Kwame Alexander, 314 pages, published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, ©2016 (Upper elementary school/Middle school, fiction/novel in verse)


FREEDOM OVER ME: ELEVEN SLAVES, THEIR LIVES AND DREAMS BROUGHT TO LIFE, written and illustrated by Ashley Bryan, 56 pages, published by A Caitlyn Dlouhy Book/Atheneum Books for Young Readers, ©2016 (Upper elementary school/Middle school, historical fiction, picture book)

GARVEY’S CHOICE, by Nikki Grimes, 108 pages, published by WordSong, an imprint of Highlights, ©2016 (Upper elementary school/Middle school, fiction/novel in verse)
GHOST [Track series, Book 1], by Jason Reynolds, 181 pages, published by A Caitlyn Dlouhy Book/Atheneum Books for Young Readers, ©2016 (Upper elementary school/Middle school, fiction)


IN PLAIN SIGHT, by Richard Jackson, illustrated by Jerry Pinkney, 40 pages, published by Roaring Brook Press, ©2016 (Elementary school, fiction, picture book)

IT AIN'T SO AWFUL, FALAFEL, by Firoozeh Dumas, 378 pages, published by Clarion Books/Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, ©2016 (Upper elementary school/Middle school, fiction)


LION ISLAND: CUBA’S WARRIOR OF WORDS, by Margarita Engle, 163 pages, published by Atheneum Books for Young Readers, ©2016 (Upper elementary school/Middle school, historical fiction/novel in verse)

LUCY AND LINH by Alice Pung, 340 pages, published by Alfred A. Knopf, ©2016 (Middle school/High school, fiction)


MARCH: BOOK THREE, written by John Lewis and Andrew Aydin, illustrated by Nate Powell, 246 pages, published by Top Shelf Productions, ©2016 (Upper elementary school/Middle school/High school, graphic novel-memoir)

MAYBE SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL: HOW ART TRANSFORMED A NEIGHBORHOOD, by F. Isabel Campoy and Theresa Howell, illustrated by Rafael López, 40 pages each, published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, ©2016 (Elementary school, fiction, picture book)


**SACHIKO: A NAGASAKI BOMB SURVIVOR’S STORY**, by Caren Stelson, 144 pages, published by Carolrhoda Books, ©2016 (Upper elementary school/Middle school/High school, nonfiction/biography, memoir)

**SAVE ME A SEAT**, by Sarah Weeks and Gita Varadarajan, 216 pages, published by Scholastic Press, ©2016 (Upper elementary school/Middle school, fiction)

STEAMBOAT SCHOOL: INSPIRED BY A TRUE STORY, ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI, 1847, by Deborah Hopkinson, illustrated by Ron Husband, 40 pages, published by Disney Hyperion, ©2016 (Elementary school, historical fiction, picture book)


SUN IS ALSO A STAR, THE by Nicola Yoon, 348 pages, published by Delacorte Press, ©2016 (Middle school/High school, fiction)

THEIR GREAT GIFT: COURAGE, SACRIFICE, AND HOPE IN A NEW LAND, by John Coy, photographs by Wing Young Huie, 32 pages, published by Carolrhoda Books, ©2016 (Elementary school, nonfiction, picture book)


WHEN THE SEA TURNED TO SILVER, by Grace Lin, 370 pages, published by Little, Brown and Company, ©2016 (Elementary school/Middle school, folklore,)

WHOOSH! LONNIE JOHNSON’S SUPER-SOAKING STREAM OF INVENTIONS, by Chris Barton, illustrated by Don Tate, 32 pages, published by Charlesbridge, ©2016 (Elementary school, nonfiction/biography, picture book)