

Center for the Study of Multicultural Children's Literature

BEST MULTICULTURAL CHILDREN'S BOOKS OF 2017

Compiled by Dr. Claudette Shackelford McLinn, Lessa Kanani'opua Pelayo-Lozada, Lettycia Terrones, and Patricia Miranda

ALL THE WAY TO HAVANA, by Margarita Engle, illustrated by Mike Curato, 40 pages, published by Godwin Books/Henry Holt and Company., ©2017 (Elementary school, fiction, picture book)

AMINA'S VOICE, by Hena Khan, 197 pages, published by Salaam Reads, ©2017 (Upper elementary school, fiction)

BEFORE SHE WAS HARRIET, by Lesa Cline-Ransome, illustrated by James E. Ransome, 32 pages, published by Holiday House, ©2017 (Elementary school, nonfiction/biography, picture book)

BRONZE AND SUNFLOWER, by Cao Wenxuan, translated from the Chinese by Helen Wang, illustrated by Meilo So, 386 pages, published by Candlewick Press, ©2017 (Upper elementary school, fiction)

CLAYTON BYRD GOES UNDERGROUND, by Rita Williams-Garcia, illustrated by Frank Morrison, 166 pages, published by Amistad, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers (Upper elementary school/Middle school, fiction)

CRANE GIRL, THE: BASED ON JAPANESE FOLKTALES, by Curtis Manley, illustrated by Lin Wang, 40 pages, published by Shen's Books, an imprint of Lee & Low Books Inc., ©2017 (Elementary school, folklore, picture book)

CROSSING EBENEZER CREEK, by Tonya Bolden, 230 pages, published by Bloomsbury, ©2017 (Middle school/High school, historical fiction)

CROWN: AN ODE TO THE FRESH CUT, by Derrick Barnes, illustrated by Gordon C. James, 32 pages, published by Bolden, An Agate Imprint [A Denene Millner Book], ©2017 (Elementary school/Middle school, fiction, picture book)

DANZA! AMALIA HERNÁNDEZ AND EL BALLET FOLKLÓRICO DE MÉXICO, written and illustrated by Duncan Tonatiuh, 32 pages, published by Abrams Books for Young Readers, ©2017 (Elementary school, nonfiction/biography, picture book)



DIFFERENT POND, A, written by Bao Phi, illustrated by Thi Bui, 32 pages, published by Capstone Young Readers, ©2017 (Elementary school, fiction, picture book)

EPIC FAIL OF ARTURO ZAMORA, THE, by Pablo Cartaya, 236 pages, published by Viking (Upper elementary school/Middle school, fiction)

FATIMA AND THE CLEMENTINE THIEVES, story and translated by Mireille Messier, illustrated by Gabrielle Grimard, 32 pages, published by Red Dear Press, ©2017 (Elementary, fiction, picture book)

FIRST RULE OF PUNK, THE, written and illustrated by Celia C. Pérez, 310 pages, published by Viking, ©2017 (Upper elementary school/Middle school, fiction)

FREDERICK DOUGLASS: THE LION WHO WROTE HISTORY, by Walter Dean Myers, 40 pages, published by Harper, an imprint of Harper/Collins Publishers, ©2017 (Upper elementary school, nonfiction/biography, picture book)

FRIDA KAHLO AND HER ANIMALITOS, by Monica Brown, illustrated by John Parra, 40 pages, published by North South, ©2017 (Elementary school, nonfiction/biography, picture book)

GRAND CANYON, written and illustrated by Jason Chin, 56 pages, published by Roaring Brook Press., ©2017 (Elementary school, nonfiction, picture book)

GRANDMA'S TINY HOUSE: A COUNTING STORY! By JaNay Brown-Wood, illustrated by Priscilla Burris, 32 pages, published by Charlesbridge, ©2017 (Preschool/Kindergarten, fiction, picture book)

HELLO, UNIVERSE, written by Erin Entrada Kelly, 313 pages, published by Greenwillow Books, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers, ©2017 (Upper elementary school/Middle school, fiction)

LEGENDARY MISS LENA HORNE, THE, by Carole Boston Weatherford, illustrated by Elizabeth Zunon, 48 pages, published by Atheneum Books for Young Readers, ©2017 (Upper elementary school, nonfiction/biography, picture book)

LET'S CLAP, JUMP, SING & SHOUT; DANCE, SPIN & TURN IT OUT!: GAMES, SONGS & STORIES FROM AN AFRICAN AMERICAN CHILDHOOD, collected by Patricia C. McKissack, illustrated by Brian Pinkney, 173 pages, published by Schwartz & Wade Books, ©2017 (Preschool/Elementary school, nonfiction & fiction [multiple genres])

LONG WAY DOWN, by Jason Reynolds, 320 pages, published by Bloomsbury, ©2017 (Middle school/High school, fiction/novel in verse)



MAMA AFRICA! HOW MIRIAM MAKEBA SPREAD HOPE WITH HER SONG, by Kathryn Erskine, illustrated by Charly Palmer, 48 pages, published by Farrar Straus Giroux Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Macmillan Publishing Group, LLC, ©2017 (Upper elementary school, nonfiction/biography, picture book)

MAYA LIN: THINKING WITH HER HANDS, by Susan Goldman Rubin, 112 pages, published by Chronicle Books, ©2017 (Upper elementary school/Middle school/High school, nonfiction/biography)

MIGUEL'S BRAVE KNIGHT: YOUNG CERVANTES AND HIS DREAM OF DON QUIXOTE, by Margarita Engle, illustrated by Raúl Colón, 32 pages, published by Peachtree, ©2017 (Elementary school, nonfiction/biography, poetry, picture book)

MUDDY: THE STORY OF BLUES LEGEND MUDDY WATERS, by Michael Mahin, illustrated by Evan Turk, 48 pages, published by Atheneum Books for Young Readers, ©2017 (Elementary school, nonfiction/biography, picture book)

ONE LAST WORD: WISDOM FROM THE HARLEM RENAISSANCE, by Nikki Grimes, artwork by Cozbi A. Cabrera, R. Gregory Christie, Pat Cummings, et. al., 120 pages, published by Bloomsbury, ©2017 (Upper elementary school/Middle school, poetry)

OUT OF WONDER: POEMS CELEBRATING POETS, by Kwame Alexander with Chris Colderley and Marjory Wentworth, illustrated by Ekoa Holmes, 40 pages, published by Candlewick Press, ©2017 (Upper elementary school/Middle school, nonfiction, poetry, picture book)

PATHFINDERS: THE JOURNEYS OF 16 EXTRAORDINARY BLACK SOULS, by Tonya Bolden, 124 pages, published by Abrams Books for Young Readers, ©2017 (Upper elementary school/Middle school, nonfiction/biography)

PIECING ME TOGETHER, by Renée Watson, 264 pages, published by Bloomsbury, ©2017 (Upper elementary school/Middle school/High school, fiction)

REFUGEE, by Alan Gratz, 338 pages, published by Scholastic Press, ©2017 (Upper elementary school/Middle school, fiction)

RED CLOUD: A LAKOTA STORY OF WAR AND SURRENDER, by S.D. Nelson, 56 pages, published by Abrams Books for Young Readers, ©2017 (Elementary school/Middle school, nonfiction/biography, picture book)

ROOSTER WHO WOULD NOT BE QUIET!, THE, by Carmen Agra Deedy, illustrated by Eugene Yelchin, 48 pages, published by Scholastic Press, ©2017 (Preschool/Elementary school, fiction, picture book)



SCHOMBURG: THE MAN WHO BUILT A LIBRARY, by Carole Boston Weatherford, illustrated by Eric Velasquez, 48 pages, published by Atheneum Books for Young Readers, ©2017 (Upper elementary school/Middle school, nonfiction/biography, picture book)

SPARKLE BOY, by Lesléa Newman, illustrated by Maria Mola, 32 pages, published by Lee & Low Books Inc., ©2017 (Preschool/Elementary school, fiction, picture book)

STARS BENEATH OUR FEET, THE, by David Barclay Moore, 294 pages, published by Alfred A. Knopf, ©2017 (Upper elementary school/Middle school, fiction)

STEF SOTO, TACO QUEEN, by Jennifer Torres, 166 pages, published by Little, Brown and Company, ©2017 (Upper elementary school/Middle school, fiction)

WORLD IS NOT A RECTANGLE, THE: A PORTRAIT OF ARCHITECT ZAHA HADID, written and illustrated by Jeanette Winter, 56 pages, published by Beach Lane Books, ©2017 (Elementary school, nonfiction/biography, picture book)

YOU CAN'T BE TOO CAREFUL, written and illustrated by Roger Mello, translated by Daniel Hahn, 36 pages, published by Elsewhere Editions, ©2017 (Elementary school, fiction, picture book)

