

Books as Passports to the World

An Annotated Bibliography

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Prepared for

Crossing Borders
Through Literature, Poetry and Personal Stories

A Conference for Teachers of Grades 3-8 and School Librarians

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Introduction

This bibliography was created for the April 2011 conference, Crossing Borders. We were asked to develop a short list of recommended books that would help children in grades three through eight learn about people and cultures around the world. Several considerations helped us to narrow the range of titles for inclusion. We were looking for books that:

- are set in other countries (thus books about immigrants in the US were not included);
- depict parts of the world which have been under-represented in children's literature and/or misrepresented or stereotyped in the media;
- whose time period is modern or contemporary – mainly within the past 40 years – because we wanted children to understand how people live today;
- were published recently, mostly within the past five years;
- present the culture and society in an honest and evenhanded way;
- celebrate differences while cherishing our common humanity;
- are primarily fiction or memoir, though we have included some exceptional nonfiction;
- are easily accessed (i.e., mainly published in the US or Canada);
- have significant literary and artistic merit;
- offer children opportunities for learning and enjoyment.

For a more general discussion about evaluating global literature for young readers, please see Criteria for Selection on page 22.

There were many specific titles and categories of books that we found worthy but could not include. We did not list the many outstanding books written by the distinguished authors featured at the conference – Alma Flor Ada, Naomi Shihab Nye, Linda Sue Park, and James Rumford; conference participants are to receive a separate handout on their works. Although we believe that folklore provides an important lens for understanding other peoples and cultural traditions, we did not include examples here as we wanted the emphasis to be on contemporary life. Because of space limitations, we could not include many excellent books about holidays and celebrations, as well as biographies and nonfiction books. Some parts of the world are not represented on this bibliography because we were unable to find appropriate books set in those regions.

In short, this bibliography is by no means a definitive list. It is rather a personal selection of books that reflect some of the many ways that literature can provide children with a passport to the world.

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The Americas

Bolivia

Ellis, Deborah. *I Am a Taxi.*

Groundwood Books, 2006. 205 pages

Grades 6-8. The parents of twelve-year old Diego have been wrongfully imprisoned for drug smuggling. While they serve their 16-year sentences, Diego lives in the women's prison with his mother and younger sister. He earns money as a "taxi," running errands in the city for the prisoners. A friend convinces him that they can make money working for men who turn out to be local gangsters involved in the cocaine trade. Diego's friend dies, and Diego barely escapes with his life. With extensive author's note and glossary. See also the sequel, *Sacred Leaf*.

Brazil

Peet, Mal. *Keeper.*

Candlewick Press, 2005, 1st U.S. ed. 225 pages

Grades 7-8. In an interview with a young journalist, World Cup hero, El Gato, tells the story of his youth. In the rain forest, he met people that helped make him a soccer star – especially his ghostly mentor, the Keeper, who taught him the secrets of the game. Told with magical realism.

Chile

Foreman, Michael. *Mia's Story: a Sketchbook of Hopes and Dreams.*

Candlewick Press, 2006. 32 pages

Grades 3-5. Inspired by the author's visit to Chile, this is the story of Mia and her family, who built their home from the materials they scavenge from the village dump and who make their living by selling the scraps they collect. When Mia's beloved dog disappears, she searches for him high in the mountains. There she discovers lovely white flowers and transplants them at home. When they grow and spread, she starts a flower business with her father. With full-color illustrations in picture-book format.

Ryan, Pam Muñoz. *The Dreamer, illustrations by Peter Sis.*

Scholastic Press, 2010. 371 pages

Grades 5-8. A fictionalized biography of the Nobel Prize-winning Chilean poet Pablo Neruda, who was a painfully shy child, ridiculed by his harsh, authoritarian father. Told with the rhythms and imagery of poetry, the book includes poems and odes written by the poet. With black and white illustrations.

El Salvador

Argueta, Jorge. *Arroz con Leche: un Poema para Cocinar//Rice Pudding: a Cooking Poem, illustrated by Fernando Vilela.*

Groundwood Books, 2010. 32 pages

Grades 3-5. In this bilingual poem/recipe for the classic Latin American dish of rice pud-

ding, a young cook finds pleasure in making and then slurping up rice pudding with his family. The cooking provides an opportunity to engage all the senses and the imagination, too. With full-color illustrations in picture-book format. Also of interest: the author's *Sopa de Frijoles: un Poema para Cocinar//Bean Soup: a Cooking Poem*.

Guatemala

Cameron, Ann. *Colibri*.

Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2003. 227 pages

Grades 5-8. Twelve-year-old Rosa, whose real name is Tzunun, remembers only a few things about her home and her parents in a Mayan village before she was kidnapped at the age of four. Since then, she has traveled with Uncle, an abusive con artist. Tzunun is pressured to lie, cheat and steal for Uncle. In the end, her strong sense of right and wrong frees her from Uncle but puts her in danger of his vengeance.

Pellegrino, Marge. *Journey of Dreams*.

Frances Lincoln Children's Books, 2009. 250 pages.

Gr 5-8. In 1984, during the violent conflict between indigenous Guatemalans and the government, thirteen-year old Tomasa's mother and brother have to flee for their lives. After their village is destroyed, Tomasa, her younger siblings, and her father set off on a terrifying journey to the capital and then north to Mexico City. Crossing another border to Arizona, they reunite with her mother and brother, who are safe thanks to members of the Sanctuary Movement. With an extensive author's note and glossary.

Haiti

Danticat, Edwidge. *Eight Days: a Story of Haiti*, illustrated by Alix Delinois.

Orchard Books, 2010. 28 pages

Grades 3-5. Junior is pulled from the rubble of his former home eight days after the earthquake that devastated Port-au-Prince in January 2010. Looking back, he tells how he relied on his memories and imagination to survive. Told in a rhythm that echoes the Genesis creation story, each day of Junior's ordeal is represented with a treasured moment from his life. In picture-book format with full-color illustrations.

Honduras

Milway, Katie Smith. *The Good Garden: How One Family Went from Hunger to Having Enough*, illustrated by Sylvie Daigneault.

Kids Can Press, 2010. 30 pages

Grades 3-8. Eleven-year-old Maria Luz and her family have a small farm, but they may not have enough food to sustain them for the year. After her father leaves home to find work, a new teacher comes to town and shows her how to enrich and preserve the soil and how to bring her produce to market. Based on a real story, the book has an extensive author's note that explains efforts and organizations that address the issue of growing good gardens and food security. With lots of text and full-color illustrations in picture-book format.

Jamaica

Hanson, Regina. *A Season for Mangoes*, illustrated by Eric Velasquez.

Clarion Books, 2005. 32 pages

Grades 3-5. After her grandmother's death, Sareen is worried about participating in her first traditional sit-up, a Jamaican celebration of life in which mourners spend a night telling stories, singing, and dancing in honor of someone who has recently died. She discovers that sharing her stories of Nana's passion for mangoes helps to ease her sadness. With full-color illustrations in picture-book format and an extensive author's note that explains Jamaica's customs and traces them back to West Africa.

Mordecai, Martin. *Blue Mountain Trouble*.

Arthur A. Levine Books, 2009. 341 pages

Grades 5-8. Pollyread and Jackson are 11-year-old fraternal twins who live a simple, peaceful life with their parents high in the Blue Mountains. After being saved from a disastrous landslide by an extraordinary goat, they find the goat reappearing at crucial intervals as their life is changed by series of mysterious events. Told with elements of magic and humor and with the characters' dialogue written in Jamaican English.

Mexico

Dorros, Arthur. *Julio's Magic*, illustrated by Ann Grifalconi.

HarperCollins, 2005. 32 pages

Grades 3-5. In Oaxaca, Julio hopes to win the annual woodcarving contest, but Iluminado, his mentor whose eyesight is failing, hesitates to enter. Julio helps his mentor complete a set of beautiful carvings that win the competition's prize, and he learns an important lesson. The story conveys an appreciation of Mexican artisans and has full-color illustrations in picture-book format.

Fine, Edith Hope and Judith Pinkerton Josephson. *Armando and the Blue Tarp School*, illustrated by Hernán Sosa.

Lee & Low Books, 2007. 32 pages

Grades 3-5. Based on the true story of a teacher from New York who taught children living in the Tijuana city dump. Armando and his father are trash-pickers, and when Señor David brings his "school"--a blue tarp set down near the dump--to their neighborhood, the boy's parents are at first reluctant to let him attend. Eventually they realize that this school could lead to a better life for their son. With an extensive author's note and actual photos of the teacher and the pupils at the school. With full-color illustrations in picture-book format.

Meunier, Brian. *Bravo, Tavo!*, illustrated by Perky Edgerton.

Dutton Children's Books, 2007. 32 pages

Grades 3-5. Tavo dreams of being a basketball star like the American players he sees on TV and of getting new shoes to replace his duck-taped sneakers. But there is a severe drought in his village, so instead of playing ball, he helps his inventor father rediscover the ancient irrigation ditches. Together they convince others that the old way of irrigation will save their crops. With full-color illustrations in picture-book format.

Resau, Laura. *What the Moon Saw.*

Delacorte Press, 2006. 258 pages

Grades 5-8. Fourteen-year-old Clara lives in suburban Maryland with her American mother and Mexican father. When her Mexican grandparents invite her to spend the summer with them in their tiny, remote village in Oaxaca, she reluctantly travels there and is stunned by the simple way in which they live. The narrative interweaves Clara's first-person impressions with chapters in which her grandmother tell her own story. With a glossary.

Trinidad

Baptiste, Tracey. *Angel's Grace.*

Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2005.

Grades 5-8. While spending the summer with her grandmother, thirteen-year-old Grace sees a photograph of a stranger with a birthmark identical to hers and begins to wonder if he is her real father. Against the wishes of her family, she begins a search to discover the secrets of her parents' past.

Europe

Bosnia

Dorros, Arthur. *Under the Sun.*

Amulet Books, 2004. 212 pages

Grades 6-8. In the early 1990s, Ehmet, a thirteen-year-old boy from Sarajevo, gets caught up in the ethnic conflicts in the former Yugoslavia. Separated from his parents by the Balkan war, he must use all his survival skills to complete a four-hundred-mile journey across the war-torn country to find a safe haven in a community for orphans near the border. With an extensive author's note.

France, Republic of Georgia

Bondoux, Anne-Laure. *A Time of Miracles, translated from the French by Y. Maudet.*

Delacorte Press, 2010, 1st American ed. 180 pages

Grades 6-8. After the collapse of the Soviet Union in the early 1990s, seven-year-old Koumaïl and his guardian Gloria, flee violent unrest and begin a terrifying five-year journey across the Caucasus toward France. That's where Koumaïl was born, according to Gloria, who describes how she found Koumaïl in the wreckage of a train accident that killed his French mother. Fragments of his and Gloria's true pasts are revealed as they join with other refugees in their struggle to find a new home.

Africa

Egypt

Ellabbad, Mohieddin. *The Illustrator's Notebook*, illustrated by the author.

Groundwood Books, 1999/2006. 30 pages

Grades 5-8. On each page of this unique book, the author, using words and diverse images, addresses questions about artistic inspiration. His own sources emerged from his childhood and young adulthood in Cairo. The format gives the reader many glimpses into growing up in an Arabic culture. Each visual image is accompanied by Arabic calligraphy and the entire book is read from right to left, in keeping with the printing standards in Arabic countries. In picture-book format. A publisher's note and preface provide more information about the author and the tradition within which he works. Originally published in Arabic.

Ghana

Milway, Katie Smith. *One Hen: How One Small Loan Made a Big Difference*, illustrated by Eugenie Fernandes.

Kids Can Press, 2008. 32 pages

Grades 3-6. This story is based on Kwebena Darko's childhood experience in the Ashanti region of Ghana. A young boy, Kojo, earns enough money from selling the eggs of a hen purchased with a small loan, to increase his flock, go to school and college, and eventually start his own farm on which to raise his family. Details of village life are woven into the text and the acrylic illustrations. With an afterword about how small loans enable families and communities to prosper. In picture-book format.

See also additional books about realizing dreams:

Yatandou by Gloria Whelan and illustrated by Peter Sylvada; set in Mali. 2007.

The Best Beekeeper of Lalibela by Cristina Kessler and illustrated by Leonard Jenkins; set in Ethiopia. 2006.

Kenya

Barasch, Lynne. *First Come the Zebra*, illustrated by the author.

Lee & Low Books, 2009. 40 pages

Grades 3-4. Two boys, Abaani, who is Maasai, and Haki, a Kikuyu, meet as each tends to their respective family's livelihoods, herding cows and farming. Traditional hostilities over the use of the land arise, and the boys begin to shout at one another. When they rescue a baby who is in danger of being attacked by warthogs, they reach out to one another and become friends. The author weaves details of life on the Kenyan grasslands into the story. Illustrated with watercolors in picture-book format. With a brief author's note on the conflict behind the story.

Johnson, Jen C. *Seeds of Change*, illustrated by Sonia Lynn Sadler.

Lee & Low Books, 2010. 40 pages

Grades 3-5. The story of Wangari Maathai, the environmentalist who was awarded the

Nobel Prize for Peace in 2004 for her work replanting the trees across deforested Kenya, by recruiting women to help. In picture-book format.

Other recent titles about Wangari Maathai, also in picture-book format and handsomely illustrated include:

Napoli, Donna Jo. *Mama Miti*, illustrated by Kadir Nelson. 2010.

Nivola, Claire. *Planting the Trees of Kenya*. 2008.

Winter, Jeanette. *Wangari's Trees of Peace*. 2008.

Lekuton, Joseph Lemasolai. *Facing the Lion: Growing Up Maasai on the African Savanna*.

National Geographic, 2003. 128 pages

Grades 5-8. This engaging autobiography relates the growing up and coming of age experiences in a contemporary, traditional Maasai tribe, including contending with lions, the village disciplinarian who pinches children for misbehavior, playing soccer, and taking care of the cows. Includes a section of color photographs of the author, his family, and village. The afterword contains additional information about the Ariaal people. Lekuton's foundation has established scholarships for nomadic children, the Kanare Boarding School, and has built a water system for villages in Kenya.

Naidoo, Beverley. *Burn My Heart*.

HarperCollins, 2007. 209 pages

Grades 6-8. Set in the 1950s in the Kenyan highlands at the time when the Mau Mau rebellion challenges British colonial rule, two boys, one Kikuyu and the other British, are friends. Matthew betrays Mugo's family when he does not accept responsibility for starting a fire that Mugo's father is accused of starting. The afterword explains the history of the conflict. Includes a glossary and translations for Kikuyu and Swahili names.

See also *The Mzungu Boy* by Meja Mwangi; set in Kenya. 2005.

Oelschlager, Vanita. *Bonyo Bonyo. The True Story of a Brave Boy from Kenya*, illustrated by Kristin Blackwood and Mike Blanc.

Vanita Books, 2010. 40 pages

Grades 3-5. This inspiring story is based on the life of Dr. Bonyo Bonyo, who traveled away from his family as a young boy to go to school, and eventually attended college and medical school in the United States. As a boy, Bonyo Bonyo was inspired to enter medicine when his baby sister died due to lack of clean water to drink. The afterword includes a photograph of Dr. Bonyo and information about his Kenya Mission, which funds a health center and opportunities for children to attend school. Fully illustrated in picture-book format.

See also other stories about getting opportunities to attend school:

Muktar and the Camels by Janet Graber and illus. by Scott Mack; set in Kenya/Somalia. 2009

Babu's Song by Stephanie Stuve-Bodeen and illustrated by Aaron Boyd; set in Tanzania. 2003.

Malawi

Michael, Jan. *City Boy*.

Houghton Mifflin, 2009. 188 pages

Grades 6-8. When Sam becomes an orphan, he is sent to live with his aunt and cousins in a rural village that is completely unlike the city he first grew up in. His struggle to learn the customs and ways of life, so different from his former life in a modern city, and accept the loss of his parents, is guided by his kind aunt, who helps him learn how to share, including his blue sneakers, the last gift his mother gave him before her death.

Mali

Diakit , Baba Wagu . *A Gift from Childhood: Memories of an African Boyhood*, illustrated by the author.

Groundwood Books, 2010. 136 pages

Grades 5-8. In this memoir, the author weaves together stories from growing up with his grandparents in a Malian village, their customs and values, and the history of the region, including the encroachment of Europeans. The illustrations, both in full color and black and white, enhance the engaging storytelling.

Diakit , Penda. *I Lost My Tooth in Africa*, illustrated by Baba Wagu  Diakit .

Scholastic Press, 2006. 32 pages

Grades 3-5. Amina travels to visit her father's family in Mali. She participates in contemporary village life and traditions, including receiving a chicken in exchange for her lost tooth. The richly colored illustrations were created on ceramic tiles. The artist's note speaks of the importance of storytelling in his family growing up in Africa, as well as in raising his own children in Portland, Oregon. In picture-book format with a brief glossary, traditional good night song and recipe for onion stew.

Morocco

Alalou, Elizabeth and Ali Alalou. *The Butter Man*, illustrated by Julie Klear Essakalli.

Charlesbridge, 2008. 32 pages

Grades 3-5. In the U.S., while a hungry and impatient Nora waits for the couscous that her father is cooking, he tells her a story about his childhood in the High Atlas Mountains. During a time of drought and famine, his resourceful mother had distracted him while he waited for his father to come back with food for the family. With an extensive author's note about Berber culture and full-color illustrations in picture-book format.

South Africa

Javaherbin, Mina. *Goal!*, illustrated by A.G. Ford.

Candlewick Press, 2010. 32 pages

Grades 2-4. Ajani and his friends, who live in a township, have gathered to play soccer with a new regulation soccer ball. When bullies arrive with the intent of harassing the younger boys, Ajani kicks the ball into an overturned bucket, thus hiding it from the bullies, who go on their way. The fully illustrated in picture-book format.

Uganda

McBrier, Page. *Beatrice's Goat*, illustrated by Lori Lohstoeter.

Atheneum Books, 2001. 32 pages

Grades 3-4. In this particularly well-written story, Beatrice longs to attend school, but her mother does not have the money to send her. The Heifer Project chooses the family to receive a goat, which becomes Beatrice's responsibility. Beatrice saves the money she earns from selling Mugisa's milk to help purchase things her family needs. There is enough money to send Beatrice to school. With an afterword by Hillary Clinton about the Heifer Project. Illustrated in rich color with acrylic paints in picture-book format.

See also *Give a Goat* by Jan Schrock and illustrated by Aileen Darragh, about a fifth grade class in the U.S. that raised money for the Heifer Project.

Shoveller, Herb. *Ryan and Jimmy and the Well in Africa that Brought Them Together.*

Kids Can Press, 2006. 56 pages

Grades 5-8. Ryan, a Canadian boy, upon learning that many Ugandan villagers sicken and die due to unsafe water, embarks on earning the \$2000 needed for building a well that will provide clean water. He and Ankana Jimmy, a Ugandan school boy, become pen pals beginning a friendship that is strengthened when Ryan travels to meet Jimmy and see first hand the well that his efforts provided for the people of Agweo. Nonfiction, illustrated with photographs.

Zimbabwe

Marsden, Carolyn and Philip Merlin Matzigkeit. *Sahwira: an African Friendship.*

Candlewick Press, 2009. 189 pages

Grades 6-8. Set in Southern Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) in the 1960s and narrated from alternating viewpoints, this is the story of how the strong friendship between two twelve-year old boys, one black and one white, begins to unravel as protests against white colonial rule intensify. Many connections are made to the civil rights movement in the U.S. as the boys deal with conflict, betrayal, and how to deal with the injustices of the white-led government. With an author's note and glossary.

The Middle East (Southwest Asia)

Addasi, Maha. *Time to Pray*, illustrated by Ned Gannon.

Boyd's Mills Press, 2010. 32 pages

Grades 3-5. A girl's visit to her grandmother in an unnamed Middle Eastern town introduces her to her spiritual heritage of Islam. The English text appears with Arabic translation on each page. Yasmin observes her grandmother's devotions and the way others in the community integrate prayer into their daily lives. The English text appears with Arabic translation on each page and an explanation of the five prayers required by Islam is included. With full-color illustrations that include Islamic motifs in picture-book format.

Mason, Prue. *Camel Rider*.

Charlesbridge, 2007. 204 pages

Grades 5-8. In an unnamed, war-torn, Middle Eastern country, twelve-year-old Adam from Australia and Walid from Bangladesh, must rely on one another. Before the outbreak of war, Adam had lived in a comfortable compound for foreigners, while Walid was an abused camel boy who ran away from his cruel masters. Now they are both trying to reach safe haven with no water, little food, and no common language. The story is told alternately in each boy's voice.

Iraq

Halls, Kelly Milner and William Sumner. *Saving the Baghdad Zoo: a True Story of Hope and Heroes*.

Greenwillow Books, 2010. 64 pages

Grades 3-8. After the war in Iraq began in 2003, Baghdad faced widespread destruction. U. S. Army Captain William Sumner was asked to check out the state of the zoo, and he found that it, too, was devastated. This photo essay explains how an international team of animal specialists and Iraqis worked together to save the animals and to re-open the zoo. With extensive text and full-color photographs.

Israel, Palestine

Carmi, Daniella. *Samir and Yonatan*. Translated by Yael Lotan.

Scholastic, 1994/2000. 186 pages

Grades 6-8. Five children, four Israelis and one Palestinian, share a room in a Jerusalem hospital. Samir and Yonatan become friends, as Samir begins to appreciate the experiences and perspectives of the four Israeli children. Winner of the Batchelder Award.

Carter, Anne Laurel. *The Shepherd's Granddaughter*.

Groundwood Books, 2008. 224 pages

Grades 6-8. Amani, a Palestinian girl, wants to become a shepherd following her grandfather's tradition. While protecting the family's sheep from a wolf attack, Amani meets and forms a cautious friendship with Jonathan, the son of a settler. Tension rises when building settlements encroach on the land on which Amani's family grazes their sheep and grows vegetables. The Palestinian perspective is balanced by the help provided by a rabbi and an Israeli lawyer involved in the peace movement.

For other juvenile and young adult novels that explore the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, see:

A Stone in My Hand by Cathryn Clinton. 2002.

Freefall by Anna Levine. 2008.

A Bottle in the Gaza Sea by Valérie Zenatti, and translated by Adriana Hunter. 2005/2008.

Ellis, Deborah. *Three Wishes: Palestinian and Israeli Children Speak*.

Groundwood Books, 2004. 112 pages

Grades 5-8. In this nonfiction book, Israeli and Palestinian teenagers respond to the author's invitation to talk about their everyday lives, both ordinary and extraordinary, because of the ongoing threat of violence. Many speak of not knowing, respectively,

Palestinians or Israelis. Each profile is preceded by passages on the history of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and its impact on children's lives. Photographs of the children, their neighborhoods, and evidence of violence provide additional information. The afterword includes suggestions for further reading and a list of organizations that are working to make a difference in this conflict.

Marx, Trish. *Sharing Our Homeland: Palestinian and Jewish Children at Peace Camp, with photographs by Cindy Karp.*

Lee & Low Books, 2010. 48 pages

Grades 3-8. A nonfiction account of Jewish and Palestinian children learning about one another's lives and concerns at Peace Camp, told through the experiences of two children, Yuval, an Israeli boy, and Alya, a Palestinian girl. Brief visits to the homes of each child, and descriptions of camp activities round out the narrative. Illustrated in full color photographs in picture-book format. The afterword provides suggestions for further reading, websites, an author's note, and a pronunciation guide and glossary.

See also *Neve Shalom, Wahat Al-Salam: Oasis of Peace*. By Laurie Dolphin with photographs by Ben Dolphin; set in Israel. 1993.

South Asia

Afghanistan

Khan, Rukhsana. *Wanting Mor.*

Groundwood Books, 2009. 190 pages

Grades 6-8. In 2001, Jameela's mother, Mor, dies, and her father impulsively decides they must leave their rural community and start a new life in the city of Kabul. He remarries, but her new stepmother resents her, and Jameela is abandoned in a busy marketplace. She finds her way to an orphanage where she begins a new life and receives medical attention to repair her cleft lip. Based on a true story; with an author's note and glossary.

McKay, Sharon E. *Thunder Over Kandahar, photographs by Rafal Gerszak.*

Annick Press; Distributed in the U.S. by Firefly Books, 2010. 260 pages

Grades 6-8. Teenaged best friends, Tamanna and Yasmine, face arranged marriages and persecution by the Taliban in their village. They run away through dangerous mountain passes, confronting land mines, a suicide bomber, and roving bands of Taliban men. With a glossary and detailed timeline of Afghan history going back to Alexander the Great.

O'Brien, Tony and Mike Sullivan. *Afghan Dreams: Young Voices of Afghanistan, photographs by Tony O'Brien.*

Bloomsbury Children's Books, 2008. 69 pages

Grades 4-8. This photo-essay features 30 contemporary Afghan children ranging in age from 8 to 18 years. In the midst of the ongoing war, the authors ask the children about their families, lives, and hopes for the future. Their responses tell much about the devastating effects of decades of war, and the accompanying photos are powerful. Includes an authors' note with background information about the history of the area.

Winter, Jeanette, *Nasreen's Secret School: a True Story from Afghanistan*, illustrated by the author.

Beach Lane Books, 2009. 36 pages

Grades 3-5. Based on a true story and set in the Afghan city of Herat. After her parents are taken away by the Taliban, Nasreen stops speaking. Her grandmother discovers a secret school for girls run by neighborhood women, and there Nasreen gradually begins to heal in the company of other courageous girls and women. Spare, simple words convey the loss of the once rich and thriving cultural life of the city under the harsh Taliban rule. With an author's note and with simply-framed full-color illustrations in picture-book format. See also the author's *The Librarian of Basra* about Iraq in 2002.

Afghanistan, Pakistan

Staples, Suzanne Fisher. *Under the Persimmon Tree*.

Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2005. 275 pages

Grades 7-8. In Afghanistan after 9/11, Najmah witnesses the brutal kidnapping of her father and brother by the Taliban. When her mother and baby brother die in an American air raid, she stops speaking and, disguised as a boy, makes a dangerous journey to a refugee camp in Peshawar, Pakistan. There she meets, Nusrat, an American Muslim teacher, who has set up a school for the refugees. With an author's note and glossary.

Bangladesh

Malaspina, Ann. *Yasmin's Hammer*, illustrated by Doug Chayka.

Lee & Low Books, 2010. 40 pages

Grades 3-5. In Dhaka, two girls work hard all day to help support their family by chipping bricks into small pieces. The older sister Yasmin tries to find a way to attend school and learn to read so that she can have a better life one day. With the support of her close, loving family, she achieves her goal. Includes an author's note about conditions in Bangladesh, child labor, and how to help. With two-page, full-color illustrations in picture-book format.

Perkins, Mitali. *Rickshaw Girl*, illustrated by Jamie Hogan.

Charlesbridge, 2007. 91 pages

Grades 3-5. In her village, ten-year-old Naimi is the best at creating traditional alpana patterns, with which girls and women decorate their homes for special celebrations. But to help her impoverished family, she decides she must disguise herself as a boy. Dressed as a boy, she drives her father's rickshaw and, to her dismay, crashes it. This short chapter book has black and white illustrations, an illustrated glossary, and an author's note.

India

Arnett, Robert. *Finders Keepers?: a True Story*, illustrated by Smita Turakhia.

Atman Press, 2003. 31 pages

Grades 3-5. A true story set in India about the American author's experience when he lost his wallet and then offered a reward to the boy who returned it to him. The boy could not understand why he should be rewarded for doing the right thing. The author continues

his journey through India meeting people and having experiences that provide opportunities for understanding cultural differences and similarities in a diverse world. With full-color illustrations and a glossary.

Heydlauff, Lisa. *Going to School in India*, design by B.M. Kamath, photographs by Nitin Upadhye.

Charlesbridge, 2005. 97 pages

Grades 4-8. A nonfiction voyage around the country showing the many ways in which children attend school, including city schools, a tent in the desert, and a railway platform. Often against great odds, the children pursue their dream of getting an education. The book includes interviews with children and general facts about India in an unusual book format with rich colors, many fold-out pages, photographs and drawings.

Lewin, Ted and Betsy Lewin. *Balarama: a Royal Elephant*, illustrated by the authors.

Lee & Low Books, 2009. 48 pages

Grades 3-6. World travelers Ted and Betsy Lewin tell the story of how the trained elephants of southern India are raised, cared for, and prepared for performing in ceremonial processions. The story highlights the particular elephant chosen to be the lead elephant in the Mysore Dasara – a centuries old festival celebrated each fall. Includes background information and glossary. With full-color illustrations in picture-book format.

Perkins, Mitali. *Secret Keeper*.

Delacorte Press, 2009. 225 pages

Grades 6-8. In 1974, when her father leaves New Delhi to look for a job in New York, sixteen-year old Asha, her older sister, and her mother move to the home of their extended family in Calcutta. The new home is very traditional and life there is difficult: Asha must keep quiet about her dreams of attending college, rescue her sister from an arranged marriage, and make a decision about the secret friendship she has with the boy next door. With a glossary.

Schröder, Monika. *Saraswati's Way*.

Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2010. 233 pages

Grades 6-8. In Rajasthan, twelve-year old Akash loves math, and he dreams of getting a scholarship to go to a city school. He prays to Saraswati, the Hindu goddess of knowledge, for help, but after his father's abrupt death, he is sent to work in a quarry to pay off the family's debt. He runs away and ends up living at the New Delhi train station, where he joins a group of street kids who will do anything to survive. With an extensive author's note and glossary.

Sheth, Kashmira. *Monsoon Afternoon*, illustrated by Yoshiko Jaeggi.

Peachtree, 2008. 32 pages

Grades 3-5. In monsoon season, a young boy from a middle class family joins his grandfather in exploring their neighborhood. Starting out in the rain, they observe the people and animals around them and how things change when the sun comes out. With an author's note that explains his childhood experiences in India. Illustrated in full-color watercolors in picture-book format.

Sheth, Kashmira. *Boys Without Names*.

Balzer & Bray, 2010. 316 pages

Grades 6-8. Eleven-year old Gopal and his family leave their rural village to live with his uncle in Mumbai. After they arrive, his father goes missing, and Gopal ends up locked in a sweatshop where he is forced to work alongside other children for no money and little food. One night, he realizes that storytelling might be the way for the boys to strengthen themselves and regain hope for the future. With a glossary and an extensive author's note about child slavery. See also the author's Keeping Corner, about a girl in India at the time of Gandhi and India's independence struggle.

Singh, Vandana. *Younguncle Comes to Town*, illustrated by B.M. Kamath.

Viking, 2006, 152 pages

Grades 3-5. Set in a small town in northern India, this is a collection of stories about three siblings and their eccentric uncle. The stories provide a humorous and light-hearted introduction to Indian culture, traditions, and middle class family life, as Younguncle intervenes in the lives of friends and family. With occasional black and white illustrations.

Nepal

Cossi, Olga. *Pemba Sherpa*, illustrated by Gary Bernard.

Odyssey Books, 2009. 32 pages

Grades 3-5. Yang Ki longs to prove her ability to carry heavy loads and train to be a porter and guide in the Himalayas. She follows her brother to school. When he slips and falls at the edge of a canyon, Yang Ki rescues her brother, proving her capacity to achieve her goals. This story is dedicated to Pemba Doma Sherpa, the first woman to summit Mount Everest via the North Face. Watercolor illustrations in picture-book format.

Pakistan

Qamar, Amjed. *Beneath My Mother's Feet*.

Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2008. 198 pages

Grades 6-8. Growing up in a working-class neighborhood in Karachi, fourteen-year-old Nazia has always been a dutiful daughter. When her father is injured and loses his job, the family is suddenly plunged into extreme poverty, and Nazia must abandon her school, her friends, and her preparations for an arranged marriage. Helping her mother clean the houses of the wealthy is a shameful obligation, but she finally rebels and takes charge of her future. With a glossary.

Razzak, Shazia, *P is for Pakistan*, photographs by Prodepta Das.

Frances Lincoln Limited, 2007. 25 pages

Grades 3-5. In this book, each letter of the alphabet is associated with a word in Urdu or English that has something to do with the country's history, culture, or geography. The author notes in her introduction that Pakistan is a diverse country, divided into several provinces with different languages, clothing, and customs; this diversity is reflected in the photographs. In picture-book format.

Pakistan, Afghanistan

Williams, Karen Lynn and Khadra Mohammed. *Four feet, Two Sandals*, illustrated by Doug Chayka.

Eerdmans Books for Young Readers, 2007. 32 pages

Grades 3-5. A 10-year old Afghani girl living in a refugee camp in Peshawar, on the Afghanistan-Pakistan border rushes to claim what she can when relief workers bring used clothing. She finds one sandal and then discovers that another girl has the matching shoe. Together they learn to solve the problem of having four feet and two sandals; they share their harsh experiences of war, and they develop a touching friendship. With a short author's note that gives information about refugee camps, and with lush, full-color illustrations in picture-book format.

East Asia

China

Cheng, Andrea. *Shanghai Messenger*, illustrated by Ed Young.

Lee & Low Books, 2005. 40 pages

Grades 3-5. The poems in this book tell the story of eleven-year old Xiao Mei who travels to contemporary Shanghai to visit her extended family. Despite her reluctance to go and initial shyness, Xiao Mei's introduction to her Chinese heritage and way of life proves rewarding. Watercolor illustrations framed by red screens in picture-book format.

Hong, Chen Jiang. *Mao and Me: The Little Red Guard*.

Enchanted Lion Books, 2008. 77 pages

Grades 5-8. This autobiography of growing up during the Cultural Revolution in China is in graphic-novel format. The illustrations provide many details about everyday life in urban China during the 1960s, while the text relates the story of an ordinary childhood soon to be disrupted by the excesses of the Red Guards.

See also the following young adult memoirs written by authors whose young lives were affected by the Cultural Revolution in China:

Compstine, Ying Chang. *Revolution is Not a Dinner Party*. 2007.

Li, Moying. *Snow Falling in Spring: Coming of Age in China During the Cultural Revolution*. 2008.

Yan, Ma. *The Diary of Ma Yan: the Struggles and Hopes of a Chinese Schoolgirl*. 2002/2004.

Yue, Guo & Clare Farrow. *Little Leap Forward: a Boy in Beijing*, illustrated by Helen Cann. 2008.

Japan

Meehan, Kierin. *Hannah's Winter*.

Kane Miller, 2001. 212 pages

Grades 6-8. Hannah, a twelve-year old Australian girl of Japanese heritage, travels to Kanzawa, Japan with her mother. In an engaging, humorous voice, Hannah recounts solving an intriguing riddle with her new friend Miki. The author skillfully interweaves details about contemporary life in Japan and about traditional culture into the lively nar-

rative. The girls' search leads to pages from the personal dairy, written in 1840, of the son of a samurai family. The author's note provides additional information about the historical, geographical, and cultural context in which the story is situated.

Say, Allan. *Kamishibai Man*, illustrated by the author.

Houghton Mifflin, 2005. 32 pages

Grades 3-4; Japan. A retired Kamishibai man looks back on his life as a storyteller. Kamishibai is a form of storytelling told with pictures in a small wooden stage. Children gather to hear the stories and buy candy. Once television became widely available, the children, except for one boy, were no longer interested in these stories. When he decides to once again set up his Kamishibai paper theater, a crowd of adults gather, many of whom heard and loved his stories as children. The afterword explains this tradition. Watercolor illustrations in picture-book format.

Thompson, Holly. *Wakame Gatherers*, illustrated by Kazumi Wilds.

Shen's Books, 2007. 32 pages

Grades 2-4. On a seaweed collecting expedition with her two grandmothers, one visiting from Maine, Nakami serves as translator as they gather the delicious wakame. The author weaves details about life in the Japanese seaside village and a seacoast Maine town into the narrative. Each grandmother shares her own perspective on World War II. The afterword contains information about the harvesting of wakame and several Japanese recipes. Watercolor illustrations in picture-book format.

See also *The Peace Bell* by Margi Preus with illus by Hideko Takahashi; set in Japan. 2008.

Turner, Pamela. *Hachiko: The True Story of a Loyal Dog*, illustrated by Yan Nascimbene.

Houghton Mifflin, 2004. 32 pages

Grades 3-4. The story of Hachiko, a dog who loyally waited at the train station for his owner, Dr. Ueno, to return each day, is told through the eyes of Kentaro, a boy who loved the dog as did many who traveled through Shibuya Station. After Dr. Ueno's death, Hachiko continued to wait for his master until his own death. An afterword explains the story behind the story, which is set in Tokyo in the years before World War II, and is based on the story of an actual dog and his owner. Illustrated in watercolors in picture-book format.

Mongolia

Lewin, Ted and Betsy. *Horse Song: The Naadam of Mongolia*, illustrated by the authors.

Lee & Low Books, 2008. 50 pages

Grades 3-5. The title of this slightly fictionalized account of the Mongolian summer festival, Naadam, refers to the cry "Giiinggoo" that young nomad jockeys sing when racing their small trained stallions across the steppe. Both the text and the watercolor illustrations reveal traditional and contemporary details about nine-year old Tamir, a composite of several boys, and his family's nomadic life herding horses, cows, sheep and goats. The afterword includes a glossary, information about gers, the collapsible round tents that Mongolian nomads have lived in for centuries, and interesting facts about Mongolian customs that are relevant to the story. In picture-book format.

See also *My Little Round House* written and illustrated by Balormaa Baasansuren, and adapted by Helen Mixer; set in Mongolia. Grades 1-2. 2006/2009.

South Korea

Choi, Yangsook. *Peach Heaven*, illustrated by the author.

Farrar, Strauss & Giroux, 2005. 28 pages

Grades 2-3. A touch of fantasy enters this story, based on the author's childhood memory of peaches washed from the trees during a thunderstorm. Yangsook enlists her friends to help collect the peaches and return them to the farmers who have lost their valuable crop. The illustrations provide cultural details about everyday life in the Korean village. With an author's note; in picture-book format.

Southeast Asia

Burma/Myanmar

Perkins, Mitali. *Bamboo People*.

Charlesbridge, 2010. 272 pages

Grades 6-8. Set in present-day Burma and narrated by two teenage boys on opposing sides of the conflict between the Burmese government and the Karenni, an ethnic minority. Fifteen-year-old Chiko has been forced into the army; Tu Reh lives in a refugee camp on the Thai border. Each is sent on his first mission into the jungle where they discover that in order to survive they must learn to trust each other. The novel explores the nature of violence, power, and cultural, political, and religious differences. The author's notes provide background information on Burmese history and the current military regime's repression of minorities.

Hong Kong

Russell, Ching Yeung. *Tofu Quilt*.

Lee & Low Books, 2009. 125 pages

Grades 3-5. Set in the 1960s, this collection of poems tells the story of Yeung Ying going to school and becoming a writer, despite the opposition of her father's family. Written in free verse, the short poems contain brief images of life in Hong Kong and on the Chinese mainland. The author's note, including a photograph of the author at eleven with her family, reveals that the story is based on her own childhood. The author's love for dan lai, a custard dessert, motivated her to become a writer. A glossary clarifies terms that may be unfamiliar to North American readers.

Laos, Thailand

Manivong, Laura. *Escaping the Tiger*.

Harper, 2010. 216 pages

Grades 6-8. Set in 1982, twelve-year old Vonlai, his sister Dalah, and their parents cross the Mekong River from Laos into Thailand to escape persecution. Living in Na Pho, a

refugee camp, brings modest relief, partially provided by the mentorship of an elderly refugee who teaches him to carve wooden figures. The story is based on the harrowing and often violent experiences of the author's husband before he was able to immigrate to the United States. Contains mature subject matter.

Thailand

Marsden, Carolyn. *Silk Umbrellas.*

Candlewick Press, 2004. 135 pages

Grades 3-5. In this gentle novel, eleven-year-old Noi, who is in her last year of school, learns how to paint silk umbrellas from her grandmother. Noi's contentment is disrupted when her fifteen-year-old sister Ting is sent to work at a mind-numbing factory job to help with the family's finances. Noi hopes her gift of painting umbrellas will earn money from tourists, thus saving both girls from having to work at the factory.

Sobol, Richard. *The Life of Rice: From Seedling to Supper.*

Candlewick Press, 2010. 37 pages

Grades 4-6. This first-person account by photographer Richard Sobol, who traveled in Thailand, captures the life cycle of the rice fields and the lives of the Thai people who grow the rice and celebrate the crop with festivals. The full-color photographs support the narrative that describes the entire process from seeding the rice fields to sharing a rice dinner. Afterword with rice facts and a glossary.

See also *Running Shoes* by Frederick Lipp & illus. by Jason Gaillard; set in Cambodia. 2008.

Vietnam

Starke, Ruth. *Noodle Pie.*

Kane Miller, 2010. 189 pages

Grades 6-8. This accessible story is told through the perspective of Andy Nguyen, a Vietnamese boy growing up in Australia. Andy meets his Vietnamese family for the first time when he accompanies his father, a refugee, on his first return to Vietnam. Andy initially recoils from the behavior, cultural practices, and the food preparation in his paternal family's modest restaurant. Ultimately, Andy comes to appreciate his cultural heritage, as he teams up with his cousin Minh to modernize the family business, including renaming the restaurant Noodle Pie, a nonexistent dish, and translating the menu into English. A particularly skillful blending of information about traditional cultural practices as well as life in modern Hanoi. The afterword gives information about preparing Vietnamese food, several easy recipes, and how to help provide a more promising future for Hanoi street children.

See also *The Buddha's Diamonds* by Carolyn Marsden and Thây Pháp Niêm; set in Vietnam. For grades 3-5. 2008.

Multi-National/Cross-Cultural

Baker, Jeannie. *Mirror, illustrated by the author.*

Candlewick Press, 2010, 1st U.S. ed. 40 pages

Grades 3-5; Morocco and Australia. This picture book contains two parallel stories told without words: one to be read left to right, the other right to left. The stories each follow a day in the life of two boys, who live in urban Australia and southern Morocco. Comparing their experiences page by page, the differences and similarities become apparent as the families go about their chores and make an important purchase in their respective marketplaces. With full-color collage illustrations & an author's note in English and Arabic.

Hollyer, Beatrice. *Our World of Water: Children and Water Around the World.*

Henry Holt and Co., in association with Oxfam, 2009. 47 pages

Grades 3-8. A photo-essay that explores the idea that wherever we live—whether our country is rich or poor—water is vital to our survival on this planet. Children in Peru, Mauritania, the United States, Bangladesh, Ethiopia, and Tajikistan talk about what water means to them. With a glossary. See also: Hollyer's Let's Eat! What Children Eat Around the World.

Lewin, Ted. *How much?: Visiting Markets Around the World, illustrated by the author.*

HarperCollins, 2006. 32 pages

Grades 3-5. Five local marketplaces are introduced: a floating market near Bangkok, Thailand; an evening bazaar in Madras, India; a marketplace in the valley below Machu Picchu, Peru; a camel market outside Cairo, Egypt; and a flea market in Lambertville, New Jersey. With full-color illustrations in picture-book format with double-page spreads for each location. See also: Lewin's Market!.

Menzel, Peter, photographer. *What the World Eats, text by Faith D'Aluisio.*

Tricycle Press, 2008. 160 pages

Grades 5-8. A photo-essay that portrays families from 21 countries, each surrounded by a week's worth of food. The entries include notes on methods of food preparation, fast facts about the country, and an article discussing the family members, their lifestyles, health issues, and food traditions. Includes statistics on population, life expectancy, literacy and fertility rates, access to safe water, and obesity. See also the authors' Hungry Planet.

National Geographic. *Every Human Has Rights: a Photographic Declaration for Kids.*

National Geographic, 2009. 48 pages

Grades 3-8. This photo-essay of the thirty human rights established in 1948 by the United Nations combines full-color photographs from around the world with prize-winning poems by students, who are mostly from North America. The full text of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is included. See also: A Life Like Mine, a photo-essay published by UNICEF and We Are All Born Free: the Universal Declaration of Human Rights illustrated by many well-known artists and illustrators.

Ruurs, Margriet. *My School in the Rain Forest: How Children Attend School Around the World.*

Boyds Mills Press, 2009. 32 pages

Grades 3-5. A photo-essay of the many ways children attend school around the world (and not just in the rain forest). The author asked teachers to photograph their schools and students. Each of the thirteen entries is accompanied by a description of the school and a fact box giving information about the country.

Selection Criteria

In her book, *Against Borders. Promoting Books for a Multicultural World*, Hazel Rochman writes:

A good book can help to break down . . . barriers. Books can make a difference in dispelling prejudice and building community: not with role models and literal recipes, not with noble messages about the human family, but with enthralling stories that make us imagine the lives of others. A good story lets you know people as individuals in all their particularity and conflict; and once you see a person - flawed, complex, striving - then you've reached beyond stereotype. Stories, writing them, telling them, sharing them, transforming them, enrich us and connect us and help us know each other. (page 19)

This quote captures the spirit and intention of this bibliography and the selection process used to make choices among the many books set in countries outside the United States.

Temple, Martinez and Yokota, in their text *Children's Books in Children's Hands*, suggest asking the following questions when evaluating children's books set in international communities.

- Do the author and illustrator present authentic perspectives?
- Is the culture portrayed multi-dimensionally?
- Are cultural details naturally integrated?
- Are details accurate and is the interpretation current?
- Is language used authentically?
- Is the collection balanced?

In general, organizations dedicated to recognizing excellence in children's literature use three categories of criteria when evaluating books for inclusion on bibliographies and awards for global literature: cultural accuracy and authenticity, accessibility to young readers, and literary and artistic merit. The following criteria, culled from those resources, appear in some form on several such lists.

Cultural accuracy and authenticity:

- The text and illustrations reflect cultural awareness, achieved through meticulous research, personal experience, and/or membership in the cultural community portrayed.
- Factual information is presented with wording that facilitates an accurate and current interpretation of the cultural setting and of the individual characters.
- Verbal interactions portray authentic speech.
- Aspects of the culture are presented with depth, sensitivity and respect.

Accessibility to young readers:

- The stories are engaging, whether fiction or nonfiction.
- Compelling characters are portrayed as complex individuals, who face dilemmas and have hopes familiar to the intended readers.
- Potentially unfamiliar terminology, cultural details, and background information are integrated into the narrative in a way that encourages understanding and maintains the flow of the storytelling and reader interest.)
- The visual presentation and illustrations support and extend the narrative text.

Literary and artistic merit:

- The story is substantive, thought-provoking, and well-shaped.
- The writing style is lively and the choice of wording is precise.
- The illustrations have artistic merit, using media appropriate to the narrative content.
- The presentation and book design are attractive, as well as appropriate to the subject.

References:

Notable Books for a Global Society. International Reading Association. Book Selection Criteria. <http://www.csulb.edu/org/childrens-lit/proj>

Rochman, Hazel. "Beyond Political Correctness." in *Against Borders. Promoting Books for a Multicultural World* American Library Association, 1993. Chicago, Ill. (pages 17-27).

Temple, Charles, Miriam Martinez, and Junko Yokota. *Children's Books in Children's Hands. An Introduction to Their Literature*. 4th Edition. Pearson, 2011.

Resources

Professional Journals

Book Links

A publication of the American Library Association, *Book Links* provides reviews of the latest recommended children's books; in-depth articles tied to national standards on using books in the classroom; strategies and information for library media specialist/teacher collaboration; tips for making reading fun for children. www.ala.org/BookLinks

Booklist

Published by the American Library Association, *Booklist* magazine delivers reviews of books, audiobooks, reference sources, and DVD titles. Spotlight issues provide coverage on popular genres and specific topics and themes. There is full coverage of the ALA award winners, the annual Editor's Choice, and other "best" lists. www.ala.org/booklist

FACES

Highly recommended resource for the classroom: a children's magazine that shows how people in other countries, regions, and places live. Its mission is to foster an appreciation of the world's many traditions, encouraging young readers to think from new perspectives. Go

to the website to order specific issues and teachers' guides.
Cobblestone Publishing, Division of Carus Publishing Company
<http://www.cobblestonepub.com/magazine/fac/>

Horn Book Magazine

Published bimonthly, *The Horn Book Magazine* features articles, book reviews, and other information related to children's and young adult literature. The Horn Book Guide Online, a subscription-based site, contains all reviews from the print Guide from 1989 to the present.
www.hbook.com

Multicultural Review

Multicultural Review is dedicated to reviews of materials that deal with diversity. The focus is on differences in ethnicity, race, spirituality, religion, disability, and language. It helps educators find materials to add to library collections or that assist in classroom instruction.
www.mcreview.com

School Library Journal

School Library Journal serves librarians who work with young people in schools and public libraries. It provides information needed to integrate libraries into the school curriculum in the areas of technology, reading, and information literacy, and provides reviews of materials to create high-quality collections for children and young adults.
www.schoollibraryjournal.com

Teaching Tolerance Magazine

Published by the Southern Poverty Law Center, *Teaching Tolerance* provides educators with free educational materials that promote respect for differences and appreciation of diversity in the classroom and beyond. Published twice a year, *Teaching Tolerance* magazine showcases innovative tolerance initiatives in schools across the country and the best tolerance-related resources, recommended and reviewed by its staff.
<http://www.tolerance.org/teach/magazine/>

Internet Resources

Crisscrossing the Globe: A World of International Books for Young People

by Elizabeth Poe -- *School Library Journal*, 02/01/2010
<http://www.schoollibraryjournal.com/article/CA6716600.html>

Database of Award-Winning Children's Literature

DAWCL has over 8,400 records from 99 awards across six English-speaking countries.
<http://www.dawcl.com>

Global Reading: Selected Literature for Children and Teens Set in Other Countries.

CCBC (Cooperative Children's Book Center), School of Education, University of Wisconsin-Madison. The Cooperative Children's Book Center (CCBC) is a gathering place for books, ideas, and expertise in the field of children's and young adult literature.
<http://www.education.wisc.edu/ccbc/books/detailListBooks.asp?idBookLists=280>

Multicultural/Diverse Children's Literature.

Michigan State University Libraries. A list of books and materials present different cultures and diverse perspectives to children. This page provides links to other excellent children's literature sites. <http://staff.lib.msu.edu/corby/psychology/tests.htm>

Notable Books for a Global Society.

IRA (International Reading Association) Children's Literature and Reading Special Interest Group. The mission of this group is to promote the educational use of children's books by focusing on recently published children's literature, supportive professional books, issues relative to children's literature, and current research findings.

<http://www.csulb.edu/org/childrens-lit>

USBBY. The United States Board on Books for Young People

USBBY serves as the U.S. section of the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY), which was founded to promote international understanding and good will through books for children and adolescents. USBBY selects an annual list of Outstanding International Books for children and young adults, which is published each year in the February issue of School Library Journal and on this website.

<http://www.usbby.org/>

See also: IBBY. The International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY) is a non-profit organization which represents an international network of people from all over the world who are committed to bringing books and children together. <http://www.ibby.org/>

Children's Book Awards

Batchelder Award is a citation awarded annually to an American publisher for a children's book considered to be the most outstanding book originally published in a language other than English in a country other than the United States, and subsequently translated into English and published in the United States. The award is presented by the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC)

<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia/batchelderaward>

Coretta Scott King Award presented annually by the American Library Association to a black author and a black illustrator whose works "encourage and promote" world unity and peace and serve as an inspiration to young people.

www.ala.org/ala/emiert/corettascottkingbookaward/corettascott.cfm

Jane Addams Children's Book Awards are given annually to the children's books published the preceding year that effectively promote the cause of peace, social justice, world community, and the equality of the sexes and all races as well as meeting conventional standards for excellence.

<http://www.janeaddamspeace.org>

Notable Trade Books for Young People provides annotated lists of books that were evaluated and selected by a Book Review Committee appointed by the National Council for Social Studies in cooperation with the Children's Book Council. www.ncss.org/resources/notable

Orbis Pictus Award for Outstanding Nonfiction for Children, an annual award that recognizes excellence in the writing of nonfiction for children, given by the National Council of Teachers of English. www.ncte.org/about/awards/sect/elem/106877.htm

Pura Belpre Award given by the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) to a Latino/Latina writer and illustrator whose work best portrays, affirms and celebrates the Latino cultural experience for children and youth. www.ala.org/ala/alsc/awardsscholarships/literaryawds/belpremedal