

Heartland AEA Immigrant and Refugee Collection

Ajmera, M. Be My Neighbor

- “Around the world, children live in community with others, sharing homes, resources, and experiences with their neighbors. This book celebrates what it means to be a neighbor the whole world over -- from Vietnam to the United States, Austria to Kenya and everywhere in between.” (<https://www.amazon.com/Be-My-Neighbor-Maya-Ajmera/dp/1570916853>)

BUITRAGO, Jairo. Two White Rabbits. tr. from Spanish by Elisa Amado. illus. by Rafael Yockteng. Groundwood. 2015. Tr \$18.95. ISBN 9781554987412.

- “**K-Gr 3**—In this moving picture book, expressive illustrations present the different perspectives of a Central American or Mexican child and father immigrating north. Oblivious to safety concerns, the young girl innocently recounts their journey, while the visual narrative depicts the father’s protective care for his cherished child. An open-ended conclusion leaves a lingering impression, promoting critical discussions.” (Quiroa, 2017)

COY, John. Their Great Gift: Courage, Sacrifice, and Hope in a New Land. photos by Wing Young Huie. Carolrhoda. 2016. Tr \$17.99. ISBN 9781467780544.

- “**K-Gr 4**—Black-and-white photos, accented by a few color images, portray the diversity of 21st-century U.S. immigrants: ages, ethnicities/cultures, religions, and a range of occupations. The accompanying easy-to-read, informational text emphasizes their humanity, difficulties, labors, and successes, and asks readers: “What will we do with their great gift?” (Quiroa, 2017)

DANTICAT, Edwidge. Mama’s Nightingale: A Story of Immigration and Separation. illus. by Leslie Staub. ebook available. Dial. 2015. Tr \$17.99. ISBN 9780525428091.

- “Gr 2-5—Vivid oil paintings depict Saya’s longing for her mother, who is being held in an immigration detention center. Although the mother’s recordings of Haitian folktales bring some respite, the girl’s misery cannot be soothed. While the father makes repeated attempts to reunite the family, ultimately it’s Saya’s letter to a newspaper that makes the difference. Audio version available from Recorded Books.” (Quiroa, 2017)
 - Book Trailer Video by Laura Rodriguez: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=npaKd4rlZ7Q>

Higgins, Melissa. We All Come From Different Cultures

- “PreK-2: Americans come from many different backgrounds and cultures. What's yours like? Let's share and celebrate what makes our cultures special!” (<http://www.capstonepub.com/library/products/we-all-come-from-different-cultures/>)

Ieronimo, Christine. A Thirst for Home: A Story of Water Across the World

- “Alemitu lives with her mother in a poor village in Ethiopia, where she must walk miles for water and hunger roars in her belly. Even though life is difficult, she dreams of someday knowing more about the world. When her mother has no choice but to leave her at an orphanage to give her a chance at a better life, an American family adopts Alemitu. She becomes Eva in her new home in America, and although her life there is better in so many ways, she'll never forget her homeland and the mother who gave up

so much for her. Told through the lens that water connects all people everywhere, this eye-opening, emotional story will get readers thinking about the world beyond their own.” (<https://www.amazon.com/Thirst-Home-Story-Water-across/dp/0802723071>)

Kim, Patti. Here I Am. illus. by Sonia Sánchez. ebook available. Capstone. 2013. Tr \$14.95. ISBN 9781623700362; pap. \$7.95. ISBN 9781479519316.

- “K-Gr 3—After immigrating to the U.S., the young boy in this wordless text longs for his former home. With mounting frustration, he mopes indoors until his precious red seed, brought from his native country, falls out the window. Illustrations use flexible graphic novel panels, sometimes spilling onto strategic white space, and colors that aptly express the plot’s emotional trajectory.” (Quiroa, 2017)

Kostecki-Shaw, Jenny Sue. Same, Same But Different

- “Elliot lives in America, and Kailash lives in India. They are pen pals. By exchanging letters and pictures, they learn that they both love to climb trees, have pets, and go to school. Their worlds might look different, but they are actually similar. Same, same. But different! Through an inviting point-of-view and colorful, vivid illustrations, this story shows how two boys living oceans apart can be the best of friends.” (https://www.amazon.com/dp/B00ARHTSM2/ref=dp-kindle-redirect?_encoding=UTF8&btkr=1)

Krishnaswami, Uma. Chachaji’s Cup

- “Neel loves listening to Chachaji’s many stories over steaming cups of tea. Chachaji’s tales of great Hindu gods and demons and of his adventures in the Indian Army leave Neel openmouthed. But it is the tale of his great-uncle’s favorite teacup that teaches Neel the most, for Chachaji’s cup holds far more than sweet, spicy masala chai. When the precious cup and Chachaji’s health both prove to be more fragile than they look, Neel knows what he must do. Uma Krishnaswami weaves a gentle tale of family love and the power of memory, which Soumya Sitaraman brings to vivid life in her richly hued paintings. Chachaji’s Cup will captivate and comfort readers of all ages, long after the last sip.” (<https://www.amazon.com/Chachajis-Cup-Uma-Krishnaswami/dp/089239210X>)

Mora, Pat. I Pledge Allegiance

- “Libby’s great aunt, Lobo, is from Mexico, but the United States has been her home for many years, and she wants to become a U.S. citizen. At the end of the week, Lobo will say the Pledge of Allegiance at a special ceremony. Libby is also learning the Pledge this week, at school—at the end of the week, *she* will stand up in front of everyone and lead the class in the Pledge. Libby and Lobo practice together—asking questions and sharing stories and memories—until they both stand tall and proud, with their hands over their hearts.” (https://www.amazon.com/dp/B00G8EKY76/ref=dp-kindle-redirect?_encoding=UTF8&btkr=1)

Osborne, Linda Barrett. This Land is Our Land

- “American attitudes toward immigrants are paradoxical. On the one hand, we see our country as a haven for the poor and oppressed; anyone, no matter his or her background, can find freedom here and achieve the “American Dream.” On the other hand, depending on prevailing economic conditions, fluctuating feelings about race and ethnicity, and fear of foreign political and labor agitation, we set boundaries and restrictions on who may come to this country and whether they may stay as citizens.

This book explores the way government policy and popular responses to immigrant groups evolved throughout U.S. history, particularly between 1800 and 1965. The book concludes with a summary of events up to contemporary times, as immigration again becomes a hot-button issue. Includes an author's note, bibliography, and index."
(https://www.amazon.com/dp/B01BGUZ07U/ref=dp-kindle-redirect?_encoding=UTF8&btkr=1)

Redding, LaTisha. Calling the Water Drum

- "Henri and his parents leave their homeland, Haiti, after they receive an invitation from an uncle to come to New York City. Only able to afford a small, rickety boat, the family sets out in the middle of the night in search of a better life. Out at sea Henri dreams of what life will be like across the great waters. Then the small boat overturns, and Henri is placed on top of the boat as his parents drift further out at sea. Overcome with grief, Henri retreats into himself and is no longer able to speak once he reaches land. Encouraged by his uncle and neighbor, Henri takes a bucket and plays on it like a drum. The drumming becomes a link to his past and a conduit for his emotions. Slowly, through his drumming and the kindness of his uncle and friend, Henri learns to navigate this new and foreign world without his parents. *Calling the Water Drum* is a tender and timely tribute to the bravery of immigrants and refugees, and the resiliency of the human spirit."
(<https://www.amazon.com/Calling-Water-Drum-LaTisha-Redding/dp/1620141949>)
 - Video Book Trailer: *Calling the Water Drum*, by LaTisha Redding (MPL Book Trailer #369): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ci7c5gsM3A0>

Ringgold, Faith. We Came to America

- "From the Native Americans who first called this land their home, to the millions of people who have flocked to its shores ever since, America is a country rich in diversity. Some of our ancestors were driven by dreams and hope. Others came in chains, or were escaping poverty or persecution. No matter what brought them here, each person embodied a unique gift—their art and music, their determination and grit, their stories and their culture. And together they forever shaped the country we all call home. Vividly expressed in Faith Ringgold's sumptuous colors and patterns, *We Came to America* is an ode to every American who came before us, and a tribute to each child who will carry its proud message of diversity into our nation's future."
(<http://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/154448/we-came-to-america-by-faith-ringgold/9780517709474/>)

Ruurs, Margriet. Stepping Stones

- "This unique picture book was inspired by the stone artwork of Syrian artist Nizar Ali Badr, discovered by chance by Canadian children's writer Margriet Ruurs. The author was immediately impressed by the strong narrative quality of Mr. Badr's work, and, using many of Mr. Badr's already-created pieces, she set out to create a story about the Syrian refugee crisis. *Stepping Stones* tells the story of Rama and her family, who are forced to flee their once-peaceful village to escape the ravages of the civil war raging ever closer to their home. With only what they can carry on their backs, Rama and her mother, father, grandfather and brother, Sami, set out to walk to freedom in Europe. Nizar Ali Badr's stunning stone images illustrate the story.
- Orca Book Publishers is pleased to offer this book as a dual-language (English and Arabic) edition." (<https://www.amazon.com/Stepping-Stones-Refugee-Familys-Journey/dp/1459814908>)

SANNA, Francesca. The Journey. illus. by author. Flying Eye. 2016. Tr \$17.95. ISBN 9781909263994.

- “Gr 1-4—Narrated by an anonymous child, this title chronicles a family’s sudden migration following the father’s death during war. Worry, fear, sadness, and exhaustion accompany their arduous escape made possible by the mother’s strength and resolve. Stunning illustrations with a contrasting palette convey the family’s emotions in this unfinished, yet hopeful tale.” (Quiroa, 2017)

Sibley O’Brien, Anne. I’m New Here

- “Maria is from Guatemala, Jin is from Korea, and Fatima is from Somalia. All three are new to their American elementary school, and each has trouble speaking, writing, and sharing ideas in English. Through self-determination and with encouragement from their peers and teachers, the students learn to feel confident and comfortable in their new school without losing a sense of their home country, language, and identity.
- Young readers from all backgrounds will appreciate this touching story about the assimilation of three immigrant students in a supportive school community.
- Anne Sibley O’Brien is one of the founders of I’m Your Neighbor, an organization that promotes children’s literature featuring “new arrival” cultures. As the rate of immigration to the United States increases, topics related to immigration are increasingly more important in the classroom and home. *I’m New Here* demonstrates how our global community can work together and build a home for all.”
(https://www.amazon.com/dp/B010GHIGMA/ref=dp-kindle-redirect?_encoding=UTF8&btcr=1)

Stewart, Sarah. The Quiet Place

- “When Isabel and her family move to the United States, Isabel misses all the things she left behind in Mexico, especially her aunt Lupita and hearing people speak Spanish. But she also experiences some wonderful new things—her first snow storm and a teacher who does not speak Spanish but has a big smile. Even better, Papa and her brother Chavo help her turn a big box into her own quiet place, where she keeps her books and toys and writes letters to Aunt Lupita. As she decorates and adds more and more on to her quiet place, it is here that Isabel feels the most at home in her new country while she learns to adjust to the changes in her life.
- Set in the 1950s and told through Isabel’s letters to her aunt, Sarah Stewart and Caldecott Medalist David Small have created a charming and unforgettable young heroine who will win the hearts of readers in this story of immigration and assimilation. *The Quiet Place* is a *Kirkus Reviews* Best Children’s Book of 2012”
(<https://www.amazon.com/Quiet-Place-Sarah-Stewart/dp/0374325650>)

Strickland, Tessa. The Barefoot Book of Children

- “Innovative and inclusive, *The Barefoot Book of Children* empowers young readers to learn about children around the globe and ponder their own place in it. Created with the guidance of diversity specialists, this groundbreaking work of narrative nonfiction addresses the need for children’s books that depict diversity, while simultaneously demonstrating the interconnectedness and uniqueness of all people.”
(<https://www.amazon.com/Barefoot-Book-Children-Tessa-Strickland/dp/1782852964>)

Watts, Jeri. A Piece of Home

- “A child-friendly story about the trials and triumphs of starting over in a new place while keeping family and traditions close.
- When Hee Jun’s family moves from Korea to West Virginia, he struggles to adjust to his new home. His eyes are not big and round like his classmates’, and he can’t understand anything the teacher says, even when she speaks s-l-o-w-l-y and loudly at him. As he lies in bed at night, the sky seems smaller and darker. But little by little Hee Jun begins to learn English words and make friends on the playground. And one day he is invited to a classmate’s house, where he sees a flower he knows from his garden in Korea — *mugunghwa*, or rose of Sharon, as his friend tells him — and Hee Jun is happy to bring a shoot to his grandmother to plant a “piece of home” in their new garden. Lyrical prose and lovely illustrations combine in a gentle, realistic story about finding connections in an unfamiliar world.” (<https://www.amazon.com/Piece-Home-Jeri-Watts/dp/0763669717>)

Williams, Karen & Mohammed, Khadra. Four Feet, Two Sandals

- “When relief workers bring used clothing to the refugee camp, everyone scrambles to grab whatever they can. Ten-year-old Lina is thrilled when she finds a sandal that fits her foot perfectly, until she sees that another girl has the matching shoe. But soon Lina and Feroza meet and decide that it is better to share the sandals than for each to wear only one.
- As the girls go about their routines -- washing clothes in the river, waiting in long lines for water, and watching for their names to appear on the list to go to America -- the sandals remind them that friendship is what is most important.
- *Four Feet, Two Sandals* was inspired by a refugee girl who asked the authors why there were no books about children like her. With warm colors and sensitive brush strokes, this book portrays the strength, courage, and hope of refugees around the world, whose daily existence is marked by uncertainty and fear.” (https://www.amazon.com/Four-Feet-Sandals-Karen-Williams/dp/0802852963/ref=pd_lpo_sbs_14_img_0?encoding=UTF8&psc=1&refRID=X0714N47PWDYKPJG1PH)

Williams, Karen & Mohammed, Khadra. My Name is Sangoel

- “Sangoel is a refugee. Leaving behind his homeland of Sudan, where his father died in the war, he has little to call his own other than his name, a Dinka name handed down proudly from his father and grandfather before him.
- When Sangoel and his mother and sister arrive in the United States, everything seems very strange and unlike home. In this busy, noisy place, with its escalators and television sets and traffic and snow, Sangoel quietly endures the fact that no one is able to pronounce his name. Lonely and homesick, he finally comes up with an ingenious solution to this problem, and in the process he at last begins to feel at home.
- Written by the authors of the acclaimed *Four Feet, Two Sandals*, this poignant story of identity and belonging will help young readers understand the plight of the millions of children in the world who are refugees.” (<https://www.amazon.com/My-Name-Sangoel-Karen-Williams/dp/0802853072>)

Young, Rebecca. **Teacup**

- “A boy must leave his home and find another. He brings with him a teacup full of earth from the place where he grew up, and sets off to sea. Some days, the journey is peaceful, and the skies are cloudless and bright. Some days, storms threaten to overturn his boat. And some days, the smallest amount of hope grows into something glorious. At last, the boy finds land, but it doesn't feel complete . . . until another traveler joins him, bearing the seed to build a new home.
- With lyrical text and gorgeous artwork, this poignant picture book is perfect for discussing all of life's toughest challenges—a big move, a divorce, long-distance separation, or even the current refugee crisis—in a way that's reassuring and inspiring for children and adults alike.” (https://www.amazon.com/dp/B01E4WAGG2/ref=dp-kindle-redirect?_encoding=UTF8&btkr=1)

Reference

Quiroa, R. E. (2017, March 23). *25 kid and YA books that lift up immigrant voices*. School Library Journal. Retrieved from <http://www.slj.com/2017/03/diversity/immigrant-voices-focus-on/>