

Read Around the World!

Resources for Introducing Young Readers to the World

"I believe the more you know about other people and other ways of living and thinking and being, the less likely you are to see them as strangers, others, perhaps even as lesser beings whose welfare need not concern you – people you can ignore, enslave, or go to war against...." – Kathleen T. Isaacs

LATTICE Book Club:

Books are read and discussed with an eye towards cultural authenticity. Guests from the country where the book is set are invited to attend and share in the discussion. For more information on joining the LATTICE Book Club, contact Mary Hennessey at latticebookclub@gmail.com or visit our Facebook page: [facebook.com/latticebookclub](https://www.facebook.com/latticebookclub)

RESOURCES:

The International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY) IBBY's mission is to promote international understanding through children's books; to give children everywhere the opportunity to have access to books with high literary and artistic standards; to encourage the publication and distribution of quality children's books, especially in developing countries; to provide support and training for those involved with children and children's literature and to stimulate research and scholarly works in the field of children's literature. Find them at <http://www.ibby.org/>

The United States Board on Books for Young People (USBBY) is the U.S. Section of IBBY. It facilitates the international exchange of information about books and reading, publishes a semi-annual newsletter for its members and sponsors biennial regional conferences that feature speakers of international interest. It also co-sponsors sessions held at conferences of three of its Patron Organizations: the American Library Association, the International Reading Association, and the National Council of Teachers of English.

USBBY publishes an annual list of outstanding international books for children. You can find it here: <http://www.usbby.org>

International Reading Association – Children's Literature and Reading Special Interest Group. This group publishes a yearly list of Notable Books for a Global Society. Look at their web site here: <http://clrsig.org/nbgs.php>

International Children's Digital Library _The ICDL Foundation's goal is to build a collection of books that represents outstanding historical and contemporary books from throughout the world. Ultimately, the Foundation aspires to have every culture and language represented so that every child can know and appreciate the riches of children's literature from the world community. Go to their web site: to see copies of pages of children's books in their original languages <http://en.childrenslibrary.org/>

Worlds of Words <http://www.wowlit.org> This web site has wonderful resources, including strategies for locating and evaluating culturally authentic international children's and adolescent literature as well as ways of engaging students with these books in classrooms and libraries. Look around their web site for booklists and downloadable "Language and Culture Book Kits".

The Global Fund for Children Founded in 1994, The Global Fund for Children envisions a world where all children grow up to be productive, caring citizens of a global society. They pursue this goal by making small grants to innovative community-based organizations that serve some of the most vulnerable children and youth. The **Global Fund for Children Books**, is the publishing venture of The Global Fund for Children. They have developed an impressive collection of books and resources to teach children to value diversity. Look here for great lists of books on global citizenship, religious diversity, environmental stewardship, arts and activities and much more: <https://www.globalfundforchildren.org/store/resources/>

The 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. You can find their web site here. <http://www.janeaddamspeace.org/>

The Freeman Book Award through NCTA honors East and Southeast Asian books for children and young people. <http://nctasia.org/freeman-book-awards/>

The South Asia Book Award Sponsored by the South Asia National Outreach Consortium (SANOC), this yearly book award was established to call attention to outstanding works on South Asia. <http://southasiabookaward.org/>

Africana Book Awards. Awarded annually by the Outreach Council of the African Studies Association. Give to outstanding books about Africa published or republished in the United States. www.africaaccessreview.org

Américas Book Award. Awarded annually by the Consortium of Latin American Studies Programs to that portray Latin America, the Caribbean or Latin@ cultures in the United States. <http://www.claspprograms.org/americasaward>

Pura Belpré Award. Sponsored by the American Library Association for Latino/Latina writers and illustrators for works related to Latino cultural experiences. https://www.ala.org/awardsgrants/awards/4/all_years

Mildred L. Batchelder Award. For a children's book originally published in a foreign language in a foreign country and subsequently translated into English and published in the United States. <http://www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia/batchelderaward>

Many other awards and lists can be found at **Primary Source:** Global Literature <http://resources.primarysource.org/globalliterature>

Recommended Readings:

Reading the World's Stories: An Annotated Bibliography of International Youth Literature by Annette Goldsmith, Theo Heras and Susan Corapi. Rowman and Littlefield, 2016.

Give Your Child the World: Raising Globally Minded Kids One Book at a Time by Jamie C. Martin. Zondervan 2016

Bridges to Understanding: Envisioning the World through Children's Books by Linda Pavonetti Scarecrow Press, 2011

Reading Globally, K-8: Connecting Students to the World Through Literature by Barbara A. Lehman et al. Corwin, 2010

Booktalking Around the World: Great Global Reads for Ages 9-14. by Sonja Cole. Libraries Unlimited, 2010.

Breaking Boundaries With Global Literature: Celebrating Diversity in K-12 Classrooms by Nancy L. Hadaway and Marian J. McKenna International Reading Association, 2007

Stories Matter: The Complexity of Cultural Authenticity in Children's Literature ed. By Dana L Fox and Kathy G. Short. NCTE, 2004

Two fee-based web sites:

[Children's Literature Comprehensive Database](http://clcd.com): clcd.com featuring reviews from a number of professional journals, as well as information on awards and recommended lists and reading levels for thousands of titles.

TeachingBooks.net <https://www.teachingbooks.net/> comprehensive information about books for children and young adults with the needs of teachers in mind. The site is a compendium of information found on the web, from discussion guides and thematic booklists to author and illustrator information. TeachingBooks also features original interviews with authors and artists on video, as well as audio clips of book readings. A free trial is available.

Some publishers that publish books with an international flavor:

Lee & Low Books –The largest multicultural children's book publisher in the United States.

Groundwood Books Established in 1978, Groundwood Books is a small children's book publisher, based in Canada. It specializes in Canadian authored books (with a special interest in books by First Nations authors), bilingual books in English and Spanish, translations from around the world, and a non-fiction line aimed at young adults.

Kane/Miller Book Publishers is a division of EDC Publishing, specializing in award-winning children's books from around the world. Our books bring the children of the world closer to each other, sharing stories and ideas, while exploring cultural differences

and similarities. "We search the world for books that through great stories and arresting illustrations enrich the lives and the imaginations of the children who read them."

<http://www.kanemiller.com/>

Recommended Global Books for Young People:

Anything by Margarita Engle (National Young People's Poet Laureate)

Stormy Seas: Stories of Young Boat Refugees by Mary Beth Leatherdale and Eleanor Shakespeare. A treacherous voyage across the open seas becomes the last hope for safety and freedom for five young refugees from different world regions, in a collection of true accounts that are complemented by collage artwork, sidebars, fact boxes and timelines.

Golden Domes and Silver Lanterns: A Muslim Book of Colors by Hena Khan. In simple rhyming text a young Muslim girl and her family guide the reader through the traditions and colors of Islam.

The Turtle of Oman by Naomi Shihab Nye. When Aref, a third-grader who lives in Muscat, Oman, refuses to pack his suitcase and prepare to move to Michigan, his mother asks for help from his grandfather, his Sidi, who takes Aref around the country, storing up memories he can carry with him to a new home.

I lived on Butterfly Hill by Marjorie Agosin. An eleven-year-old's world is upended by political turmoil in this "lyrically ambitious tale of exile and reunification" (*Kirkus Reviews*) from an award-winning poet, based on true events in Chile.

The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind by William Kamkwamba and Bryan Mealer. A picture book adaptation of a best-selling memoir follows the experiences of 14-year-old William Kamkwamba, who built a windmill out of junkyard scraps to bring electricity to his famine-stricken Malawi village.

Beatrice's Dream: A Story of Kibera Slum by Karen Lynn Williams. Beatrice, a thirteen-year-old orphan, describes her life in the Kibera, Nairobi, one of the biggest slums in Africa, and tells how she is able to put her fears aside while she is at school.

Tap Tap by Karen Lynn Williams. Sasifi longs to ride a tap-tap, a truck that carries passengers and their belongings in rural Haiti.

Eight Days: A Story of Haiti by Edwidge Danticat. Junior tells the games he played in his mind during the eight days he was trapped in his house after the devastating January 12, 2010 earthquake in Haiti. Includes author's note about Haitian children before the earthquake and her own children's reactions to the disaster.

Serafina's Promise by Ann E. Burg. This novel in verse features an intrepid Haitian girl who dreams of attending school and becoming a doctor in spite of terrible obstacles, including poverty, harsh weather and a devastating earthquake.

Silent Music: A Story of Baghdad by James Rumford. Ali, who lives in Baghdad, loves to practice the art of calligraphy. Like his secret hero, Yakut, a famous calligrapher from long ago, Ali uses his art to create beauty in a time of war.

Rickshaw Girl by Mitali Perkins. In her Bangladesh village, ten-year-old Naimi excels at painting designs called alpanas, but to help her impoverished family financially she would have to be a boy--or disguise herself as one.

Seeds of Change: Planting a Path to Peace by Jen Cullerton Johnson. A biography of Kenyan Nobel Peace Prize winner and environmentalist Wangari Maathai, a female scientist who made a stand in the face of opposition to women's rights and her own Green Belt Movement, an effort to restore Kenya's ecosystem by planting millions of trees.

Akata Witch by Nnedi Okorafor. (an MSU grad!) Twelve-year-old Sunny Nwazue, an American-born albino child of Nigerian parents, moves with her family back to Nigeria, where she learns that she has latent magical powers which she and three similarly gifted friends use to catch a serial killer. Famous science fiction/fantasy author Ursula Le Guin says, "There's more vivid imagination in a page of Nnedi Okorafor's work than in whole volumes of ordinary fantasy epics."

Parrots Over Puerto Rico by Susan Roth and Cindy Trumbore. A combined history of the Puerto Rican parrot and the island of Puerto Rico, highlighting current efforts to save the Puerto Rican parrot by protecting and managing this endangered species.

Bo at Ballard Creek by Kirkpatrick Hill. It's the 1920's and Bo was headed for an Alaska orphanage when she won the hearts of two tough gold miners who set out to raise her, enthusiastically helped by all the kind people of the nearby Eskimo village.

Tua and the Elephant by R.P. Harris. In Chiang Mai, Thailand, nine-year-old Tua releases an abused elephant from its chains – can she complete the rescue by getting it to an elephant refuge without being caught herself?

The Vine Basket by Josanne La Valley. Life has been hard for fourteen-year-old Mehrigul, a member of the Uyghur tribal group scorned by the Chinese communist regime, so when an American offers to buy all the baskets she can make in three weeks, Mehrigul strives for a better future for herself and her family despite her father's opposition.

The Bamboo People by Mitali Perkins. Two Burmese boys, one a Karenni refugee and the other the son of an imprisoned Burmese doctor, meet in the jungle and in order to survive they must learn to trust each other.

Not So Fast, Songololo by Niki Daly. In South Africa, a young black boy shares a special day with his grandmother when they go into the city on a shopping trip.

Africa is not a Country by Margy Burns Knight and Mark Melnicove. Demonstrates the diversity of the African continent by describing daily life in some of its nations. (pub. In 2000)

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