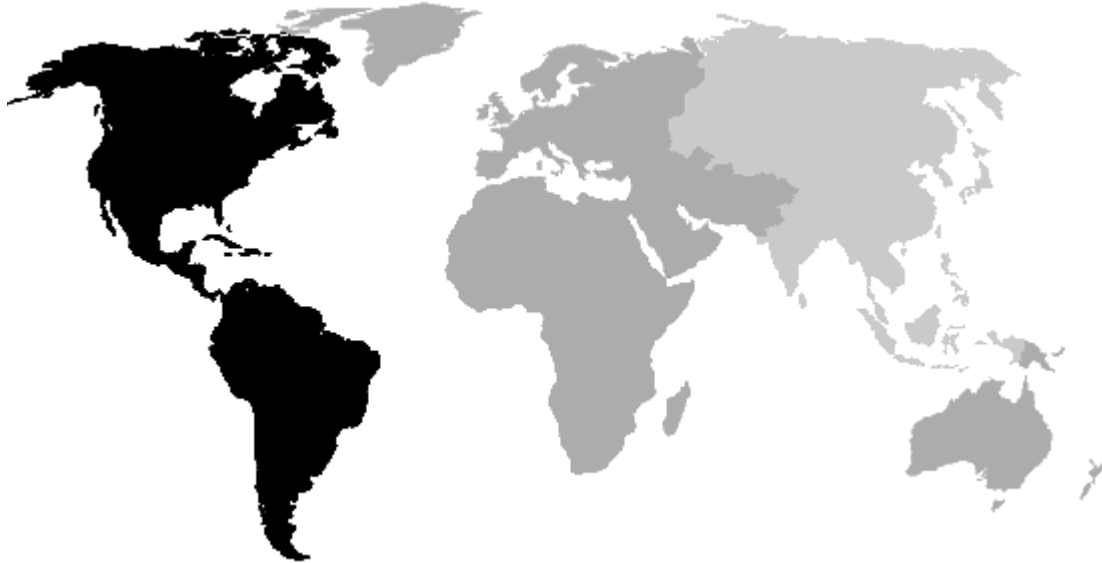


Growing Up Around the World: Books as Passports to Global Understanding for Children in the United States



Growing Up in the Americas

Argentina

Comino, Sandra. *Morning Glory*. Illus. by Max. Trans. by Elisa Amado. Groundwood, 2006.

Gr. 1-2. Ivan does the same things everyday until one memorable morning when a rat appears in the morning glory vine that is outside his window, setting off a bizarre series of events in his neighborhood. Sandra Comino lives in Argentina.

Jäntti, Mariana. *What Is Miranda Looking At?* Nicanitas, 2006.

Gr. K-2. Miranda spends a day watching and listening to people outside her window, at her aunt's house, and on the subway, and uses her imagination to enjoy the life around her. Mariana Jäntti lives in Argentina.

Brazil

Machado, Ana Maria. *Me in the Middle*. Illus. by Caroline Merola. Trans. by David Unger. Groundwood, 2002.

Gr. 3-6. Through an old photograph of her great-grandmother, Isabel develops an imaginary companion, Bisa Bea, as well as a contact with an imaginary great-granddaughter of her own.

Ana Maria Machado lives in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Canada

Bowers, Vivien. *Wow Canada! Exploring This Land from Coast to Coast to Coast*.

Illus. by Dan Hobbs and Dianne Eastman. Owl Books/Firefly, 2000.

Gr. 3–7. Twelve-year-old Guy writes an entertaining account of his family’s road trip across Canada and back, visiting all ten provinces and three territories. Many drawings and photos brighten the pages, while captions and sidebars provide additional information. Vivien Bowers lives in British Columbia.

Ellis, Sarah. *Next Stop!* Illus. by Ruth Ohi. Fitzhenry & Whiteside, 2000.

PreS–K. On a Saturday, Claire helps her father, a bus driver, announce the stops the bus makes as it travels through town. Her mother gets on at the college stop, and the bus continues on its merry way, taking them all home. Ruth Ohi’s colorful illustrations joyfully depict the diversity of urban life. Sarah Ellis lives in Vancouver. Ruth Ohi lives in Toronto.

Gay, Marie-Louise. *Stella, Queen of the Snow*. Illus. Groundwood, 2000.

PreS–Gr. 1. When little Sam ventures out into the snow for the first time, his older sister Stella becomes his guide. Playful and daring, yet protective of her little brother, Stella answers his many questions with imagination as well as information. Marie-Louise Gay lives in Montreal.

Gilmore, Rachna. *A Group of One*. Henry Holt, 2001.

Gr. 6–9. Though her parents emigrated from India, fifteen-year-old Tara is ambivalent about her cultural roots and adamant that she is a “regular Canadian.” After getting to know her grandmother and hearing about her fight in the Indian independence movement, Tara begins to take pride in her Indian heritage as well as her Canadian citizenship. Rachna Gilmore lives in Ontario.

Gregory, Nan. *I’ll Sing You One-O*. Clarion Books, 2006.

Gr. 5–7. Gemma has lived most of her life with a foster family on a rural farm. When social services locate her uncle, aunt and brother, she must leave the family she’s always known to move to Vancouver. As she struggles with the loss of her old life and the strict expectations of her new life, curiosity about her mother and frightening nightmares grow stronger. Nan Gregory lives in Vancouver, British Columbia.

Little, Jean.. *Willow and Twig*. Viking, 2000.

Gr. 5–8. Abandoned by their drug-addicted mother in Vancouver, ten-year-old Willow and four-year-old Twig, who is partially deaf, are taken in by their maternal grandmother and her siblings, who live rural Ontario. Familial love provides these biracial children a sense of security and belonging. Jean Little lives in Ontario.

Spalding, Andrea. *Solomon’s Tree*. Illus. by Janet Wilson. Orca, 2002.

Gr. K-2. Solomon loves the maple tree in his yard and shares its secrets throughout the year. After it dies in a winter storm, Solomon's uncle teaches him how to make a traditional Tsimshian mask to honor and remember it. Andrea Spalding lives in British Columbia.

Uegaki, Chieri. *Suki's Kimono*. Illus. by Stéphane Jorisch. Kids Can Press, 2003.
PreS–Gr. 2. Though her older sisters advise her to wear “something cool” on the first day of school, Suki insists on wearing her beautiful blue kimono. Uegaki lives in British Columbia. Stéphane Jorisch lives in Quebec.

Waboose, Jan Bourdeau. *Morning on the Lake*. Illus. by Karen Reczuch. Kids Can Press, 1998.

Gr. 1–4. In the morning a boy and his grandfather canoe on a lake, where they watch and listen to loons. At noon they climb a rocky cliff to observe eagles. At night they walk through the woods, encountering a pack of timber wolves. A Nishinawbe Ojibway, Jan Bourdeau Waboose grew up on a reserve in northern Ontario. Karen Reczuch also lives in Ontario.

Wallace, Ian. *Duncan's Way*. Illus. DK Ink, 2000.

Gr. 2–5. The last of seven generations to fish for cod off the Newfoundland coast, Duncan's father has been out of work for eighteen months, and it looks as though the family will have to leave their Newfoundland home. Duncan has a good idea that allows the family to earn a living by using the old fishing boat in a new way. Ian Wallace lives in Ontario.

Chile

Skármeta, Antonio. *The Composition*. Illus. by Alfonso Ruano. Trans. by Elisa Amado. Greenwood, 2000.

Gr. 3-6. Living under a dictatorship, nine-year-old Pedro wonders why his parents huddle around the radio every evening, but when a soldier asks the children to write a composition entitled “What My Family Does at Night,” Pedro understands that what he writes will be very important to the safety of his family. Antonio Skármeta is from Chile.

Costa Rica

Weston, Anne. *My Brother Needs a Boa*. Illus. by Cheryl Nathan. Star Bright, 2005.

Gr. 1-2. Benito has a small store attached to his village home in the rainforest, and he needs a boa to get rid of a rat that has taken up residence there. His sister spreads the word and various snakes are brought to him, but the right one is the boa that comes on its own and chases the rat away. Anne Weston lives in Costa Rica.

Cuba

Cárdenas, Teresa. *Letters to My Mother*. Trans. by David Unger. Greenwood, 2006.
Gr. 7-8. Between the ages of ten to fifteen, a girl writes letters to her dead mother in order to keep her memory alive. Living with her aunt and cousins, she eventually makes friends with a light-skinned boy and an old woman and discovers some family secrets. Teresa Cárdenas lives in Havana, Cuba.

Leiner, Katherine. *Mama Does the Mambo*. Illus. by Edel Rodriguez. Hyperion, 2001.
K-Gr. 4. After Sofia's papa died, her mama had no dancing partner. Eduardo, Mama's new friend, can't dance. Illustrations by Cuban-born Rodriguez swirl authentic flavor of old Havana, the cars, the people, and the spirit of Carnival into the story. Edel Rodriguez was born in Havana, Cuba.

Dominican Republic

Joseph, Lynn. *The Color of My Words*. Joanna Cotler/HarperCollins, 2000.
Gr. 5-8. Twelve-year-old Ana Rosa is drawn into her older brother's struggle to resist and protect her coastal town from the government's determination to bulldoze it and build resort hotels. She finds that words cannot save her brother from the forces he fights. Lynn Joseph is a native of Trinidad.

El Salvador

Argueta, Jorge. *Talking with Mother Earth: Poems / Hablando con Madre Tierra: Poemas*. Illus. by Lucía Angela Pérez. Greenwood, 2006.
Gr. 2-3. A Pipil Nahua boy, a descendant of the Aztecs, tells in verse the story of the discrimination that he faces and the strength that he receives from his grandmother and the spirits of the earth. He ends with a prayer of thanks to the Great Spirit. Jorge Argueta was born and raised in El Salvador; he immigrated to the US when he was nineteen.

Guatemala

Cameron, Ann. *Colibrí*. Frances Foster/Farrar, 2003.
Gr. 5-7. Kidnapped from her mother when she was four years old, twelve-year-old Colibrí summons the courage to prevent a robbery planned, by Uncle and his scheming friend, and escapes to find her own life. Ann Cameron has lived in Guatemala for twenty years.

Carling, Amelia Lau. *Sawdust Carpets*. Illus. Greenwood, 2005.
K-Gr. 3. When the Lau family attends a cousin's baptism, they help make a Guatemalan sawdust carpet for the Good Friday procession. Watercolors convey the beauty of the procession, the Guatemalan setting, and the interweaving of Chinese and Guatemalan cultures. Amelia Lou Carling was born in Guatemala.

Menchú, Rigoberta and Dante Liano. *The Girl from Chimel*. Illus. by Domi. Trans. by David Unger. Groundwood, 2000.

Gr. 4-7. Nobel Peace Prize winner Menchú weaves together explanations of Mayan traditions (like why babies wear a piece of the umbilical cord around their neck) with stories from the natural world, illuminating what life is like in a rural Mayan village like Chimel. Rigoberta Menchú, Dante Liano, and David Unger are from Guatemala.

Haiti

Williams, Karen Lynn. *Painted Dreams*. Illus. by Catherine Stock. Lothrop, 1998.

K-Gr. 3. Eight-year-old Ti Marie dreams of becoming an artist. When she finds some discarded paints, she fills a wall at the marketplace with her colorful pictures, and attracts the villagers to both her art display and her mother's vegetable stall. Karen Lynn Williams lived in Haiti for two years.

Jamaica

Belafonte, Harry and Lord Burgess. *Island in the Sun*. Illus. by Alex Ayliffe. Dial, 1999.

PreS-Gr. 3. Belafonte and Burgess's song is paired with Ayliffe's lush tropical-colored cut paper collages. Different scenes of Jamaican life are shown, from a fisherman casting his nets, to a woman cutting sugar cane, to fruit and vegetable vendors at the marketplace, to a lively carnival scene. Harry Belafonte grew up in Jamaica.

Mexico

Johnston, Tony. *Isabel's House of Butterflies*. Illus. by Susan Guevara. Sierra Club, 2003.

Gr. 1-4. Dozens of butterflies resting on eight-year-old Isabel's arms lead her to an idea that will help her family survive an economic crisis and save her beloved butterfly tree. Lush oil paintings depict Isabel's one-room home, family, and village life, with butterflies abounding. Tony Johnston lived in Mexico for fifteen years.

Ramirez, Antonio. *Napi*. Illus. by Domi. Groundwood, 2004.

PreS-Gr. 4. On a sleepy afternoon, while her mother braids her hair and her grandfather tells stories, a young Mazateca girl notices the colors around her. Domi's watercolor illustrations convey the rainbows Napi describes, the colorful surroundings of her home and village. Antonio Ramirez and his wife Domi, a Mazateca Indian, live in Mexico.

Peru

Fajardo, Sara Andrea. *In a Peruvian City* (A *Child's Day* series). Illus. Benchmark Books/Marshall Cavendish, 2002.

Gr. 2-4. Photographs by the author illustrate a day in the life of seven-year-old Jesus Fernández in Ayacucho, Peru. The book includes a map, a glossary, and some brief history. Fajardo was a photographer for a Peruvian magazine.

Trinidad

Bootman, Colin. *Fish for the Grand Lady*. Holiday House, 2006.

Gr. 1-3. Ceolly and his big brother, Derrick, set out early one morning to catch fish for their grandmother. They buy hooks at the market, find a special fishing spot, and almost give up before they finally get their fish. The book's dialogue is written in dialect, and a glossary is included. Colin Bootman was born and raised in Trinidad and now lives in the United States.

The Central and South American Region

Delacre, Lulu. *Salsa Stories*. Scholastic, 2000.

Gr. 3-6. Carmen Teresa's notebook includes her neighbors' reminiscences about growing up in Cuba, Puerto Rico, Mexico, Peru, Guatemala, and Argentina. She includes recipes from these countries as well as a glossary. Lulu Delacre was born to Argentinean parents and grew up in Puerto Rico.

Lee, Alfonso Silva. *My Island and I: The Nature of the Caribbean*. Illus. by Alexis Lago. Pangaea, 2002.

K-Gr. 3. This book introduces children to the rich biodiversity of the Caribbean, including its plants, animals, and native people (the Tainos). The author and the illustrator are Cuban.

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