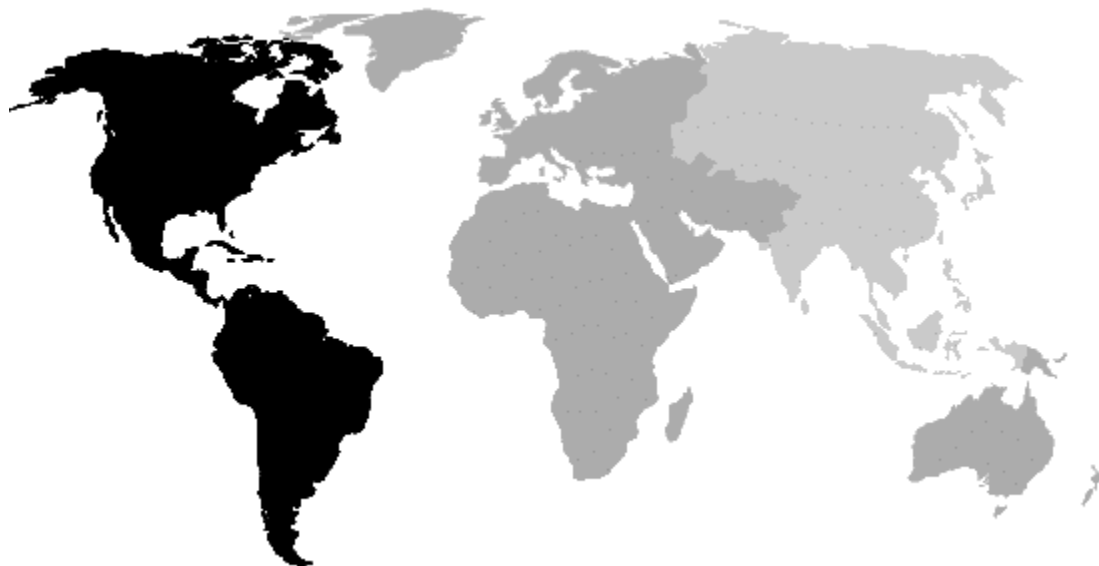


Growing Up Around the World: Books as Passports to Global Understanding for Children in the United States



Growing Up in the Americas

Argentina

Comino, Sandra. *The Little Blue House*. Groundwood, 2003.

Gr. 3-6. Twelve-year-old Cintia and her best friend Bruno are captivated by the magic and mystery of a little white house that turns blue once a year in their town of Azul. Sandra Comino is an Argentinean writer, literary critic, and professor.

Vidal, Beatriz. *Federico and the Magi's Gift: A Latin American Christmas Story*. Alfred A. Knopf, 2004.

PreS-Gr.3. When Federico can't sleep on the Eve of Epiphany, he goes into the garden, and sees the Magi riding through the night sky. Will he get back to bed before they see him watching? The watercolor and gouache illustrations glow with details of the boy's home and holiday. Beatriz Vidal grew up in Argentina and now lives in Buenos Aires.

Brazil

Machado, Ana Maria. *From Another World*. Illus. by Lucia Brandao. Trans. by Luisa Baeta.

Groundwood, 2005.

Gr. 4-6. Four Brazilian children, who are helping their parents turn an old farm into an inn, discover a ghost from a past tragedy. As they read and do research on the identity of the ghost, they discover the history of former slaves on the farm. Ana Maria Machado is the winner of the 2000 Hans Christian Andersen Award. She is a native Brazilian who lives in Rio de Janeiro.

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.

Munduruku, Daniel. *Tales of the Amazon: How the Munduruku Indians Live*. Illus. by Laurabeatriz. Trans. by Jane Springer. Groundwood, 1996.

Gr. 2-6. Divided into three parts, the book tells how a Munduruku boy is chosen and trained to become the religious leader of his tribe, describes the Munduruku culture, and discusses the author's life. Oil paintings depict the people and the rain forest setting. The author grew up in Belem, Brazil and still lives in Brazil. The illustrator is also Brazilian.

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, the 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. *Amber Waiting*. Illus. by Kady MacDonald Denton. Red Deer, 2002.

PreS–Gr. 1. Amber loves kindergarten right up until the end when she waits for her dad, who often arrives late to pick her up after school. As the minutes tick by, Amber imagines herself telling all the world’s fathers not to worry their children this way, and when her dad arrives, she even manages to tell him. Nan Gregory lives in British Columbia and Kady MacDonald Denton lives in Manitoba.

Kusugak, Michael Arvaarluk. *My Arctic 1,2,3*. Illus. by Vladyana Krykorka. Annick, 1996.

K–Gr. 3. In this picture book, Kusugak introduces the land, people, and especially the wildlife near his home on Hudson Bay. Appended to the counting book is an informative, five-page note in which the author tells of life in Rankin Inlet, with the tundra to the west and Hudson Bay to the east. Michael Arvaarluk Kusugak lives in Nunavut and Vladyana Krykorka lives in Ontario.

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.

Pearson, Kit. *Awake and Dreaming*. Viking, 1996.

Gr. 4–7. Theo imagines being part of a big, happy family instead of living with her mother, who sometimes keeps her out of school to dance on the sidewalk for money. When she is sent to live with her aunt in Victoria, Theo finds security and even, in a dreamlike altered reality, becomes part of a large family for a while. Kit Pearson 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. 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 eagle. At night they walk through the woods, where they encounter 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.

Colombia

Torres, Leyla. *Saturday Sancocho*. Illus. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 1995.

PreS-Gr. 3. Maria Lili and her grandmother visit the market, where they trade eggs for all the ingredients they need to make the Saturday sancocho. Watercolor paintings convey the liveliness of the marketplace. A recipe for Mama Ana's Chicken Sancocho is included. Leyla Torres is originally from Bogotá, Colombia.

Cuba

Ada, Alma Flor. *Under the Royal Palms: A Childhood in Cuba*. Atheneum, 1998.

Gr. 4-6. The author reminisces about her childhood in Cuba. Family photos are included. Alma Flor Ada was born in 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.

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.

Guatemala

Cameron, Ann. *Colibrí*. Frances Foster/Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 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. *Mama and Papa Have a Store*. Illus. Dial, 1998.

K-Gr. 3. In the heart of Guatemala City, Chinese refugees run a store selling buttons, thread, ribbons and sewing goods, paper lanterns, firecrackers, perfume, and soy sauce. Colorful gouache and watercolor paintings by the author portray details of the store and house. Amelia Lou Carling was born in Guatemala.

Carling, Amelia Lau. *Sawdust Carpets*. Illus. Groundwood, 2005.

K-Gr. 3. When the Lau family attends a Chinese cousin's baptism in Antigua, Guatemala, they help make a Guatemalan sawdust carpet for the Good Friday procession. Watercolor illustrations convey the beauty of the procession, the Guatemalan setting, and the interweaving of Chinese and Guatemalan cultures.

Franklin, Kristine, and Nancy McGirr, eds. *Out of the Dump: Writings and Photographs by Children from Guatemala*. Trans. by Kristine L. Franklin. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books, 1995.

Gr. 2-6. Black and white photographs taken by children of their surroundings, families, and friends in Guatemala City are accompanied by their narrative descriptions.

Haiti

Lauture, Denizé. *Running the Road to ABC*. Illus. by Reynold Ruffins. Simon & Schuster, 1996.

PreS-Gr. 3. Before sunrise six children run through the Haitian countryside to get to school on time. Vibrant acrylic paintings show the children, homes, fields, roads, and finally the school. The author's poetic text captures his Haitian childhood; he now teaches at a New York college.

Williams, Karen Lynn. Illus. by Catherine Stock. *Painted Dreams*. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard, 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.

Mexico

Alarcon, Francisco X. *From the Bellybutton of the Moon, and Other Summer Poems/Del ombligo de la luna y otros poemas de verano*. Illus. by Maya Christina Gonzalez. Children's Book Press, 1998.

PreS-Gr. 5. Lighthearted poems in English and Spanish describe the author's joyful childhood visits to his Mexican relatives. Maya Gonzalez's colorful paintings make his family and their town come alive. Francisco X. Alarcon lived in Mexico from age six to eighteen.

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.

Johnston, Tony. *The Magic Maguey*. Illus. by Elisa Kleven. Harcourt, 1996.

Gr. 1-5. Miguel thinks of a plan that will prevent the landowner from cutting down their village maguey plant. Colorful, detailed collages with watercolors, pastels, and cut paper depict the joy and brightness of life in this village.

Ramirez, Antonio. *Napi*. Illus. by Domi. Greenwood , 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.

Sanroman, Susana. *Senora Reganona: A Mexican Bedtime Story*. Illus. by Domi. Greenwood, 1997.

PreS-Gr. 4. A child hides in her bed with a flashlight to scare the night, Senora Reganona, away. One night she flies in her dream into the starry sky and makes Senora Reganona play with her. Brilliant watercolors contrast with a night-black border with white letters. Susana Sanroman teaches at a Mexican university. Domi also lives in Mexico.

Peru

Fajardo, Sara Andrea. *In a Peruvian City (A Child's Day series)*. Illus. Benchmark Books/Marshall Cavendish, 2003.

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

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.

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Growing Up Around the World: Books as Passports to Global Understanding for Children in the United States is a project of the International Relations Committee of the Association for Library Service to Children, a division of the American Library Association. We undertook this project in memory of Zena Sutherland, a past International Relations Committee member with a longstanding commitment to high standards for children's books and to understanding other cultures around the world.

Through *Growing Up Around the World*, we hope to make books that accurately depict contemporary life in other countries more widely available to American children. The project includes bibliographies representing five regions: Africa; the Americas; Asia and the Middle East; Australia and New Zealand; and Europe.

Because the primary goal of the project is to identify fiction and nonfiction that will help young people in the United States understand the lives of children living in other countries today, the bibliographies virtually exclude genres such as fantasy and historical fiction. Rather than including the best books about other countries written by outsiders to those countries, the list seeks to identify children's books written or illustrated by people who have lived for at least two years within those cultures. With very few exceptions, we limit the lists to books written in the last ten years and currently available in the United States. From time to time, the lists may be updated on the ALSC Web site.

We gratefully acknowledge assistance given by leaders and members of organizations such as the United States Board on Books for Young People (USBBY) and the Cooperative Children's Book Center (CCBC) as well as individual librarians and children's literature specialists across the country and around the world.

**The Association for Library Service to Children
International Relations Committee
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