

TONATIUH, DUNCAN

**Game of Freedom: Mestre Bimba and the Art of Capoeira**

Illus. by the author

ABRAMS, 2023  
9781419764585

This picture book details the development of the Afro-Brazilian blend of martial arts, dance, acrobatics, music, and theatrics known as capoeira from an illegal activity to Brazil's national sport through the life story of its most famous and revered practitioner. Includes a glossary and author's note. *Also available in Spanish.*

TSONG, JING JING

**Fake Chinese Sounds**

Illus. by the author

KOKILA, 2024  
9780525553427

Taiwanese American fifth-grader Mei Ying

confronts the sting of racist bullying and microaggressions at school. With expressive black-and-white illustrations highlighted by vivid yellows and reds, this graphic novel beautifully captures Mei's journey toward finding her voice, standing up for herself, and celebrating her cultural identity, inspired by her grandmother's lessons in tai chi and resilience.

WANG, JIN, WITH  
TONY JOHNSTON**Born Naughty: My Childhood in China**Illus. by Anisi Baigude  
ANNE SCHWARTZ BOOKS, 2024  
9780593563618

This memoir of the author's childhood in Inner Mongolia, China, is rich with love, laughter, playful mischief, and vibrant cultural traditions.

WILLIAMS, ALICIA D.

**Mid-Air**

Illus. by Danica

Novgorodoff  
ATHENEUM, 2024  
9781481465830

After losing his best friend in a tragic accident, Isaiah spends the summer with relatives on their farm, healing and embracing the sensitive sides of himself as he mourns and worries about beginning high school. This deeply emotional, illustrated novel in verse addresses stereotypes about masculinity and the importance of processing your grief.

**Día**

El día de los niños/  
El día de los libros  
(Children's Day/Book Day)

is a celebration of children and wonderful books. Día honors the cultures and languages of all children.

**dia.ala.org**

This **DÍA BOOKLIST** was created by the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC), a division of the American Library Association (ALA).

Titles on this list were selected by members of ALSC's Quicklists Consulting Committee.

For more booklists, please visit  
[ala.org/alsc/booklists](http://ala.org/alsc/booklists).

**alsc**  
ASSOCIATION FOR LIBRARY  
SERVICE TO CHILDREN

© 2025 American Library Association

Each Story  
**MATTERS**  
Every Child  
**COUNTS**

**alsc**  
ASSOCIATION FOR LIBRARY  
SERVICE TO CHILDREN

**Día** [dia.ala.org](http://dia.ala.org)

# Día

## BOOKLIST

### Grades 3–5

Each Story  
**MATTERS**  
Every Child  
**COUNTS**

ALONSO, NATHALIE

#### **Call Me Roberto!** **Roberto Clemente** **Goes to Bat** **for Latinos**

**Illus. by Rudy Gutierrez**  
CALKINS CREEK, 2024  
9781635928112

This picture book highlights the remarkable life of baseball icon Roberto Clemente, who faced racism as a Black Puerto Rican while refusing to let anyone diminish his name or heritage. Gutierrez's striking mixed-media illustrations burst with vivid colors and movement, perfectly capturing Clemente's athleticism and the emotional depth of his fight for respect and equality.

BAPTISTE, TRACEY

#### **Moko Magic:** **Carnival Chaos**

FREEDOM FIRE, 2024  
9781368074377

Three cousins discover that they have special powers to help protect their community.

BEHAR, RUTH

#### **Across So** **Many Seas**

NANCY PAULSEN BOOKS, 2024  
9780593323403

Told through the eyes of four Jewish girls, this epic

novel follows a family as they are forced from their homes and seek refuge. Spanning five hundred years, the story immerses readers in the unique blend of culture and religion that became Sephardic Judaism.

BENEDIKTSSON,  
ÆVAR ÞÓR

#### **Stranded! A** **Mostly True Story** **from Iceland**

**Illus. by Anne Wilson**  
BAREFOOT, 2023  
9781646869916

How are new islands formed? The author's scientist-explorer grandfather visited a brand-new island that was forming from a volcanic eruption next to Iceland. Read this humorous book to learn about his adventure, island formation, Iceland, and Icelandic myth and culture.

GEORGE, KAYLIN MELIA

#### **Aloha Everything**

**Illus. by Mae Waite**  
RED COMET, 2024  
9781636551128

In this picture book featuring rhyming text with lush illustrations, a glossary, and a pronunciation guide, a baby girl grows to adulthood as hula

teaches her about her Hawaiian homeland, heritage, history, culture, worldview, and identity.

KELLER, SHANA

#### **The Sole Man:** **Jan Matzeliger's** **Lasting Invention**

**Illus. by Stephen Costanza**  
SLEEPING BEAR, 2024  
9781534113008

The story of how Surinamese American Jan Matzeliger invented a machine to produce shoes more efficiently.

KHAN, HENA, EDITOR

#### **The Door Is** **Open: Stories of** **Celebration and** **Community by** **11 Desi Voices**

LITTLE, BROWN, 2024  
9780316450638

These connected short stories take place at the Maple Grove Community Center, where the young South Asian American protagonists play, dance, create, write, and share. When members of the community want to close the center, will these young people be able to keep it open?

KHAN, HENA

#### **We Are Big Time**

**Illus. by Safiya Zerrougui**  
KNOPE, 2024  
9780593430484

After transferring to a new school in a different state, Aliya works to connect with her new basketball team as they discover what it truly means to collaborate.

LARocca, RAJANI

#### **Sona and the** **Golden Beasts**

QUILL TREE, 2024  
9780063295407

As Sona races across the land of Devia to save an ill loved one, she comes to terms not only with her own story but also the story of colonial rule that has so impacted this nation and its native Devan people. Part fantasy, part adventure, this page-turner carefully discusses colonialism and its effect, all while being wrapped in a story too good to put down.

LEE-YUN, JENNA

#### **The Last** **Rhee Witch**

DISNEY HYPERION, 2024  
9781368099073

Ronnie's first time at sleepaway camp turns into a mystery thriller as she comes face-to-face with not just the outdoorsy

things she's scared of—like rope courses—but also a gwishin, a witch-hunting dokkaebi, witches, and family secrets!

LU, SHAINA

#### **Noodle & Bao**

**Illus. by the author**  
QUILL TREE, 2024  
9780063283411

A heartwarming graphic novel featuring multiple languages and humans and anthropomorphic animals living side by side, enjoying the food their neighborhood has to offer. When a fancy woman shows up to open a new restaurant, the town is faced with gentrification.

RAMOS, NONIEQA

#### **Best Believe: The** **Tres Hermanas, a** **Sisterhood for the** **Common Good**

**Illus. by Nicole Medina**  
CAROLRHODA, 2024  
9781728460444

The story of three sisters who advocated for their Bronx community.

TAWNEY, RAJ

#### **All Mixed Up**

PAW PRINTS, 2024  
9781223188553

Living in post-9/11 Long Island in 2002, Kamal, a multiethnic American boy, comes of age and finds

a friend in the new kid in school, Jaz, a Pakistani immigrant. But how strong is this new friendship, and what happens when Jaz's origins and intentions come into question?

TODD, TRACI N.

#### **Holding Her Own:** **The Exceptional** **Life of Jackie** **Ormes**

**Illus. by Shannon Wright**  
ORCHARD, 2023  
9781338305906

This brings to life the inspiring journey of Jackie Ormes, the trailblazing Black female cartoonist who used her art to defy racial stereotypes and champion social justice. The book's illustrations vividly capture the essence of Ormes' iconic work, enhancing the narrative with rich historical detail.

