

NAYERI, DANIEL

**The Teacher of Nomad Land: A World War II Story**LEVINE QUERIDO, 2025  
9781646145669

In WWII-era Iran, Babak and Sana search for the nomads their father once taught. As Babak begins teaching, he discovers how education connects people and how everyone has a way to help others.

PIMIENTA, JOSE

**Halfway to Somewhere**

Illus. by the author

RANDOM HOUSE  
GRAPHIC, 2025  
9780593569450

When their mom gets a new job at the University of Kansas, middle-schooler Ave struggles adjusting to life in the U.S., especially when half of their family is still in Mexico.

PLATT, MICHAEL

**Cooking Up Change**Illus. by Alleanna Harris  
MAGIC CAT, 2025  
9781419778889

Teen chef Platt presents an engaging nonfiction book celebrating Black history with recipes. Each spread pairs a significant event or individual, both past and present, with a recipe inspired by his grandmother.

RHODES, JEWELL  
PARKER**Will's Race for Home**LITTLE, BROWN, 2025  
9780316299336

Attempting to escape their life as sharecroppers, Will and his father race thousands of others to Oklahoma to stake their claim during the land rush of 1889.

SAFADI, SHIFA SALTAGI

**Amina Banana and the Formula for Friendship**Illus. by Aaliya Jaleel  
PUTNAM, 2025  
9780593699225

Syrian immigrant Amina, who is beginning third grade, loves bananas and the color yellow. In this series starter, Amina navigates a new school year and tests out her formula for making new friends.

**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 ALSA's Quicklists Consulting Committee.

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

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

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# Día

## BOOKLIST

### Grades 3–5

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



**APPLEGATE, KATHERINE**  
**Pocket Bear**

FEIWEL & FRIENDS, 2025  
9781250904362

Zephyrina, a feline cat burglar, lives with Ukrainian war refugees Elizaveta and her daughter, Dasha. Together, the mother and daughter tenderly restore the discarded toys Zephyrina steals away. Told through the eyes of this mischievous cat, the story is one of resilience, hope, and the power of care and imagination.

**ARANGO, ANDREA**  
**BEATRIZ**  
**It's All or Nothing, Vale**

RANDOM HOUSE, 2025  
9780593810927

In this novel in verse, an injury forces Valentina (Vale) to reconsider who she is if she isn't the very best fencer, while a newcomer on her

team helps Vale have fun both at and away from their gym. *Also available in Spanish.*

**BREWER, CAROLINE**  
**Harriet Tubman, Force of Nature: A Biography in Poems**

Illus. by the author  
WHAT ON EARTH!, 2025  
9781804661444

This picture-book biography of Harriet Tubman unfolds through 30 historically accurate poems that trace her life from her childhood as Minty to her daring escapes, work on the Underground Railroad, and service as a Union scout, spy, and nurse.

**CHUNG, ARREE**  
**Don't Cause Trouble**

Illus. by the author  
HENRY HOLT, 2025  
9781250887290

Twelve-year-old Ming is hopeful that middle school will be different, but when he is accidentally placed in an ESL class, despite English being his first language, it appears that things are starting off the same way. New friends and a new scheme may change all of this in this semi-autobiographical graphic novel.

**CLINE-RANSOME, LESA**  
**One Big Open Sky**

HOLIDAY HOUSE, 2024  
9780823450169

The history of the Exodusters, formerly enslaved people who moved West, is shown through the eyes of Lettie; her mother, Sylvia; and young schoolteacher Philomena in this novel written in verse.

**CRULL, KELLY**  
**The Black Mambas: The World's First All-Woman Anti-Poaching Unit**

Photos by the author  
MILLBROOK, 2025  
9798765627259

This nonfiction text profiles South Africa's Black Mambas, who protect rhinos and pangolins through community-centered conservation.

**HANSEN, AMY S., AND WANDA DÍAZ MERCED**  
**Wanda Hears the Stars: A Blind Astronomer Listens to the Universe**

Illus. by Rocío Arreola Mendoza  
CHARLESBRIDGE, 2025  
9781623544874

An informative and inspirational STEM

biography about astrophysicist Wanda Díaz Merced. Includes extensive back matter such as a glossary, Spanish terms, a timeline, and additional resources. *Also available in Spanish.*

**HIGUERA, DONNA BARBA**  
**The Unlikely Aventuras of Ramón and El Cucuy**

Illus. by Juliana Perdomo  
AMULET, 2025  
9781419777424

Ramón is more afraid of his new school than of the cucuy sent to scare him. Spanish words are interspersed throughout this spooky-funny chapter book tale of amistad and aventuras.

**KELLY, ERIN ENTRADA**  
**At Last She Stood: How Joey Guerrero Spied, Survived, and Fought for Freedom**

GREENWILLOW, 2025  
9780063218901

A biographical account of how a tiny Filipino lady with leprosy became a successful World War II spy and war hero, winning the U.S. Presidential Medal of Freedom. Despite all her success,

racism and poverty forced this woman to pawn her medal and shed her previous identity.

**KING, WESLEY**  
**Benny on the Case**

BEACH LANE, 2025  
9781665937696

Benny, an eleven-year-old boy with Mosaic Down syndrome, works to discover who is responsible for a string of thefts in the retirement home that his mother owns.

**LIN, GRACE**  
**The Gate, the Girl, and the Dragon**

Illus. by the author  
LITTLE, BROWN, 2025  
9780316478328

Based on Chinese folklore and featuring full-color illustrations, this story follows three unlikely heroes as they work together to open the door to the spirit world, saving the world from destruction.

**MIYARES, DANIEL**  
**How to Say Goodbye in Cuban**

Illus. by the author  
ANNE SCHWARTZ BOOKS, 2025  
9780593568293

A powerful coming-of-age graphic novel following Carlos, a young Cuban boy whose father wins the lottery in the midst of the political upheaval of his country.

**MUKWA, CAMERON**  
**The Ribbon Skirt**

Illus. by the author  
GRAPHIX, 2024  
9781338843262

Identifying as nonbinary, ten-year-old Anang is concerned about how their friends will react when they make a ribbon skirt for the upcoming Ojibwe powwow.

