

Appendix II

Suggested Authors and Their Works

BOOKS BY AUTHOR

Avi

www.avi-writer.com/

Interview from author's Web page:

When were you born? 1937, in the city of New York. I was raised in Brooklyn.

Where did you get that name? My twin sister gave it to me when we were both about a year old. And it stuck.

Why don't you tell your real name? The fact is, Avi is the only name I use.

When did you become a writer? I think you become a writer when you stop writing for yourself or your teachers and start thinking about readers. I made up my mind to do that when I was a high school senior.

Do you have any advice for people who want to write? I believe reading is the key to writing. The more you read, the better your writing can be.

The Barn, Grades 4–8

Ben's father is dying and he and his siblings build a barn for him. Their hope is that their father will recover from a stroke, which has incapacitated him. The day after the barn is finished they discover that their father died during the night.

The Fighting Ground, Grades 4–8

On April 3, 1778, America is deeply involved in a revolution. A 13-year-old boy who helps his father plant crops wants to join in the action. He is ready, willing and, since he can shoot, considers himself able to fight. There is just one problem: his father won't let him go.

A Place Called Ugly, Young Adult

The town wants to raze the house where 14-year-old Owen has spent most of his summers. In its place will be a modern hotel. Despite the fact that very few people including his own family agree with him, Owen sets about trying to save his summer home.

Poppy, Grades 4–8, illustrated by Brian Floca

Poppy and her family of tiny deer mice live under the protection and tyranny of Mr. Ocax, a great horned owl. Leaving Mr. Ocax's territory without permission can result in death. While this is a hardship and leads to great fear, Mr. Ocax does keep the porcupines at bay.

Joseph Bruchac

Joseph Bruchac is a poet, storyteller, and publisher who has received many literary honors, including the American Book Award and the PEN Syn-

icated Fiction Award. Bruchac was raised by Abenaki Indian and Slovak grandparents in the foothills of the Adirondack Mountains in upstate New York. His reverence for Native American stories, legends, and songs was sparked by the stories of his Abenaki grandfather and his old friends.

***The Girl Who Married the Moon: Tales From Native North America*, Grades 6–8, coauthored by Gayle Ross**

In this sequel to *Flying With the Eagle, Racing the Great Bear*, Joseph Bruchac and Gayle Ross bring to life 16 stories that celebrate the passage from girlhood to womanhood.

***The Heart of a Chief*, Grades 5–8**

Chris Pecola, an 11-year-old Penacook Indian, wrestles with cultural conflict, his father's alcoholism, and the opening of a gambling casino on tribal grounds. Chris battles at school as he leads a project to eliminate the racist names of sports teams and deals with negative feelings from mocking sports fans at a game. The message Chris communicates is respect, dignity, and honesty. This is the story of a young man forming an identity out of the struggle to reconcile his culture with modern American society.

***The Journal of Jesse Smoke: A Cherokee Boy, Trail of Tears, 1838* [My Name Is America series], Grades 5–8**

The events leading up to the Trail of Tears as well as the terrible trials of this march are depicted in this story written in diary format. The Cherokee call this Nunda utsun yi-, The Place Where the People Cried. The Smoke family abandons all their possessions and their land and makes the long forced march with thousands of their tribesmen.

***Skeleton Man*, Grades 5–9**

“His fingers spread out so wide that they look like the talons of a giant bird His eyes are twin blue flames burning from within his skull.” This is the description of the guardian Molly sees in her dreams. He claims to be a great uncle come to care for Molly after her parents disappear. Molly does not buy into this idea. It takes believing in her dreams and careful sleuthing for Molly to find her way out of her predicament.

Dia Calhoun

www.winslowpress.com/diacalhoun/author.cfm

Dia Calhoun lives on Puget Sound in Washington State. Before moving into writing young adult literature, she was a lettering and logo artist. She worked on book jackets and other projects but her most visible work is the Alaska Airlines logo. Her book *Firegold* hinges on the memory of her husband's family orchard with a river roaring far off. Calhoun is drawn to fantasy writing because it challenges her imagination and draws readers into ideas and issues closely but in a different setting.

***Aria of the Sea*, Grades 4–8**

Cerinte is a 13-year-old living on the island of Normost in the kingdom of Windward. She is a folk healer but really wants to become a dancer. When Cerinte is unable to save her mother's life she travels across Windward to audition at the School of the Royal Dancers.

***Firegold*, Young Adult, illustrated by Herve Blondon**

Jonathan is the only person in the valley who does not have brown eyes. Valley folk are whispering about his red-haired mother. Is Jonathan one of the “loony-blues,” or one of the Dalriada—feared mountain people with fabulous horses, mystical powers, and horns growing out of their heads?

Gary Paulsen

www.randomhouse.com/features/garypaulsen/

Born May 17, 1939, Gary Paulsen is one of America's most popular writers for young people.

Although he was never a dedicated student, Paulsen developed a passion for reading at an early age. It is Paulsen's overwhelming belief in young people that drives him to write. His intense desire to tap deeply into the human spirit and to encourage readers to observe and care about the world around them has brought him both enormous popularity with young people and critical acclaim from the children's book community.

***Brian's Winter*, Young Adult**

In his earlier book, *Hatchet*, 13-year-old Brian Robeson learned to survive alone in the Canadian wilderness, armed only with his hatchet. Finally, as millions of readers know, he was rescued at the end of the summer. But what if Brian *hadn't* been rescued? What if he had been left to face his deadliest enemy—winter?

***The Car*, Young Adult**

Fourteen-year-old Terry Anders has been abandoned by his parents. He has no choice but to go on, and he begins by assembling pieces of a car kit from his father's garage. When he finishes the car known as "the Cat," Terry sets out from Cleveland to Portland to search for an uncle he hardly knows. Along the way Terry picks up a wandering Vietnam vet who ultimately guides him on a journey of discovery and survival.

***Guts*, Young Adult**

Gary Paulsen has had real-life adventures that inspired him to write about Brian, introduced in *Hatchet*. He describes how he made his own bows and arrows, and takes readers on his first hunting trips; shares special memories, such as the night he attracted every mosquito in the county, or how he met the moose with a sense of humor.

***Hermanas/Sisters*, Grades 8–10**

Paulsen tells the stories of two 14-year-old girls in a Texas town: Rosa, an illiterate, illegal immigrant from Mexico who earns money by selling herself on the streets, and bleached white-blonde Traci, taught from toddlerhood that "appearance was everything," and whose entire life at the moment hinges on getting on the cheerleading squad. The book is short and bilingual—the English version begins from one side, a fluid Spanish translation from the other.

***Soldier's Heart: Being the Story of the Enlistment and Due Service of the Boy Charley Goddard in the First Minnesota Volunteers*, Grades 6–10**

Based on the life of a real boy, it tells the story of Charley Goddard, who lies his way into the Union Army at the age of 15. Charley has never been anyplace beyond Winona, Minnesota, and thinks war would be a great adventure. And it is—at first—but then comes the battle. Charley screams, "Make it stop now!" disbelieving that anything so horrible could be real.

Chris Van Allsburg

www.houghtonmifflinbooks.com/authors/vanallsburg/

Chris Van Allsburg began his artistic life as a sculptor, but even his early pieces show his emergence as a storyteller. While he was still at Rhode Island School of Design, author and artist David Macaulay looked at Van Allsburg's drawings and encouraged him to send them to editors. As a result he developed a relationship with David Macaulay's editor, Walter Lorraine, at Houghton Mifflin Company. They met and discussed a book Van Allsburg wanted to do about topiary gardens. The idea evolved into *The Garden of Abdul Gasazi*, his first picture book, which was chosen as a Caldecott Honor Book.

***Ben's Dream*, Grades K–6**

On a terrifically rainy day, Ben has a dream in which he and his house float by the monuments of the world, half submerged in floodwater. “The story idea, so economically carried out in the text, is illustrated in the artist’s meticulous drawings, marvels of symbolism, reality, imagination, and perspective.”

***The Mysteries of Harris Burdick*, Grades 4–8**

Fourteen black-and-white drawings, each accompanied by a title and a caption, entice readers to make up their own stories.

***The Wreck of the Zephyr*, Grades K–6**

Amazon.com reader review: “The art work alone is worth the price of admission. If you know of a child or adult who loves to sail, and feels free on the water, this is the book to get. Many times we have a tendency to go too far. The author shows us how seductive it is to test our limits in spite of our knowledge of the risks. But, this book is about dreams and possibilities more than anything else.”

Yin

Born and raised in Manhattan, Yin learned about her heritage through kung fu classes and Sunday family gatherings. She graduated from Baruch College. Besides writing and acting as an interpreter for Chinese families, Yin has been a Wall Street analyst. *Coolies* is her first picture book.

***Coolies*, Grades K–6, illustrated by Chris Soentpiet**

Coolies is a fictionalized account of two brothers who left famine and war behind in China to seek their fortunes as railroad builders in the United States. In the 1850s thousands of Chinese immigrants suffered terrible weather, intense physical labor, and blatant prejudice as they worked to build the transcontinental railroad across the United States. The beautiful illustrations convey the enormity of the railroad project and the per-

sonal and physical challenges the Chinese overcame to maintain their lives and their dignity.

BOOKS BY THEME**Historical Fiction****KAREN CUSHMAN**

www.eduplace.com/rdg/author/cushman/

Karen Cushman had no trouble coming up with ideas for books, and no trouble sharing them with her husband. But one day, as she started to tell him about a new idea she had, he handed her paper and pencil and told her this time he wanted her to write it down. What she wrote was the outline for her first book *Catherine, Called Birdy* (Clarion, 1994), a Newbery Honor Award-winner. Cushman calls herself a “late bloomer.” Her books address many of the issues a young person is interested in—issues of identity, responsibility, limitation, and what it means to be human in this world.

***The Ballad of Lucy Whipple*, Grades 5–9**

California Morning does not want to leave her Massachusetts home for the mining camps of California. Seeking a way to control some part of her life, she decides to change her name to Lucy. Karen Cushman brings the American Gold Rush to life with all its color and challenge.

***Catherine, Called Birdy*, Young Adult**

“Corpus Bones! I utterly loathe my life.” Catherine is determined that her father will not marry her off to a rich old man. Through wit and wiles she eliminates several prospective suitors. However, one suitor is adamant. Will a clever, spunky young girl outsmart him?

***Matilda Bone*, Young Adult**

“To Blood and Bone Alley, home of leech, barber-surgeon, and apothecary, comes Matilda.” Horrified by her new surroundings, Matilda harks back

to the days when all she did was study and pray for advice. *Matilda Bone* is a witty novel about a young girl who is able to turn herself and her world around.

***The Midwife's Apprentice*, Grades 6–12**

Amazon.com reader review: “Unlike *Birdy*, this book is not written in diary form or even the first person, but it is just as delightful, presenting us with a gutsy young girl in the harsh Middle Ages. Although she’s a social outcast, homeless, nameless Beetle makes her personal pilgrimage to a useful occupation and the discovery of her self-worth. This unlikely heroine from the muck of society acquires skills to survive, chooses a new name, and discovers her own personal value as she struggles against the callous villagers and a real midwife whose tongue is as sharp as her name. Despite her employer’s brutal treatment, Alyce acquires the civilizing touch of humanity, as she is gradually accepted into the life of her new village. She shows compassion toward animals, helps a stray waif of a boy, and ingeniously bests ‘the devil’ himself when he causes an uproar in the village.”

African American Experience

***Sugar in the Raw: Voices of Young Black Girls in America*, Grade 6–Adult, by Rebecca Carroll**

This is a work of biographical research that chronicles the stories of 15 African American young women. Carroll crossed the nation interviewing African American girls between the ages of 11 and 20 to hear their stories and to share their perspectives. More than 50 young women were interviewed from a cross section of U.S. society. These are interesting profiles that show various ways in which these girls deal with their lives. Nicole is biracial (white and black) but “I don’t consider myself biracial, black, or white. I consider myself, Nicole” Jaminica, a 14-year-old, says “You can’t escape racism. It’s everywhere

....” This is a powerful book for discussion in middle and high school classrooms.

***The Great Migration: An American Story*, Grades 5–12, by Walter Dean Myers, illustrated by Jacob Lawrence**

This chronicle of the migration of African Americans from the southern agricultural areas to northern industrial cities is told through marvelous paintings. Lawrence painted the Migration of the Negro series between 1940 and 1941. His paintings were exhibited in the Museum of Modern Art in New York and the Phillips Collection in Washington, D.C. Myers is a poet and highly acclaimed author of children’s books.

***From Slave Ship to Freedom Road*, Grades 6–12, by Julius Lester, illustrated by Rod Brown**

At first glance this looks like a picture book for children, but the topic and story are more demanding. The paintings evoke strong emotions. On Page 19 there is a painting of an elderly man that is exquisite. The facing page tells us that this is Big Tibby whose son, Little Tibby, had been sold away from him 50 years before. The look on his face shows how he still yearns for his little boy. This is a book that needs exploration and discussion as students try to understand the journey of African Americans from slave ships to freedom.

***Richard Wright and the Library Card*, Grades 4–8, by William Miller, illustrated by Gregory Christie**

This is a fictionalized account of an episode from Richard Wright’s autobiography, *Black Boy*, written in 1945. Wright is a boy hungry for knowledge with a need to read and learn. At 17 he gets a job in Memphis but is unable to get a library card. He finally approaches a man called Jim Falk and shares his desire. Falk lends Wright his card and the door to books is opened. Wright brings home Dickens, Tolstoy, and Crane. Eventually he earns enough to get to Chicago and more opportunities, not only to read but to write. Wright publishes

his first book, *Native Son*, in 1940. This is an excellent introduction to biography for students 4–12.

Malcolm X: By any Means Necessary,
Grades 6–12, by Walter Dean Myers

Born Malcolm Little, this African American boy witnessed the degradation that prejudice and racism create in human beings. In prison, serving time for burglary, a sea change occurred and Little became Malcolm X, leader of the Black Muslims, a group of African American men determined to win justice and liberty for their people by whatever means required. They were strong and unafraid and their stance shocked and frightened many white and black Americans in the civil rights battle raging in 1960s America.

If I Only Had a Horn: Young Louis Armstrong,
picture book that works well to introduce biography to students in grades 4–12, by Roxane Orgill, illustrated by Leonard Jenkins

This is a great story about a man and his music. The information comes from two autobiographies written by Lois Armstrong (*Satchmo* and *Swing That Music*). Jenkins' paintings are powerful, although a bit dark in tone.

Nightjohn, *Young Adult, by Gary Paulsen*

Imagine being beaten for learning to read, shackled and whipped for learning a few letters of the alphabet. Now, imagine a man brave enough to risk torture in order to teach others how to read. His name is Nightjohn, and he sneaks into the slave camps at night to teach other slaves how to read and write.

Sarny: A Life Remembered, *Young Adult, by Gary Paulsen*

Sarny was introduced in Paulsen's story, *Nightjohn*. It was from Nightjohn that Sarny learned to read. The story chronicles Sarny's quest for her sold children and her mission to pass the gift of literacy on to a new generation of her people.

Words With Wings: A Treasury of African American Poetry and Art, Grades 4–Adult,
edited by Belinda Rochelle

"Each poem and work of art was selected because it inspires our own creative energy." Rochelle has included works by Alice Walker, Maya Angelou, Langston Hughes, Jacob Lawrence, Lev T. Mills, Charles Dawson, Henry Ossawa Tanner, and many other great African American poets and artists. The book also has short biographies of each of the artists and poets. This is a wonderful and important book to have in any classroom.

Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry, *Young Adult, by Mildred Taylor*

This winner of the 1977 Newbery Medal tells the story of Cassie and her family in a year of turbulence. The family has been burned out and Cassie has been humiliated by a white girl for no other reason than that Cassie is black. The Logan family determines to own a piece of land on which they can plant roots and it is this quest that fosters courage and pride in the face of great challenges.

Let the Circle Be Unbroken, *Young Adult, by Mildred Taylor*

Winner of the Coretta Scott King Award, this story again shares the trials and joys of the Logan family. Family members and friends face unjust arrests, destruction of property, and denial of their right to vote. However, standing together with courage, love, and understanding they fight the greatest prejudice.

Native American Stories

Clans of Many Nations, *Grades 7–12, by Peter Blue Cloud/Aroniawenrate (Mohawk)*

These poems, spanning 25 years in the life of one of the major literary voices of Native people, speak of New York City's high steel construction and quiet mountains, of Alcatraz Island and "this bit of Mohawk territory encircled by cities, towns,

freeway and seaway” that “cannot be what my ancestors dreamed.” His writing is beautiful.

***Mountain Windsong: A Novel of the Trail of Tears*, Grades 7–12, by Robert J. Conley (Cherokee)**

In weaving together song, legend, and historical documents, Conley tells the love story of two ordinary people caught up in the removal from their traditional lands and brings to life the suffering and endurance of the Cherokee people.

***Waterlily*, Grades 7–12, by Ella Cara Deloria (Yankton)**

Waterlily, finished in 1947 and not published during Deloria’s lifetime, is a novel, a life story of the Dakota people, as their lives were beginning to be disrupted by the Wasichu. Told from a woman’s viewpoint, it emphasizes the traditional network of obligations and relationships that formed cultural unity. “Teton children loved to give. As far back as they could remember they had been made to give or their elders gave in their name, honoring them, until they learned to feel a responsibility to do so. Furthermore, they found it pleasant to be thanked graciously and have their ceremonial names spoken aloud. For giving was basic to Dakota life. The idea behind it was this: if everyone gives, then everyone gets; it is inevitable. And so old men and women preached continuously: Be hospitable. Be generous. Nothing is too good for giving away. The children grew up hearing that, until it was a fixed notion.”

***Red Clay: Poems and Stories*, Grades 7–12, by Linda Hogan (Chickasaw)**

“These poems,” Hogan says, “grew out of the Oklahoma terrain resonant with the calls of frogs, my grandfather’s horse and wagon, my grandmother’s uncut braids wrapped about her head in the traditional Chickasaw manner, the firefly-lit nights we sat outside and heard stories, including the one of the gun stocks made from our stolen black walnut trees. In these poems live red land and light.”

Solar Storms, Grades 7–12, by Linda Hogan (Chickasaw)

A hurt and rebellious teenager, scarred in face and spirit, sets out to search for her birth family, her mother, and herself. Reunited with her great-grandmother, great-great-grandmother, and the woman who adopted her mother, this family of women sets off by canoe on a journey to their ancestral homeland in the far North, where a hydroelectric dam project threatens the existence of two indigenous nations.

***Men on the Moon: Collected Short Stories*, Grades 7–12, by Simon Ortiz (Acoma)**

Ortiz is a very accomplished storyteller. “For me,” he says, “there has never been a conscious moment without story.” Here are stories of migrants working potato fields in Idaho and longing for home, a grandfather trying to understand why men go to the moon to bring back rocks, three women in a laundromat silently giving each other courage, a daring escape from boarding school, a father teaching his son to fly a kite, and white people who want to become Indians.

***The Bird Who Cleans the World and Other Mayan Fables*, Grades 5–8, by Victor Montejo (Maya), color illustrations**

These Jakalteq Mayan folktales were first told to the author by his mother and the elders of his Guatemalan village. Rooted in nature, they demonstrate the values of honesty, understanding, and respect, and the Mayan way of life and learning.

***The Trickster and the Troll*, Grades 7–12, by Virginia Driving Hawk Sneve (Lakota)**

Virginia’s husband is Norwegian, and their children call themselves “Sioux-wegian.” It is for her grandchildren that she wrote this tale of the friendship between Iktomi and the Troll, who, with their respective humans, suffer great loss in a hostile, changing environment.

When Thunders Spoke, Grades 7–12, by Virginia Driving Hawk Sneve (Lakota), b/w illustrations
Norman Two Bull is a 15-year-old impatient with the old ways. One day Norman finds an ancient relic that has power to make things happen. With his grandfather's encouragement, Norman learns that things are not always what they seem, and that the supernatural is to be respected.

Sexual Identity

Am I Blue: Coming Out From the Silence, Young Adult, edited by Marion Dane Bauer
This is a collection of 15 stories that explore gay and lesbian issues. Some of the authors are part of the gay and lesbian community and others are outside that culture. All write about issues and concerns facing young adults whether they be gay and lesbian or others who want to understand and support young people in their search for personal identity.

Equinox, Young Adult, by Monte Killingsworth
Autumn is a 14-year-old girl living on a small island off the coast of Seattle. Her parents decide they should move to the mainland for a variety of reasons. Autumn is devastated and sets out to convince her parents that leaving the island would be a big mistake for everyone, but especially herself. She creates a wonderful, illustrated journal of people, flora, and fauna of the island. In the process she learns a secret about her mother and a young woman her mother has "befriended." Autumn is forced to view love in a broader manner and come to terms with what this new knowledge will mean for her and her family.

Empress of the World, Young Adult, by Sara Ryan
The Siegel Institute Summer Program for Gifted Youth draws bright, articulate teenagers who live like college students for eight weeks. On the first day, Nic meets Katrina, the computer girl, Isaac, the West coast nice-guy-despite-himself, Kevin,

the inarticulate composer ... and Battle. Battle Hall Davies is a beautiful blonde dancer from North Carolina. She's everything Nic isn't. Soon the two are friends—and then, startlingly, more than friends. "What do you do when you think you're attracted to guys, and then you meet a girl who steals your heart?"

PICTURE BOOKS FOR OLDER READERS

Reading aloud and discussing stories are some of the best ways for young people to build vocabulary and conceptual knowledge, enhance memory, imagination, attention span, listening, and comprehension skills. In addition, these activities can become a time of reflection, sharing, and empathy. Listed below are some of the many picture books that can spur rich conversations about such themes as intergenerational relationships, courage, friendship, overcoming adversity, prejudice, grief, rejection, and loneliness.

Istvan Banyai

Hungarian born, Banyai has developed a following in the United States with his many creative illustrations and animations. His work can be seen in such magazines as *Atlantic Monthly*, *Time*, *The New Yorker*, and *Rolling Stone*. Banyai has also created music covers for Sony and Capital Records. Istvan Banyai lives in New York with his wife and son.

Zoom, Grades 5–8

This wordless book mimics a camera as it zooms out from page to page. Each page reveals a small part of a larger picture that gradually develops through the book. Stark, glossy black pages face the illustrations of each piece of the developing picture. A terrific book that stimulates questions that lead to hypotheses about what the viewer is actually seeing. It works well with a variety of ages.

Re-Zoom, Grades 5–8

This is the second of Banyai's wordless books that start with scattered images and the zoom out to broaden the scenes on each page. The glossy black facing pages highlight the illustrations. Banyai has included a caricature of Alfred Hitchcock in several scenes that zoom out from what appears to be a movie soundstage. The reader eventually realizes that the scenes are from a book being read by a young man on a subway. The illustrator continues to zoom out until only the red light of the subway is noticeable. *Re-Zoom*, like its predecessor, is stimulating for all levels of students.

Eve Bunting

<http://falcon.jmu.edu/~ramseyil/bunting.htm>

Born in Northern Ireland in 1928, Eve Bunting immigrated to the United States in 1959. Her first inspiration was her father, who read a variety of books to her every day, especially poetry. She started writing her own stories as a child and read and discussed them with her father. She has published more than 130 children's books, some under the names of Evelyn Bolton or A.E. Bunting. Her picture books offer children's views of real-world issues and the complex feelings they and their families face.

Moonstick: The Seasons of the Sioux, Grades 4–6, illustrated by John Sandford

This beautifully illustrated book tells the story of the 13 moons of the Sioux year. When winter ends a Lakota boy works with his father to make a moon counting stick. On the advent of each new moon a notch is cut into the stick. Along with each new moon come changes in climate, vegetation, animals, and tribal activities. The boy learns that changes are part of the life cycle but the cycle is constant.

Smoky Night, Grades 3–5, illustrated by David Diaz
Riots in the neighborhood cause a boy and his mother to evacuate their burning apartment

building. Amid the feelings of fear and loss, the family begins to form a friendship with a woman different from them, who they had stayed away from before. A Caldecott winner, the reading level is primary but the story will captivate upper elementary/middle level students also. A stimulating book, both in story and illustrations, it provokes a discussion of feelings common to all human beings.

Your Move, Grades 3–4, illustrated by James Ransome

James takes care of his brother Isaac while their mom works as a night waitress. James has been invited to join a "club" but first he must spray paint a road sign to obliterate the name of another neighborhood club—the Snakes. When the Snakes show up unexpectedly, boys scatter, shots are fired, and Isaac is on the ground with blood under him. James is scared that six-year-old Isaac has been shot. James and Isaac learn lessons about the consequences of decisions they make and what they might have to do to be members of the "club." The reading level of the text is third to fourth grade but the content is appropriate for middle level students.

Joseph Bruchac***A Boy Called Slow: The True Story of Sitting Bull, Grades 4–5, illustrated by Rocco Baviera***

A coming-of-age story about a boy who lived in the shadow of a great warrior and was named Slow as a child. Despite early difficulties this boy grew into the great chief we know as Sitting Bull. Struggling as a child to be the best rider, hunter, and wrestler, Slow at 14 leads a war party and sends the enemy Crows running. With great pride Slow's father renames him Sitting Bull. The reading level is about fourth grade but the story and illustrations are appealing to students in middle level classes.

Crazy Horse's Vision, Grades 3–4, illustrated by S.D. Nelson

Curly is a brave and thoughtful young man who is deeply affected by an attack on his village by white soldiers. Not knowing what to do or how to defend his people, he rides out onto the plains on a vision quest. Years later, Curly has grown to be a generous, serious man. When the meaning of his vision is finally revealed to him by his father, his father bestows his own name on him, Tashunka Witco—Crazy Horse. The illustrator is a Lakota and uses the colors and styles of the Lakota to show the connection between the spirit world and the world of the Plains Indian. The reading level is upper elementary.

Navajo Long Walk: The Tragic Story of a Proud People's Forced March From Their Homeland, Grades 4–8, illustrated by Shanto Begay

This is a picture book for older readers that tells the story of the forced removal of the Navajo from their homeland in the 1860s. The Navajo were force-marched more than 400 miles to a desolate reservation. Bruchac tells the story from the Navajo viewpoint and deals with white racism behind this event. A federal commission appointed by President Andrew Johnson investigated the Navajo displacement and eventually the tribe was allowed to return to the Navajo homeland.

Lynne Cherry

Cherry's most popular books are about environmental issues. Her particular interest in the Nashua River was the people's belief in the importance of cleaning up the river and their willingness to see the project through to success.

A River Ran Wild: An Environmental History, Grades 3–5

In this beautiful story the author/illustrator chronicles the changes in a river through six centuries. The Nashua people named the river and over the centuries it moves from a source of life

for the Nashua to a severely polluted, ecologically damaged body of water. The people of Nashua, New Hampshire, finally fight to restore the river to its original beauty. The readability of the text is fourth grade but the topic of water pollution can be introduced to middle and high school students through this book.

Mendel Grossman (Photographer) and Frank Dabba Smith (Author)

Mendel Grossman was born in Poland in 1913 and was confined to the Lodz Ghetto in the early days of World War II. From 1940 to 1945, he photographed life in the ghetto and hid the best of his negatives in the walls of his apartment. The photos in this book are from that collection. He died in 1945 just before the Germans surrendered. Frank Dabba Smith is a rabbi and photographer who did his rabbinical dissertation on the impact of photographs as propaganda and communication prior to and during the Holocaust.

My Secret Camera: Life in the Lodz Ghetto, Grades 4–6

This book is the legacy of a Jewish man living under Nazi occupation in Poland. Grossman wanted to show the world the fear, challenges to survival, and the suffering of the people who were his neighbors in the ghetto. The reading level of this text is upper elementary but the pictures are for older students. There are photos of children used to pulling carts like beasts of burden, men standing in breadlines, people packed and ready to make a train trip from which they will never return, and Nazi soldiers marching down the streets of Lodz.

Ken Mochizuki (Author) and Dom Lee (Illustrator)

Ken Mochizuki lived with his parents in Minidka Internment Camp in Idaho during World War II.

Dom Lee is from Seoul, South Korea, and has a master's degree in visual arts.

Baseball Saved Us, Grades 3–5

This book won the Parents' Choice Award in 1993. It tells the story of Japanese-Americans interned during World War II. It describes the hot dusty summer days and cold frozen nights, endless lines for food or the bathroom, poorly made barracks, and most of all, boredom. Families were on edge and tempers flared. One of the men decided to construct a baseball diamond and set up baseball teams. Ken became adept at the game and found the skill one way to reintegrate himself when the family was sent home after the war.

Patricia Polacco

www.patriciapolacco.com/

... “when you write, keep the stories small and close to your heart. When you get too far away from your heart, you can't find your way back” This is Patricia Polacco's advice to young writers and this idea of writing from the heart is apparent in all of her stories and illustrations.

The Butterfly, Grades 4–6

Prolific author/illustrator Patricia Polacco once again draws on her family history, this time to tell a story of resistance and friendship in Nazi-occupied France. Monique awakens to find a little ghost sitting on the foot of her bed but when she speaks, the ghost runs away. Eventually Monique discovers that the little ghost is Sevrine, the daughter of a Jewish family her mother has been sheltering in their basement. When the security of the family is in peril, they flee to a new refuge, leaving Monique fearful for their safety. Later as Monique and her mother work in their garden, one butterfly arrives and then many, and Monique is convinced that butterflies are a sign that Sevrine and her family are safe and well.

Pink and Say, Grades 4–6, available in Spanish

This is the story of two teens who become friends during the American Civil War. Pink is the son of slaves who rescues Say, the son of poor whites. Pink's mother and family nurse Say back to health. Later, Pink's mother and brothers are murdered in a raid and Pink and Say are taken to Andersonville prison. Pink is hanged in prison but Say survives to pass down the story to his children and grandchildren. A beautiful illustration shows Pink and Say's hands clutched together as Pink is taken by the guards. Later in life Say shakes hands with Abraham Lincoln and sees a physical connection from Lincoln to Say to Pink. While reviews indicate this story is for K–5, the content and concepts involved are really more appropriate for upper elementary/middle school. The book is also a great introduction to the Civil War for middle and high school students.

Thank You, Mr. Falker, Grades 3–6

Trisha looked forward to first grade when she would learn to read the books that her family had read to her throughout her childhood. But reading becomes a struggle. Confused and embarrassed, Trisha is mocked by her classmates. When her family moves to California, Trisha hopes that finally she will learn to read but she is no more successful in her new school ... until a new teacher, Mr. Falker, comes to teach. He discovers Trisha's secret and works with her until the letters begin to take shape. Years later Patricia Polacco, the author, meets Mr. Falker again, and when he asks what she does for a living, she explains that she writes books for children.