

# PRE-K - 2ND

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First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all, the testimony given at the proper time.

—1 Timothy 2.1-6

**All the Way to America: The Story of a Big Italian Family and a Little Shovel.** Dan Yaccarino. New York: Knopf, 2011.

*This is the story of four generations of an Italian American family. It begins with an immigrant who came through Ellis Island with big dreams, a small shovel, and his parents' good advice: "Work hard, but remember to enjoy life, and never forget your family."*

**All the World.** Elizabeth Garton Scanlon. New York: Beach Lane Books, 2009.

*Pictures and rhyming text celebrate a family's day spent going to the beach, shopping at the market, eating at a restaurant, and spending the evening with the rest of the extended family.*

**Bringing in the New Year.** Grace Lin. New York: Knopf, 2008.

*This is a story about a Chinese American family as they prepare for the Lunar New Year. Each member of the family lends a hand as they sweep out the dust of the old year, hang decorations, and make dumplings. Then it's time to put on new clothes and celebrate with family and friends.*

**Be My Neighbor.** Maya Ajmera. Washington, DC: Shakti for Children; Watertown, MA: Charlesbridge, 2004.

*This book contains a simple introduction to the characteristics of a neighborhood.*

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**The Busiest Street in Town.** Mara Rockliff. New York: Knopf, 2009.

*Agatha Walker does not want to live on the busiest street in town! Rushmore Boulevard is the busiest street in town—until Agatha May Walker decides to do something about it.*

**City Dog, Country Frog.** Mo Willems. New York: Hyperion Books for Children, 2010.

*Through the seasons, whenever City Dog visits the country he runs straight for Country Frog's rock to play games with him, but during the winter things change for them both.*

**Dear Primo: A Letter to My Cousin.** Duncan Tonatiuh. New York: Abrams Books for Young Readers, 2010.

*Two cousins, one in Mexico and one in New York City, write to each other and learn that even though their daily lives differ, at heart the boys are very similar.*

**First Snow in the Woods.** Carl R. Sams. Milford, MI: C. R. Sams II & J. Stoick, 2007.

*A traditional story about all the animals in the forest getting ready for hibernation and feeling the change of season coming.*

**Grandma's Gift.** Eric Velasquez. New York: Walker, 2010.

*The author describes Christmas at his grandmother's apartment in Spanish Harlem the year she introduced him to the Metropolitan Museum of Art and Diego Velazquez's portrait of Juan de Pareja, which has had a profound and lasting effect on him.*

**Have You Filled a Bucket Today? A Guide to Daily Happiness for Kids.** Carol McCloud. Northville, MI: Ferne Press, 2006.

*Through sweet, simple prose and vivid illustrations, this book encourages positive behavior as children see how very easy and rewarding it is to express kindness, appreciation, and love on a daily basis.*

**Henry Aaron's Dream.** Matt Tavares. Somerville, MA: Candlewick Press, 2010.

*A picture book biography of African-American baseball player Hank Aaron.*

**Homer, the Library Cat.** Reeve Lindbergh. Somerville, MA: Candlewick Press, 2011.

*A cat's quiet life is disrupted one day when a window is broken, and after several frustrating attempts to find a suitable place, he winds up in the perfect spot.*

**Imogene's Last Stand.** Candace Fleming. New York: Schwartz & Wade Books, 2009.

*Young Imogene Tripp tries to save her town's historical society from being demolished in order to build a shoelace factory. As a baby, Imogene's first words were "Four score and seven years ago." In preschool, she fingerpainted a map of the Oregon Trail. So it's not surprising that when the mayor wants to tear down the long-neglected Liddleton Historical Society to make room for a shoelace factory, Imogene is desperate to convince the town how important its history is. But even though she rides through the streets in her Paul Revere costume shouting, "The bulldozers are coming, the bulldozers are coming!" the townspeople won't budge. What's a history-loving kid to do?*

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**Jazz on a Saturday Night.** Leo Dillon. New York: Blue Sky Press, 2007.

*Leo and Diane Dillon use bright colors and musical patterns that make music skip off the page in this toe-tapping homage to many jazz greats.*

**Miss Bridie Chose a Shovel.** Leslie Connor. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2004.

*Miss Bridie emigrates to America in 1856 and chooses to bring a shovel, which proves to be a useful tool throughout her life.*

**Neville.** Norton Juster. New York: Schwartz & Wade, 2011.

*A long road trip, depicted in a series of panels on the title page, sets the stage for this tender, funny story about moving, settling down, and starting over. A boy and his family move to a new town. He worries about all of the troubles of relocation, especially being lonely, and his mother sends him out into the neighborhood to find new friends.*

**Niwetchihaw – I Help.** Dale Nicholson. Toronto: Groundwood Books, 2008.

*Story is in Cree and English and explores a young child's relationship to his grandmother, or kôkhom, as they go for a walk in the woods to pick rosehips.*

**One Hen: How One Small Loan Made a Big Difference.** Katie Smith Milway. Tonawanda, NY: Kids Can Press, 2008.

*Based on a true story, a poor Ghanaian boy buys a chicken through a community loan program, which eventually helps lift him, his mother, and his community out of poverty.*

**One Little Chicken.** Elka Weber. Berkeley, CA: Tricycle Press, 2011.

*Weber retells a story in the Talmud about a family that cares for a lost chicken, turning its eggs into a profit which they later give to its owner.*

**One Thousand Tracings: Healing the Wounds of World War II.** Lita Judge. New York: Hyperion Books for Children, 2007.

*The author describes her family's efforts to help their friends and others who were left homeless and hungry in the aftermath of World War II.*

**A Picnic in October.** Eve Bunting. Boston, MA: Sandpiper, 2004.

*A contemporary Italian-American family living in New York City makes its annual pilgrimage to Liberty Island to celebrate the birthday of the Statue of Liberty in this poignant picture book. Young Mike thinks a picnic in blustery October is just plain dumb.*

**Planting the Trees of Kenya: The Story of Wangari Maathai.** Claire A. Nivola. New York: Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 2008.

*Wangari Maathai, winner of the 2004 Nobel Peace Prize and founder of the Green Belt Movement, grew up in the highlands of Kenya, where fig trees cloaked the hills, fish filled the streams, and the people tended their bountiful gardens.*

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**The Story Blanket.** Ferida Wolff. Atlanta, GA: Peachtree, 2008.

*With no wool to be found in the village, Babba Zarah, the storyteller, starts unraveling her story blanket bit by bit, to secretly supply the needs of the community. When the villagers realize what is happening they return the favor.*

**The Storyteller's Candle.** Lucia M. Gonzalez. San Francisco, CA: Children's Book Press, 2008.

*During the early days of the Great Depression, New York City's first Puerto Rican librarian, Pura Belpré, introduces the public library to immigrants living in El Barrio and hosts the neighborhood's first Three Kings' Day fiesta.*

**Under the Night Sky.** Amy Lundebrek. Gardiner, ME: Tilbury House, 2008.

*A boy is surprised when his mother tells him to get up and dressed when she returns from work late one night, but soon they are outside, surrounded by neighbors, watching an amazing display of the northern lights.*

**You and Me and Home Sweet Home.** George Ella Lyon. New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2009.

*Third-grader Sharonda and her mother help volunteers from their church to build the house that will be their very own.*

**Water Beds: Sleeping in the Ocean.** Gail Karwoski. Mt. Pleasant, SC: Sylvan Dell, 2005.

*Karwoski introduces readers to the variety of sleeping patterns found in marine mammals.*