

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

14 Cows for America. Carmen Agra Deedy. Atlanta, GA: Peachtree, 2009.

Maasai tribal members, after hearing the story of the September 11th attacks from a young Massai, who was in New York on that day, decide to present the American people with fourteen sacred cows as a healing gift.

Amazing Faces. Lee Bennett Hopkins. New York: Lee & Low Books, 2010.

Poems focusing on universal emotions, as expressed by poets from diverse backgrounds, including Joseph Bruchac and Nikki Grimes.

Black Elk's Vision: A Lakota Story. S. D. Nelson. New York: Abrams Books for Young Readers, 2010.

A simple biography of Lakota-Oglala medicine man Black Elk, from his childhood vision which shaped his life through his battles with the Whites and his travels with Buffalo Bill's Wild West show. Includes quotes from Black Elk Speaks and historical photos.

Bless This Mouse. Lois Lowry. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Books for Children, 2011.

Mouse Mistress Hildegard musters all her ingenuity to keep a large colony of church mice safe from the exterminator and to see that they make it through the dangerous Blessing of the Animals.

The BossQueen, Little BigBark, and the Sentinel Pup. Sarah Clark Jordan. Berkeley, CA: Tricycle Press, 2004.

Young Mina must find her place in the order of things when she and the two older dogs move with OurShe into a different house, where the new members of their pack include OurHe, OurBoy, OurGirl, and That Cat.

Brothers. Yin. New York: Philomel Books, 2006.

Having arrived in San Francisco from China to work in his brother's store, Ming is lonely until an Irish boy befriends him.

The Dreamer. Pam Muñoz Ryan. New York: Scholastic Press, 2010.

A fictionalized biography of the Nobel Prize-winning Chilean poet Pablo Neruda, who was a painfully shy child, ridiculed by his overbearing father, but who became one of the most widely-read poets in the world.

Extra Credit. Andrew Clements. New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2009.

As letters flow back and forth—between the prairies of Illinois and the mountains of Afghanistan, across cultural and religious divides—sixth-grader Abby, ten-year-old Amira, and eleven-year-old Sadeed begin to speak and listen to each other.

The Great Wall of Lucy Wu. Wendy Wan Long Shang. New York: Scholastic Press, 2011.

Eleven-year-old aspiring basketball star and interior designer Lucy Wu is excited about finally having her own bedroom, until she learns that her great-aunt is coming to visit and Lucy will have to share a room with her for several months, shattering her plans for a perfect sixth-grade year.

Henry and the Kite Dragon. Bruce Edward Hall. New York: Philomel Books, 2004.

In New York City in the 1920s, the children from Chinatown go after the children from Little Italy for throwing rocks at the beautiful kites Grandfather Chin makes, not realizing that they have a reason for doing so.

January's Sparrow. Patricia Polacco. New York: Philomel Books, 2009.

After a fellow slave is beaten to death, Sadie and her family flee the plantation for freedom through the Underground Railroad.

The King Who Barked: Real Animals Who Ruled. Charlotte Foltz Jones. New York: Holiday House, 2009.

This book contains stories about real animals who have held positions of leadership, from mayor to king.

Moon Over Manifest. Clare Vanderpool. New York: Delacorte Press, 2010.

Twelve-year-old Abilene Tucker is the daughter of a drifter who, in the summer of 1936, sends her to stay with an old friend in Manifest, Kansas, where he grew up, and where she hopes to find out some things about his past.

Nasreen's Secret School: A True Story from Afghanistan. Jeanette Winter. New York: Beach Lane Books, 2009.

Based on a true story. After her parents are taken away by the Taliban, young Nasreen stops speaking. But as she spends time in a secret school, she slowly breaks out of her shell.

A Nest for Celeste: A Story About Art, Inspiration, and the Meaning of Home. Henry Cole. New York: Katherine Tegen Books, 2010.

Celeste, a mouse longing for a real home, becomes a source of inspiration to teenaged Joseph, assistant to the artist and naturalist John James Audubon, at a New Orleans, Louisiana, plantation in 1821.

One Green Apple. Eve Bunting. New York: Clarion Books, 2006.

While on a school field trip to an orchard to make cider, a young immigrant named Farah gains self-confidence when the green apple she picks perfectly complements the other students' red apples.

Poems to Dream Together - Poemas Para Soñar Juntos. Francisco X. Alarcón. New York: Lee & Low Books, 2006.

Bilingual poems for children written for children of Mexican-American families.

Remember Me, Mikwid Hamin: Tomah Joseph's Gift to Franklin Roosevelt. Donald Soctomah. Gardiner, ME: Tilbury House, 2009.

Spending his childhood summers on Campobello Island, young Franklin Delano Roosevelt learns how to canoe from Tomah Joseph, a respected fishing and canoe guide, basket maker and canoe-builder, and former chief of his tribe, who also teaches Franklin about the Passamaquoddy culture.

Sequoyah: The Cherokee Man Who Gave His People Writing. James Rumford. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2004.

While walking through a forest of sequoias, a father tells his family the story of the tree's namesake. Sequoyah was a Cherokee man who invented a system of writing for his people. His neighbors feared the symbols he wrote and burned down his home.

Stitchin' and Pullin': A Gee's Bend Quilt. Pat McKissack. New York: Random House, 2008.

As a young African-American girl pieces her first quilt together, the history of her family, community, and the struggle for justice and freedom in Gee's Bend, Alabama, unfolds.

When the Shadbush Blooms. Cara Messinger. Berkeley, CA: Tricycle Press, 2007.

A young Lenni Lenape Indian child describes her family's life through the seasons. Includes facts about the Lenni Lenape Indians.

Where the Mountain Meets the Moon. Grace Lin. New York: Little, Brown, 2009.

Minli, an adventurous girl from a poor village, buys a magical goldfish, and then joins a dragon who cannot fly on a quest to find the Old Man of the Moon in hopes of bringing life to Fruitless Mountain and freshness to Jade River.