

# Why is there a need for diversity in children's literature?



Early childhood literacy is important in a child's language acquisition, comprehension, and sensemaking of the world.



There is a rich array of children's literature available but it does not authentically reflect diverse families, life experiences, or viewpoints.



By sharing authentic stories of the world around us, children learn to become good citizens and are better able to appreciate and navigate the world around them.



*“Although more than one-third of the population of the United States were members of racial and ethnic minorities, statistics from the Cooperative Children’s Book Center (CCBC) showed that less than 10% of books published*

*for children and teenagers in the United States during 2011 were by or about African Americans, American Indians, Asian/Pacific Island Americans, and Latinos. (Cooperative Children’s Book Center, n.d.).”*

Virginia Kay Williams & Nancy Deyoe (2014) Diverse Population, Diverse Collection? Youth Collections in the United States, Technical Services Quarterly, 31:2, 97-121, DOI: 10.1080/07317131.2014.875373

## Why is there a need for diversity in children’s literature?

There is equally poor representation of titles about Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT), Special Needs, and diverse religious populations.



# Where can I learn more about the need for diversity in children's literature and how to help?



Look for the UM Library Research Guide for Children's Literature

[guides.lib.umich.edu/childrensliterature](https://guides.lib.umich.edu/childrensliterature)



Look for teacher blogs and websites recommending diverse books and methods of incorporating them into the classroom.



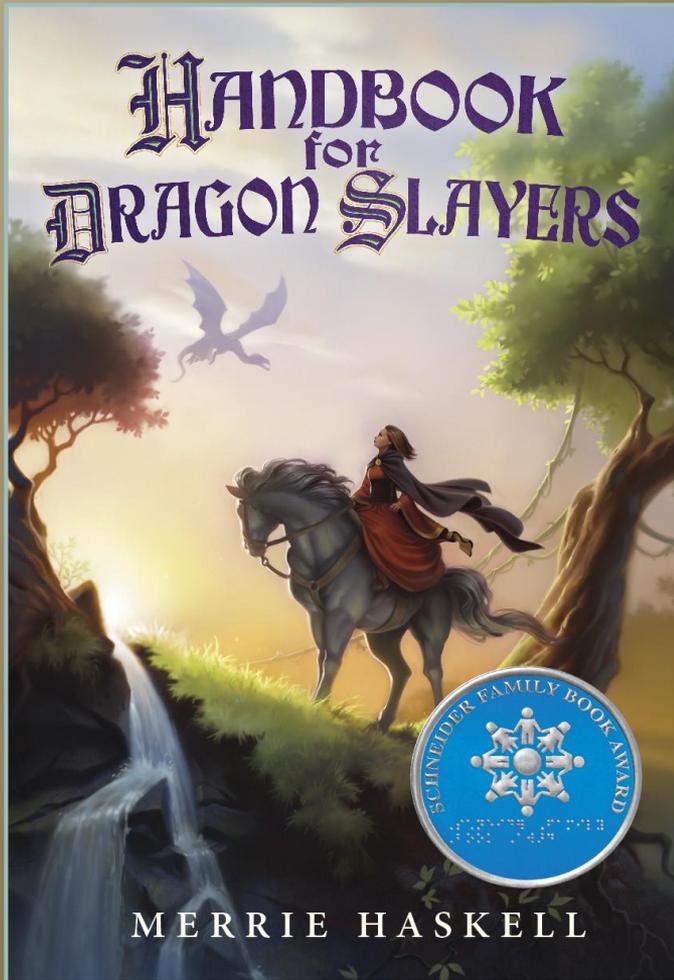
Diversify your collection of children's books at home or work.



Think critically about the social identities present or lacking in a text.



Share your knowledge with others.



# Handbook for Dragon Slayers by Merrie Haskell

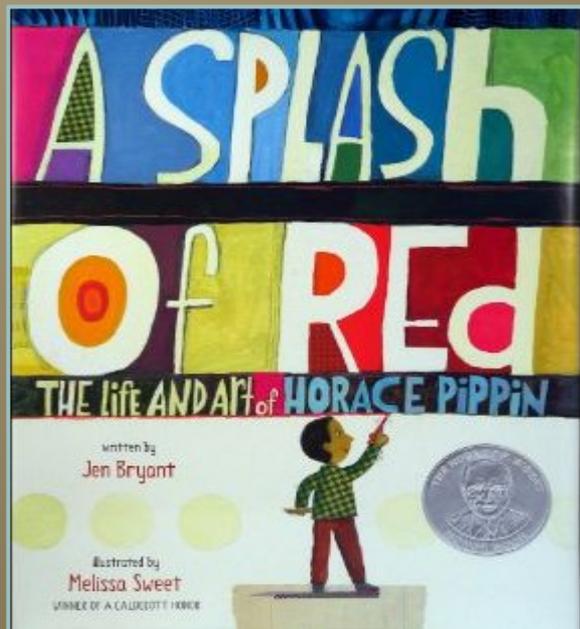
*2014 Schneider Family Book Award Winner*

This fantasy novel follows the adventures of a princess with a disability as she sets out on a journey to slay dragons and save her kingdom.

Fun Fact: The author, Merrie Fuller (Haskell), works at the University of Michigan Library!

Orbis Pictus Award for Outstanding Nonfiction for Children

# A Splash of Red: The Life and Art of Horace Pippin by Jen Bryant



<http://www.teachingbooks.net/tb.cgi?aid=662&a=1>

While Horace Pippin recovers from his war injuries, he continues to do what he loves: paint. This non-fiction story for children recounts Pippin's life and explores how various social identities can intersect and overlap in the context of an African American man of limited means with disabilities.

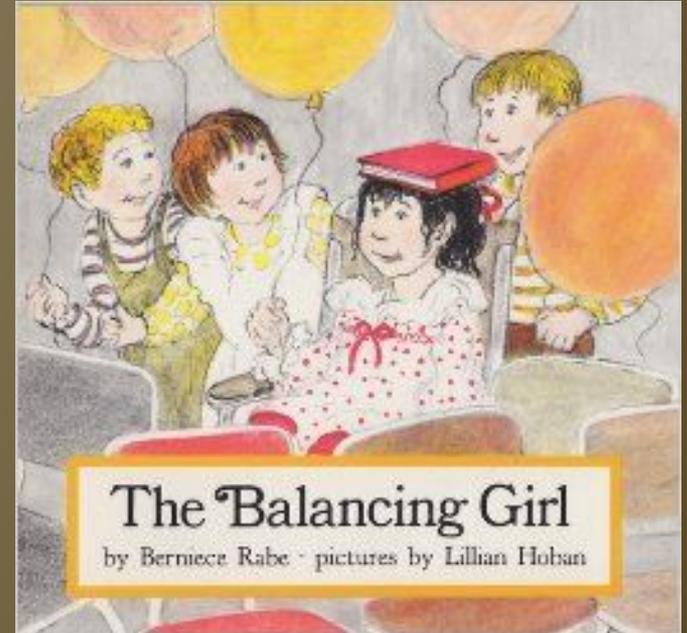
*Diversity in Special Needs, Race, Ethnicity, and Class*

# The Balancing Girl

By  
Berniece Rabe

Margaret is a first-grader with a very special talent: her ability to balance things while in her wheelchair.

Margaret plans to use her talent in the school carnival and dreams up an amazing act.

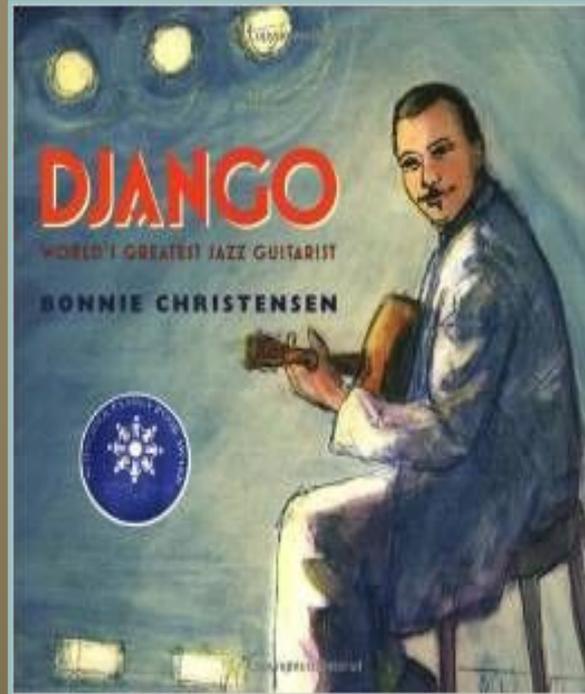


[http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/1824643.The\\_Balancing\\_Girl](http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/1824643.The_Balancing_Girl)

## 2010 Schneider Family Book Award

# Django

by  
Bonnie  
Christensen



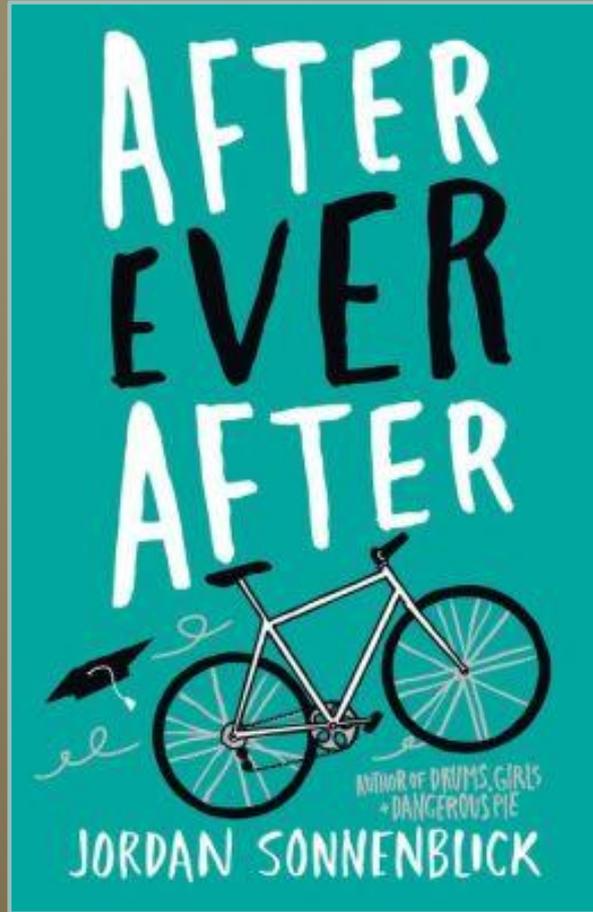
A rising guitarist encounters a life-changing accident that jeopardizes his career. Django's audience wonders if he will ever be able to play guitar again.

[http://www.amazon.com/Django-Bonnie-Christensen/dp/1596436964/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1429466041&sr=1-1&keywords=django+bonnie+christensen](http://www.amazon.com/Django-Bonnie-Christensen/dp/1596436964/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1429466041&sr=1-1&keywords=django+bonnie+christensen)

# After Ever After

By  
Jordan  
Sonnenblick

2011 Schneider  
Family Book  
Award

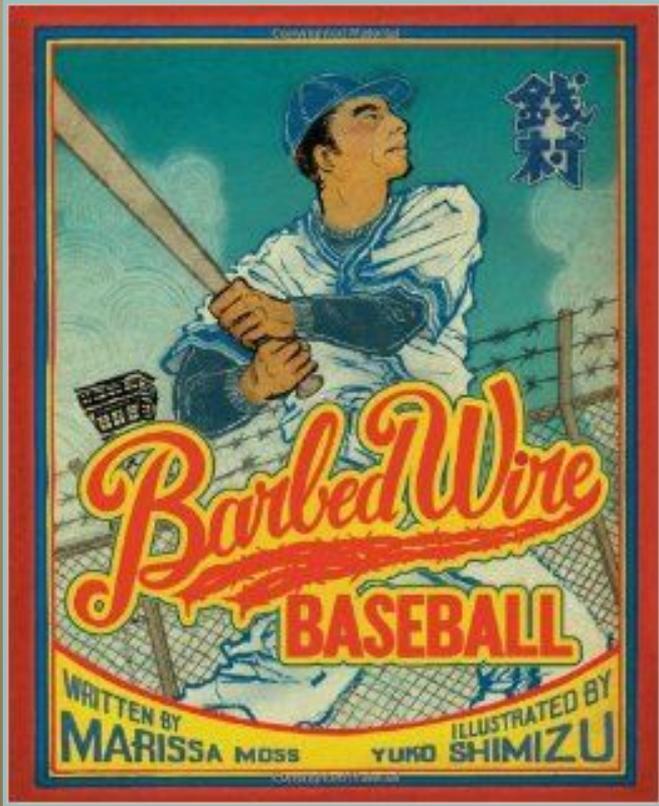


<http://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/after-ever-after-jordan-sonnenblick/1100049255?ean=9780545292788>

In this sequel to *Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie*, Jeffrey's cancer is now in remission, but it has left him with a physical disability and a learning disability. There's a nationwide academic test that Jeffrey needs to pass. Will his best friend's plan to help Jeffrey pass the test work?

*Diversity in Special Needs*

## 2013-2014 Asian/Pacific Islander Award for Literature



<http://www.amazon.com/Barbed-Wire-Baseball-Marissa-Moss/dp/1419705210>

# Barbed Wire Baseball

By Marissa Moss

Illustrated by Yuko Shimizu

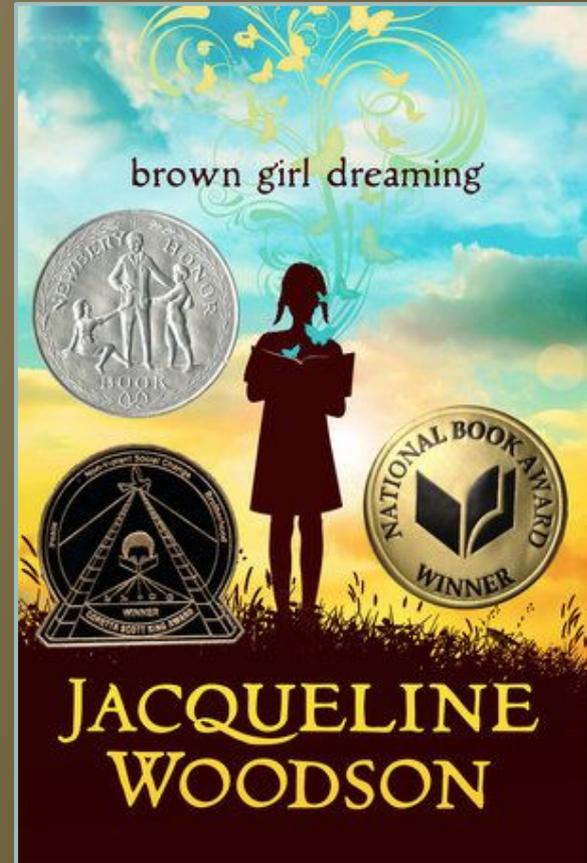
Kenichi was told he was too small to play baseball, but he grows up to become a successful player. Kenichi and his family are placed in a Japanese internment camp in 1941. Undeterred, he brings baseball and hope to the people.

## 2015 Coretta Scott King Book Awards Winner

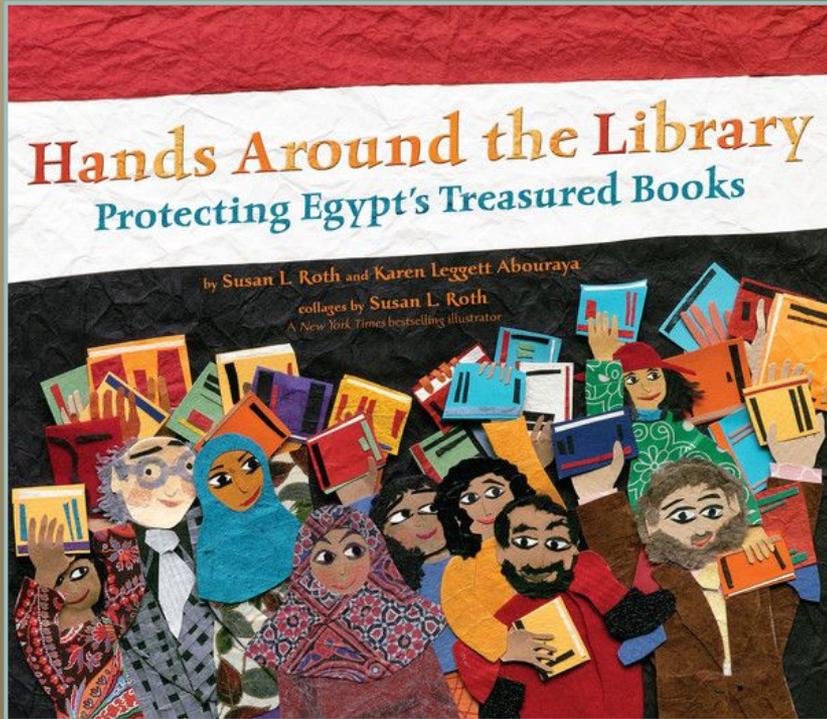
# Brown Girl Dreaming

By Jacqueline Woodson

Woodson's poems share what it was like growing up as an African American girl in the 1960s and 1970s. Winner of multiple awards such as the 2015 Coretta Scott King Book Award, given annually to African-American authors and illustrators of children's books that celebrate African-American culture, the National Book Award, and a Newbery Honor.



## 2013 Arab American Book Award

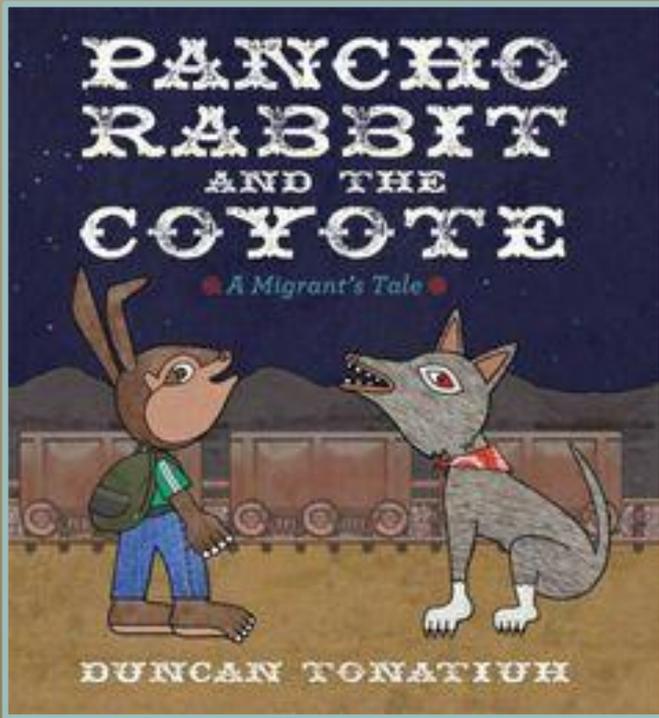


[http://www.amazon.com/Hands-Around-Library-Protecting-Treasured/dp/0803737475/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1429465243&sr=1-1&keywords=Hands+around+the+library](http://www.amazon.com/Hands-Around-Library-Protecting-Treasured/dp/0803737475/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1429465243&sr=1-1&keywords=Hands+around+the+library)

## Hands Around the Library: Protecting Egypt's Treasured Books

By Susan L. Roth

The true story of demonstrators standing up to protect a library, this tale shows how the love of books can unite a country even in times of turmoil.

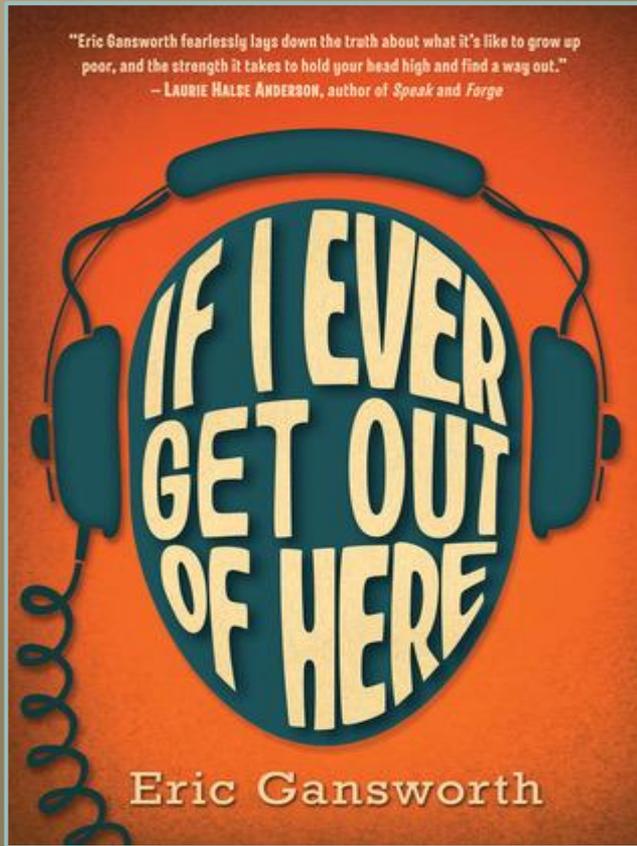


<http://www.amazon.com/Pancho-Rabbit-Coyote-Migrants-Tale/dp/1419705830>

# Pancho Rabbit and the Coyote: A Migrant's Tale

By  
Duncan Tonatiuh

Duncan Tonatiuh's book, Pancho Rabbit and the Coyote: A Migrant's Tale has won both the 2014 Pura Belpre Honor in Illustration and narrative and the 2014 Tomas Rivera Mexican American Children's Book award. This touching tale recounts the adventures of a young rabbit as he journeys to find his migrant father in the great carrot and lettuce fields of the north.



<http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/17071488-if-i-ever-get-out-of-here>

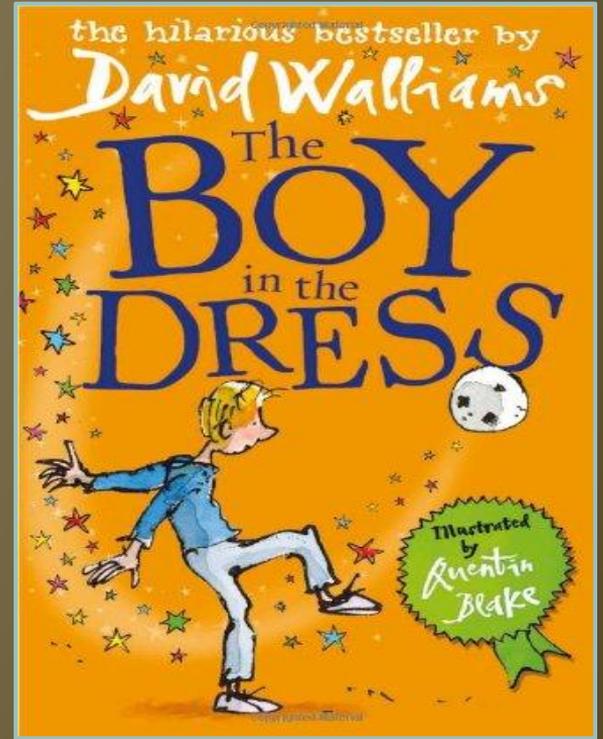
# If I Ever Get Out of Here

by  
Eric Gansworth

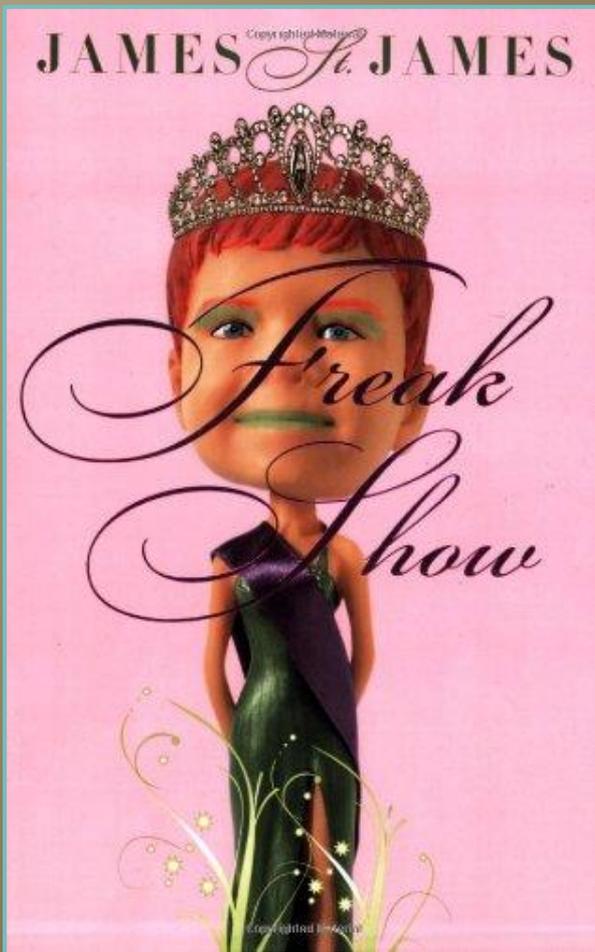
Winner of the 2014 American Indian Youth Literature-Young Adult Honor Award, this novel features a Tuscaroran protagonist who grapples with a friendship forged in a love of the Beatles but which also crosses racial, cultural, and socioeconomic boundaries. This novel is a realistic portrayal of life for teenage Native American youth growing up in an impoverished area.

# The Boy in the Dress by David Walliams

Dennis is a twelve year old boy who enjoys soccer and dressing in women's clothes. After his friend, Lisa, dresses him up as "Denise" and he goes to school as his new persona, Dennis's headmaster expels him from school. Will Dennis/Denise be able to play in the school's final soccer game?



<http://www.amazon.co.uk/The-Boy-Dress-David-Walliams/dp/0007279043>



<http://www.amazon.com/Freak-Show-James-St/dp/0142412317>

## Freak Show

by James St. James

Fabulous Billy Bloom, a self described “Twinkle Queen,” “GenderObscurist,” or “Glitteroid,” exhibits courage and humor as he navigates his way in a new school, new life, and love.

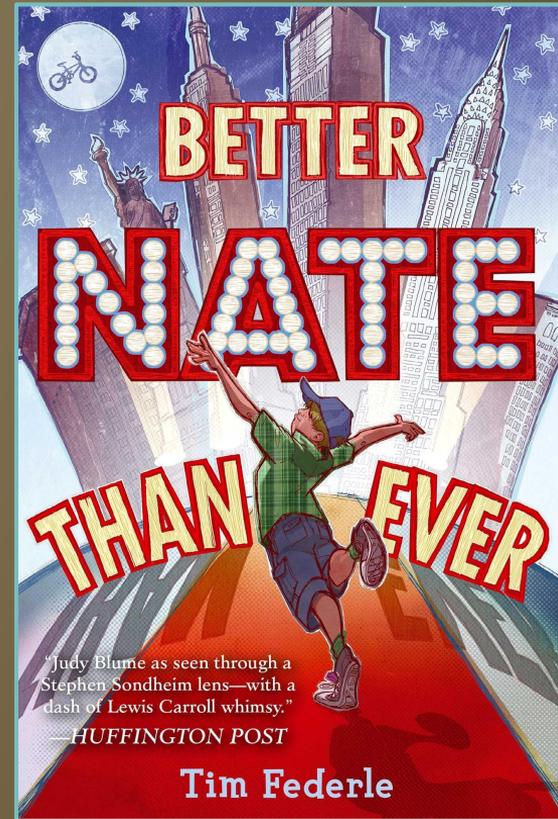
This underdog story will appeal to all who have ever been bullied, considered different, or an underdog.

# Better Nate Than Ever

By Tim Federle

Irrepressible Nate is a born performer who dreams of starring in a Broadway music. His dilemma: escaping his small town to the big city - both figuratively and literally.

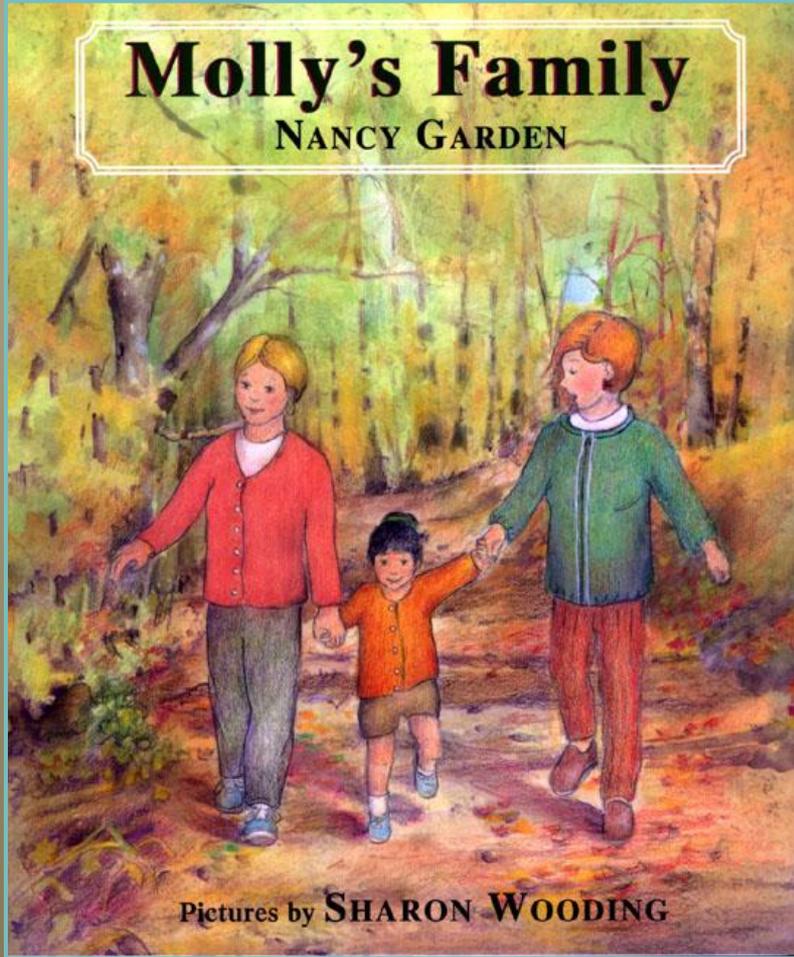
A New York Times Notable Book of the Year, a Publishers' Weekly Best Book of the Year, and the American Library Association's 2014 Stonewall Honor Book for Children and Young Adult Literature.



<http://www.amazon.com/Better-Nate-Than-Ever-Federle/dp/1442446919>

# Molly's Family

NANCY GARDEN



Pictures by **SHARON WOODING**

## Molly's Family

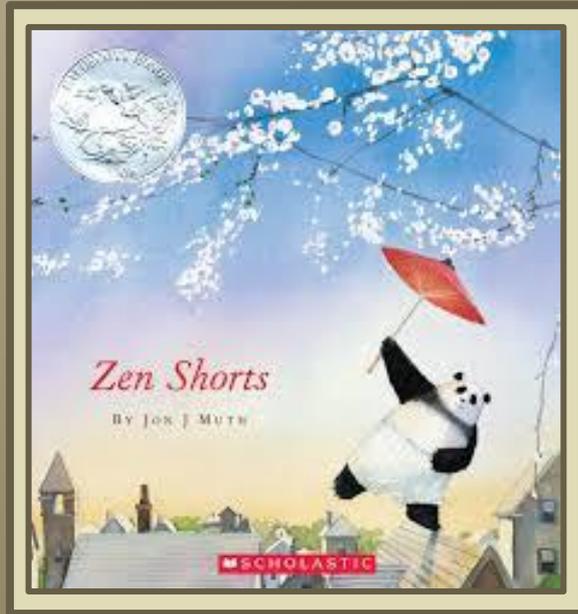
by Nancy Garden

Molly's kindergarten class is getting ready for their Open School Night decorating the class with drawings of their families.

Molly's drawing is of her Mommy, Mama Lu and her puppy, Sam. A classmate tells her that families don't have two mothers so Molly has second thoughts about having her picture on the wall.

After talking with her family and teacher, she realizes that even if a family is different if it is a happy and loving family it is a "real family."





<http://www.amazon.com/Zen-Shorts-Jon-J-Muth/dp/054522750X>

# Zen Shorts by Jon J. Muth

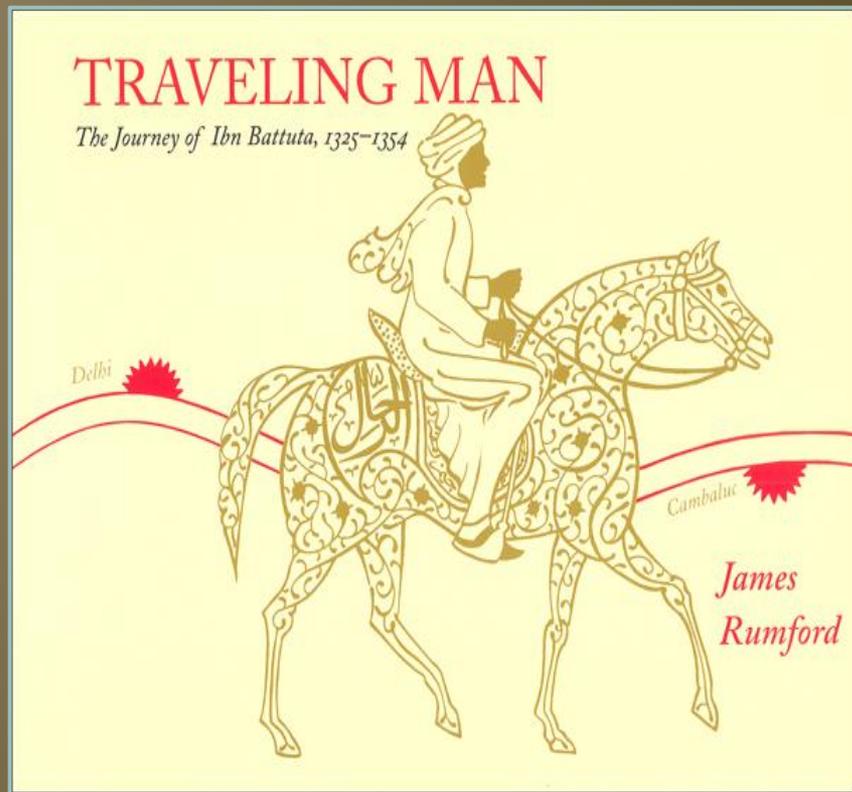
This book introduces children to principles of Zen Buddhism and encourages them to approach the world and others in new and gentle ways.

# Traveling Man

*The Journey of Ibn Battuta,  
1325-1354*

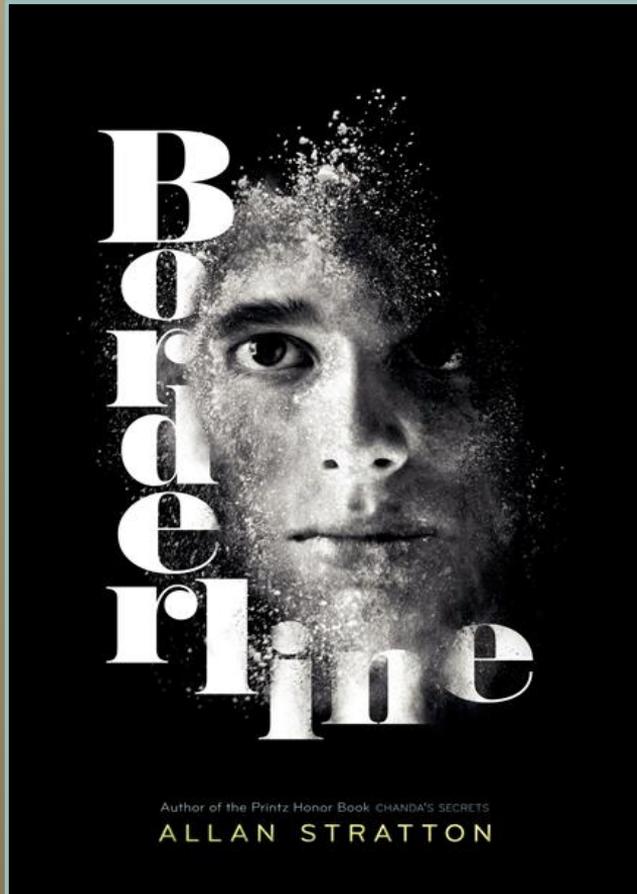
By  
James Rumford

This historical narrative follows the journey of a young Moroccan youth, Ibn Battuta, as his pilgrimage to Mecca develops into a 29-year expedition to new and distant lands. This beautifully illustrated children's book combines Islamic mapmaking techniques and Arabic calligraphy with beautiful watercolor illustrations to enhance this poetic tale. *Traveling Man* received the 2002 American Library Association Award for Notable Children's Books.



<http://www.rainbowresource.com/proddtl.php?id=055895>

*Diversity in Religion, Race and Ethnicity.*



<http://www.allanstratton.com/strattonmain3.html>

# Borderline

by Allan Stratton

Sami's life is unexpectedly at the forefront of newspapers when his father's secrets begin to surface. Sami finds that being a Muslim -American becomes much more difficult when his family is at the center of an FBI investigation. This thrilling Young Adult novel was recognized with the 2011 American Library Association's Best Fiction for Young Adults Award.

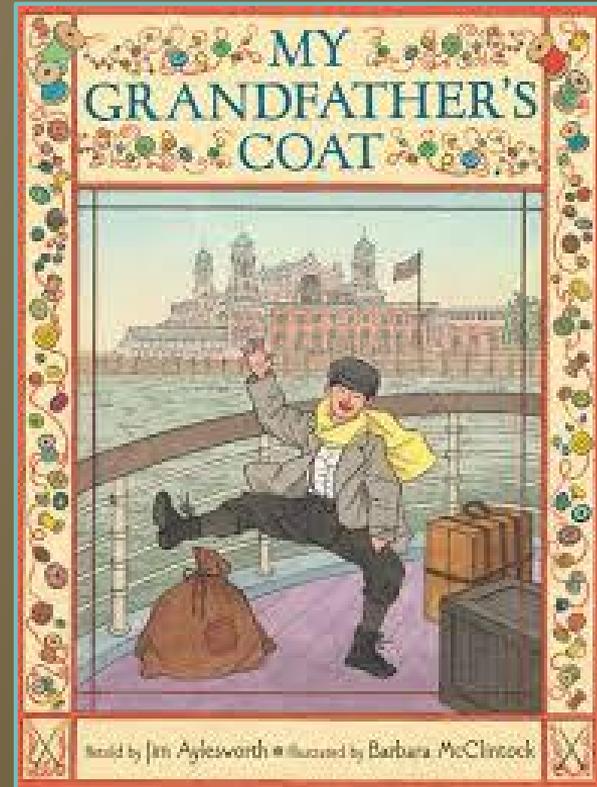
# My Grandfather's Coat

Retold by Jim Aylesworth

Illustrated by Barbara McClintock

Based on a folksong, this rhyming rendition tells the tale of a much loved coat and the hard work and imagination of a new immigrant.

The story of this coat throughout the lifetime of this man and its memories weave a wonderful tale of legacy and love.



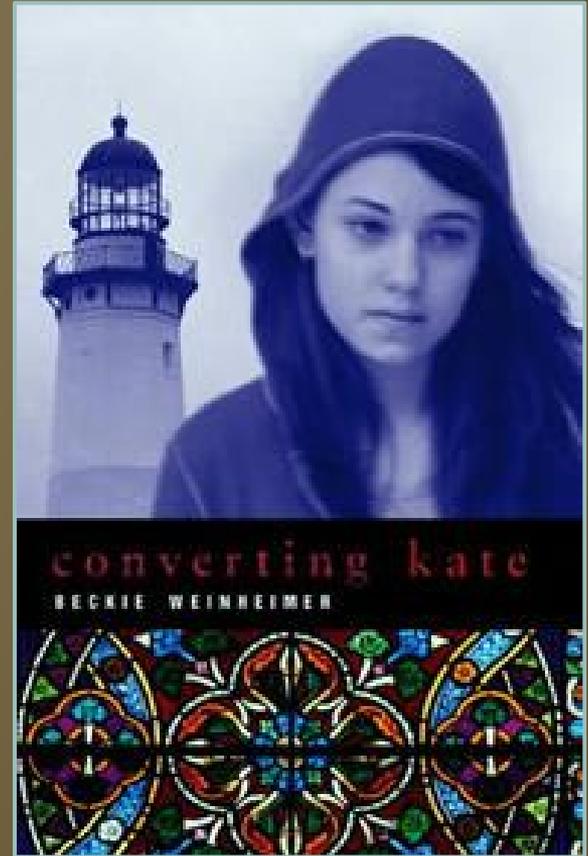
<http://www.amazon.com/My-Grandfathers-Coat-Jim-Aylesworth/dp/0439925452>

# Converting Kate

by

Beckie Weinheimer

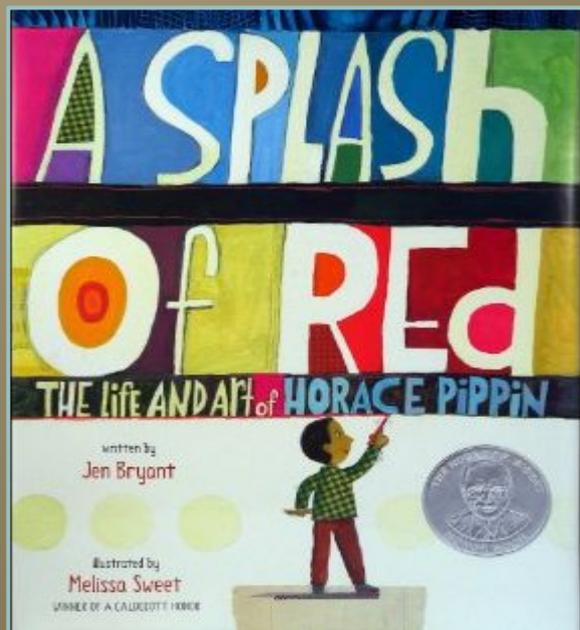
Kate was raised in the Holy Divine Church most of her life. After her father's death, Kate begins to question her faith in her mother's religion. Kate's life begins to transform as she moves from homeschooling to public school and a life outside the Holy Divine Church.



<http://www.beckieweinheimer.com/books/convertingkate.htm>

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<http://www.teachingbooks.net/tb.cgi?aid=662&a=1>

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*Diversity in Special Needs, Race, Ethnicity, and Class*

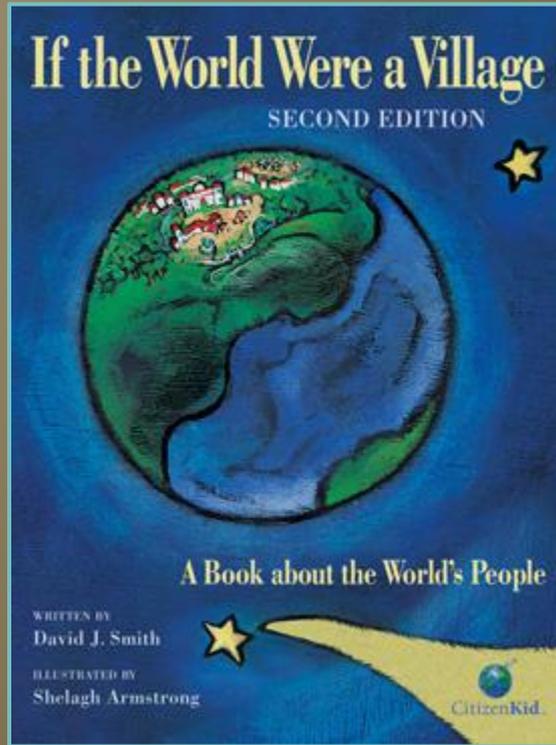


Winner of the 2003 Independent Publisher Book Award, Multicultural Nonfiction



# *If the World Were a Village*

by  
**David J. Smith**



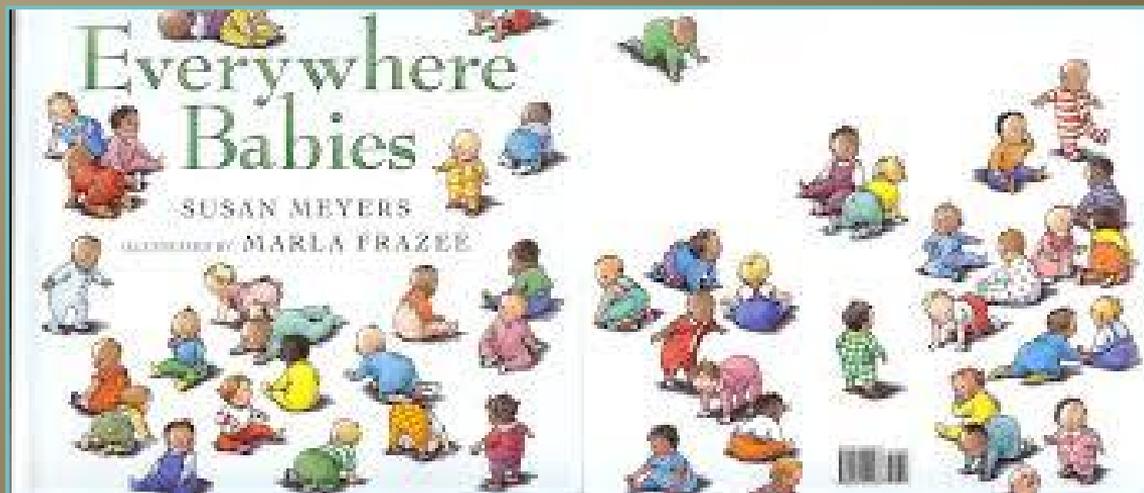
<http://www.amazon.com/If-World-Were-Village-CitizenKid/dp/1554535956>

In this book, we are asked to think about the world's population as a village containing 100 people. Lots of activities and easy to comprehend information abound in this book that encourages children to explore what it means to be a good global citizen!

*Diversity in Race, Ethnicity and  
Nationality*

# Everywhere Babies

by Susan Meyers Illustrated by Marla Frazee



<http://goingonabookhunt.com/2012/04/10/celebrating-the-universality-of-babyhood/>

Every day, everywhere, babies are born... and kissed, dressed, carried, making noise and friends.

This beautifully illustrated book shows all different kinds of babies and their many different families and friends who love them “just as they are”