

## Denville Community COVID & FID Update 06-05-20

Denville Families,

Some of our families have reached out requesting support in discussing the racial and equity issues that are currently playing out across our country and the world today. Our students are seeing video clips on the news and through social media that may be confusing and upsetting to them. In an effort to support our families here are resources to assist in your discussions at home. The book lists included (below) are not a copy of the Denville Curriculum, but a resource of many available to start conversations at home. We understand that race and equity are ongoing issues that cannot be addressed in a one shot lesson in our schools. We have taken an age appropriate approach to embed multicultural understanding and empathy throughout our curriculum, and will continue to improve on our efforts for 2020-2021.

Parenting: Difficult Conversations. Talking Race with Young Children 20 minute NPR Lifekit podcast, Sesame Programs <https://www.npr.org/2019/04/24/716700866/talking-race-with-young-children>

Sandra L. Cullis, Ed.D.

Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction

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**Look out for our parent survey 2.0:** It will be sent out next week- we need your help planning for the 2020-21 school year! We are committed to getting our staff and students back in the school buildings in September in the safest possible manner.

### **Graduations/End of Year Celebrations:**

The information on in-person graduations from the NJ Department of Education is changing almost daily. We will continue to monitor and investigate options and provide updates once we have solid information. Stay tuned!

**3rd Annual Denville Persons of the Year:** we will award three people, Student of the Year, Staff Member of the Year and Community Member of the Year. The nomination process will be sent out starting Friday May 29 in the Friday Folder. Link to our survey: <https://tinyurl.com/y7uufrijw> also found at [www.denville.org](http://www.denville.org) survey closes June 10, 2020

**Last Day of School:** June 17

[Click here for the link to district website for COVID and Flexible Instruction Days](#)

## Denville Community COVID y FID Actualización 06-05-20

Denville Families,

Algunas de nuestras familias han pedido ayuda para discutir los problemas raciales y de equidad que se están desarrollando actualmente en nuestro país y el mundo de hoy. Nuestros estudiantes están viendo videos en las noticias y en las redes sociales que pueden ser confusos y molestos para ellos. En un esfuerzo por apoyar a nuestras familias, aquí hay recursos para ayudar en sus discusiones en casa. Las listas de libros incluidas (a continuación) no son una copia del plan de estudios de Denville, sino un recurso de muchas disponibles para iniciar conversaciones en casa. Entendemos que la raza y la equidad son problemas continuos que no pueden abordarse en una lección única en nuestras escuelas. Hemos adoptado un enfoque apropiado para la edad para incorporar la comprensión multicultural y la empatía en todo nuestro plan de estudios, y continuaremos mejorando nuestros esfuerzos para 2020-2021.

Crianza de los hijos: conversaciones difíciles. Talking Race with Young Children 20 minutos NPR Lifekit podcast, Sesame Programs <https://www.npr.org/2019/04/24/716700866/talking-race-with-young-children>

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Asistente del Superintendente de Currículo e Instrucción

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**Esté atento a nuestra encuesta para padres 2.0:** se enviará la próxima semana. ¡Necesitamos su ayuda para planificar el año escolar 2020-21! Estamos comprometidos a que nuestro personal y estudiantes regresen a los edificios escolares en septiembre de la manera más segura posible.

**Graduaciones / Celebraciones de fin de año:** La información sobre graduaciones en persona del Departamento de Educación de NJ está cambiando casi a diario. Continuaremos monitoreando e investigando opciones y proporcionando actualizaciones una vez que tengamos información sólida. ¡Manténganse al tanto!

**3ra persona anual del año en Denville:** premiaremos a tres personas, estudiante del año, miembro del personal del año y miembro de la comunidad del año. El proceso de nominación se enviará a partir del viernes 29 de mayo en la carpeta del viernes. Enlace a nuestra encuesta: <https://tinyurl.com/y7uuftrjw> que también se encuentra en [www.denville.org](http://www.denville.org). La encuesta cierra el 10 de junio de 2020.

**Último día de clases:** 17 de junio

[Haga clic aquí para obtener el enlace al sitio web del distrito para los días de instrucción flexible y COVID](#)

**We Are Kid Lit Collective**  
selects books by and about  
IPOC (Indigenous &  
People of Color) with attention  
to all their intersecting  
identities.

**More information:**  
<https://wtpsite.wordpress.com>

# We Are Kid Lit Collective

## 2020 Summer Reading List

**2020 We Are Kid Lit Collective**  
**members:** Tad Andracki, Edith  
Campbell, Laura M. Jiménez,  
Sujei Lugo, Lyn Miller-  
Lachmann, Debbie Reese, &  
Sonia Alejandra Rodriguez.

May 2020





## PICTURE BOOKS

Bogan, Carmen; illus. by Floyd Cooper. **Where's Rodney?** (Dream On Publishing/Yosemite Conservancy, 2017). *English.*

Dominguez, Grecia Huesca; illus. by Teresa Martinez. **Dear Abuelo.** (Reycraft Books, 2019). *English.*

Gonzales, Mark; illust. by Mehrdokht Amini. **Yo Soy Muslim: A Father's Letter to His Daughter.** (Salaam Reads, 2017). *English; Braille.*

González, Lucía; illus. by Lulu Delacre. **The Storyteller's Candle/La velita de los cuentos.** (Children's Book Press, 2008). *Bilingual (English/Spanish).*

Hunt, Dallas; illus. by Amanda Strong. **Awâsis and the World-Famous Bannock.** (Highwater Press, 2018). *English with Cree.*

Johnson, Myles; illus. by Kendrick Daye. **Large Fears.** (Myles Johnson, 2016). *English.*

Jung Jin-Ho. **Look Up!** (Holiday House, 2016). *English; Korean.*

Lee, Uk-Bae. **When Spring Comes to the DMZ.** (Plough Publishing, 2019). *English; Korean.*

Lukoff, Kyle; illus. by Kaylani Juanita. **When Aidan Became a Brother.** (Lee & Low, 2019). *English.*

Mathis, Sharon Bell; illus. by George Ford. **Ray Charles.** (Lee & Low, 2001). *English; Spanish.*

Mayeno, Laurin; illus. by Robert Liu-Trujillo. **One of a Kind, Like Me/Único como yo.** (Blood Orange Press, 2016). *Bilingual (English/Spanish).*

McDaniel, Breanna J.; illus. by Shane W. Evans. **Hands Up!** (Dial, 2019). *English.*

Sotomayor, Sonia; illus. by Lulu Delacre. **Turning Pages: My Life Story.** (Philomel, 2018). *English; Spanish.*

Vermette, Katherena; illus. by Julie Flett. **The Girl and the Wolf.** (Theytus Publishing, 2019). *English.*

## BEGINNING READERS/CHAPTER BOOKS

Dominguez, Angela. **Stella Díaz Has Something to Say.** (Roaring Brook, 2018). *English; Spanish.*

González, Sarai & Monica Brown; illus. by Christine Almeda. **Sarai Saves the Music.** (Scholastic, 2019). *Spanish; English.*

Hooks, Gwendolyn; illus. by Shirley Ng-Benítez. **The Buddy Bench.** (Lee & Low, 2019). *English.*

Lyons, Kelly Starling; illus. by Nneka Myers & Vanessa Brantley-Newton. **Jada Jones: Sleepover Scientist.** (Penguin, 2019). *English.*

McKissack, Patricia & Fredrick. **Louis Armstrong: King of Jazz.** (Enslow, 2013). *English.*

Tan, Susan; illus. by Dana Wulfekotte. **Cilla Lee-Jenkins: This Book Is a Classic.** (Roaring Brook, 2018). *English.*

## MIDDLE GRADE

Alexander, Kwame; illus. by Dawud Anyabwile. **The Crossover - Graphic Novel.** (HMH Books for Young Readers, 2019). *English.*

Argueta, Jorge; illus. by Manuel Monroy. **Caravan to the North: Misael's Long Walk.** (Groundwood, 2019). *English; Spanish.*



Wang, Jen. **Stargazing**. (First Second, 2019). *English*.

Various authors & illustrators. **This Place: 150 Years Retold.** (Highwater Press, 2019). *English and several Native/First Nations languages.*

Whitehead, Joshua. **Jonny Appleseed.**  
(Arsenal Pulp Press, 2018). *English;*  
*German; French; Braille.*



# 24 Books That Teach About Social Justice

Compiled by Tara Smith

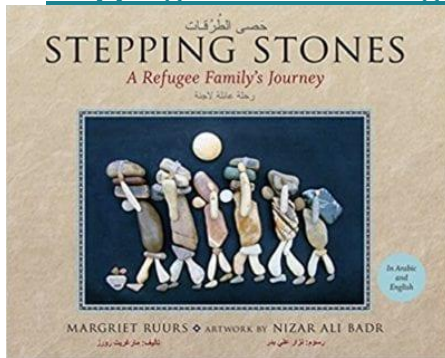
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Our classroom libraries are often windows into worlds our students cannot imagine, but must learn if they are to develop into empathetic citizens. Books about social justice allow our students insight into what it feels like to be a refugee, to encounter racism, or to have to fight against great odds for rights and freedoms which others take for granted.

Here are 24 books to use in the classroom when teaching about social justice:

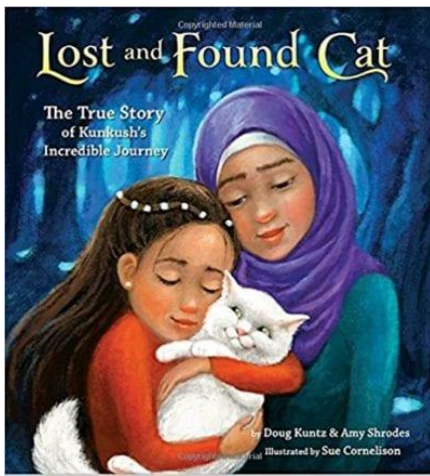
## Picture Books About Social Justice

### 1. [Stepping Stones: A Refugee Family's Journey](#) by Margriet Ruurs



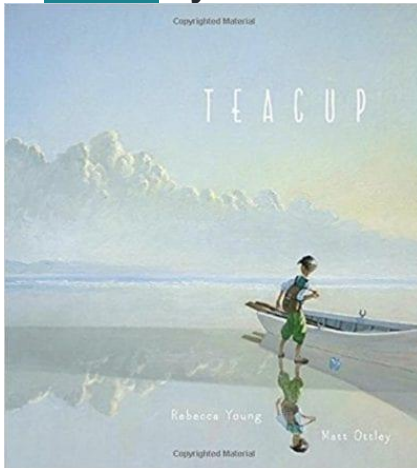
*Stepping Stones* tells the story of Rama and her family, who are forced to flee their once-peaceful village to escape the ravages of the civil war raging ever closer to their home. With only what they can carry on their backs, Rama and her mother, father, grandfather and brother, Sami, set out to walk to freedom in Europe.

### 2. [Lost and Found Cat: The True Story of Kunkush's Incredible Journey](#) by Doug Kuntz



When an Iraqi family is forced to flee their home, they can't bear to leave their beloved cat, Kunkush, behind. So they carry him with them from Iraq to Greece, keeping their secret passenger hidden away. But during the crowded boat crossing to Greece, his carrier breaks and the frightened cat runs from the chaos. In one moment, he is gone. After an unsuccessful search, his family has to continue their journey, leaving brokenhearted.

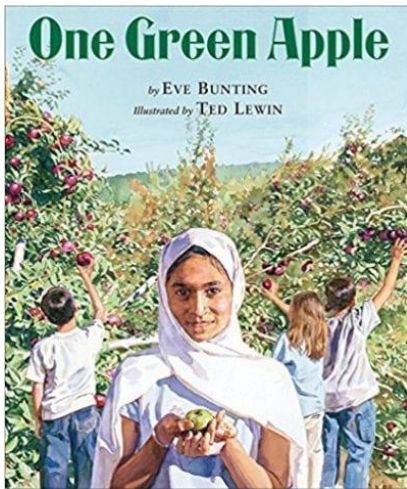
### 3. [Teacup](#) by Rebecca Young



A boy must leave his home and find another. He brings with him a teacup full of earth from the place where he grew up, and sets off to sea. Some days, the journey is peaceful, and the skies are cloudless and bright. Some days, storms threaten to overturn his boat. And some days, the smallest amount of hope grows into something glorious. At last, the boy finds land, but it doesn't feel complete . . . until another traveler joins him, bearing the seed to build a new home.

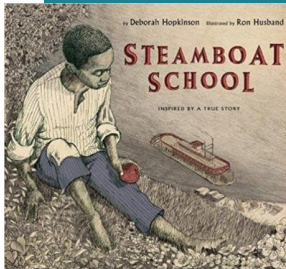
### 4. [One Green Apple](#) by Eve Bunting





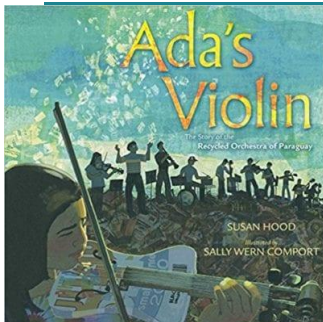
Farah feels alone, even when surrounded by her classmates. She listens and nods but doesn't speak. It's hard being the new kid in school, especially when you're from another country and don't know the language. Then, on a field trip to an apple orchard, Farah discovers there are lots of things that sound the same as they did at home, from dogs crunching their food to the ripple of friendly laughter. As she helps the class make apple cider, Farah connects with the other students and begins to feel that she belongs.

#### 5. Steamboat School by Deborah Hopkinson



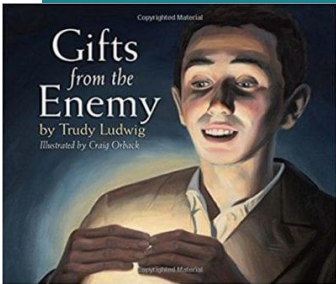
*Missouri, 1847.* When James first started school, his sister practically had to drag him there. The classroom was dark and dreary, and James knew everything outside was more exciting than anything he'd find inside. But his teacher taught him otherwise.

#### 6. Ada's Violin: The Story of the Recycled Orchestra of Paraguay by Susan Hood



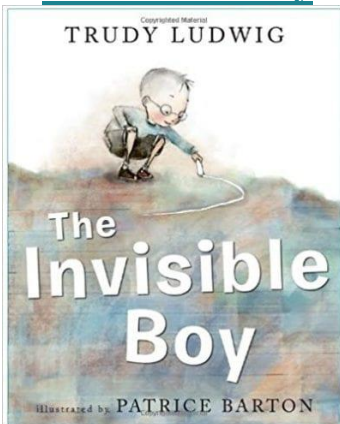
Ada Ríos grew up in Cateura, a small town in Paraguay built on a landfill. She dreamed of playing the violin, but with little money for anything but the bare essentials, it was never an option...until a music teacher named Favio Chávez arrived. He wanted to give the children of Cateura something special, so he made them instruments out of materials found in the trash. It was a crazy idea, but one that would leave Ada—and her town—forever changed.

## 7. Gifts from the Enemy by Trudy Ludwig



*Gifts from the Enemy* is the powerful and moving story based on *From a Name to a Number: A Holocaust Survivor's Autobiography* by Alter Wiener, in which Alter recalls his loss of family at the hands of the Nazis and his internment in five prison camps during World War II. This picture book tells one moving episode during Alter's imprisonment, when an unexpected person demonstrates moral courage in repeated acts of kindness to young Alter during his imprisonment.

## 8. The Invisible Boy by Trudy Ludwig



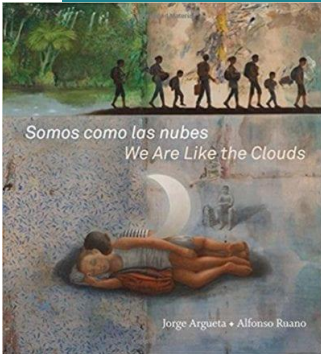
Meet Brian, the invisible boy. Nobody ever seems to notice him or think to include him in their group, game, or birthday party . . . until, that is, a new kid comes to class. When Justin, the new boy, arrives, Brian is the first to make him feel welcome. And when Brian and Justin team up to work on a class project together, Brian finds a way to shine.

9. **Migrant: The Journey of a Mexican Worker** by José Manuel Mateo



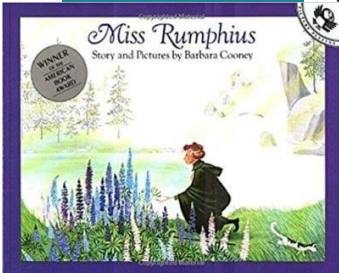
A Mexican boy tells of his journey to the U.S. with his family. They must face many dangers to cross the border, only to experience the uncertainty felt by all illegal immigrants. The narrative is accompanied by one long, beautifully vivid illustration reminiscent of pre-Hispanic codices, packaged as an accordion-style foldout frieze.

10. **Somos como las nubes / We Are Like the Clouds** by Jorge Argueta



Why are young people leaving their country to walk to the United States to seek a new, safe home? Over 100,000 such children have left Central America. This book of poetry helps us to understand why and what it is like to be them.

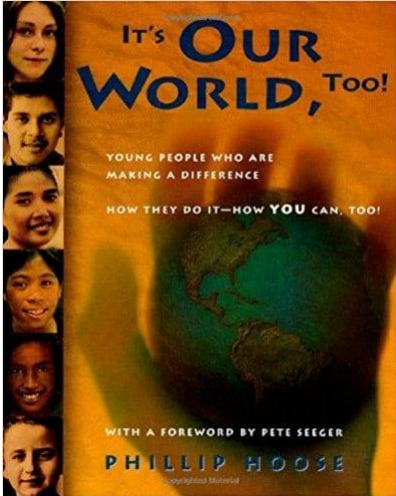
11. **Miss Rumphius** by Barbara Cooney



Alice Rumphius, who longed to travel the world, live in a house by the sea, and do something to make the world more beautiful, has a timeless quality that resonates with each new generation. The countless lupines that bloom along the coast of Maine are the legacy of the real Miss Rumphius, the Lupine Lady, who scattered lupine seeds everywhere she went.

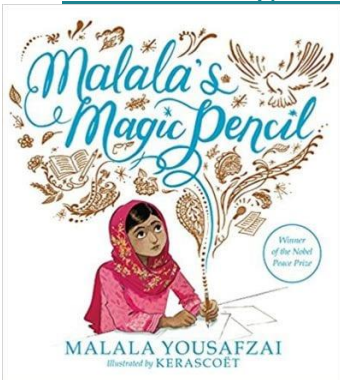


**12. It's Our World, Too!: Young People Who Are Making a Difference: How They Do It – How You Can, Too! by Phillip M Hoose**



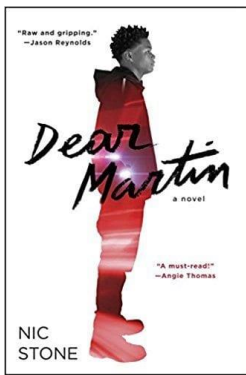
Two books in one: first, fourteen fascinating accounts of children working for human rights, the needy, the environment, or world peace . . . Second, a handbook for young activists, with practical suggestions for planning, organizing, publicizing, and raising funds for social action projects

**13. Malala's Magic Pencil by Malala Yousafzai**



As a child in Pakistan, Malala made a wish for a magic pencil. She would use it to make everyone happy, to erase the smell of garbage from her city, to sleep an extra hour in the morning. But as she grew older, Malala saw that there were more important things to wish for. She saw a world that needed fixing. And even if she never found a magic pencil, Malala realized that she could still work hard every day to make her wishes come true.

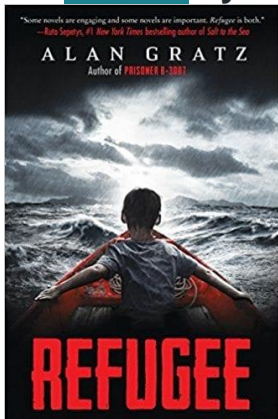
**14. Dear Martin by Nic Stone**



Justyce McAllister is top of his class and set for the Ivy League—but none of that matters to the police officer who just put him in handcuffs. And despite leaving his rough neighborhood behind, he can't escape the scorn of his former peers or the ridicule of his new classmates. Justyce looks to the teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. for answers. But do they hold up anymore? He starts a journal to Dr. King to find out.

## Middle Grade Books About Social Justice

### 15. [Refugee](#) by Alan Gratz



JOSEF is a Jewish boy living in 1930s Nazi Germany. With the threat of concentration camps looming, he and his family board a ship bound for the other side of the world . . .

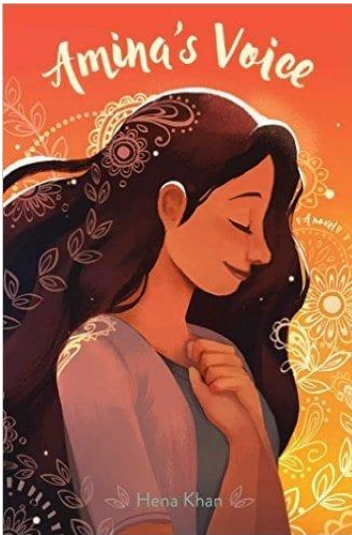
ISABEL is a Cuban girl in 1994. With riots and unrest plaguing her country, she and her family set out on a raft, hoping to find safety in America . . .

MAHMOUD is a Syrian boy in 2015. With his homeland torn apart by violence and destruction, he and his family begin a long trek toward Europe . . .

All three kids go on harrowing journeys in search of refuge. All will face unimaginable dangers — from drownings to bombings to betrayals. But there is always the hope of *tomorrow*. And although Josef, Isabel, and Mahmoud are

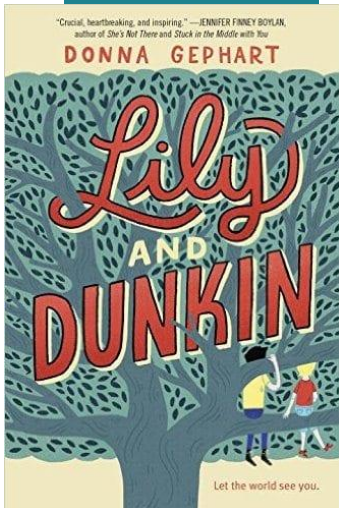
separated by continents and decades, shocking connections will tie their stories together in the end.

**16. Amina's Voice by Hena Khan**



A Pakistani-American Muslim girl struggles to stay true to her family's vibrant culture while simultaneously blending in at school after tragedy strikes her community,

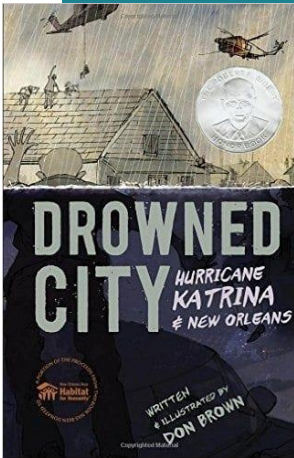
**17. Lily and Dunkin by Donna Gephart**



Lily Jo McGrother, born Timothy McGrother, is a girl. But being a girl is not so easy when you look like a boy. Especially when you're in the eighth grade. Dunkin Dorfman, birth name Norbert Dorfman, is dealing with bipolar disorder and has just moved from the New Jersey town he's called home for the past thirteen years. This would be hard enough, but the fact that he is also hiding from a painful secret makes it even worse. One summer morning, Lily Jo McGrother meets Dunkin Dorfman, and their lives forever change.

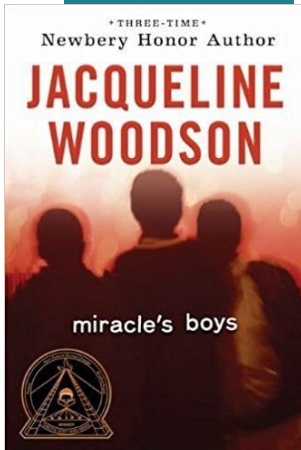


**18. Drowned City: Hurricane Katrina and New Orleans by Don Brown**



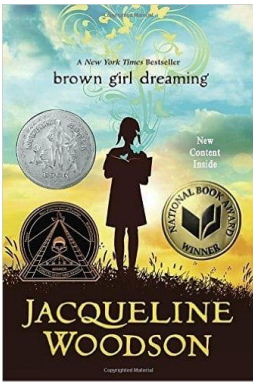
On August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina's monstrous winds and surging water overwhelmed the protective levees around low-lying New Orleans, Louisiana. Eighty percent of the city flooded, in some places under twenty feet of water. Property damages across the Gulf Coast topped \$100 billion. One thousand eight hundred and thirty-three people lost their lives. The riveting tale of this historic storm and the drowning of an American city is one of selflessness, heroism, and courage—and also of incompetence, racism, and criminality.

**19. Miracle's Boys by Jacqueline Woodson**



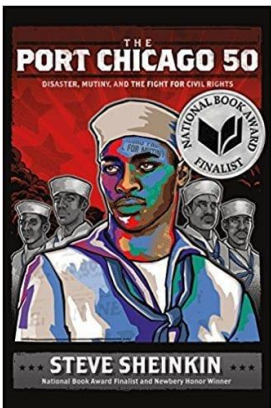
For Lafayette and his brothers, the challenges of growing up in New York City are compounded by the facts that they've lost their parents and it's up to eldest brother Ty'ree to support the boys, and middle brother Charlie has just returned home from a correctional facility.

**20. Brown Girl Dreaming by Jacqueline Woodson**



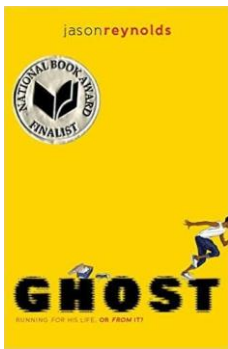
Raised in South Carolina and New York, Woodson always felt halfway home in each place. In vivid poems, she shares what it was like to grow up as an African American in the 1960s and 1970s, living with the remnants of Jim Crow and her growing awareness of the Civil Rights movement. Touching and powerful, each poem is both accessible and emotionally charged, each line a glimpse into a child's soul as she searches for her place in the world.

## 21. [The Port Chicago 50: Disaster, Mutiny, and the Fight for Civil Rights](#) by Steve Sheinkin



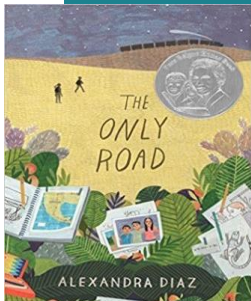
On July 17, 1944, a massive explosion rocked the segregated Navy base at Port Chicago, California, killing more than 300 sailors who were at the docks, critically injuring off-duty men in their bunks, and shattering windows up to a mile away. On August 9th, 244 men refused to go back to work until unsafe and unfair conditions at the docks were addressed. When the dust settled, fifty were charged with mutiny, facing decades in jail and even execution.

## 22. [Ghost](#) by Jason Reynolds



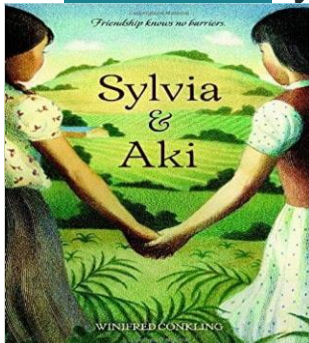
Ghost. Lu. Patina. Sunny. Four kids from wildly different backgrounds with personalities that are explosive when they clash. But they are also four kids chosen for an elite middle school track team—a team that could qualify them for the Junior Olympics if they can get their acts together. They all have a lot to lose, but they also have a lot to prove, not only to each other, but to themselves.

### 23. The Only Road by Alexandra Diaz



Twelve-year-old Jaime is sitting on his bed drawing when he hears a scream. Instantly, he knows: Miguel, his cousin and best friend, is dead. Everyone in Jaime's small town in Guatemala knows someone who has been killed by the Alphas, a powerful gang that's known for violence and drug trafficking. Anyone who refuses to work for them is hurt or killed—like Miguel. With Miguel gone, Jaime fears that he is next. There's only one choice: accompanied by his cousin Ángela, Jaime must flee his home to live with his older brother in New Mexico.

### 24. Sylvia & Aki by Winifred Conkling





Young Sylvia Mendez never expected to be at the center of a landmark legal battle. Young Aki Munemitsu never expected to be sent away from her home and her life as she knew it. The two girls definitely never expected to know each other, until their lives intersected on a Southern California farm in a way that changed the country forever. Who are Sylvia and Aki? And why did their family stories matter then and still matter today? This book reveals the remarkable, never-before-told story—based on true events—of Mendez vs. Westminster School District, the California court case that desegregated schools for Latino children and set the stage for Brown vs. Topeka Board of Education at the national level.