

Welcoming Week



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About Welcoming Week

Welcoming America is a nonprofit organization which focuses on cultivating an inclusive environment, especially for people who are immigrants. From certified welcoming programs for local governments to annual conferences for sharing successful immigrant stories, Welcoming America is dedicated to providing resources to foster encouraging and empowering communities for immigrants. During the pandemic, Welcoming America curated a list of Covid-19 resources from informative blog posts to the Resilient Rapid Response Initiative.

“Welcoming Week,” a core initiative of Welcoming America, will take place September 10-19, 2021, and is a time to connect with diverse communities and

reflect on the importance of inclusivity. In the past, they have overseen thousands of events across several states in an effort to create a sense of belonging for all. This year, Welcoming Week is working together with many different organizations to host hundreds of events throughout the country. They are kicking off with Peter Banifaz, an Iranian American comedian, as the emcee for their first virtual event. Several groups have already set their plans in motion for 2021 Welcoming Week. ADL shares Welcoming America's important mission and is proud to participate in Welcoming Week.

Welcoming Week is working to ensure that no one feels excluded because [#BelongingBeginsWithUs](#). Learn more about [Welcoming Week](#).

What Does it Mean to Be Welcoming?

Most people have experienced being “new” in a place or space that is unfamiliar. Whether that's being new to a class or school, new in a neighborhood or community, a new member of a club or class, new at a job, new to certain digital spaces, or new to a country—being new is part of the human condition. Feeling welcomed, and welcoming others in those new places, can have multiple layers and go beyond just meeting and greeting others.

Welcoming others can mean going the extra mile to make sure someone doesn't feel excluded, ignored or marginalized. It means helping all, especially those who are new or in unfamiliar places, feel seen, visible, and treated with respect. Welcoming should also include inviting people to bring the different aspects of their identity to that place, and letting them know they will be included, understood and accepted for who they are. It also means that we acknowledge differences among people and work towards equity so that everyone can feel part of that community, have a sense of belonging, and know that they will be treated equitably.

As we celebrate Welcoming Week, let's remember that [#BelongingBeginsWithUs](#). Let's be mindful of how we can be welcoming to others who find themselves new

to our communities and to our lives. Let's be thoughtful about how to connect with those who are new. Let's reflect on how we can help them feel seen, understood and an integral part of those places and spaces.

See ADL Education's relevant resources below.

Lesson Plans for Educators

LESSON PLAN

Identity, Hair and Seeing Myself

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Elementary students consider different aspects of identity and learn how to use their voices to challenge bias as they look at identity and representation in media, including games, apps, TV, movies and toys.



CBS This Morning | Twitter

LESSON PLAN

Diverse Books Matter

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Through review and examination of videos, articles, data research and hashtag campaigns—#1000BlackGirlBooks and #WeNeedDiverseBooks, students learn about and discuss the importance of diverse literature.



Airman 1st Class Kaylee Dubois, photographer

LESSON PLAN

Who Am I? Identity Poems

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Elementary students increase their understanding of personal and cultural identity through metaphors and writing acrostic poetry.



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Understanding and Analyzing "The U.S. of Us" by Richard Blanco

MIDDLE SCHOOL, HIGH SCHOOL

How does the Latinx community feel about living in the U.S.? Students analyze Richard Blanco's poem, "The U.S. of Us," in the context of immigration policy and rhetoric.



Student Dress Codes and Fairness



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Identity and Diversity in My Generation

HIGH SCHOOL

"Gen Z" is the most racially diverse generation in U.S. history. High school students review and analyze racial diversity through Census data, self-portraits and the pictures and words of others.



Huddled Mass or Second Class?: Challenging Anti-Immigrant Bias in the U.S.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, MIDDLE SCHOOL, HIGH SCHOOL

This K-12 curriculum unit helps students understand the experiences of immigrants and the negative effects of anti-immigrant bias, appreciate the integral role that immigrants have always played in U.S. life and what they can do to challenge discrimination on personal and institutional levels.





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Other Resources for Educators

TOOLS AND STRATEGIES

11 Ways Schools Can Help Students Feel Safe in Challenging Times (en Español)

In recent years, we have seen alarming images and biased language in schools and universities. Use these prevention, intervention and education strategies to promote inclusive school environments where young people can learn, thrive and become their best selves.



FACT SHEETS

Eight Facts About Immigrants and Immigration

In an age of disinformation and bigotry, misconceptions about immigrants and anti-immigrant hate have spread throughout American politics and society. This resource contains information and sources that set the record straight and will hopefully help mitigate the damage caused by disinformation about immigrants.

TOOLS AND STRATEGIES

Establishing a Safe Learning Environment

Here are some tips for establishing an environment in which young people can discuss sensitive issues safely and productively when challenged to explore and articulate their personal feelings about sensitive topics in the classroom.



TOOLS AND STRATEGIES

How Can I Plan Inclusive Holiday Celebrations?

Most people love a celebration! Adults flutter around busily preparing for the festivities. Children are abuzz with excitement. Special foods are eaten, special...

TOOLS AND STRATEGIES

Let's Get It Right: Using Correct Pronouns and Names

Educator resource about using accurate pronouns and names to convey understanding and respect for all people, especially for those who are transgender, gender non-conforming and non-binary.





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TOOLS AND STRATEGIES

Moving from Safe Classrooms to Brave Classrooms

Classroom guidelines established around a framework of safety don't always help those who feel marginalized brave enough to express strong feelings and ideas. Learn how to create brave spaces instead of just safe ones.



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TOOLS AND STRATEGIES

Safe and Inclusive Schools for All

Tips to foster a safe, respectful and inclusive learning environment.



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TOOLS AND STRATEGIES

What Do Safe, Respectful and Inclusive Virtual Classrooms Look Like?

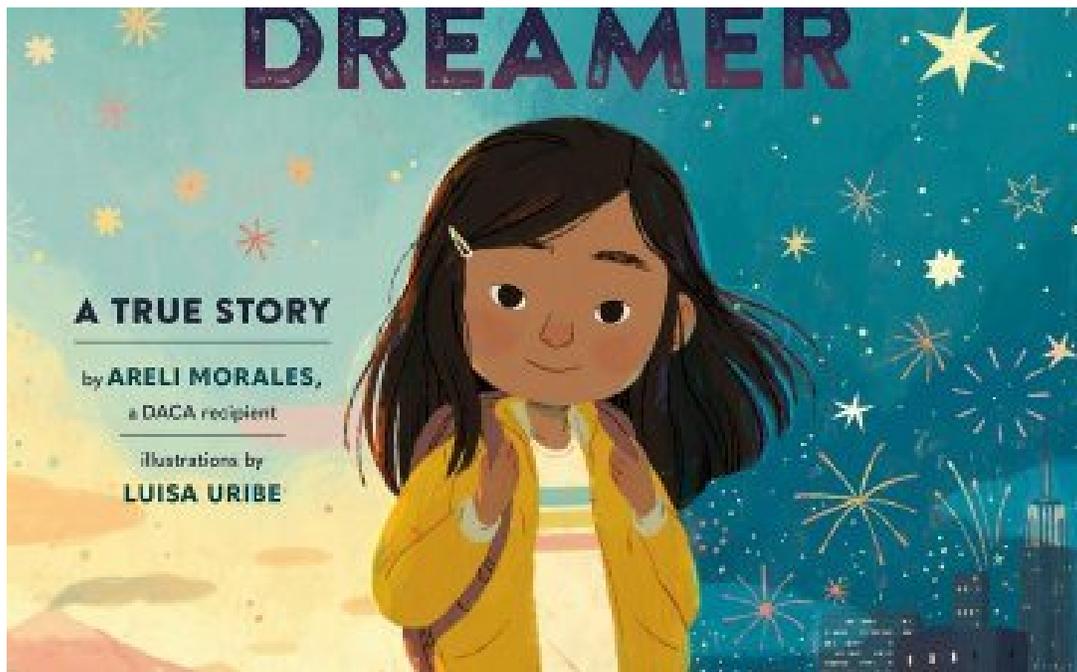
As teachers head back to school—whether that is in person, online or a hybrid model—fostering a safe, respectful and inclusive classroom is as important as ever.



Children's Literature for Educators and Families

Areli is a Dreamer

When Areli was just a baby, her mama and papa moved from Mexico to New York with her brother, Alex, to make a better life for the family--and when she was in kindergarten, they sent for her, too.



CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

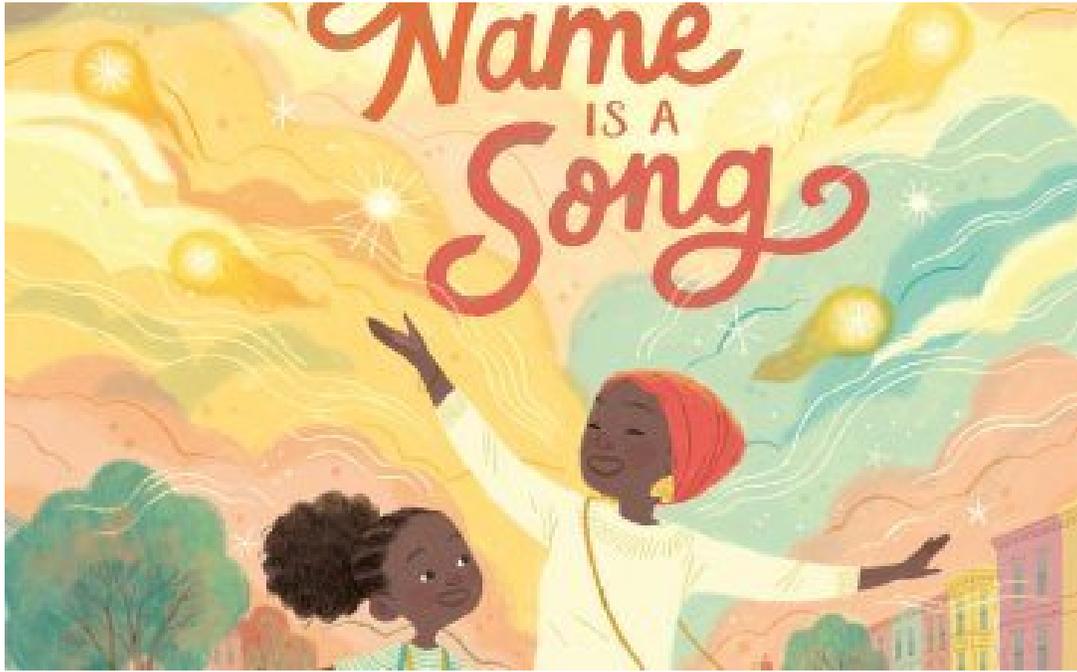
Dreamers

This book is an exploration of what people who are immigrants bring with them when they leave their homes.



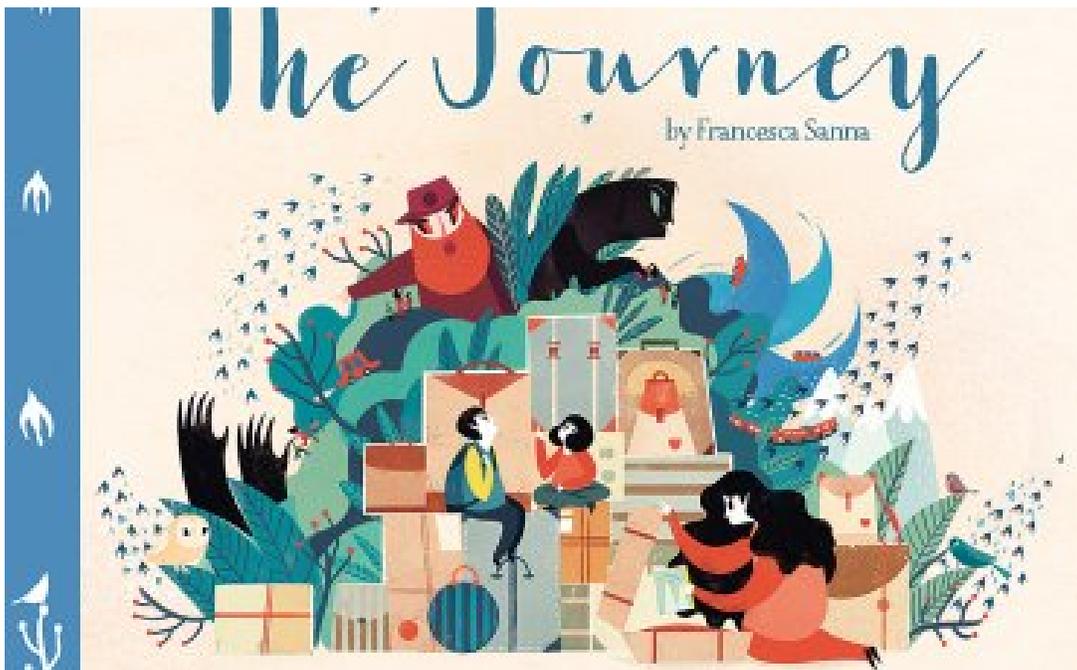
Your Name is a Song

Frustrated by a day full of teachers and classmates mispronouncing her beautiful name, a little girl tells her mother she never wants to come back to school.



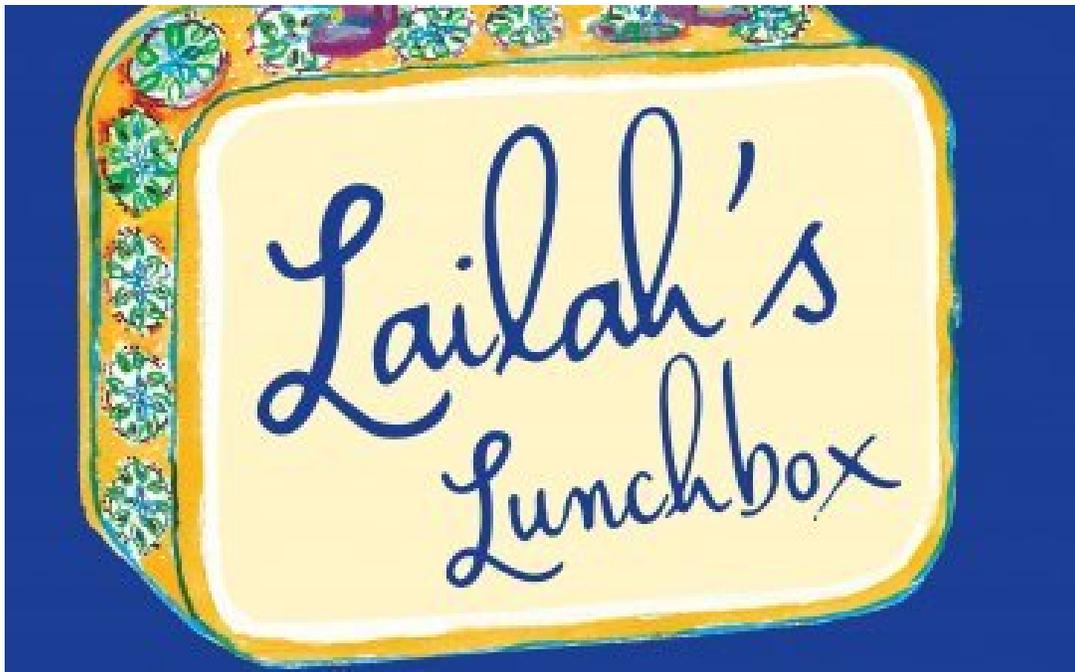
The Journey

This book is told from the perspective of a young child and explores the unimaginable decisions made as a family leave their home and everything they know to escape the turmoil and tragedy brought by war.



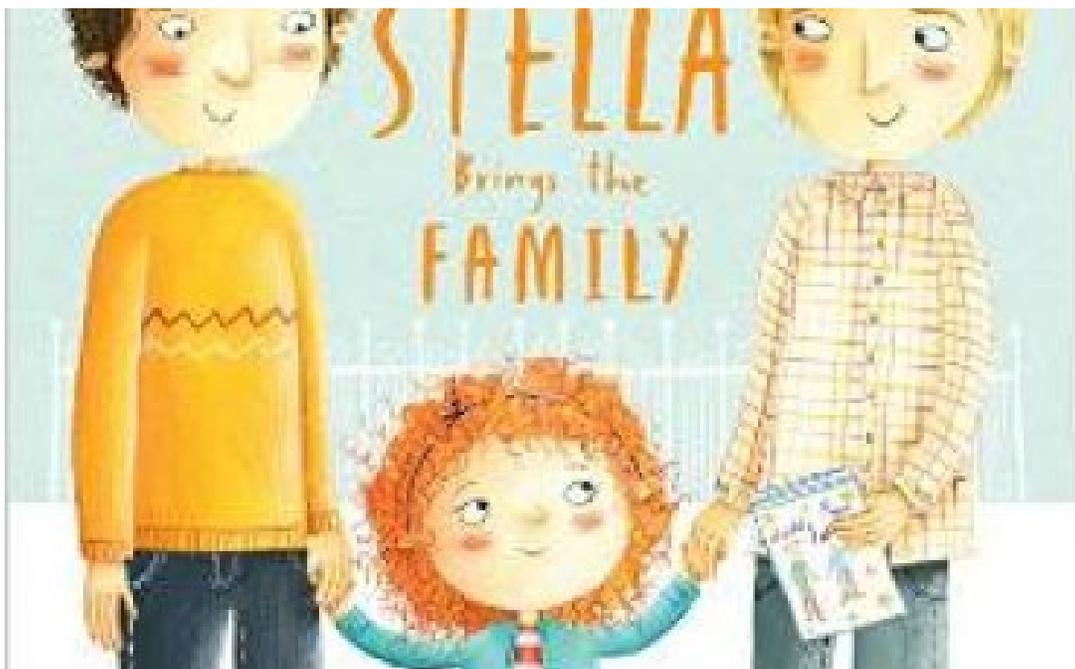
Lailah's Lunchbox: A Ramadan Story

When Ramadan begins, Lailah is excited that she is finally old enough to participate in the fasting but worries that her classmates won't understand why she doesn't join them in the lunchroom.



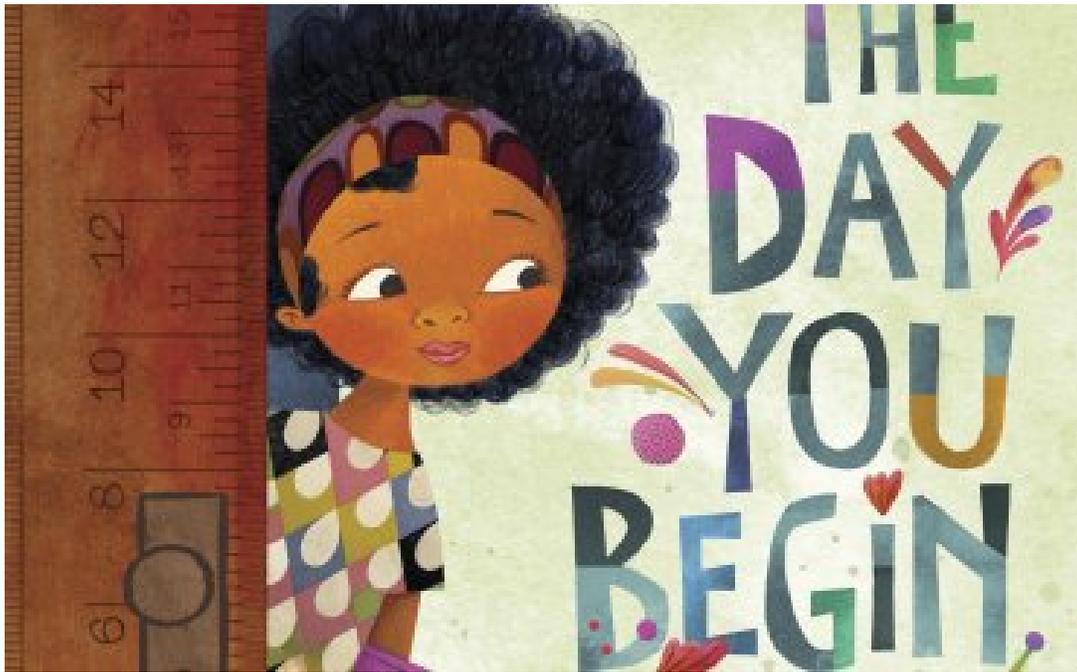
Stella Brings The Family

Stella's class is having a Mother's Day celebration, but what's a girl with two Daddies to do?



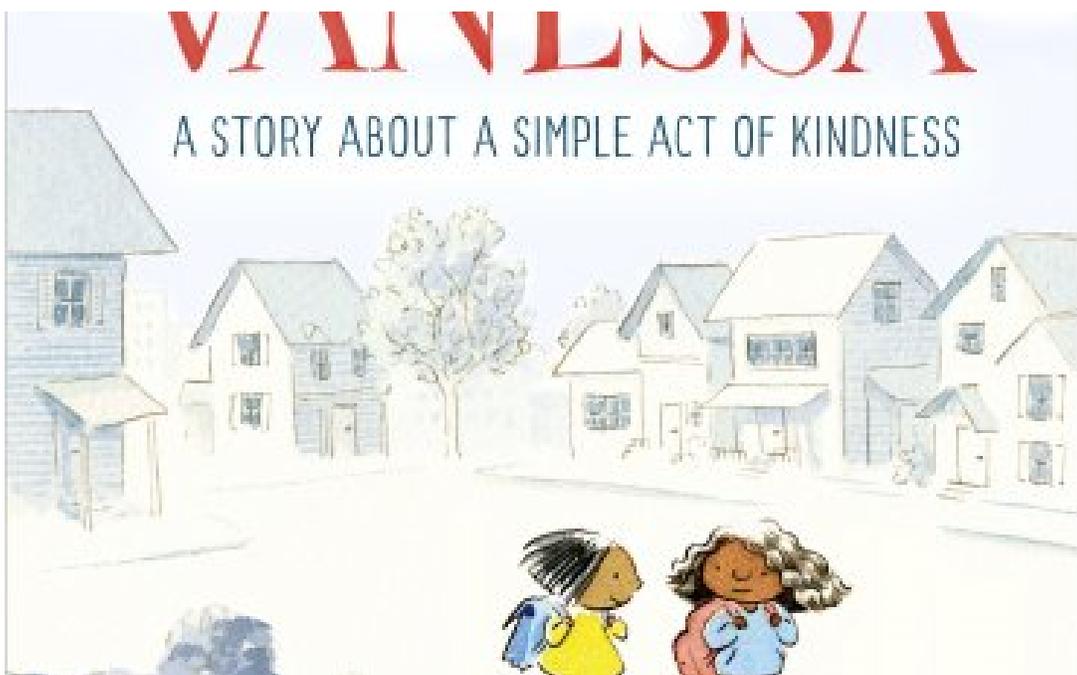
The Day You Begin

There are many reasons to feel different. Maybe it's how you look or talk, or where you're from; maybe it's what you eat or something else just as random.



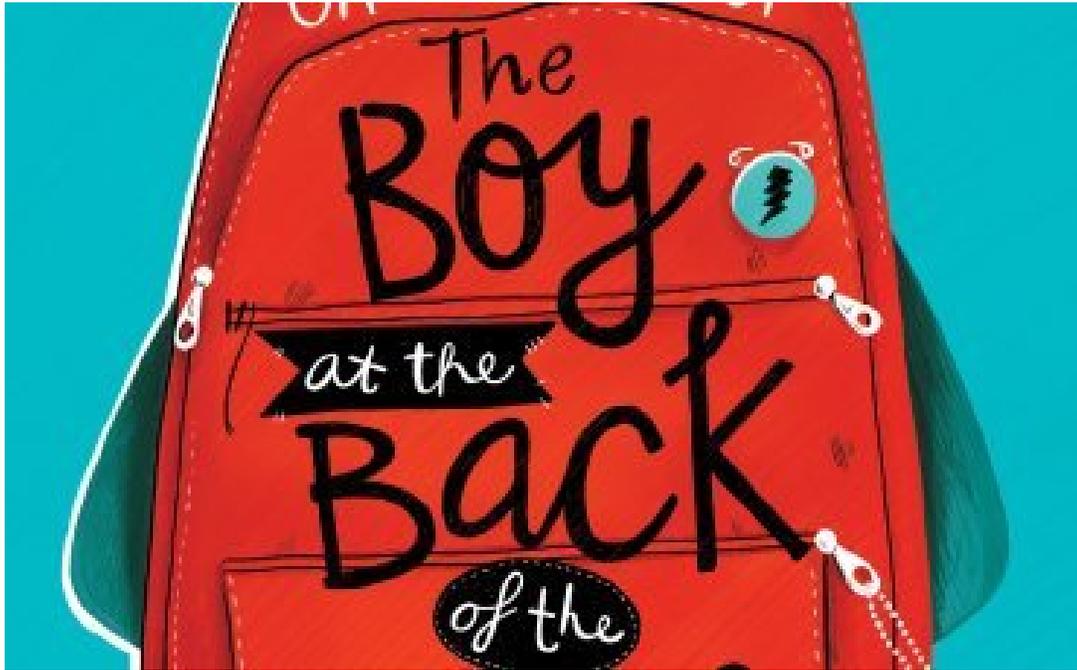
I Walk with Vanessa

This simple yet powerful wordless picture book tells the story of one girl who inspires a community to stand up to bullying.



The Boy at the Back of the Class

This story about the refugee crisis highlights the community-changing potential of standing as an ally and reminds readers that everyone deserves a place to call home.



Front Desk

It will take all of Mia's courage, kindness and hard work to get through this year. Will she be able to hold on to her job, help the immigrants and guests, escape Mr. Yao and go for her dreams?





CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

Refugee

Josef, Isabel and Mahmoud all go on harrowing journeys in search of refuge. Although they are separated by continents and decades, shocking connections will tie their stories together in the end.



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CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

New Kid

Instead of sending Jordan Banks to the art school of his dreams, his parents enroll him in a prestigious private school known for its academics, where Jordan is one of the few kids of color in his entire grade. Jordan soon finds himself torn between two worlds—and not really fitting into either one.

