


SARAH WEEKS

SAVE ME A SEAT



GITA



From the best-selling author of
Funny in Farsi

IT AIN'T
SO AWFUL,
FALAFEL



A NOVEL BY

FIROOZEH DUMAS

BUTLER CHILDREN'S LITERATURE CENTER

The Big Read Bibliography
Inspired by *Into the Beautiful North*
by Luis Alberto Urrea



Jane Petrlik
Current



DOMINICAN UNIVERSITY
Where Learning Demands More



Dominican University's Butler Children's Literature Center has partnered with the Rebecca Crown Library, Oak Park Public Library and several local public libraries to collaborate on the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Big Read program, featuring the novel *Into the Beautiful North* by Lu s Alberto Urrea.

Published between 2014–2016, the following well-received stories represent the rich immigrant experiences of young people who have navigated the challenges of adapting to new living environments, languages and relationships.

The Butler Children's Literature Center is administered by Dominican University's Graduate School of Library and Information Science and generously supported by the Butler Family Foundation. The Center's collections include current, annually published children's and young adult books, as well as historical collections including the Ellin Greene Storytelling Collection and the Effie Lee Morris Collection of African American Books. Learn more at the Butler's Pantry blog at butlerspantry.org.

BOOKS FOR EARLY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



A Charmed Life/Una vida con suerte

By Gladys E. Barbieri, illus. by Lisa Fields

(Arte Publico, 2016)

Young Felicia accompanies her mother to the large home where her mother works as part of the cleaning staff, but after exploring the home, Felicia longs to have a place as grand as the

one she is visiting with her mother.

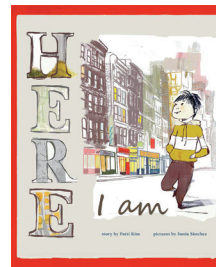
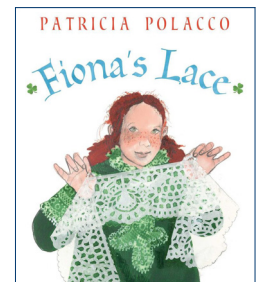
Recommended ages: 4-8

Fiona's Lace

By Patricia Polacco (Simon & Schuster/Paula Wiseman, 2014)

Fiona and her family move from Ireland to Chicago and pay for their journey by working for a wealthy family in Chicago. The Great Chicago Fire separates Fiona and her sister from their parents but Fiona uses the beautifully crafted lace she has learned to make to leave a trail for her parents to find them.

Recommended ages: 4-8



Here I Am

By Patti Kim, illus. by Sonia Sanchez (Capstone/Picture Window, 2014)

This wordless picture book describes the challenging experiences of a young boy new to America who is reluctant to leave his small apartment. When he drops from his apartment window a precious seed he has carried from his homeland, he embarks on a search for

the girl who has picked up the seed, leading him to experience his new surroundings and develop a friendship.

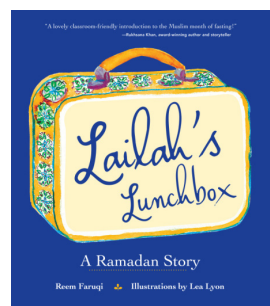
Recommended ages: 5-10

I'm New Here

By Anne Sibley O'Brien (Charlesbridge, 2015)

Three young children, recently arrived in America from Guatemala, South Korea and Somalia, are featured as they overcome the challenges of learning to read, write and speak another language in their new school.

Recommended ages: 5-8



Lailah's Lunchbox: A Ramadan Story

By Reem Faruqi, illus. by Lea Lyon (Tilbury, 2015)

Lailah has recently moved from Abu Dhabi to Peachtree City, Georgia. She is old enough to fast for Ramadan this year but is uncomfortable doing so at her new school. She shares her concerns with her librarian and teacher who help her feel more comfortable.

Recommended ages: 5-8

BOOKS FOR EARLY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

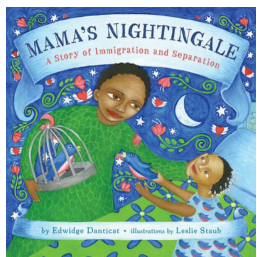
Mango, Abuela, and Me

By Meg Medina, illus. by Angela Dominguez (Candlewick, 2015)

2016 Pura Belpré Author Honor Book, 2016 Pura Belpré Illustrator Honor Book

When Mia's abuela comes from the tropics to live with Mia's family in their city home, Mia finds that communicating with her Spanish-speaking grandmother will require something more than their brief exchanges of Spanish and English words. Mia enlists the help of a parrot they buy for her abuela to build their connection as they teach the parrot how to speak both languages.

Recommended ages: 4-8



Mama's Nightingale: A Story of Immigration and Separation

By Edwidge Danticat, illus. by Leslie Staub
(Penguin/Dial, 2015)

A young girl misses her mother who is living in an immigration detention center waiting for the right papers to give her permission to reunite with her family. The young girl decides to write a letter that

may help bring her mother home.

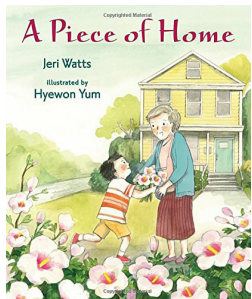
Recommended ages: 5-8

My Two Blankets

By Irena Kobald, illus. by Freya Blackwood (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2015)

This story of a young girl her auntie calls Cartwheel conveys her struggle to acquire a new language in a new country while finding solace under a symbolic "blanket" of words and memories from her old country. A new friendship helps Cartwheel learn the words of her new country and to build a new "blanket" from them.

Recommended ages: 5-10



A Piece of Home

By Jeri Watts, illus. by Hyewon Yum
(Candlewick, 2016)

At first, Hee Jun does not like his family's new home in West Virginia. Learning English is hard, but Hee Jun gets better with practice and starts to make friends. Although he and his family still cherish their Korean traditions, Hee Jun finds happiness in his new home, too.

Recommended ages: 5-8

The Seeds of Friendship

By Michael Foreman (Candlewick, 2015)

Adam is a young boy who misses his home but builds friendships in his new city. He finds that planting a packet of seeds given to him by his teacher allows him to change his environment in more ways than he could have imagined.

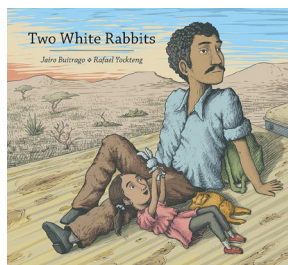
Recommended ages: 4-8

Two White Rabbits

By Jairo Buitrago, illus. by Rafael Yockteng
(Groundwood, 2015)

A young girl tells the story of her journey to the U.S. border with her father. She describes the animals she sees and the people she meets along the way.

Recommended ages: 4-7



BOOKS FOR UPPER ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL

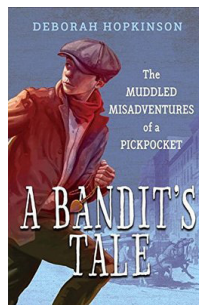
A Bandit's Tale:

The Muddled Misadventures of a Pickpocket

By Deborah Hopkinson (Alfred A. Knopf, 2016)

In Italy, 11-year old Rocco lives a life of crime and he continues to do so after he is sent to America when the expense of caring for him becomes too much for his family. His life changes when he redirects his energy toward advocating for the well-being of children and animals living on the streets of New York City.

Recommended ages: 8-12



Blackbird Fly

By Erin Entrada Kelly (HarperCollins/Greenwillow, 2015)

Twelve-year old Apple and her mother moved from the Philippines to Louisiana when Apple was young and she has always felt different from her classmates. The music of The Beatles provides comfort as she struggles with pleasing her mother and learning to appreciate her differences.

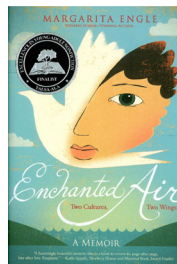
Recommended ages: 8-12

Currents

By Jane Petrik Smolik (Charlesbridge, 2015)

During the mid-1800s, a bottle carrying a message from an 11-year-old slave girl on a Virginia plantation is carried through the ocean and links the stories of two other girls, one from a wealthy family in England and another from an Irish immigrant family in Boston.

Recommended ages: 9-12



Enchanted Air:

Two Cultures, Two Wings: A Memoir

By Margarita Engle (Simon & Schuster/Atheneum, 2015)

2016 Pura Belpré Author Award Winner

A free-verse memoir reflecting on young Margarita Engle's struggle to reconcile her dual identity as a Cuban and an American during the height of the Bay of Pigs Invasion and the Cuban Missile Crisis.

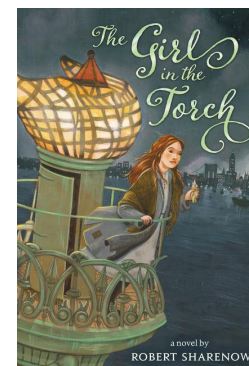
Recommended ages: 10 and up

The Girl in the Torch

By Rob Sharenow (HarperCollins/Blazer + Bray, 2015)

Set in the early 20th century, Sarah and her mother are Russian immigrants travelling by boat to America when, upon arriving at Ellis Island, her mother falls ill and passes away. Rather than be sent back to her country, Sarah chooses to swim to Liberty Island where the Statue of Liberty becomes her refuge. Eventually the night watchman catches her but helps her into a boarding house in Chinatown where she finds an eclectic community and a home.

Recommended ages: 8-12



BOOKS FOR UPPER ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL

It Ain't So Awful, Falafel

By Firoozeh Dumas (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt/Clarion, 2016)

Zomorod Yousefzadeh changes her name to Cindy after the latest of several moves her family makes, this time to Newport Beach, California. Originally from Iran, Cindy and her family navigate the late 1970s political tensions and negative feelings toward Iranians after the Iranian Revolution and subsequent capture of American hostages in the U.S. Embassy in Tehran.

Recommended ages: 9-12



The Land of Forgotten Girls

By Erin Entrada Kelly (HarperCollins/Greenwillow, 2016)

Twelve-year old Sol helps care for her six-year old sister Ming after their father brings them and their cruel stepmother from the Philippines to Louisiana. Her father returns to the Philippines, leaving Sol to use her imagination and the companionship of her best friend Manny to offset the cruelty inflicted on her and Ming by their stepmother.

Recommended ages: 8-12

Listen, Slowly

By Thanhha Lai (HarperCollins, 2015)

Mai has always lived in America. She is excited to spend her summer on the beach until she finds out that she must instead travel with her father and grandmother to Vietnam, her family's home country. She reluctantly joins them on the trip in an attempt to determine if her grandfather, who was thought killed in the Vietnam War, is actually alive.

Recommended ages: 8-12

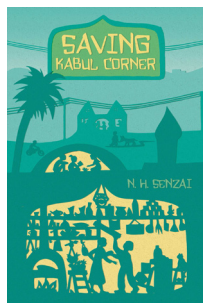


Paper Wishes

By Lois Sepahban (Macmillan/Farrar Straus Giroux, 2016)

After the recent 1942 attack on Pearl Harbor, 10-year-old Manami is forced to move with her family from her home in Washington to a Japanese prison camp in California. She laments the loss of the dog she loves and must abandon after trying to sneak him along their journey.

Recommended ages: 9-12



Save Me a Seat

By Sarah Weeks and Gita Varadarajan (Scholastic, 2016)

Ravi has just moved to New Jersey from India where he was a star student. Joe has always lived in New Jersey and struggles with processing too much noise. Both boys are the target of bullying and find themselves banding together over the course of a week to change their lives.

Recommended ages: 8-12

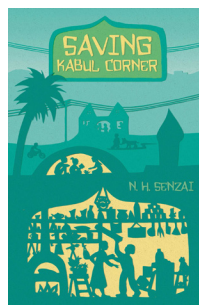
BOOKS FOR UPPER ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL

Saving Kabul Corner

By N. H. Senzai (Simon & Schuster, 2014)

Twelve-year old Ariana and her cousin Laila, whose family recently moved from Afghanistan to America, have completely different personalities. The cousins learn to work together when their family grocery store is threatened by the opening of a new grocery store owned by a rival Afghan family.

Recommended ages: 8-12

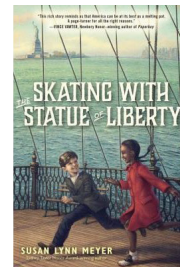


Skating with the Statue of Liberty

By Susan Lynn Meyer (Delacorte, 2016)

Gustav and his family have escaped from Nazi-occupied France to New York City. While struggling to adapt to his new country, he befriends an African American girl and learns that blacks in America face discrimination in much the same way as Jews in France.

Recommended ages: 8-12

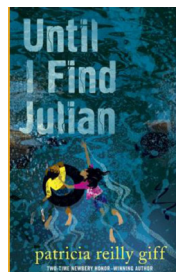


The Turtle of Oman

By Naomi Shihab Nye (HarperCollins/Greenwillow, 2014)

Aref dreads his family's move from Oman to Michigan. For three years he must leave behind his friends, his home, and his cat Mish-Mish while his parents attend graduate school. During the last week before his journey, as Aref resists packing, his grandfather Sidi helps him say goodbye to Oman and find a way to carry his home with him.

Recommended ages: 8-12



Until I Find Julian

By Patricia Reilly Giff (Random/Wendy Lamb, 2015)

Mateo and his family live in Mexico, relying on the money sent to them by Mateo's older brother Julian who works in the United States. When the family stops hearing from Julian, Mateo journeys north to find his brother and is assisted by Angel, a girl he meets along the way.

Recommended ages: 8-12



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