

Diverse



SUMMER READING 2016 LISTS

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for Grades PreK-8

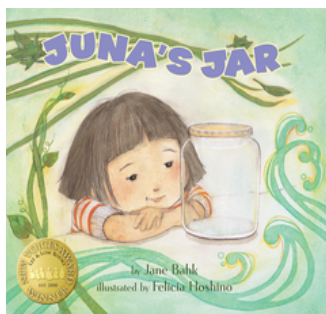


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ABOUT EVERYONE • FOR EVERYONE
LEE & LOW BOOKS

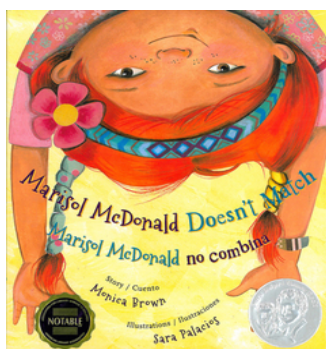
Grades PreK-2



Juna's Jar written by Jane Bahk, illustrated by Felicia Hoshino
<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/2867>

Juna, an imaginative Korean American girl, goes on magical adventures, by way of her special kimchi jar, in search of her best friend who has moved away.

Themes: Friendship, Imagination, Childhood Experiences, Animals, Habitats, Family, Asian American Interest



Marisol McDonald Doesn't Match / Marisol McDonald no combina written by Monica Brown, illustrated by Sara Palacios
<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/2769>

Marisol McDonald has flaming red hair and nut-brown skin. Polka dots and stripes are her favorite combination. She prefers peanut butter and jelly burritos in her lunch box. To Marisol, these seemingly mismatched things make perfect sense together.

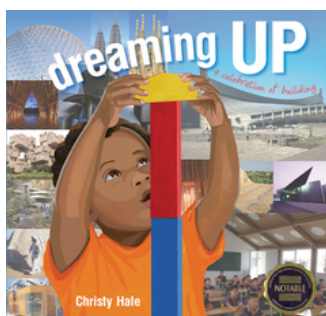
Themes: Individuality/Non-conformity, Self-expression, Friendship, Multiracial Children, Bilingual, Latino Interest



¡Olinguito, de la A a la Z! / Olinguito from A to Z! written and illustrated by Lulu Delacre
<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/2916>

Using the framework of the Spanish alphabet, this bilingual book introduces readers to a cloud forest in the Andes; the plants, animals, and other organisms found there; and the newly-identified olinguito, a South American mammal.

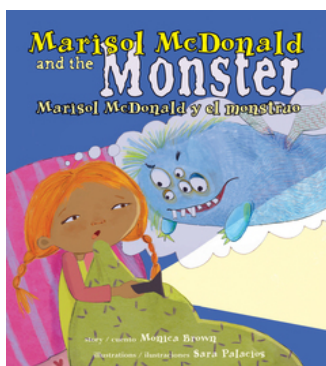
Themes: Cloud Forests, Plants and Animals, New Animal Species, Environments and Habitats, Spanish and English Alphabets, Bilingual, Latino Interest



Dreaming Up: A Celebration of Building written and illustrated by Christy Hale
<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/2814>

A collection of illustrations, concrete poetry, and photographs that shows how young children's constructions, created as they play, are reflected in notable works of architecture from around the world.

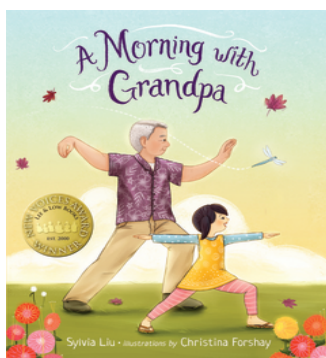
Themes: Building, Children's Play, Concrete Poetry, Architecture, Creativity, Art



Marisol McDonald and the Monster / Marisol McDonald y el monstruo written by Monica Brown, illustrated by Sara Palacios
<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/2926>

A free-spirited, multiracial Marisol McDonald confronts her fear of monsters and unfamiliar nighttime noises.

Themes: Individuality/Non-conformity, Self-expression, Nighttime Fears and Monsters, Family, Multiracial Children, Bilingual, Latino Interest



A Morning with Grandpa written by Sylvia Liu, illustrated by Christina Forshay
<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/2923>

A curious and active Asian American little girl spends the day learning tai chi from her grandfather, and in turn tries to teach him how to do yoga.

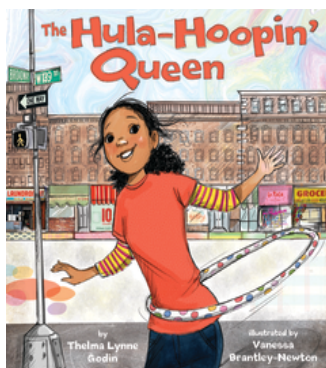
Themes: Family/Grandparents, Imagination, Confidence Building, Humor, People in Motion, How To, Asian American Interest



Maya's Blanket / La manta de Maya written by Monica Brown, illustrated by David Diaz
<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/2886>

A very young girl's cherished baby blanket becomes old and worn over time and then, as she grows older, is continually repurposed as other items.

Themes: Recycling, Imagination/Creativity, Storytelling, Cycle of Time, Family/Grandparents, Bilingual, Latino Interest



The Hula-Hoopin' Queen written by Thelma Lynne Godin, illustrated by Vanessa Brantley-Newton
<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/2848>

A spunky African American girl has a hula-hooping competition with her friends in Harlem, and soon everyone in the neighborhood—young and old alike—joins in on the fun.

Themes: Intergenerational Relationships, Competition, Family, Community, Physical Activity, African American Interest

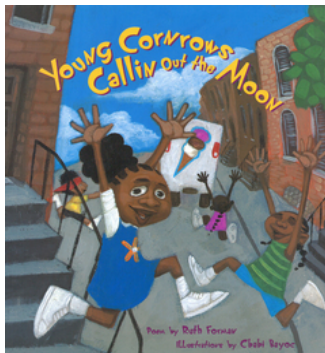


The Story I'll Tell written by Nancy Tupper Ling, illustrated by Jessica Lanan

<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/2909>

A story of international adoption in which a mother weaves a magical web of tales to explain how her child came to be part of the family.

Themes: Adoption, Bi-racial Families, Bedtime Stories, Adult/Child Love, Asian American Interest



Young Cornrows Callin' Out the Moon written by Ruth Forman, illustrated by Cbabi Bayoc

<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/2905>

Who needs a backyard when you've got brownstone steps, double dutch, and freeze tag beneath the sizzling summer sun? There's nothing like summer time in the city when you've got your friends, family, and imagination to keep you company.

Themes: Childhood Experiences, Friendship, Home, Poetry, Urban/City Living, Summer, African American Interest

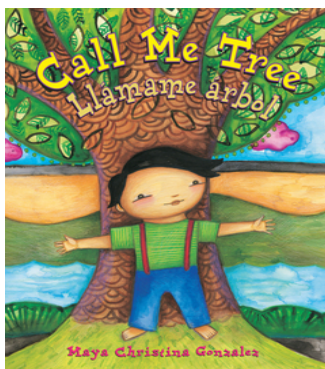


Sunday Shopping written by Sally Derby, illustrated by Shadra Strickland

<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/2883>

Every Sunday night a young girl and her grandmother go on an imaginary shopping trip using play money and the advertisements in the newspaper as a guide for their shopping adventure.

Themes: Shopping, Imaginative Play, Intergenerational Relationships, Family, African American Interest



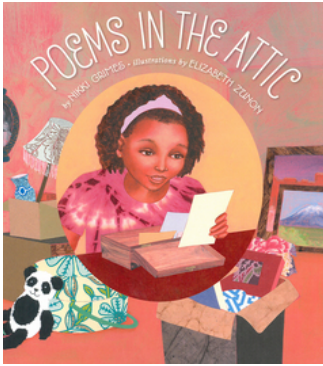
Call Me Tree / Llámame árbol written and illustrated by Maya Christina Gonzalez

<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/2866>

An imaginary tale of self-discovery told by a child who grows, learns about the natural world, embraces others, and is free to become whoever he or she is meant to be—a child as unique as a tree.

Themes: Nature, Self-Esteem/Self-Discovery, Identity, Empowerment, Relationships with Others, Yoga, Bilingual

Grades 3-5



Poems in the Attic written by Nikki Grimes, illustrated by Elizabeth Zunon
<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/2881>

A young girl grows closer to her mother after discovering a box of poems her mother wrote about her experiences living around the world and growing up as a child of an Air Force serviceman. Told in alternating free verse and tanka (similar to haiku) poems.

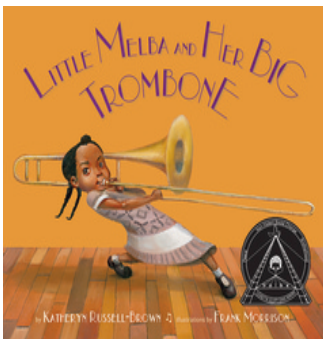
Themes: Family, Intergenerational Relationships, Military Life, Concept of Home, Geography, Poetry (Free Verse, Tanka), African American Interest



Parrots Over Puerto Rico written by Susan L. Roth and Cindy Trumbore; illustrated by Susan L. Roth
<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/2835>

A picture book telling the intertwined histories of the Puerto Rican parrot and the island of Puerto Rico, culminating with current efforts to save the parrots from extinction.

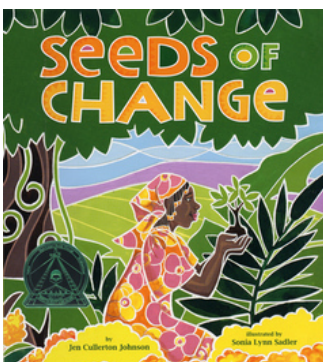
Themes: Endangered Animals (PR Parrot), Animals, Habitats, Wildlife Rescue and Recovery, Environment, Puerto Rican History, Creativity, Latino Interest



Little Melba and Her Big Trombone written by Kathryn Russell-Brown, illustrated by Frank Morrison
<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/2854>

A biography of African American jazz virtuoso Melba Doretta Liston, a pioneering twentieth-century trombone player, composer, and music arranger at a time when few women, of any race, played brass instruments and were part of the jazz scene.

Themes: Music, Jazz, Perseverance/Overcoming Obstacles, Pursuing a Dream, African American Interest



Seeds of Change: Planting a Path to Peace written by Jen Cullerton Johnson, illustrated by Sonia Lynn Sadler
<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/2716>

A picture book biography of scientist Wangari Maathai, the first African woman—and first environmentalist—to win a Nobel Peace Prize (in 2004), for her work planting trees in her native Kenya.

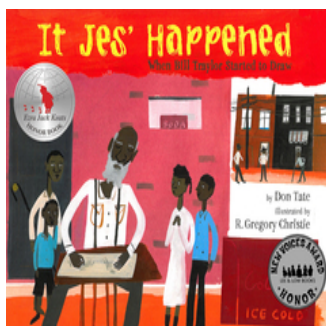
Themes: Environment, Women's Rights, Africa, Science/STEM, Scientists, Pioneers, Nobel Peace Prize, African American Interest



George Crum and the Saratoga Chip written by Gaylia Taylor, illustrated by Frank Morrison
<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/2394>

An account of the life and career of George Crum, a biracial chef who is credited with the invention of the potato chip at a Saratoga Springs, New York, restaurant in 1853. Based on historical records.

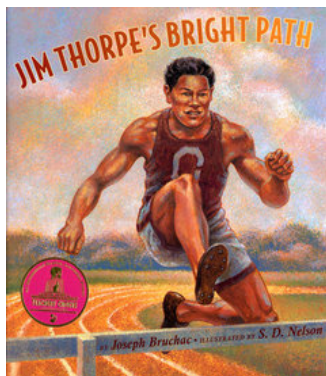
Themes: Inventions, Food/Cooking, Biracial, Family, African American Interest, Native American Interest



It Jes' Happened: When Bill Traylor Started to Draw written by Don Tate, illustrated by R. Gregory Christie
<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/2764>

A biography of self-taught (outsider) artist Bill Traylor, a formerly enslaved man who at the age of eighty-five began to draw pictures based on his memories and observations of rural and urban life in Alabama.

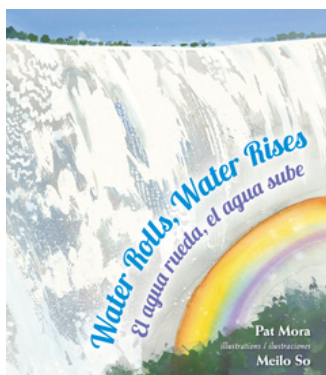
Themes: Folk Art, Creative Inspiration, Farm Life, Poverty, Dreams/Aspirations, African American History



Jim Thorpe's Bright Path written by Joseph Bruchac, illustrated by S. D. Nelson
<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/2411>

A biography of the legendary Native American Jim Thorpe (1888–1953), voted the Greatest Football Player and Greatest Athlete of the Half-Century by two AP polls, focusing on his early childhood and how school and sports shaped his future.

Themes: Sports, Importance of Education, Native American History, Perseverance, Dreams and Aspirations, Native American Interest



Water Rolls, Water Rises / El agua rueda, el agua sube written by Pat Mora, illustrated by Meilo So
<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/2865>

In a series of poetic verses in English and Spanish, readers learn about the movement and moods of water around the world and the ways in which water affects varied landscapes and cultures.

Themes: Water, Water Environments, Natural Resources, Geography, Global Cultures and Landscapes, Poetry, Bilingual



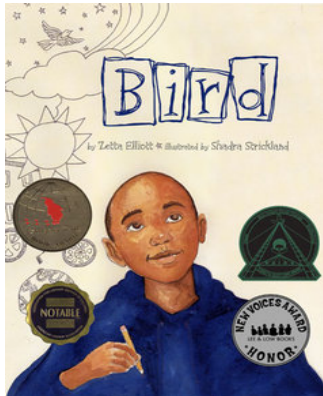
Catching the Moon: The Story of a Young Girl's Baseball

Dream written by Crystal Hubbard, illustrated by Randy DuBurke

<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/2372>

The spirited story of Marcenia Lyle, the African American girl who grew up to become “Toni Stone,” the first woman to play for an all-male professional baseball team.

Themes: Sports, Self-esteem, Dreams/Aspirations, Perseverance, Overcoming Obstacles, Breaking Gender Barriers, African American Interest

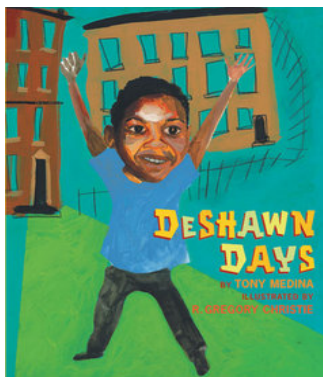


Bird written by Zetta Elliott, illustrated by Shadra Strickland

<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/2516>

An African American boy nicknamed Bird uses drawing as a creative outlet as he struggles to make sense of his grandfather's death and his older brother's drug addiction.

Themes: Family, Coping with Death, Art, Mentors, Urban Life, African American Interest

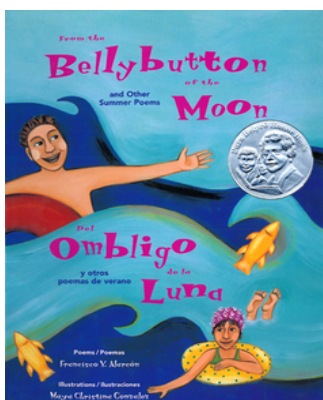


DeShawn Days written by Tony Medina, illustrated by R. Gregory Christie

<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/2383>

In this uplifting story told in verse, a young boy living in the inner city projects tells about his hopes, fears, and dreams.

Themes: Identity, Self-esteem/Confidence, Poetry, Memoir, Overcoming Obstacles, Urban Life, Dreams/Aspirations, Poverty, Childhood Experiences, African American Interest



From the Bellybutton of the Moon and Other Summer Poems / Del ombligo de la luna y otros poemas de verano

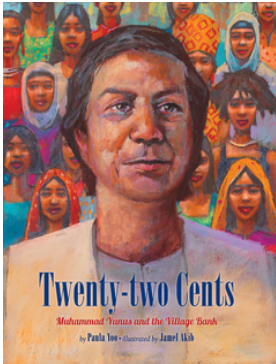
written by Francisco X. Alarcón, illustrated by Maya Christina Gonzalez

<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/2789>

From the Bellybutton of the Moon is renowned poet Francisco X. Alarcón's fresh collection of twenty-two poems inspired by his touching recollections of childhood summers in Mexico.

Themes: Poetry, Memoir, Seasons, Nature, Weather, Family, Friendship, Childhood Experiences, Home, Bilingual, Latino Interest

Grades 6–8



Twenty Two Cents: Muhammad Yunus and the Village Bank

written by Paula Yoo, illustrated by Jamel Akib

<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/2851>

A biography of 2006 Nobel Peace Prize winner Muhammad Yunus, who revolutionized global antipoverty efforts by developing the innovative economic concept of micro-lending.

Themes: Social Awareness and Transformation, Respect/Citizenship, Achieving Goals, Economics, Micro-lending, Helping Others, Asian/South Asian Interest



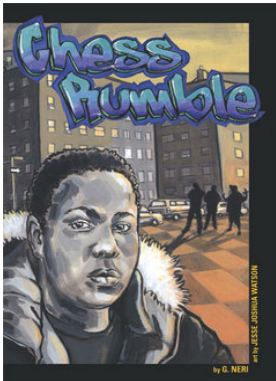
Yummy: The Last Days of a Southside Shorty written by

G. Neri, illustrated by Randy DuBurke

<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/2724>

A graphic novel based on the life and death of Robert “Yummy” Sandifer, an eleven-year-old gang member from Chicago’s Southside who was killed by his own gang members.

Themes: Gang Violence, Family, Conflict Resolution, Coping with Death, Urban Life, Graphic Novel, Historical Fiction, African American Interest

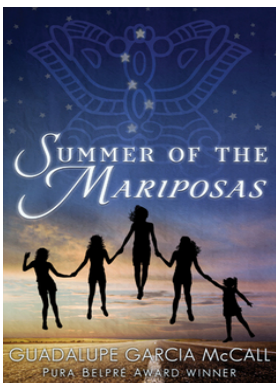


Chess Rumble written by G. Neri, illustrated by Jesse Joshua Watson

<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/2374>

A troubled boy learns to use his mind instead of his fists through the guidance of an unconventional mentor and the game of chess.

Themes: Free Verse, Games (chess), Family, School/Education, Bullying, Conflict Resolution, Coping with Death, Forgiveness, Mentors, Urban Life, African American Interest



Summer of the Mariposas by Guadalupe Garcia McCall

<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/2811>

Fifteen-year-old Odilia and her younger sisters embark on a journey to return a dead man to his family in Mexico, and must outwit monsters and witches to make it back home again. A modern-day retelling of *The Odyssey*.

Themes: Magical Realism, Retellings of Mythology/Folklore, Family Relationships, Siblings, Immigration, Adventure, Latino Interest



Ira's Shakespeare Dream written by Glenda Armand, illustrated by Floyd Cooper
<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/2885>

A biography chronicling the life of Ira Aldridge, an African American actor who is considered to have been one of the greatest Shakespearean actors of the nineteenth century.

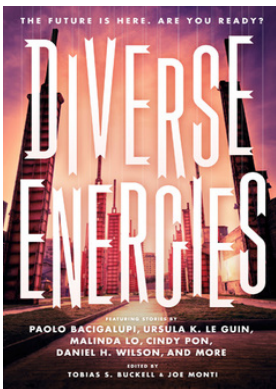
Themes: Entertainment, Performing Arts, Theater, Classic Literature (Shakespeare), Perseverance/Overcoming Obstacles, Dreams/Aspirations, African American History



Killer of Enemies by Joseph Bruchac
<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/2832>

In a world that has barely survived an apocalypse that leaves it with pre-twentieth century technology, Lozen is a monster hunter for four tyrants who are holding her family hostage. A post apocalyptic YA novel with a steampunk twist, based on an Apache legend.

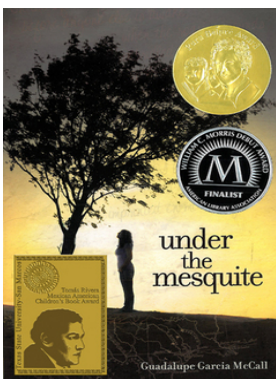
Themes: Science Fiction, Steampunk, Dystopia, Family, Friendship, Romance, Genetic Engineering, Ethics, Coming of Age, Socioeconomic Privilege, Hunting, Native American Interest



Diverse Energies edited by Tobias S. Buckell and Joe Monti
<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/2812>

An anthology of short stories that presents a journey through alternate histories and projections of the future in which the world's diversity is reflected.

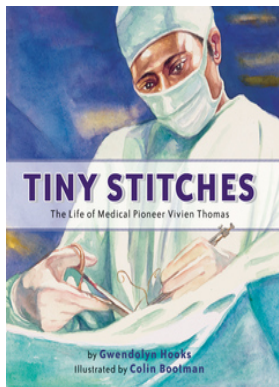
Themes: Science Fiction, Dystopia, Coming of Age, Socioeconomic Privilege, Family, Post-apocalyptic, Friendship, War, Slavery, Technology



Under the Mesquite by Guadalupe Garcia McCall
<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/2723>

Lupita, a budding actor and poet in a close-knit Mexican American immigrant family, comes of age as she struggles with adult responsibilities during her mother's long illness.

Themes: Coming of Age, Identity, Family, Dealing with Illness, Coping with Death, Immigration, Power of Words, Mother/Daughter Relationship, Respect, Responsibility



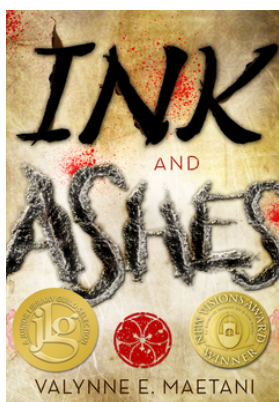
Tiny Stitches: The Life of Medical Pioneer Vivien Thomas

written by Gwendolyn Hooks, illustrated by Colin Bootman

<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/2927>

The life story of Vivien Thomas, an African American surgical technician who developed the first procedure used to perform open-heart surgery on children.

Themes: Creativity/Innovation, Medical Science, Overcoming Obstacles, Dreams/Aspirations, Scientists, Research, Discrimination, Overcoming Obstacles, African American Interest

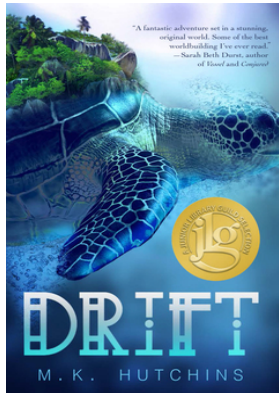


Ink and Ashes by Valynne E. Maetani

<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/2880>

In this heart-pounding YA mystery, Japanese American Claire Takata finds out that her deceased father was once a member of the yakuza—a Japanese crime syndicate—and danger enters her life that could end up killing someone.

Themes: Mystery, Romance, Suspense, Thrillers, Coming of Age, Identity, Brother-Sister Relationships, Asian/Japanese American Interest

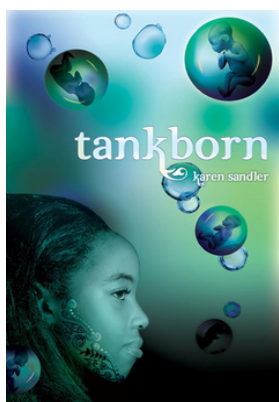


Drift by M. K. Hutchins

<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/2843>

Seventeen-year old Tenjat joins a dangerous defense to protect his island home from the monsters who threaten it in this fresh new fantasy inspired by Mayan and Indian folklore.

Themes: Fantasy, Quests, Adventure, Coming of Age, Folklore, Brother-Sister Relationships, Latino Interest



Tankborn by Karen Sandler

<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/2754>

Kayla and Mishalla, two genetically engineered non-human slaves (GENs), fall in love with higher-status boys, discover deep secrets about the creation of GENs, and in the process find out what it means to be human. (book #1 in the Tankborn trilogy)

Themes: Science Fiction, Dystopia, Friendship, Romance, First Love, Genetic Engineering, Ethics, Coming of Age, Socioeconomic Privilege, Family

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