

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.

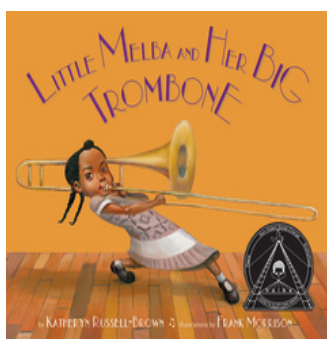
Themes: Family, Intergenerational Relationships, Military Life, Concept of Home, Geography, Poetry (Free Verse, Tanka), African American Interest



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.

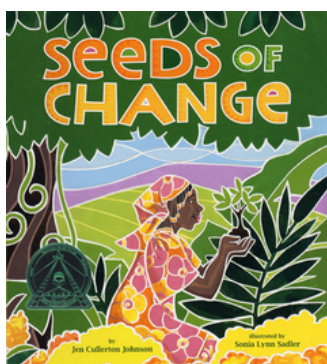
Themes: Endangered Animals (PR Parrot), Animals, Habitats, Wildlife Rescue and Recovery, Environment, Puerto Rican History, Creativity, Latino Interest



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.

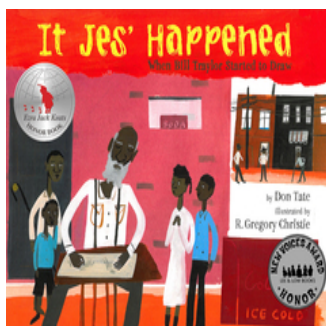
Themes: Environment, Women's Rights, Africa, Science/STEM, Scientists, Pioneers, Nobel Peace Prize, African American Interest



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.

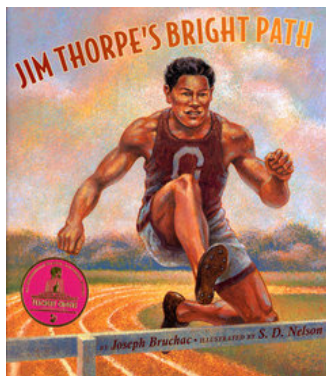
Themes: Inventions, Food/Cooking, Biracial, Family, African American Interest, Native American Interest



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.

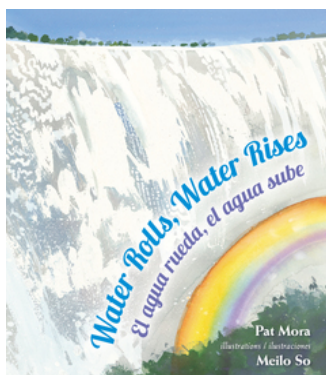
Themes: Folk Art, Creative Inspiration, Farm Life, Poverty, Dreams/Aspirations, African American History



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



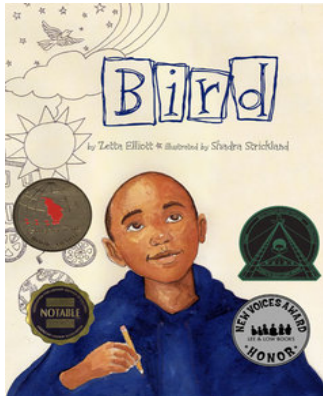
Catching the Moon: The Story of a Young Girl's Baseball

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

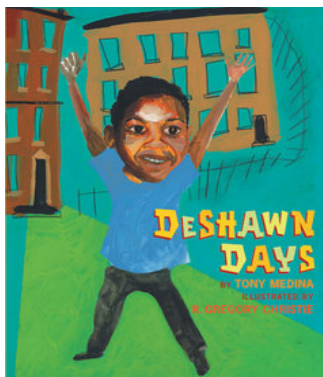


Bird written by Zetta Elliott, illustrated by Shadra Strickland

<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

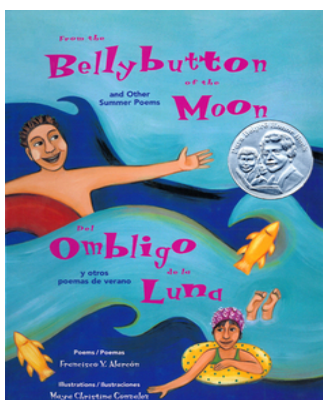


DeShawn Days written by Tony Medina, illustrated by R. Gregory Christie

<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