



LEE & LOW BOOKS

DIVERSE SUMMER READING LIST

GRADES PRE-K-8

LEE & LOW BOOKS is committed to meeting the needs of educators by providing award-winning diverse books for today's classrooms! Check out our selection of summer reading books below, and find **FREE Resources**, including Teacher Guides, Lesson Plans, and Activity Kits, online at leeandlow.com.

For more information about building a culturally diverse library or a customized quote, please contact:

Abe Barretto, *Vice President of Educational Sales*
abarretto@leeandlow.com
 (212) 779-4400 ext. 23

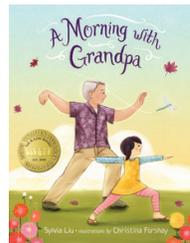
Grades PreK-2



Sparkle Boy • written by Lesléa Newman
 • illustrated by Maria Mola
<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/sparkle-boy>

Young Casey loves sparkly things, just like his older sister, who does not approve until an encounter with teasing bullies helps her learn to accept and respect Casey for who he is.

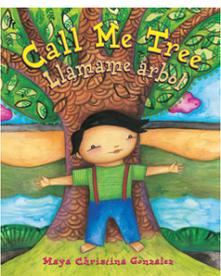
THEMES: SELF-ESTEEM/SELF-ACCEPTANCE, GENDER CREATIVITY, EMPOWERMENT/ FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION, SIBLING RELATIONSHIPS, TEASING/BULLYING, FAMILY, BIRACIAL FAMILIES



A Morning with Grandpa • written by Sylvia Liu •
 illustrated by Christina Forshay
<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/a-morning-with-grandpa>

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

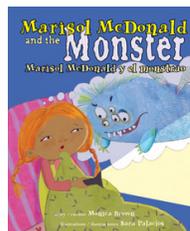
THEMES: FAMILY/GRANDPARENTS, IMAGINATION, CONFIDENCE BUILDING, HUMOR, PEOPLE IN MOTION, HOW TO, ASIAN AMERICAN INTEREST



Call Me Tree / Llámame árbol • written and illustrated by Maya Christina Gonzalez
<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/call-me-tree-llamame-arbol>

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. (Bilingual English/Spanish.)

THEMES: NATURE, SELF-ESTEEM/SELF-DISCOVERY, IDENTITY, EMPOWERMENT, RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHERS, YOGA



Marisol McDonald and the Monster / Marisol McDonald y el monstruo • written by Monica Brown • illustrated by Sara Palacios
<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/marisol-mcdonald-and-the-monster-marisol-mcdonald-y-el-monstruo>

A free-spirited, multiracial Marisol McDonald confronts her fear of monsters and unfamiliar nighttime noises. (Bilingual English/Spanish.)

THEMES: INDIVIDUALITY/NON-CONFORMITY, SELF-EXPRESSION, NIGHTTIME FEARS AND MONSTERS, FAMILY, MULTIRACIAL CHILDREN, 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/olinguito-de-la-a-a-la-z-descubriendo-el-bosque-nublado-olinguito-from-a-to-z-unveiling-the-cloud-forest>

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.

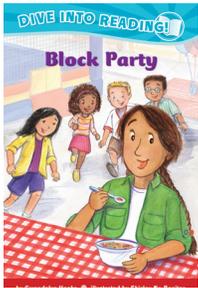
THEMES: CLOUD FORESTS, PLANTS AND ANIMALS, NEW ANIMAL SPECIES, ENVIRONMENTS AND HABITATS, SPANISH AND ENGLISH ALPHABETS, LATINO INTEREST



Rainbow Weaver/Tejedora del arcoiris • written by Linda Elovitz Marshall • illustrated by Elisa Chavarri
<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/rainbow-weaver-tejedora-del-arcoiris>

A young Mayan girl isn't allowed to use her mother's thread to weave, so with a little ingenuity she discovers how to repurpose plastic bags to create colorful weavings. Based on an actual recycling movement in Guatemala. (Bilingual English/Spanish.)

THEMES: FAMILY, ENVIRONMENT/NATURE, RECYCLING, TRADITIONS, PERSEVERANCE, POVERTY, LATINO INTEREST



NEW **Block Party** • written by Gwendolyn Hudson Hooks • illustrated by Shirley Ng-Benitez
<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/block-party--2>

In this series of stories about five friends from diverse backgrounds, the neighborhood is having a block party where everyone is responsible for bringing a food dish. Padma worries that her friends won't like her mom's dish.

THEMES: COMMON CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES, FRIENDSHIP, CULTURAL DIVERSITY, SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES, HUMOR, MULTIETHNIC INTEREST



NEW **Music Time** • written by Paula Yoo • illustrated by Shirley Ng-Benitez
<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/music-time>

In this series of stories about five friends from diverse backgrounds, Henry dreams of becoming a rock star drummer. He practices whenever he can, but sometimes he wants to play with his friends. How can he practice and play with his friends too?

THEMES: COMMON CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES, FRIENDSHIP, CULTURAL DIVERSITY, SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES, HUMOR, MULTIETHNIC INTEREST



Want to Play? • written by Paula Yoo • illustrated by Shirley Ng-Benitez
<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/want-to-play>

In this series of stories about five friends from diverse backgrounds, everyone heads to the neighborhood playground to play. The friends have to figure out a game that everyone wants to play.

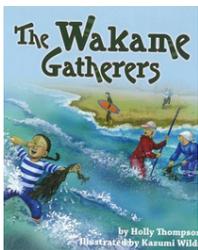
THEMES: COMMON CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES, FRIENDSHIP, CULTURAL DIVERSITY, SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES, HUMOR, MULTIETHNIC INTEREST



Lily's New Home • written by Paula Yoo • illustrated by Shirley Ng-Benitez
<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/lily-s-new-home>

In this series of stories about five friends from diverse backgrounds, Lily and her parents move from their suburban neighborhood to New York City. As she and her parents explore their new, multicultural neighborhood, Lily discovers that sometimes change can be a good thing.

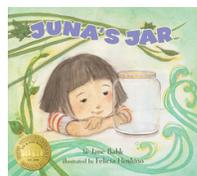
THEMES: COMMON CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES, FRIENDSHIP, CULTURAL DIVERSITY, SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES, HUMOR, MULTIETHNIC INTEREST



Wakame Gatherers • Holly Thompson • illustrated by Kazumi Wilds
<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/the-wakame-gatherers>

Nanami has two grandmothers: Baachan, who lives with her family in Japan, and Gram, who lives in Maine. When Gram visits Japan for the first time, Nanami's two grandmothers discover that they have much more in common than they think.

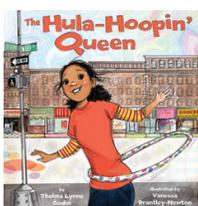
THEMES: FAMILY, COMPARE AND CONTRAST, ENVIRONMENT, HOME, GRANDPARENTS, WAR, ASIAN/ASIAN AMERICAN INTEREST



Juna's Jar • written by Jane Bahk • illustrated by Felicia Hoshino
<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/juna-s-jar>

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



The Hula-Hoopin' Queen • written by Thelma Lynne Godin • illustrated by Vanessa Brantley-Newton
<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/the-hula-hoopin-queen>

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.

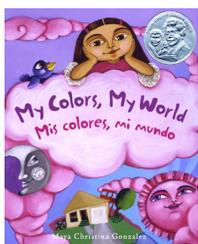
THEMES: INTERGENERATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS, COMPETITION, FAMILY, COMMUNITY, PHYSICAL ACTIVITY, AFRICAN AMERICAN INTEREST



The Story I'll Tell • written by Nancy Tupper Ling • illustrated by Jessica Lanan
<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/the-story-i-ll-tell>

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.

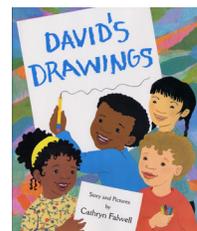
THEMES: ADOPTION, BI-RACIAL FAMILIES, BEDTIME STORIES, ADULT/CHILD LOVE, ASIAN AMERICAN INTEREST



My Colors, My World/Mis colores, mi mundo • written and illustrated by Maya Christina Gonzalez
<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/my-colors-my-world-mis-colores-mi-mundo>

Young readers join Maya as she discovers all the colors in her world. (Bilingual English/Spanish.)

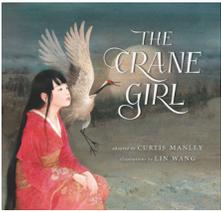
THEMES: COLORS, NATURE, IMAGINATION, ENVIRONMENT, NEIGHBORHOOD, HOME, FAMILIES, ART, LATINO INTEREST



David's Drawings • written and illustrated by Cathryn Falwell
<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/david-s-drawings>

The story of a young boy who makes friends in school by letting his classmates help with his drawing of a bare winter tree.

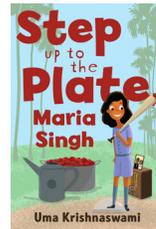
THEMES: MAKING FRIENDS, CREATIVITY, BACK TO SCHOOL, MULTIETHNIC INTEREST



The Crane Girl • written by Curtis Manley
• illustrated by Lin Wang
<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/the-crane-girl>

A boy helps an injured crane, that then returns in human form to weave silk and save the boy and his father from poverty. Adapted from Japanese folktales and told in alternating prose and haiku.

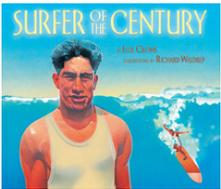
THEMES: KINDNESS/COMPASSION, NATURE, POETRY (HAIKU, ASIAN/ASIAN AMERICAN INTEREST



Step Up to the Plate, Maria Singh • written by Uma Krishnaswami
<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/step-up-to-the-plate-maria-singh>

Nine-year-old Maria Singh learns to play softball, just like her heroes in the All-American Girls' League, while her parents and neighbors are struggling through World War II, working for India's independence, and trying to stay on their farmland.

THEMES: EVERYDAY ACTIVITIES, FAMILY, FRIENDSHIP, GIVING THANKS, BILINGUAL STORIES, LATINO INTEREST



Surfer of the Century: The Life of Duke Kahanamoku • written by Ellie Crowe • illustrated by Richard Waldrep
<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/surfer-of-the-century>

The true story of Hawaiian Duke Kahanamoku, six-time Olympic swimming champion and legendary surfer who popularized surfing around the world.

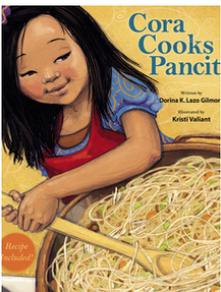
THEMES: BIOGRAPHY, OVERCOMING OBSTACLES, ACHIEVING GOALS, SPORTS, OLYMPIC GAMES



Ira's Shakespeare Dream • written by Glenda Armand • illustrated by Floyd Cooper
<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/ira-s-shakespeare-dream>

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

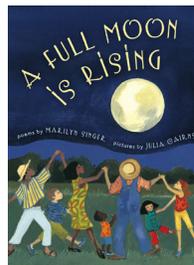
THEMES: ENTERTAINMENT, PERFORMING ARTS, THEATER, CLASSIC LITERATURE (SHAKESPEARE), PERSEVERANCE/OVERCOMING OBSTACLES, AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY, AFRICAN AMERICAN INTEREST



Cora Cooks Pancit • written by Dorina Lazo Gilmore • illustrated by Kristi Valiant
<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/cora-cooks-pancit>

Cora and Mama work together to cook up pancit for the family in this celebration of Filipino heritage and foods.

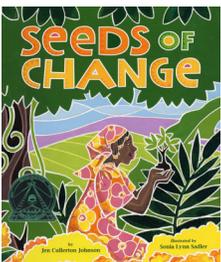
THEMES: COOKING, FOOD, IDENTITY, MOTHER/DAUGHTER RELATIONSHIP, SIBLINGS, RESPONSIBILITY



A Full Moon is Rising • written by Marilyn Singer • illustrated by Julia Cairns
<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/a-full-moon-is-rising>

A collection of original poems about full moon events, phenomena, celebrations, and beliefs from around the world.

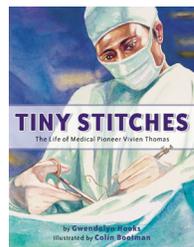
THEMES: MOON, SCIENCE (ASTRONOMY), GEOGRAPHY, TRADITIONAL CELEBRATIONS, CULTURAL DIVERSITY, MULTIETHNIC INTEREST



Seeds of Change • written by Jen Cullerton Johnson • illustrated by Sonia Lynn Sadler
<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/seeds-of-change>

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.

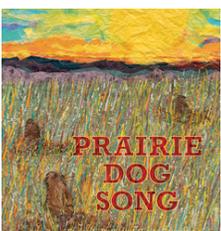
THEMES: ENVIRONMENT, WOMEN'S RIGHTS, AFRICA, SCIENCE/STEM, SCIENTISTS, PIONEERS, NOBEL PEACE PRIZE, AFRICAN/AFRICAN AMERICAN INTEREST



Tiny Stitches • written by Gwendolyn Hooks • illustrated by Colin Bootman
<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/tiny-stitches>

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, WORKING TOWARD A DREAM, AFRICAN AMERICAN INTEREST



Prairie Dog Song: The Key to Saving North America's Grasslands • written by Susan L. Roth and Cindy Trumbore • illustrated by Susan L. Roth
<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/prairie-dog-song>

Focusing on the role of the prairie dogs as a keystone species, this book tells the connected histories of the North American grassland prairies and current efforts to preserve and recover the Janos grasslands in northern Mexico.

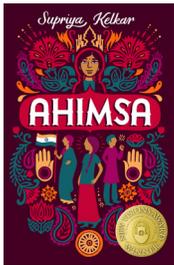
THEMES: ANIMALS, ENDANGERED ECOSYSTEMS, WILDLIFE RECOVERY, ENVIRONMENT, UNITED STATES AND MEXICAN HISTORY



Step Right Up: How Doc and Jim Key Taught the World About Kindness • written by Donna Janell Bowman • illustrated by Daniel Minter
<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/step-right-up>

A biography of William "Doc" Key, a formerly enslaved man and self-trained veterinarian who taught his horse, Jim, to read, write, and do math, and who together with Jim became a famous traveling performance act and proponent for the human treatment of animals around the turn of the twentieth century.

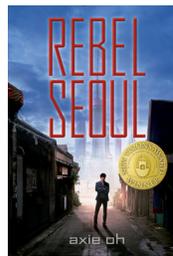
THEMES: ANIMALS, SLAVERY, EDUCATION, DISCRIMINATION, OVERCOMING OBSTACLES, KINDNESS/HUMANE TREATMENT OF ANIMALS, AFRICAN AMERICAN INTEREST



Ahimsa • written by Supriya Kelkar
<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/ahimsa>

In this historical middle-grade novel, Gandhi asks for one member of each family to join the fight for independence from the British, and when Anjali's mother is jailed for doing so, Anjali must step out of her comfort zone to take over her mother's work.

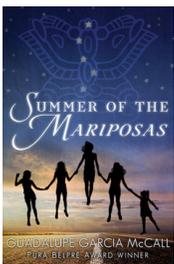
THEMES: CONFLICT RESOLUTION, PROTEST, COURAGE, COLONIALISM, FRIENDSHIP, FREEDOM, EDUCATION, SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS, DISCRIMINATION, COLLABORATION, HISTORY, FAMILY, INDIA, WORLD WAR II, HINDU INTEREST, MUSLIM INTEREST



Rebel Seoul • written by Axie Oh
<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/rebel-seoul>

When Jaewon is assigned to partner with supersoldier Tera in Neo Seoul's top weapons development division, he must decide where he stands: with the people his rebel father protected or with the totalitarian government that claims it will end all war.

THEMES: SCIENCE FICTION, DICTATORSHIPS, WAR, FUTURE TECHNOLOGY, ROMANCE, FRIENDSHIP, ETHICS, COMING OF AGE, SOCIOECONOMIC PRIVILEGE, GENETIC ENGINEERING, FAMILY, FORGIVENESS, KOREAN/ASIAN INTEREST



Summer of the Mariposas • written by Guadalupe Garcia McCall
<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/summer-of-the-mariposas>

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.

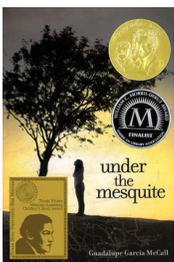
THEMES: MAGICAL REALISM, RETELLINGS OF MYTHOLOGY/FOLKLORE, FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS, SIBLINGS, IMMIGRATION, ADVENTURE, LATINO INTEREST



Arrow of Lightning • written by Joseph Bruchac
<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/arrow-of-lightning>

In the final installment of the Killer of Enemies series, Lozen attempts to live a life without the violence that so far has defined her life, but the remaining Ones will not let that happen without a fight.

THEMES: SCIENCE FICTION, DYSTOPIA, STEAMPUNK, FAMILY, BIGFOOT, FRIENDSHIP, ROMANCE, FIRST LOVE, GENETIC ENGINEERING, ETHICS, COMING OF AGE, SOCIOECONOMIC PRIVILEGE, HUNTING, FORGIVENESS, REVENGE, NATIVE AMERICAN INTEREST



Under the Mesquite • written by Guadalupe Garcia McCall
<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/under-the-mesquite>

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.

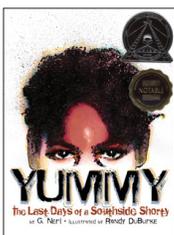
THEMES: COMING OF AGE, IDENTITY, FAMILY, DEALING WITH ILLNESS, COPING WITH DEATH, IMMIGRATION, POWER OF WORDS, MOTHER/DAUGHTER RELATIONSHIP, RESPECT, RESPONSIBILITY



Shame the Stars • written by Guadalupe Garcia McCall
<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/shame-the-stars>

In the midst of racial conflict and at the edges of a war at the Texas-Mexico border in 1915, Joaquin and Dulceña attempt to maintain a secret romance in this reimagining of *Romeo and Juliet*.

THEMES: SHAKESPEARE, FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS, DREAMS AND ASPIRATIONS, PERSISTENCE/GRIT/COURAGE, TOLERANCE/ACCEPTANCE, MEXICO AND UNITED STATES HISTORY, PRIDE, ROMANCE, CONFLICT RESOLUTION, DISCRIMINATION, TEXAS, WAR, LATINO/HISPANIC/MEXICAN AMERICAN INTEREST



Yummy: The Last Days of a Southside Shorty • written by G. Neri • illustrated by Randy DuBurke
<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/yummy>

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.

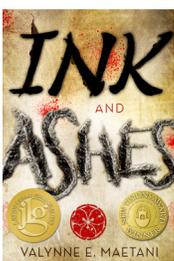
THEMES: GANG VIOLENCE, FAMILY, CONFLICT RESOLUTION, COPING WITH DEATH, URBAN LIFE, GRAPHIC NOVEL, HISTORICAL FICTION, AFRICAN AMERICAN INTEREST



Trail of the Dead • written by Joseph Bruchac
<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/trail-of-the-dead>

In this sequel to *Killer of Enemies*, Lozen and her family, on the run from the tyrants who once held them hostage, embark on a journey along a perilous trail once followed by her ancestors, where they meet friends and foes alike.

THEMES: SCIENCE FICTION, DYSTOPIA, STEAMPUNK, FAMILY, BIGFOOT, FRIENDSHIP, ROMANCE, FIRST LOVE, GENETIC ENGINEERING, ETHICS, COMING OF AGE, SOCIOECONOMIC PRIVILEGE, HUNTING, NATIVE AMERICAN INTEREST



Ink and Ashes • written by Valynne E. Maetani
<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/ink-and-ashes>

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



Chess Rumble • written by G. Neri • illustrated by Jesse Joshua Watson
<https://www.leeandlow.com/books/chess-rumble>

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