



LEE & LOW BOOKS

30
Years
EST. 1991

Books About JOY

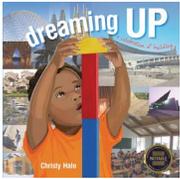
a diverse
reading list



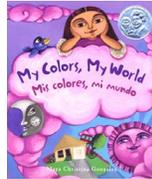
A disproportionate number of books about BIPOC protagonists focus on their marginalization. Though it is important for children to understand the history and complexity of oppression, racism, and discrimination, children—especially children of color—also deserve to see themselves thrive and to experience the joy of being part of a loving community. We've compiled a list of diverse books that reflect the daily lives of children and the joy of play, family and friends, and being themselves!

The Joy of Play

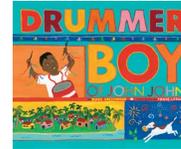
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Dreaming Up: A Celebration of Building • written and illustrated by Christy Hale • A picture book that connects great works of architecture to the ways children build and play. **Grades PreK-2**



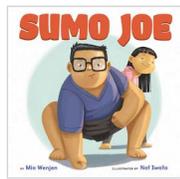
My Colors My World/ Mis colores, mi mundo • written and illustrated by Maya Christina Gonzalez • An instant favorite, this beautiful bilingual board book follows Maya as she discovers all the colors in her world. *Bilingual English/Spanish*. **Grades PreK-2**



Drummer Boy of John John • written by Mark Greenwood, illustrated by Frane Lessac • The perfect book for aspiring young drummers, where a young boy in Trinidad discovers he can create tunes on discarded metal tins, and goes on to win the Carnival band competition. **Grades PreK-2, 3-5**



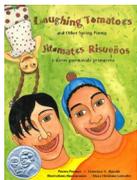
Drum, Chavi, Drum! / ¡Toca, Chavi, Toca! • written by Mayra Dole, illustrated by Tonel • Even though nobody in her neighborhood thinks girls should play the drums, Chavi knows she was born to drum. **Grades PreK-2**



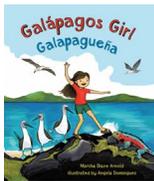
Sumo Joe • written by Mia Wenjen, illustrated by Nat Iwata • In this sweet and funny story, Sumo Joe and his friends enjoy pretending to be sumo wrestlers. But when his little sister wants to join their boy-only game, what should Sumo Joe do? **Grades PreK-2**



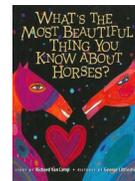
There's No Base Like Home • written by Jessica Mendoza and Alana Mendoza Dusan • ESPN Major League Baseball analyst and two-time Olympic medalist Jessica Mendoza teams up with her sister Alana Mendoza Dusan for their first highly-illustrated novel for young readers, a Dork Diaries for sporty kids. **Grades 3-5**



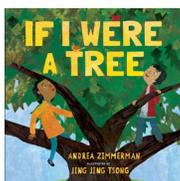
Laughing Tomatoes and Other Spring Poems / Jitomates Risueños y otros poemas de primavera • written by Francisco Alarcón, illustrated by Maya Christina Gonzalez • From the imagination of poet Francisco X. Alarcón comes Laughing Tomatoes and Other Spring Poems, a playful and moving collection of twenty poems in English and Spanish. *Bilingual English/Spanish*. **Grades PreK-2**



Galápagos Girl/ Galapagueña • written by Marsha Diane Arnold, illustrated by Angela Dominguez • This charming picture book from the illustrator of Mango, Abuela, and Me introduces the fascinating creatures of the Galápagos Islands through the life of one very lucky girl. *Bilingual English/Spanish*. **Grades PreK-2, 3-5**



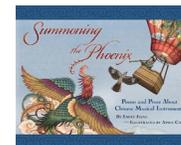
What's the Most Beautiful Thing You Know About Horses? • written by Richard Van Camp, illustrated by George Littlechild • Richard Van Camp of the Dogrib (Tlicho) Nation explores all the ways horses are valuable and beautiful. **Grades 3-5**



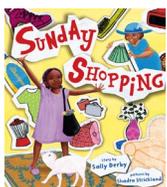
If I Were a Tree • written by Andrea Zimmerman, illustrated by Jing Jing Tsong • Two siblings journey into the woods in a tender story of branching out and new growth from acclaimed writer Andrea Zimmerman and New York Times bestselling illustrator Jing Jing Tsong. **Grades PreK-2**



King for a Day • written by Rukhsana Khan, illustrated by Christiane Krömer • Malik, a Pakistani boy who uses a wheelchair, is excited to compete in the annual kite-flying festival of Basant. Can his kite defeat the bully's and make him "King" of the festival? **Grades PreK-2, 3-5**



Summoning the Phoenix: Poems and Prose About Chinese Musical Instruments • written by Emily Jiang, illustrated by April Chu • A collection of original poems about children learning to play traditional Chinese instruments in preparation for a performance, accompanied by factual information about each instrument. **Grades PreK-2, 3-5, 6-8**



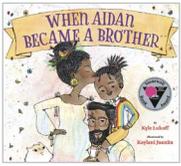
Sunday Shopping • written by Sally Derby Miller, illustrated by Shadra Strickland • Every Sunday night a young girl and her grandmother go on an imaginary shopping trip in this delightful picture book. **Grades PreK-2**



The Turtle Ship • written by Helena Ku Rhee, illustrated by Colleen Kong-Savage • A young Korean boy named Sun-sin designs one of the greatest battleships in history and fulfills his dream of sailing the world. **Grades PreK-2, 3-5**

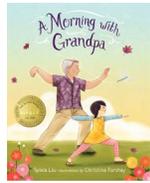
The Joy of Family & Friends

Click each cover to learn more!



When Aidan Became a Brother • written by Kyle Lukoff, illustrated by Kaylani Juanita •

This sweet #ownvoices picture book celebrates the changes in a transgender boy's life, from his initial coming-out to becoming a big brother. **Grades PreK-2**



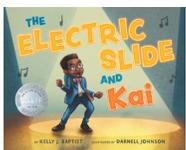
A Morning with Grandpa • written by Sylvia Liu, illustrated by Christina Forshay •

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. **Grades PreK-2**



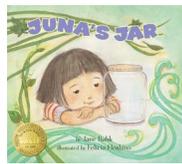
Where Fireflies Dance / **Ahí, donde bailan las luciérnagas** • written by Mira Reisberg •

In her first book for children, award-winning author Lucha Corpi remembers her childhood growing up in Jáltipán, Mexico, where the moon hung low and the fireflies flickered in the night air. *Bilingual English/Spanish.* **Grades PreK-2, 3-5**



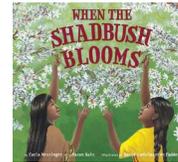
The Electric Slide and Kai • written by Kelly J. Baptist, illustrated by Darnell Johnson •

Kai is the only member of his family who can't get the dance steps to the Electric Slide right. But Kai is determined to bust a move in this fun and sweet celebration of African American families. **Grades PreK-2**



Juna's Jar • written by Jane Bahk, illustrated by Felicia Hoshino •

Juna, an imaginative Korean American girl, goes on magical adventures, by way of her special kimchi jar, in search of her best friend who moved away. **Grades PreK-2**



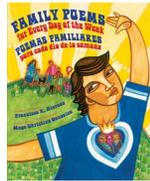
When the Shadblush Blooms • written by Carla Messinger with Susan Katz, illustrated by David Kanietakeron Fadden •

A young Lenape Indian girl observes and reflects on the small, important ways her family today, and her ancestors generations before, celebrate the cycle of seasons. **Grades PreK-2, 3-5**



Maya's Blanket / **La manta de Maya** • written by Monica Brown, illustrated by David Diaz •

Based on a Yiddish folk song, a young girl's cherished baby blanket becomes old and worn over time and she finds new ways to use it as she grows up. *Bilingual English/Spanish.* **Grades PreK-2**



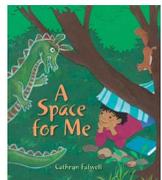
Family Poems / **Poemas familiares para cada día de la semana** • written by Francisco Alarcón, illustrated by Maya Christina Gonzalez •

A bilingual collection of poetry by the late Francisco X. Alarcón, acclaimed Chicano poet, celebrating the days of the week and everyday childhood experiences. **Grades PreK-2, 3-5**



On These Magic Shores • written by Yamile Saied Méndez •

Minerva must take care of her sisters after her mother's disappearance in this magical #ownvoices middle grade story that pairs perfectly with Peter Pan. **Grades 3-5, 6-8**



A Space for Me • written and illustrated by Cathryn Falwell •

Alex needs a break from his pesky little brother, Lucas, so he creates a space for himself, but soon realizes that he and Lucas need time together too. **Grades PreK-2**



Hot-hot Roti for Dada-ji • written by Farhana Zia, illustrated by Ken Min •

Overflowing with family, food, and a tall stack of fun, Hot, Hot Roti for Dada-ji is sure to warm the heart and tickle the tummy. A fun way for children to learn about the cultural traditions and foods of India to be enjoyed by the whole family. **Grades PreK-2, 3-5**

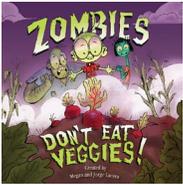


Summer of the Mariposas • written by Guadalupe García McCall •

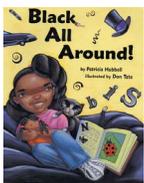
In this young adult retelling of The Odyssey, Odilia and her four sisters journey to Mexico to return a dead man to his family and encounter magical creatures along the way. **Grades 6-8**

The Joy of Being Ourselves

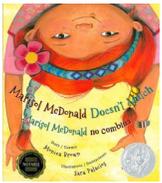
Click each cover to learn more!



Zombies Don't Eat Veggies! • written by **Jorge and Megan Lacera**, illustrated by **Jorge Lacera** • In this delightful debut by a talented husband-and-wife team, Mo Romero is a zombie with a deep, dark secret... Also available in Spanish. Grades PreK-2



Black All Around! • written by **Patricia Hubbell**, illustrated by **Don Tate** • "Look high, look low, look everywhere . . . The wonderful color black is there!" A young girl discovers all the marvelous things that are black — just like her! Grades PreK-2



Marisol McDonald Doesn't Match! • **Marisol McDonald no combina** • Mismatched and fabulous Marisol McDonald celebrates her Peruvian and Scottish heritage. Winner of the Pura Belpré Award Honor. Bilingual English/Spanish. Grades PreK-2



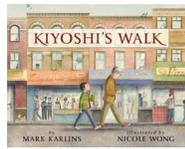
Magic Like That • written by **Samara Cole Doyon**, illustrated by **Geneva Bowers** • In this celebration of Black Girl Magic, a young girl finds confidence and excitement in the versatility of her natural hair and the way her different hairstyles reflect the natural world. Grades PreK-2, 3-5



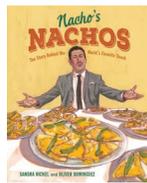
Under My Hijab • written by **Hena Khan**, illustrated by **Aaliya Jaleel** • This lovely book from the author of Golden Domes and Silver Lanterns invites readers to understand and appreciate hijab and the Muslim women who decide to wear it. Grades PreK-2, 3-5



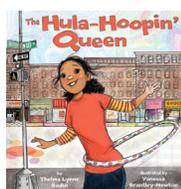
The Happiest Tree • A young Indian American girl grows in self-confidence when she learns to practice yoga and apply the underlying principles to her performance in a school play. Also available in Spanish. Grades PreK-2, 3-5



Kiyoshi's Walk • written by **Mark Karlins**, illustrated by **Nicole Wong** • Where do poems come from? This beautiful picture book about a young aspiring poet and his grandfather shows that the answer lies all around us—if we take the time to look. Grades PreK-2, 3-5



Nacho's Nachos: The Story Behind the World's Favorite Snack • written by **Sandra Nickel**, illustrated by **Oliver Dominguez** • The delicious true story of an inventive chef and the serendipitous events that led to the creation of the world's favorite snack—nachos! Grades PreK-2, 3-5



The Hula-Hoopin' Queen • written by **Thelma Lynne Godin**, illustrated by **Vanessa Brantley** • A spunky African American girl has a hula-hooping competition with her friends in Harlem, and soon everyone, young and old alike, joins in on the fun. Grades PreK-2, 3-5



Monster in the Mudball • written by **S.P. Gates** • In this lower middle-grade mystery, Jin must hunt down the monster he accidentally freed, before it eats his baby brother. Grades 3-5



Julieta and the Diamond Enigma • written by **Luisana Duarte Armendáriz** • From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler meets Merci Suarez in this smart young middle-grade mystery about a diamond gone missing from the Louvre and the sweet and spunky girl who cracks the case. Grades 3-5, 6-8



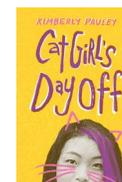
The Shadow Prince • written by **David Anthony Durham** • In this middle grade solarpunk novel set in an alternate Egyptian universe, twelve-year-old Ash must compete and survive to become the shadow—and protector—of the prince. Grades 3-5, 6-8



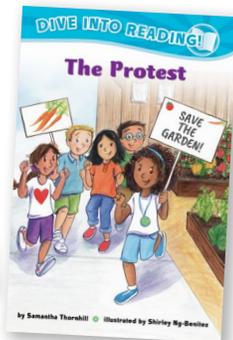
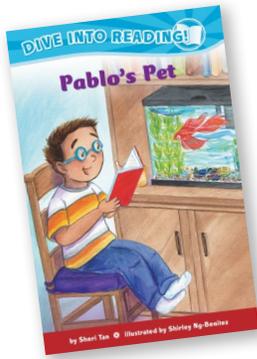
The Witch Owl Parliament (Clockwork Curandera #1) • written by **David Bowles and Raúl the Third**, illustrated by **Stacey Robinson and Damian Duffy** • Discover a graphic novel unlike any other—a brilliant steampunk reimagining of Frankenstein set in colonial Mexico. Also available in Spanish. Grades 6-8



Rebel Seoul • written by **Axie Oh** • 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. Grades 6-8, 9-12



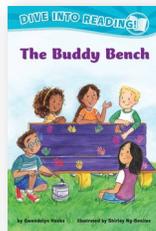
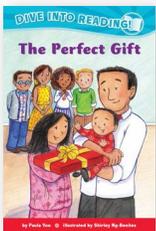
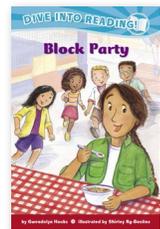
Cat Girl's Day Off • written by **Kimberly Pauley** • In this hilarious YA homage to Ferris Bueller's Chicago, Natalie must use her Talent talking to cats to solve a high-profile celebrity kidnapping. Grades 6-8, 9-12



Dive into reading with Confetti Kids, our popular early chapter book series about five friends from diverse backgrounds learning to navigate common childhood challenges, new experiences, and the world around them.

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