

Reading Is Fundamental Multicultural Library Booklist 2008

Thanks to the generous support of Macy's, RIF will donate 400 multicultural children's book collections to first grade classrooms in low-income communities throughout the United States. Each collection will include 50 hardcover books with selections representing African-American, Asian, Hispanic, and Native American themes as well as a selection from additional parallel culture groups. In addition to the book collections, RIF will provide a resource kit which includes a guide for reading activities, posters, bookplates, and bookmarks.

Alec's Primer

by Mildred Pitts Walter

August House

ISBN: 0916718204

As a child born into slavery in Virginia, Alec Turner was forbidden to learn to read. Through mastering the alphabet from a small primer, Alec marked the first steps that would eventually lead him to freedom on a Vermont farm.

Animal Poems of the Iguazú/Animalario del Iguazú

by Francisco X. Alarcón

Children's Book Press

ISBN: 9780892392254

The animals of the Iguazú speak for themselves in their own soaring, roaring, fluttering voices in this bilingual environmental poetry collection about Argentina's Iguazú rainforest.

The Bee Tree

by Stephen Buchmann

Cinco Puntos Press

ISBN: 0938317989

The Bee Tree tells the magical story of a honey hunt in the dense rainforest of Malaysia. The story is narrated by Nizam, a young boy whose grandfather is the leader of the honey hunting clan. Nizam has the honor of climbing up the 120-foot tualang tree during the annual honey hunt.

Buffalo Song

by Joseph Bruchac

Lee & Low Books

ISBN: 1584302801

This is the inspiring story of the first efforts to save the buffalo, an animal sacred to Native Americans and a powerful symbol of the American West.

The Champ: The Story of Muhammad Ali

by Tonya Bolden

Knopf Books for Young Readers

ISBN: 037582401

Tonya Bolden's careful research and elegant telling, paired with R. Gregory Christie's incredible paintings, make this a book that will inform and inspire readers of all ages.

Cinco de Mayo: Celebrating the Traditions of Mexico

by Diane Hoyt Goldsmith

Holiday House

ISBN: 9780823421077

Mariachi music and dancing! *Delicioso* Mexican food! Parades! But what exactly is everyone celebrating? This captivating, fact-filled photo essay brings to life a popular holiday rich in traditions and cultural pride.

Coyote and the Sky: How the Sun, Moon, and Stars Began

by Emmett Garcia

University of New Mexico Press

ISBN: 9780826337306

Emmett Shkeme Garcia, a member of the Santa Ana tribe, shares his pueblo's story of the beginnings of the stars and constellations.

Dad, Jackie, and Me

by Myron Uhlberg

Peachtree Publishers

ISBN: 9781561453290

This story is based on Uhlberg's experiences growing up as a hearing child of deaf parents. Set in Brooklyn in 1947, a young Dodgers fan eagerly anticipates the addition of Jackie Robinson to his favorite team's lineup.

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Don't Say Ain't

by Irene Smalls
Charlesbridge Publishing
ISBN: 157091382X

In the 1950s, Dana struggles to live in two worlds—her Harlem neighborhood and the advanced school she attends—while staying true to herself.

The First Music

by Dylan Pritchett
August House
ISBN: 9780874837766

When the animals all get together in the jungle, they discover that the noise that they have been making is music. Dylan Pritchett weaves a tale that helps us discover that we all have music inside us.

The Ghost Catcher

by Martha Hamilton
August House
ISBN: 0874838355

A barber in Bengal is so generous to others that sometimes he has nothing left for his own family. When he comes home empty handed once again, his wife, tired of going hungry, sends him packing until he finds a way to feed the family.

A Gift for Abuelita/ Un regalo para Abuelita

by Nancy Luen
Luna Rising
ISBN: 0873586883

Rosita uses the occasion of *el Dia de los Muertos* to make a special gift to celebrate her deceased grandmother.

A Gift from Papá Diego /Un regalo de papá Diego

by Benjamin Alire Sáenz
Cinco Puntos Press
ISBN: 9780938317333

Diego loves his grandfather, but they don't see each other often because Papá Diego lives in Mexico and Diego lives in Texas. When Diego gets a Superman outfit for his birthday, he hopes to fly across the border to Mexico to be with his grandfather.

The Girl Who Wore Too Much

by Margaret Read MacDonald
August House
ISBN: 0874835038

Complementing the English and Thai text, Yvonne Davis's brilliant watercolors capture the palette of fabrics and silks for which the Pu-Thai people in northeastern Thailand are so famous today.

Going Back Home: An Artist Returns to the South

by Toyomi Igus
Children's Book Press
ISBN: 0892391979

Through her complex and richly patterned art, Wood places herself back in history—in the time of her ancestors—imagining their struggles to overcome hardship through family love and strong community.

Growing up with Tamales / Los tamales de Ana

by Gwendolyn Zepeda
Arte Publico/Piñata Books
ISBN: 9781558854932

Rhythmic prose is combined with bright illustrations to create an affectionate and amusing story about sibling relationships that introduces an important holiday tradition—making tamales!

Home to Medicine Mountain

by Chiori Santiago
Children's Book Press
ISBN: 0892391553

Two young brothers sent to live at a government-run Indian residential school in California in the 1930s escape to return home for the summer.

Horse Songs: The Naadam of Mongolia

by Ted and Betsy Lewin
Lee & Low Books
ISBN: 1584302771

Tamir and the other young jockeys sing to their horses as they get ready to ride in the Naadam, the Mongolian summer festival.

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I, Matthew Henson: Polar Explorer

by Carole Boston Weatherford
Walker Books for Young Readers
ISBN: 9780802796882

When Matthew Henson reached the North Pole with Admiral Robert Peary almost a hundred years ago, it was after long years of hard work and seven grueling voyages.

Jazz

by Walter Dean Myers
Holiday House
ISBN: 9780823421732

From bebop to New Orleans, from ragtime to boogie, and every style in between, this collection of Walter Dean Myers's energetic and engaging poems celebrates different styles of the American art form, jazz.

Jazz on a Saturday Night

by Leo and Diane Dillon
Blue Sky Press
ISBN: 9780590478939

Bright colors and musical patterns make music skip off the page in this toe tapping homage to many jazz greats.

Jesse Owens: Fastest Man Alive

by Carole Boston Weatherford
Walker Books for Young Readers
ISBN: 9780802795502

Jesse Owens never let segregation slow him down while setting world records and winning a spot on the U.S. Olympic team. In Berlin, the triumph of Jesse's will helped him surmount any barrier, winning not only Olympic gold, but countless fans.

Just Like Me: Stories and Self Portraits by Fourteen Artists

by Harriet Rohmer
Children's Book Press
ISBN: 9780892391493

Fourteen diverse artists present their self portraits and tell how they were inspired to become artists.

The Legend of the Caribou Boy

by George Blondin and John Blondin
Theytus Books
ISBN: 9781894778480

A young boy is called to fulfill his destiny, a destiny which lives on today in the traditions and culture of the Dene people and their relationship to the caribou and the land on which they live.

Little Black, A Pony

by Walter Farley
Salina Bookshelf
ISBN: 9781893354906

Translated into Navajo and reillustrated by Baje Whitethorne, Sr. in vivid watercolors, this book on friendship and loyalty promises to steal readers' hearts.

Little Woman Warrior Who Came Home/ Dzani Yazhi Naazbaa'

by Evangeline Parsons-Yazzie
Salina Bookshelf
ISBN: 9781893354555

For four long years, Dzáníbaa' and her family endure incredible hardship and sacrifice and at times there seems to be no hope of a better future.

Nevertheless, this time of trial gives Dzáníbaa' a profound sense of herself as a Navajo and of the importance of her culture.

Martina the Beautiful Cockroach: A Cuban Folktale

by Carmen Agra Deedy
Peachtree Publishers
ISBN: 9781561453993

Carmen Agra Deedy delivers a deliciously inventive Cuban version of the beloved Martina folktale, complete with a dash of café cubano.

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Muskrat Will Be Swimming

by Cheryl Savageau

Tilbury House Publishers

ISBN: 9780884482802

A quiet tale of a young girl who, with gentle guidance from her grandfather, learns to find strength, not fear, in her identity as a Native person living in an Anglo society.

My Name is Gabito/Mi Llamo Gabito: The Life of Gabriel Garcia Marquez

by Monica Brown

Rising Moon

ISBN: 9780873589086

Using the imagery from Marquez's novels, Monica Brown traces the novelist's life from his childhood in Colombia to today in this creative nonfiction picture book.

My Very Own Room/Mi propio cuartito

by Amanda Irma Pérez

Children's Book Press

ISBN: 9780892392230

With the help of her family, a resourceful young girl realizes her dream of having a space of her own to read and to think.

Nana's Big Surprise/Nana, Qué Sorpresa!

by Amanda Irma Pérez

Children's Book Press

ISBN: 9780892391905

Amada and her family build a chicken coop, hoping their grandmother, visiting from Mexico, will enjoy raising the chickens and be distracted from her grief over their grandfather's death.

Nothing but Trouble: The Story of Althea Gibson

by Sue Stauffacher

Knopf Books for Young Readers

ISBN: 9780375834080

Althea Gibson was the first African American to compete in and win the Wimbledon Cup. The lively text, paired with vibrant paintings, captures the exuberance, ambition, and triumph of this remarkable woman.

Poems to Dream Together/Poemas para soñar juntos

by Francisco X. Alarcón

Lee & Low Books

ISBN: 9781584302339

As we travel through the main character's colorful universe, we learn about his family and community, working together and caring for each other, and the world in which they live.

Powwow's Coming

by Linda Boyden

University of New Mexico Press

ISBN: 9780826342652

Boyden's cut-paper collage and engaging poem place readers within the scenes of a contemporary Native American community, while offering a thoughtful look at powwows and their meaning to participants.

Ray Charles

by Sharon Bell Mathis

Lee & Low Books

ISBN: 9781584300175

Readers follow Ray Charles from his boyhood, when he lost his sight and learned to read and write music in Braille, until the age of 40, when he had become a world renowned jazz and blues musician.

Sélavi: That is Life: A Haitian Story of Hope

by Youme Landowne

Cinco Puntos Press

ISBN: 0938317954

The story of Selavi celebrates the triumphs of children who face some of life's most difficult challenges. The story takes place in Port-Au-Prince, Haiti, a country which has a long history of resistance, struggle, and triumph.

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Sing Me a Story

by Grace Hallworth

Frances Lincoln Childrens Books

ISBN: 071121851X

In the Caribbean, stories are not just for telling and listening, they are for singing and dancing. Here are five mischievous stories to get the children on their feet. The traditional tales are woven around human characters, talking animals, and mythical creatures.

Solomon's Tree

by Spalding Andrea

Orca Book Publishers

ISBN: 9781551433800

A young boy has a maple tree that he loves. When a storm uproots the tree, the boy is very distraught. His uncle suggests that they capture the spirit of the tree by carving a wooden mask. Once the mask is complete, the boy feels the tree lives on.

Strong to the Hoop

by John Coy

Lee & Low Books

ISBN: 9781880000809

James has always settled for watching his big brother Nate play basketball. One day, a player is injured and James is asked to join the older boys' game. This is James' chance to prove himself on the main court, and he knows there is much more than "game point" riding on his last shot.

A Summer's Trade

by Deborah W. Trotter

Salina Bookshelf

ISBN: 9781893354715

Grandmother becomes ill and Tony knows he must do something to help out. But will he be able to sacrifice his own dream to help his family?

Sunpainters: Eclipse of the Navajo Sun

by Baje Whitehorne

Salina Bookshelf

ISBN: 1893354334

Join Kii as he learns about the Naa'ach'aahii, or painters, who visit during an eclipse.

Sweet Land of Liberty

by Deborah Hopkinson

Peachtree Publishers

ISBN: 9781561453955

This inspiring story of little-known civil rights champion Oscar Chapman and his role in Marian Anderson's concert at the Lincoln Memorial reminds readers that one person can truly make a difference.

Talking with Mother Earth: Poems/Hablando con Madre Tierra: Poemas

by Jorge Argueta

Groundwood Books

ISBN: 9780888996268

Tetl has learned from his grandmother about the spirituality of his ancestors, about how they viewed the earth as alive with sacred meaning. This helps him move from doubt and fear, created by the taunts of other children, to self-acceptance and a discovery of his love for nature.

The Pot that Juan Built

by Nancy Andrews Coebel

Lee & Low Books

ISBN: 1584300388

This celebratory story tells how Juan's pioneering work has transformed Mata Ortiz from an impoverished village into a prosperous community of world-renowned artists.

The Secret Footprints

by Julia Alvarez

Dragonfly Books

ISBN: 9780440417477

The Dominican legend of the ciguapas, creatures who live in underwater caves and whose feet are on backward so that humans can't follow their footprints, is reinvented by renowned author Julia Alvarez.

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The Storyteller's Candle

by Lucía González

Children's Book Press

ISBN: 0892392223

During the early days of the Great Depression, New York City's first Puerto Rican librarian, Pura Belpre, introduces the public library to immigrants living in El Barrio and hosts the neighborhood's first Three Kings' Day fiesta.

When Turtle Grew Feathers: A Tale from the Choctaw Nation

by Tim Tingle

August House

ISBN: 9780874837773

In this story from the Choctaw people, Tim Tingle shows that it is not being slow and steady that wins Turtle the big race, it is those feathers.

Wisdom Weavers

by Jann A. Johnson

Salina Bookshelf, Inc.

ISBN: 1893354822

A Navajo granddaughter learns the process of making a traditional Navajo rug from her grandmother.

Yetsa's Sweater

by Sylvia Olsen

Sono Nis Press ISBN: 9781550391558

A grandmother and her granddaughter participate in a 100-year-old tradition of making Cowichan sweaters.

Yours for Justice, Ida B. Wells: The Daring Life of a Crusading Journalist

by Philip Dray

Peachtree Publishers

ISBN: 9781561454174

Journalist Ida B. Wells, a tireless crusader for justice and civil rights, faced her greatest challenge when she confronted the heinous practice of lynching.