

Here are the books Jack Wool presented and talked about in his service *Multicultural & Diversity Experience Through Middle and High School Literature*, on Sunday July 7, at First Parish Church of Groton.

SHOW WAY	2
FEATHERS	3
AFTER TUPAC AND D FOSTER	4
HUSH	5
ONE CRAZY SUMMER	6
HOME OF THE BRAVE	8
A LONG WALK TO WATER	9
SAME SUN HERE	12
THE SURRENDER TREE: POEMS OF CUBA'S STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM	13
ESPERANZA RISING	14
HEART OF A SAMAUAI	15
KIRA-KIRA	16
INSIDE OUT & BACK AGAIN	17
PERSEPOLIS	18
THE RABBI'S CAT	19
A BOTTLE IN THE GAZA SEA	20

Show Way

Illustrated by Hudson Talbott

This is the first time I've written a book based on some of my own family history. 'Show Ways', or quilts, once served as secret maps for freedom-seeking slaves. This is the story of seven generations of girls and women who were quilters and artists and freedom fighters.

WHERE IT TAKES PLACE:

It begins in Virginia and ends in Brooklyn.

WHERE I WROTE IT:

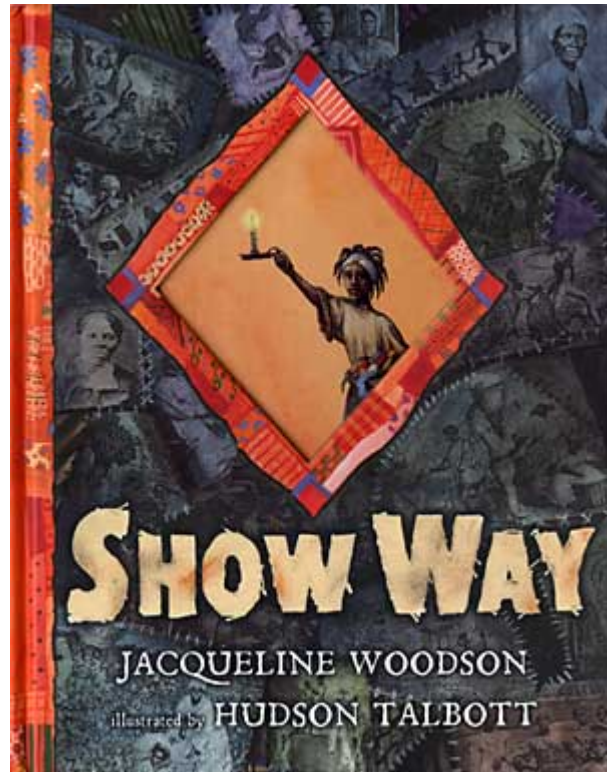
The story began in my grandmother's living room in the Bushwick section of Brooklyn. I wrote it here in Park Slope, Brooklyn mostly.

WHY I WROTE IT:

After my grandmother died and my daughter was born, I wanted to figure out a way to hold on to all the amazing history in our family. I wanted a **Show Way** for my own daughter.

AWARDS

- Newbery Honor Medal



Feathers

“Feathers” takes place in the 1970s and begins when a boy walks into the classroom who is very different from the other kids there. Or maybe he isn’t so different...

WHERE IT TAKES PLACE:

I never name the place but was imagining this point between the Brooklyn and Queens border — right near Kennedy Airport.

WHERE I WROTE IT:

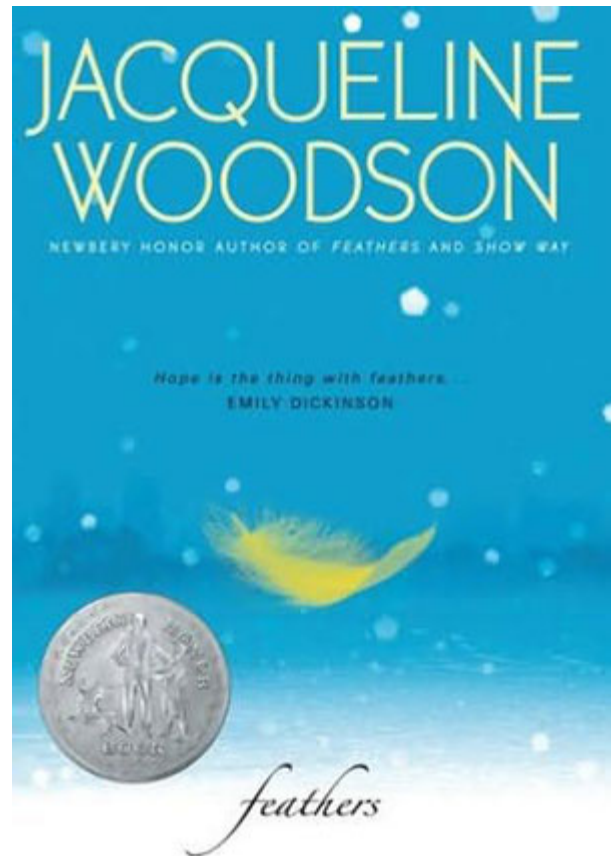
Here in Brooklyn and over the year while I was on the road.

WHY I WROTE IT:

“Feathers” is a book I wrote because I wanted to write about the many ways people find Hope in the world.

AWARDS

- Newbery Honor Medal



After Tupac and D Foster

The first time Tupac is shot, D Foster walks into the lives of Neeka and her best friend. From that point on, no one's world is ever the same. D Foster lives with her foster mom who lets her 'roam' while Neeka and the narrator aren't even allowed to leave their block. But the three soon realize they have a lot in common – including their love of Tupac – his lyrics, his life, the way he keeps on keeping on and this helps them move through the years between 11 and 13 in search of their Big Purpose even as the narrator's brother is wrongly accused of a crime and gets sent to jail and D's absent mom keeps disappointing her.

WHERE IT TAKES PLACE:

In Queens, New York.

WHERE I WROTE IT:

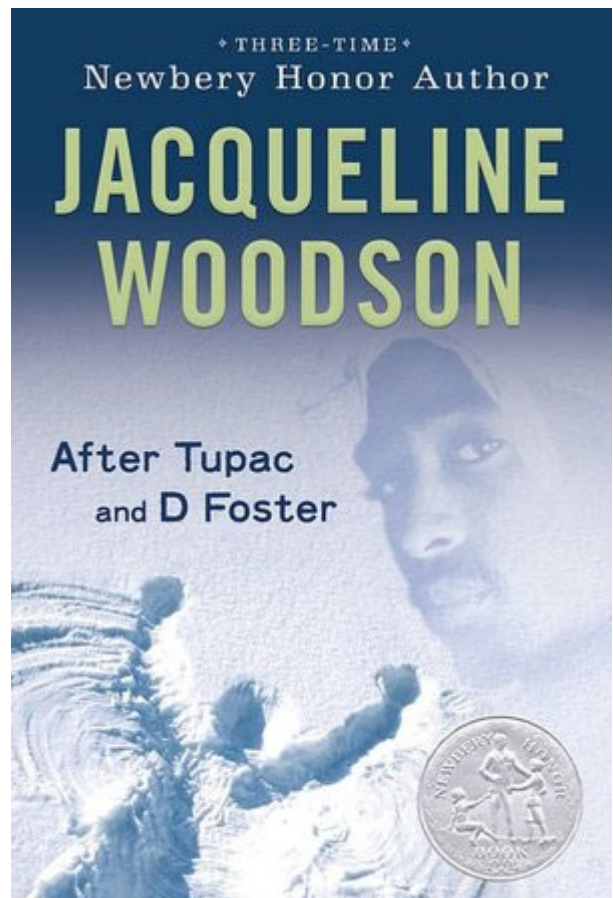
Mostly here in Brooklyn.

WHY I WROTE IT:

I think Tupac was an amazing activist and I wanted to create a story around his story. The more I wrote, the more there was to say — about Tupac and about the girls.

AWARDS

- Newbery Honor Medal
- 2009 Josette Frank Award



Hush

When she is twelve, Toswiah and her older sister Cameron have to leave the place they've always known, change their identities and leave no trace of their past life. Toswiah becomes Evie. Her sister becomes Anna. In the new city, they have to reinvent themselves and figure out how to move on when just about everything they ever loved is behind them.

WHERE IT TAKES PLACE:

Denver, Colorado and an unnamed city in the United States.

WHERE I WROTE IT:

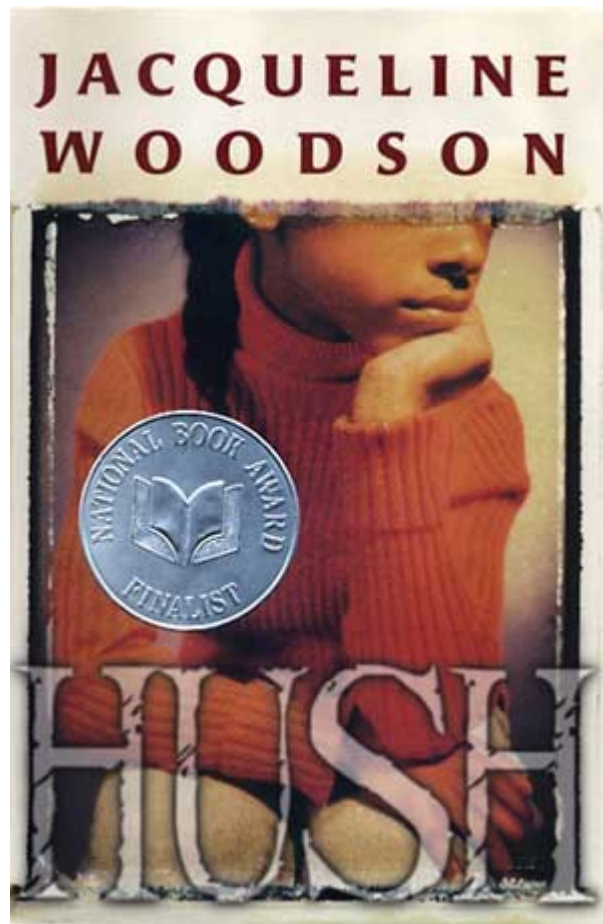
In Brooklyn and in Bennington, Vermont

WHY I WROTE IT:

I read an article about the Witness Protection Program and it fascinated me. I kept asking myself "What if...."

AWARDS

- National Book Award Finalist
- 2003 ALA Best Book for Young Adults
- School Library Journal Best Book
- 2002 Booklist Editor's Choice
- 2003 New York Public Libraries Books for the Teen Age
- Bank Street Best Children's Books of the Year ("Today" category / 12 & up)
- 2003 Riverbank Review Children's Books of Distinction Short list
- 2003-2004 Dorothy Canfield Fisher Award Master List
- 2003-2004 Maine Student Book Award Master List
- 2002 Pennsylvania School Librarians Association Young Adult Top 40 Nominees
- 2004-2005 Maud Hart Lovelace Book Award Nominee (Grades 6-8) (children's choice award for Minnesota)
- 2005 Garden State Teen Book Award Nominee (NJ)



in

One Crazy Summer

One Crazy Summer has been named:

2011 Coretta Scott King Award Winner

2011 Newbery Honor Book

2011 Scott O'Dell Prize for Historical Fiction

2010 National Book Award Finalist

Junior Library Guild Selection

Texas Library Association Best Book for 2010

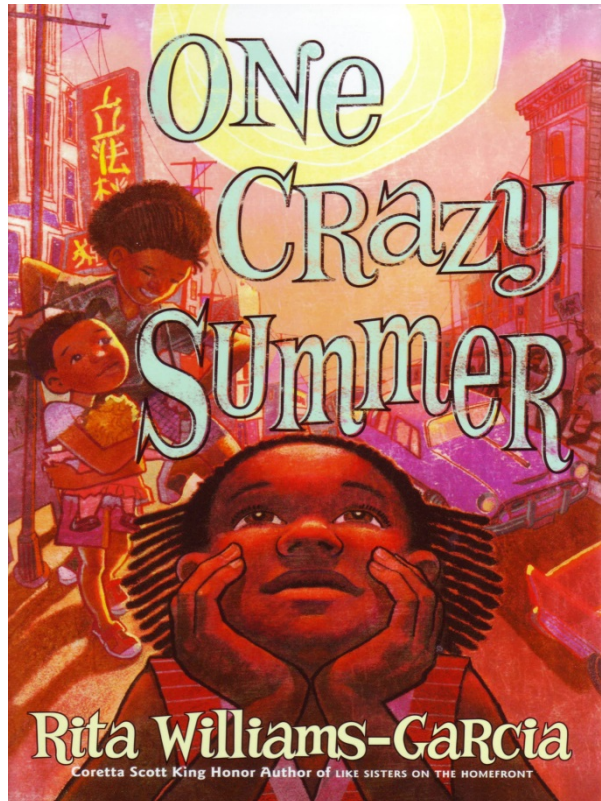
Available at ChildrensBookstore.com

Listen to a reading of One Crazy Summer at TeachingBooks.net

Five Questions for Rita at [the Horn Book](http://theHornBook)

Learn more about the cover art for [One Crazy](#)

New York Times Editor's Choice



[Summer](#)

- Spring 2010 Junior Library Guild Selection

[New York Times, Jan. 14](#)

The story is tightly centered around the three sisters. In spare, poetic prose Williams-Garcia layers nuanced descriptions and brief, evocative scenes to create three utterly distinctive characters — Fern, the youngest, looking out a bus window and singing to herself; the usually brazen Vonetta freezing up with stage fright at a rally; and the stoic Delphine remembering her mother before she left them. "Papa didn't keep any pictures of Cecile, but I had a sense of her. Fuzzy flashes of her always came and went."

[Washington Post, February 3](#)

Author Rita Williams-Garcia has a fine ear for the squabbles and fierce loyalties of siblings and a keen eye for kid-centered period details, including collect phone calls, go-go boots and the TV dolphin Flipper. With authenticity and humor, she portrays the ever-shifting dynamics among ultra-responsible Delphine, show-off Vonetta and stubborn Fern.

[Booklist \(starred review\), February 1](#)

Set during a pivotal moment in African American history, this vibrant novel shows the subtle ways that political movements affect personal lives; but just as memorable is the finely drawn, universal story of children reclaiming a reluctant parent's love.

[School Library Journal, February 2](#)

And, I'm sorry. You can make amazing, believable characters all day if you want to, but there's more to writing than just that. This writer doesn't just conjure up people. She has a way with a turn of a phrase. Three Black Panthers talking with Cecile are, "Telling it like it is, like talking was their weapon." Later Cecile tells her eldest daughter, "It wouldn't kill you to be selfish, Delphine." This book is a pleasure to cast your eyes over.

Kirkus Starred Review, Jan. 15

Each girl has a distinct response to her motherless state, and Williams-Garcia provides details that make each characterization crystal clear. The depiction of the time is well done, and while the girls are caught up in the difficulties of adults, their resilience is celebrated and energetically told with writing that snaps off the page.

[Bookpage, February](#)

The scenes depicting the girls at airports are just a few of the many moments in *One Crazy Summer* wherein the author's gift for combining everyday settings with social commentary and wry wit make for memorable, but not heavy-handed, reading. Delphine rolls her eyes (and bites her tongue) when she and her sisters are stared at as if "on display at the Bronx Zoo," and the girls engage in what Williams-Garcia calls "colored counting." It's an activity she and her siblings "did everywhere. It was a time when, in public places, you might not see a lot of African-American people. We'd count how many of us were there, how many words we got to say on TV."

[Book Illuminations](#)

In *ONE CRAZY SUMMER*, readers see the historical changes through the eyes of Delphine. With humor, honesty, and innocence, Delphine comments on the events unfolding before her in the way only a child can. Delphine is quite conscious of the differences between blacks and whites in society, yet she is also a girl who responds from her heart rather than from slogans or mandates from others. Delphine is intelligent, taking the initiative to educate herself and to protect her sisters, yet she is still a little girl who longs for a mother to protect her. In *ONE CRAZY SUMMER*, Delphine embarks on a journey that will change her forever, not only in the societal changes she witnesses but also a journey that will bring her closer to understanding her mother and herself.

Home of the Brave

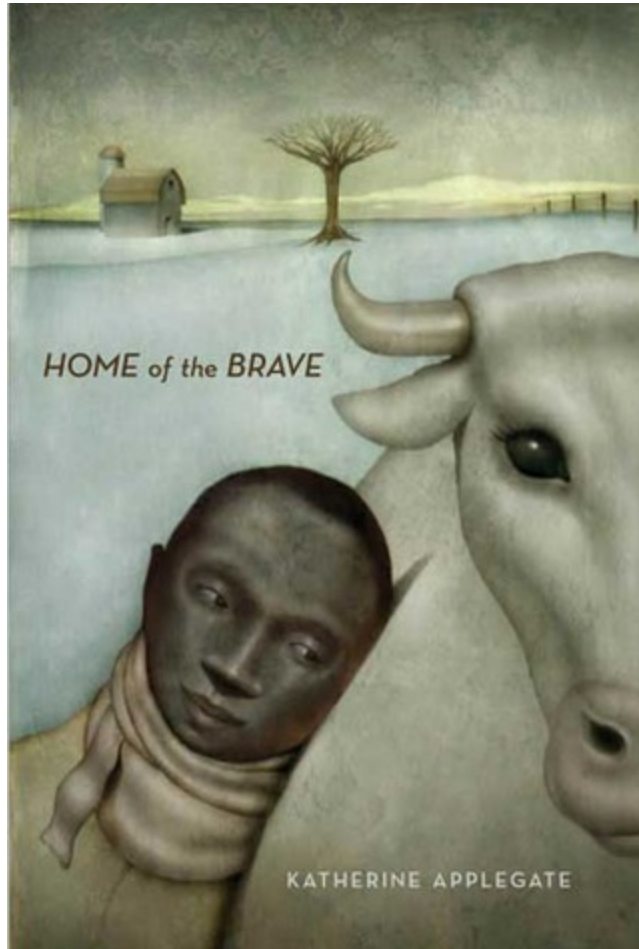
Home of the Brave By [Katherine Applegate](#)

Home of the Brave

Kek comes from Africa. In America he sees snow for the first time, and feels its sting. He's never walked on ice, and he falls. He wonders if the people in this new place will be like the winter – and unkind.

In Africa, Kek lived with his mother, father, and brother. But only he and his mother have survived, and now she's missing. Kek is on his own. Slowly, he makes friends: a girl who is in foster care; an old woman who owns a rundown farm, and a cow whose name means "family" in Kek's native language. As Kek awaits word of his mother's fate, he weathers the tough Minnesota winter by finding warmth in his new friendships, strength in his memories, and belief in his new country. Bestselling author Katherine Applegate presents a beautifully wrought novel about an immigrant's journey from hardship to hope.

Home of the Brave is a 2008 Bank Street - Best Children's Book of the Year.



snow
cold
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a

A Long Walk to Water

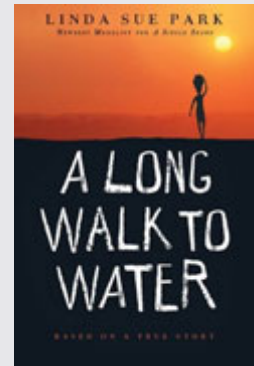
A Long Walk to Water: based on a true story

Linda Sue Park

Clarion Books, November 15, 2010

A Long Walk to Water is based on the true story of Salva, one of some 3,800 Sudanese "Lost Boys" airlifted to the United States beginning in the mid 1990s.

Before leaving Africa, Salva's life is one of harrowing tragedy. Separated from his family by war and forced to travel on foot through hundreds of miles of hostile territory, he survives starvation, animal attacks, and disease, and ultimately leads a group of about 150 boys to safety in Kenya. Relocated to upstate New York, Salva resourcefully learns English and continues on to college. Eventually he returns to his home region in southern Sudan to establish a foundation that installs deep-water wells in remote villages in dire need of clean water. This poignant story of Salva's life is told side-by-side with the story of Nya, a young girl who lives today in one of those villages.



Hardcover
978-0547251271

Paperback
978-0547577319

Kindle Edition
ASIN B004GB1T8G

★ "There have been several books about the lost boys of Sudan for adults, teens, and even for elementary-school readers. But Newbery Award-winning Park's spare, immediate account, based on a true story, adds a stirring contemporary dimension ... Teachers may want to point out the allusion to Nelson Mandela's *A Long Walk to Freedom* (1995) echoed in this moving book's title." —*Booklist*, starred review, Hazel Rochman

★ "... [Park's] spare, hard-hitting novel delivers a memorable portrait of two children in Sudan--one an 11-year-old Lost Boy, Salva, who fled in 1985 and later immigrated to the United States, and 11-year-old Nya, who collects water for her village in 2008. ... well-chosen details and a highly atmospheric setting ... The eventual connection of Salva and Nya's stories offers the promise of redemption and healing." —*Publishers Weekly*, starred review

★ "... Both story lines are spare, offering only pertinent details. ... This minimalism streamlines the plot, providing a clarity that could have easily become mired in depressing particulars. The two narratives intersect in a quiet conclusion that is filled with hope." —*School Library Journal*, starred review, Naphtali L. Faris, Saint Louis Public Library, MO

Water for South Sudan, Inc., based in Rochester, New York, USA, is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) corporation founded in 2003. We operate successfully with a small paid staff, a network of committed volunteers, supported by civic, educational, and faith-based groups and individual donors as well as grants from foundations.

Our mission is simple: drill borehole wells which bring safe drinking water to the people in South Sudan's remote villages, transforming lives in the process. This mission is inspired and led by our founder, former "Lost Boy" [Salva Dut](#).

As of May 2013, Water for South Sudan has successfully drilled 177 borehole wells, bringing clean, safe water to tens of thousands of people in South Sudan.

South Sudan is the world's newest country, achieving its independence from the Republic of Sudan on July 9, 2011. It is one of the world's poorest countries, and is about the size of Texas in the US. Sudan's war-torn Darfur region is hundreds of miles north and west of [where Water for South Sudan currently operates](#).

The people in our operating area are often underserved by the larger international humanitarian and government-sponsored relief organizations.

Our Guiding Principles

Water for South Sudan Inc., follows this basic principle: the ethical and moral way to create lasting change is to respect and empower people's capacity to transform their own lives.

We are committed to [creating hope](#) and [building initiative](#) alongside the people we serve.

The local knowledge, contacts and on-the-ground inspirational leadership of our founder Salva Dut and our drilling team managers is a unique operating advantage in the always-challenging environment of South Sudan.

In addition to bringing life-sustaining water to remote villages, our drilling operations provide opportunities for South Sudanese and other Africans to learn and use new technical, communications and leadership skills.

Water for South Sudan is authorized and registered by:

- [The US Treasury Department to conduct humanitarian activities in Sudan](#)
- [The Government of Southern Sudan \(GOSS\)'s Relief and Rehabilitation Commission](#)
- [The GOSS Ministry of Legal Affairs and Constitutional Development](#)

Linda Sue Park: Recognition for A Long Walk to Water

2011 Jane Addams Children's Book Award (NY)
2012 Black-Eyed Susan Award Nominee (MA)
2012 Flicker Tale Children's Book Award (ND)
2012 Great Lakes Book Award Nominee (MI)
2012 Kentucky Blue Grass Award Nominee
2012 Maine Student Book Award Nominee
2013 Golden Sower Award Nominee (NE)
2013 South Carolina Association of School Librarians Award Nominee
2013 Young Hoosier Book Award Nominee (IN)

Same Sun Here

By [Silas House](#), [Neela Vaswani](#)

In this extraordinary novel in two voices, an Indian immigrant girl in New York City and a Kentucky coal miner's son find strength and perspective by sharing their true selves across the miles.

Meena and River have a lot in common: fathers forced to work away from home to make ends meet, grandmothers who mean the world to them, and faithful dogs. But Meena is an Indian immigrant girl living in New York City's Chinatown, while River is a Kentucky coal miner's son. As Meena's family studies for citizenship exams and River's town faces devastating mountaintop removal, this unlikely pair become pen pals, sharing thoughts and, as their camaraderie deepens, discovering common ground in their disparate experiences. With honesty and humor, Meena and River bridge the miles between them, creating a friendship that inspires bravery and defeats cultural misconceptions. Narrated in two voices, each voice distinctly articulated by a separate gifted author, this chronicle of two lives powerfully conveys the great value of being and having a friend and the joys of opening our lives to others who live beneath the same sun.



The Surrender Tree: Poems of Cuba's Struggle for Freedom

By [Margarita Engle](#)

It is 1896. Cuba has fought three wars for independence and still is not free. People have been rounded up in reconcentration camps with too little food and too much illness. Rosa is a nurse, but she dares not go to the camps. So she turns hidden caves into hospitals for those who know how to find her.

Black, white, Cuban, Spanish—Rosa does her best for everyone. Yet who can heal a country so torn apart by war? Acclaimed poet Margarita Engle has created another breathtaking portrait of Cuba.

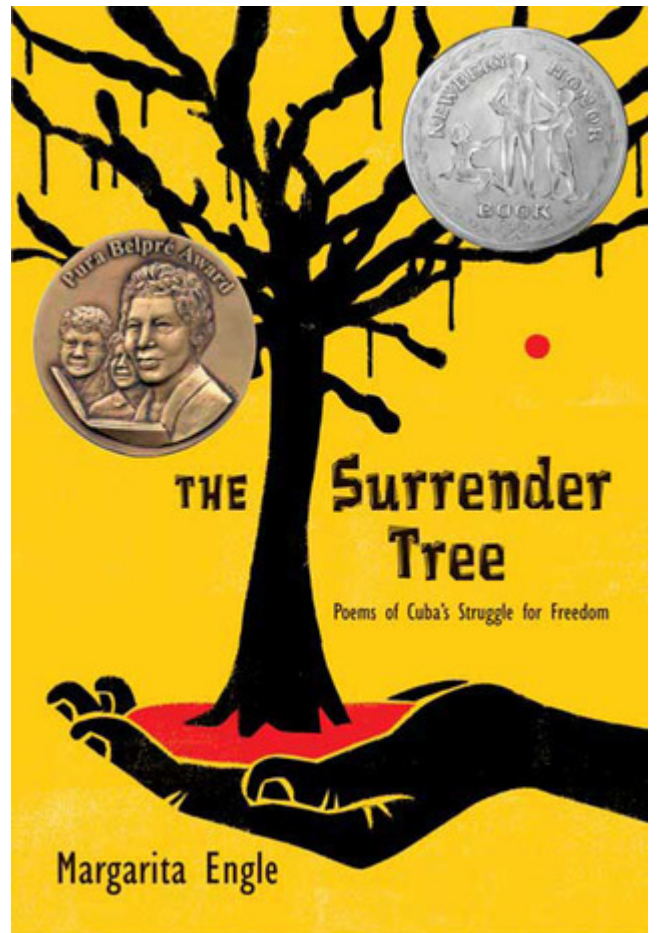
The Surrender Tree is a 2009 Newbery Honor Book, the winner of the 2009 Pura Belpre Medal for Narrative and the 2009 Bank Street - Claudia Lewis Award, and a 2009 Bank Street - Best Children's Book of the Year.

Margarita Engle is a Cuban-American poet, novelist, and journalist whose work has been published in many countries. She lives with her husband in northern California.

Writing a historical novel in verse feels like time travel, a dreamlike blend of imagination and reality. It is an exploration. It is also a chance to communicate with the future, through young readers.

I love to write about young people who made hopeful choices in situations that seemed hopeless. My own hope is that tales of courage and compassion will ring true for youthful readers as they make their own difficult decisions in modern times.

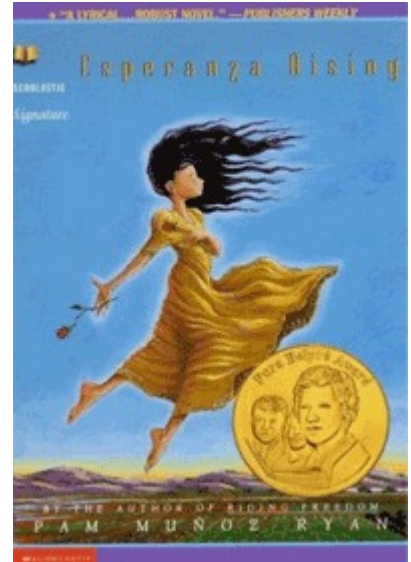
My connection to the history of Cuba is personal. My American father traveled to the island after seeing National Geographic pictures of my Cuban mother's hometown, Trinidad. Even though they did not speak the same language, they fell in love and got married. I was born and raised in my father's hometown of Los Angeles, California, but we spent summers in Cuba, where I developed a deep bond with my extended family. I also developed a lifelong passion for tropical nature, which led me to study agronomy and botany, along with creative writing.



Esperanza Rising

Esperanza Rising By [Pam Muñoz Ryan](#)

When Esperanza and Mama are forced to flee to the bountiful region of Aguascalientes, Mexico, to a Mexican farm labor camp in California, they must adjust to a life without fancy dresses and servants they were accustomed to on Rancho de las Rosas. Now they must confront the challenges of hard work, acceptance by their own people, and economic difficulties brought on by the Great Depression. When Mama falls ill and a strike for better working conditions threatens to uproot their new life, Esperanza must relinquish her hold on the past learn to embrace a future ripe with the riches of family and community.



Heart of a Samurai

Heart of a Samurai By [Margi Preus](#)

A 2011 Newbery Honor Book

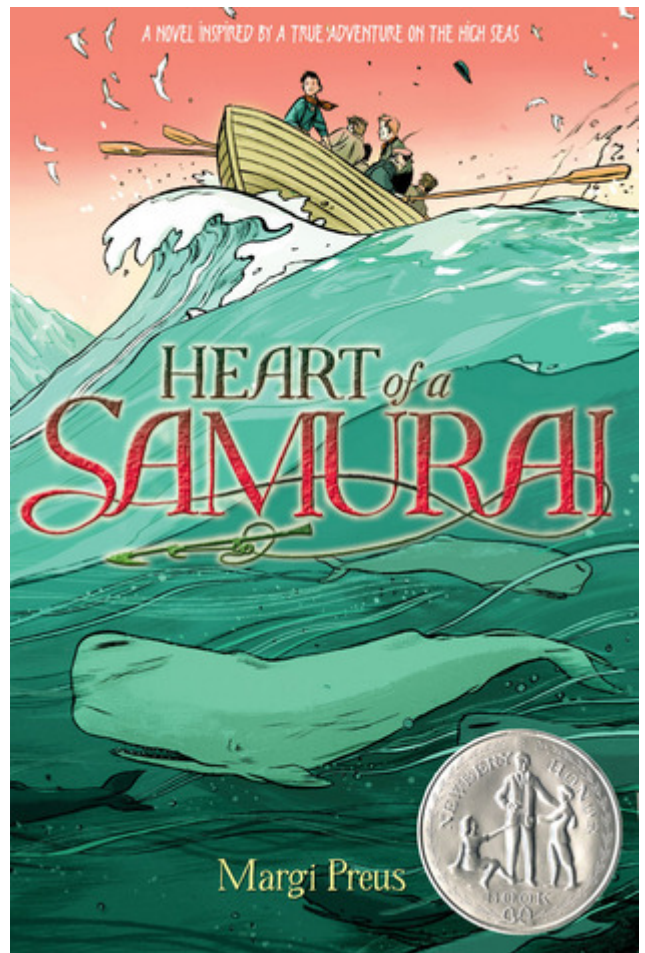
Based on the true story of Manjiro Nakahama

In 1841, a Japanese fishing vessel sinks. Its crew is forced to swim to a small, unknown island, where they are rescued by a passing American ship. Japan's borders remain closed to all Western nations, so the crew sets off to America, learning English on the way.

Manjiro, a fourteen-year-old boy, is curious and eager to learn everything he can about this new culture. Eventually the captain adopts Manjiro and takes him to his home in New England. The boy lives for some time in New England, and then heads to San Francisco to pan for gold. After many years, he makes it back to Japan, only to be imprisoned as an outsider. With his hard-won knowledge of the West, Manjiro is in a unique position to persuade the shogun to ease open the boundaries around Japan; he may even achieve his unlikely dream of becoming a samurai.

Featured on NPR's Backseat Bookclub

<http://www.npr.org/2012/05/31/153918185/meet-manjiro-japans-unlikely-teen-ambassador>



Kira-Kira

Kira-Kira by [Cynthia Kadohata](#)

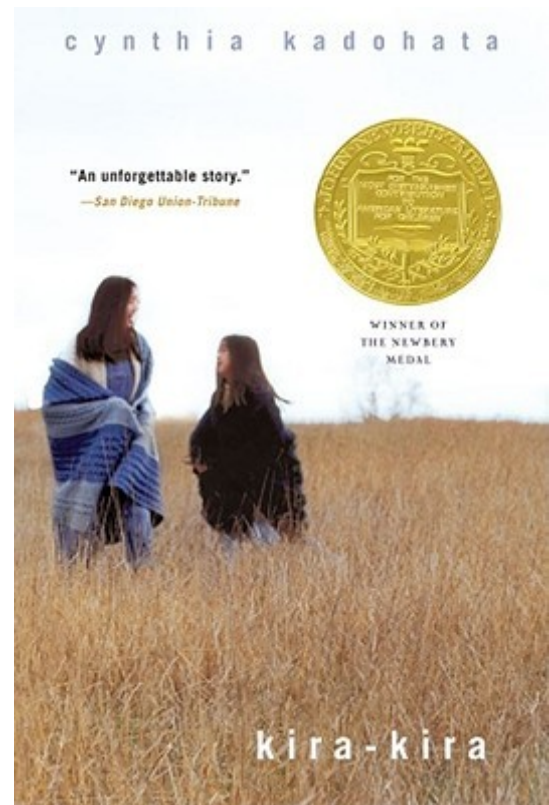
kira-kira (kee ra kee ra): glittering; shining Glittering. That's how Katie Takeshima's sister, Lynn, makes everything seem. The sky is *kira-kira* because its color is deep but see-through at the same time. The sea is *kira-kira* for the same reason. And so are people's eyes. When Katie and her family move from a Japanese community in Iowa to the Deep South of Georgia, it's Lynn who explains to her why people stop on the street to stare. And it's Lynn who, with her special way of viewing the world, teaches Katie to look beyond tomorrow. But when Lynn becomes desperately ill, and the whole family begins to fall apart, it is up to Katie to find a way to remind them all that there is always something glittering -- *kira-kira* -- in the future.

Cynthia Kadohata is a Japanese American writer known for writing coming of age stories about Asian American women.

She spent her early childhood in the South; both her first adult novel and first children's novel take place in Southern states.

Her first adult novel was a New York Times Notable Book of the Year.

Her first children's book, *Kira-Kira*, won the 2005 Newbery Medal. Her first published short story appeared in *The New Yorker* in 1986.



Inside Out & Back Again

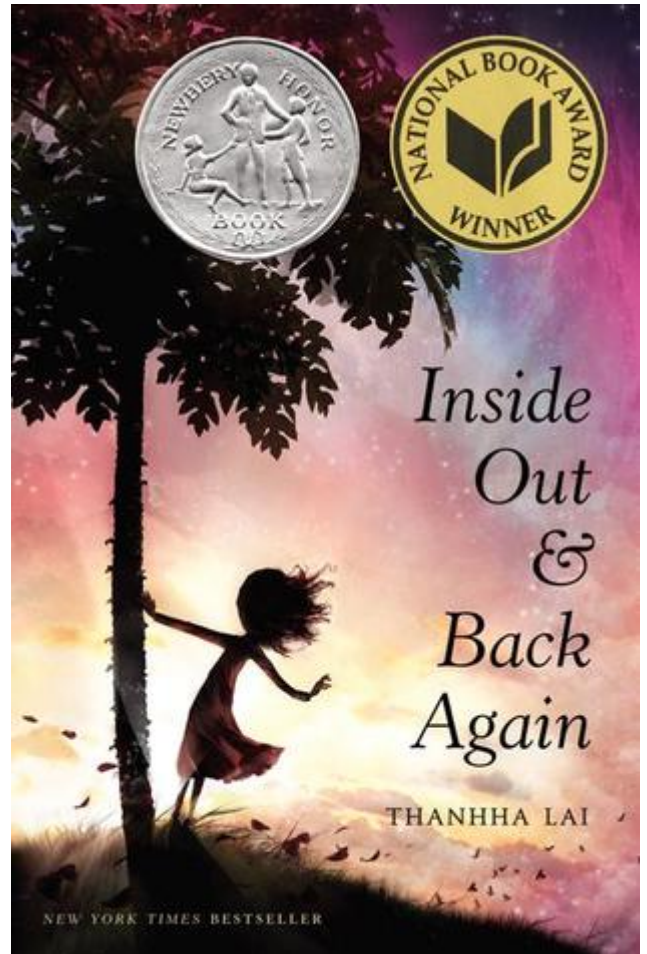
Inside Out & Back Again By [Thanhha Lai](#)

No one would believe me but at times I would choose wartime in Saigon over peacetime in Alabama. For all the ten years of her life, Hà has only known Saigon: the thrills of its markets, the joy of its traditions, the warmth of her friends close by . . . and the beauty of her very own papaya tree.

But now the Vietnam War has reached her home. Hà and her family are forced to flee as Saigon falls, and they board a ship headed toward hope. In America, Hà discovers the foreign world of Alabama: the coldness of its strangers, the dullness of its food, the strange shape of its landscape . . . and the strength of her very own family.

This is the moving story of one girl's year of change, dreams, grief, and healing as she journeys from one country to another, one life to the next.

Thanhha Lai was born in Vietnam. At the end of the war, she fled with her family to Alabama. There, she learned English from fourth graders. She then spent the next decade correcting her grammar. Starting her writing life as journalist, she worked at The Orange County Register. She switched to fiction, leading to an MFA from New York University and short story publications in various journals and anthologies. Lai lives with her husband, daughter and a little white dog in New York City.



Persepolis

Persepolis

By [Marjane Satrapi](#)

Here, in one volume: Marjane Satrapi's best-selling, internationally acclaimed memoir-in-comic-strips.

Persepolis is the story of Satrapi's unforgettable childhood and coming of age within a large and loving family in Tehran during the Islamic Revolution; of the contradictions between private life and public life in a country plagued by political upheaval; of her high school years in Vienna facing the trials of adolescence far from her family; of her homecoming--both sweet and terrible; and, finally, of her self-imposed exile from her beloved homeland. It is the chronicle of a girlhood and adolescence at once outrageous and familiar, a young life entwined with the history of her country yet filled with the universal trials and joys of growing up.

Edgy, searingly observant, and candid, often heartbreaking but threaded throughout with raw humor and hard-earned wisdom--*Persepolis* is a stunning work from one of the most highly regarded, singularly talented graphic artists at work today.

Persepolis is a French-language autobiographical graphic novel by Marjane Satrapi depicting her childhood up to her early adult years in Iran during and after the Islamic revolution. The title is a reference to the ancient capital of the Persian Empire, Persepolis. *Newsweek* ranked the book #5 on its list of the ten best fiction books of the decade.^[1]

Drawn in black and white, the comic found great popularity following its release, and was translated into several languages. The English edition combines the first two French books and was translated by Blake Ferris and Satrapi's husband, Mattias Ripa. The French editions of *Persepolis 1* and *Persepolis 2* were combined into a single volume, *Persepolis 1*, for the United States market, and "Persepolis 3" and "Persepolis 4" were combined into a single volume, "Persepolis 2". In the U.S., the *Persepolis* series is published by Pantheon Books.

In 2007, an animated film adaptation of the comic was created, with author Satrapi co-directing with French comic artist Vincent Paronnaud. The film utilized the same style of the comic, although there are a handful of scenes in the present day that are shown in color, while the rest of the flashback events are illustrated in black and white, as in the novel. The film opened in various countries to critical acclaim and received an Oscar nomination for Best Animated Feature at the United States Academy Awards.



The Rabbi's Cat

The Rabbi's Cat (Le Chat du Rabbïn)

By [Joann Sfar](#), [Alexis Siegel](#) (Translator), [Anjali Singh](#) (Translator)

The preeminent work by one of France's most celebrated young comic artists, *The Rabbi's Cat* tells the wholly unique story of a rabbi, his daughter, and their talking cat — a philosopher brimming with scathing humor and surprising tenderness.

In Algeria in the 1930s, a cat belonging to a widowed rabbi and his beautiful daughter, Zlabya, eats the family parrot and gains the ability to speak. To his master's consternation, the cat immediately begins to tell lies (the first being that he didn't eat the parrot). The rabbi vows to educate him in the ways of the Torah, while the cat insists on studying the kabbalah and having a Bar Mitzvah. They consult the rabbi's rabbi, who maintains that a cat can't be Jewish — but the cat, as always, knows better.

Zlabya falls in love with a dashing young rabbi from Paris, and soon master and cat, having overcome their shared self-pity and jealousy, are accompanying the newlyweds to France to meet Zlabya's cosmopolitan in-laws. Full of drama and adventure, their trip invites countless opportunities for the rabbi and his cat to grapple with all the important — and trivial — details of life.

Rich with the colors, textures, and flavors of Algeria's Jewish community, *The Rabbi's Cat* brings a lost world vibrantly to life — a time and place where Jews and Arabs coexisted — and peoples it with endearing and thoroughly human characters, and one truly unforgettable cat.

About the author

Joann Sfar (born August 28, 1971 in Nice) is a French comics artist, comic book creator, and film director.

Sfar is considered one of the most important artists of the new wave of Franco-Belgian comics. Many of his comics were published by L'Association which was founded in 1990 by Jean-Christophe Menu and six other artists. He also worked together with many of the new movement's main artists, e.g. David B. and Lewis Trondheim. The Donjon series which he created with Trondheim has a cult following in many countries.

Some of his comics are inspired by his Jewish heritage as the son of Jewish parents (an Ashkenazi mother and a Sephardic father). He himself says that there is Ashkenazi humor in his Professeur Bell series (loosely based on Joseph Bell), whereas *Le chat du rabbin* is clearly inspired by his Sephardic side. *Les olives noires* is a series about a Jewish child in Israel at the time of Jesus. Like *Le chat du rabbin*, the series contains a lot of historical and theological information.



A Bottle in the Gaza Sea

A Bottle in the Gaza Sea

By [Valérie Zenatti](#)

I'm full of fear and full of hope writing to you like this. I've never written to someone I didn't know. It feels strange. I don't know if what I'm doing is good or bad, crazy or just eccentric, useful or pointless.

When Israeli teenager Tal Levine decides to throw a bottle with a letter into the Gaza Sea, she has little idea what to expect. Against all odds, Tal longs to strike up a correspondence with someone on the other side -- to forge something positive out of the turbulent and troubled times in which Israelis and Palestinians live. But what kind of response might a Palestinian give to an Israeli girl? Tal is not expecting "Gazaman," the boy who retrieves her bottle on a Gaza beach: Gazaman, a thorny, sarcastic young man with a reluctance to reveal anything about his true identity; Gazaman, who at first mocks Tal, only to be gradually drawn in by her. A remarkable e-mail exchange begins, which shakes the beliefs of both to the core and confounds all their expectations.

