

When Home Won't Let You Stay

Migration through Contemporary Art

Literature About Migration

Children's Books

Books for Children Ages 3–9 Years

- Jon Agee, *The Wall in the Middle of the Book* (New York: Dial Books, 2018).

From the publisher:

There's a wall in the middle of the book, and our hero—a young knight—is sure that the wall protects his side of the book from the dangers of the other side—like an angry tiger and giant rhino, and worst of all, an ogre who would gobble him up in a second!

Age level: 4-8 yrs.

- Patricia de Arias, *Marwan's Journey* (Hong Kong: Minedition, 2018).

From the publisher:

One night they came... The darkness grew colder, deeper, darker, and swallowed up everything... Marwan is a young boy on a journey he never intended to take, bound for a place he doesn't know. On his journey, he relies on courage and memories of his faraway homeland to buoy him. With him are hundreds and thousands of other human beings, crossing the deserts and the seas, fleeing war and hunger in search of safety.

Age level: 5-7 yrs.

- John Coy and Wing Y. Huie, photographer, *Their Great Gift: Courage, Sacrifice, and Hope in a New Land* (Minneapolis: Carolrhoda Books, 2016).

From the publisher:

Explores the experience of immigrants who came to America in the twenty-first century, celebrating the diversity of the country and hope for the future.

Age level: 5-9 yrs.

- Edwidge Danticat and Leslie Staub, illust., *Mama's Nightingale: A Story of Immigration and Separation* (New York: Dial Books, 2015).

From the publisher:

After Saya's mother is sent to an immigration detention center, Saya finds comfort in listening to her mother's warm greeting on their answering machine. To ease the distance between them while she's in jail, Mama begins sending Saya bedtime stories inspired by Haitian folklore on cassette tape. Moved by her mother's tales and her father's attempts to reunite their family, Saya writes a story of her own—one that just might bring her mother home for good.

Age level: 5-8 Yrs.

- Matt de la Peña and Loren Long, illus., *Love* (New York): G.P. Putnam's Sons Books for Young Readers, 2018).

From the publisher:

In this heartfelt celebration of love, Newbery Medal-winning author Matt de la Peña and bestselling illustrator Loren Long depict the many ways we experience this universal bond, which carries us from the day we are born throughout the years of our childhood and beyond. With a lyrical text that's soothing and inspiring, this tender tale is a needed comfort and a new classic that will resonate with readers of every age.

Age level: 3-5 yrs.

- Giancarlo Macrì and Carolina Zanotti with Mauro Sacco and Elisa Vallarino, illust., *The Wall: A Timeless Tale* (Mount Joy, PA: Happy Fox Books, 2019).

From the publisher:

Wonderful things can be accomplished when people come together! In this moving story, a king banishes anyone who looks different than him and builds a wall to keep them away. Soon, he sees that without people with various types of talents and expertise, his kingdom can no longer flourish.

Age level: 7-9 yrs

- Rosemary A. Carney, *Where Will I Live?* (Toronto: Second Story, 2017).

From the publisher:

This stunning photo essay takes a look at the thousands of children around the world who have been forced to flee war, terror, hunger and natural disasters, young refugees on the move with very little left except questions. It's hard to imagine, but the images here will help unaffected children understand not only what this must feel like, but also how very lucky they are.

Age level: 6-9 yrs.

- Wendy Meddour and Daniel Egnéus, illust., *Lubna and Pebble* (New York: Dial Books, 2019).

From the publisher:

In an unforgettable story that subtly addresses the refugee crisis, a young girl must decide if friendship means giving up the one item that brings her comfort during a time of utter uncertainty.

Age level: 4-8 yrs.

- Yuyi Morales, *Dreamers* (New York: Neal Porter Books/Holiday House, 2018).

From the publisher:

Dreamers is a celebration of making your home with the things you always carry: your resilience, your dreams, your hopes and history. It's the story of finding your way in a new place, of navigating an unfamiliar world and finding the best parts of it. In dark times, it's a promise that you can make better tomorrows.

Age level: 4-8 yrs.

- Anne Sibley O'Brien, *Someone New* (Watertown, MA: Charlesbridge, 2018).

From the publisher:

Are you new here? Do you know someone new? In *I'm New Here* and *Someone New*, young readers explore the immigrant experience through both "windows" and "mirrors." In *I'm New Here*, readers meet three recent immigrants trying to adjust to a new country and school. In *Someone New*, the same story is told from the perspective of the students who welcome the newcomers. An honest and heartwarming look at diversity, inclusion, and friendship.

Age level: 5-8 yrs.

- Bao Phi and Thi Bui, illust., *A Different Pond* (North Mankato, MN: Capstone Young Readers, 2017).

From the publisher:

A 2018 Caldecott Honor Book that Kirkus Reviews calls "a must-read for our times," *A Different Pond* is an unforgettable story about a simple event - a long-ago fishing trip. Graphic novelist Thi Bui and acclaimed poet Bao Phi deliver a powerful, honest glimpse into a relationship between father and son - and between cultures, old and new.

Age level: 6-8 yrs.

- Amy Krouse Rosenthal and Teagan White, illust., *That's Me Loving You* (New York: Random House, 2018).

From the publisher:

Amy Krouse Rosenthal captures parents' desire to be ever-present in this simple and touching poem offering reassurance of their love. Signs of affection can be found in the natural world around us—from a soft breeze to a shimmering star.

Age level: 3-7 yrs.

- Margriet Ruurs and Nizar A. Badr, artist, *Stepping Stones: A Refugee Family's Journey* (St. Lucia, Australia: University of Queensland Press, 2017).

From the publisher:

A girl called Rama describes how life changed as conditions got worse in her small town in Syria, and how she and her family finally escaped, undergoing many hardships along the way.

Age level: 6-8 yrs.

- Francesca Sanna, *The Journey* (London: Flying Eye Books, 2016).

From the publisher:

The author describes this beautifully illustrated picture book as “a collage of all those personal stories” that refugee children have to tell.

Age level: 5-7 yrs.

- Marsha Forchuk Skrypuch, Tuan Ho, and Brian Deines, illust., *Adrift at Sea: A Vietnamese Boy's Story of Survival* (Toronto: Pajama PR, 2020).

From the publisher:

It is 1981. In the middle of the Pacific Ocean, a fishing boat overloaded with 60 Vietnamese refugees, drifts. The motor has failed; the hull is leaking; the drinking water is nearly gone. This is the dramatic true story recounted by Tuan Ho, who was six years old when he, his mother, and two sisters dodged the bullets of Vietnam's military police for the perilous chance of boarding that boat. Told to multi-award-winning author Marsha Forchuk Skrypuch and illustrated by the celebrated Brian Deines, Tuan's story has become *Adrift At Sea*, the first picture book to describe the flight of Vietnam's Boat People refugees. Illustrated with sweeping oil paintings and complete with an expansive Author's Note, this non-fiction picture book is all the more important as the world responds to a new generation of refugees risking all on the open water for the chance at safety and a new life.

Age level: 6-9 yrs.

- Farish Terry, *Joseph's Big Ride* (Toronto: Annick, 2016).

From the publisher:

After Joseph leaves a refugee camp and comes to the United States, he sees a girl on a bicycle—a familiar symbol of home that he'd always longed for—and begins to establish a real friendship and build a new life.

Age level: 4-7 yrs.

- Duncan Tonatiuh, *Pancho Rabbit and the Coyote* (New York: Harry N. Abrams, 2016).

From the publisher:

In this allegorical picture book, a young rabbit named Pancho eagerly awaits his papa's return. Papa Rabbit traveled north two years ago to find work in the great carrot and lettuce fields to earn money for his family. When Papa does not return, Pancho sets out to find him.

Age level: 6-9 yrs.

- Rebecca Young and Matt Ottley, illust., *Teacup* (Gosford, Australia: Scholastic, 2018).

From the publisher:

A boy must leave his home and find another. He brings with him a teacup full of earth from the place where he grew up, and sets off to sea. Some days, the journey is peaceful, and the skies are cloudless and bright. Some days, storms threaten to overturn his boat. And some days, the smallest amount of hope grows into something glorious. At last, the boy finds land, but it doesn't feel complete . . . until another traveler joins him, bearing the seed to build a new home.

Age level: 4-8 yrs.

- Jacqueline Woodson and Rafael López, illust., *The Day You Begin* (New York: Nancy Paulsen Books, 2018).

From the publisher:

Jacqueline Woodson's lyrical text and Rafael López's dazzling art reminds us that we all feel like outsiders sometimes—and how brave it is that we go forth anyway. And that sometimes, when we reach out and begin to share our stories, others will be happy to meet us halfway.

Age level: 5-8 yrs.

Books for Children Ages 10–14 Years

- Marjorie Agosín, *I Lived on Butterfly Hill* (New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2014).

From the publisher:

An eleven-year-old's world is upended by political turmoil in this "lyrically ambitious tale of exile and reunification" (*Kirkus Reviews*) from an award-winning poet, based on true events in Chile.

Age level: 10-14 yrs

- Julia Alvarez, *Return to Sender* (New York: Yearling, 2010).

From the publisher:

After Tyler's father is injured in a tractor accident, his family hires migrant Mexican workers to help save their Vermont farm from foreclosure. Tyler isn't sure what to make of these workers. Are they undocumented? And what about the three daughters, particularly Mari, the oldest, who is proud of her Mexican heritage but also increasingly connected to her American life.

Age level: 8-12 yrs

- Katherine Applegate, *Home of the Brave* (New York: Feiwel & Friends, 2007).

From the publisher:

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.

Age level: 10-14 yrs.

- Julissa Arce, *Someone Like Me: How One Undocumented Girl Fought for Her American Dream* (New York: Little, Brown and Company, 2018).

From the publisher:

Born in the picturesque town of Taxco, Mexico, Julissa Arce was left behind for months at a time with her two sisters, a nanny, and her grandma while her parents worked tirelessly in America in hopes of building a home and providing a better life for their children. That is, until her parents brought Julissa to Texas to live with them. From then on, Julissa secretly lived as an undocumented immigrant, went on to become a scholarship winner and an honors college graduate, and climbed the ladder to become a vice president at Goldman Sachs.

Age level: 11-14 yrs

- Miguel Berta, Kent Diebolt, and Virginia Lorente, *Immigrant Architect: Rafael Guastavino and the American Dream* (Thomaston, ME: Tilbury House, 2020).

From the publisher:

Immigrant Architect is an introduction to architectural concepts and a timely reminder of immigrant contributions to America. The book includes four route maps for visiting Guastavino-designed spaces in New York City: uptown, midtown, downtown, and Prospect Park.

Age level: 9-12 yrs.

- Joseph Bruchac, *Two Roads* (New York: Puffin Books, 2019).

From the publisher:

A boy discovers his Native American heritage in this Depression-era tale of identity and friendship by the author of *Code Talker*.

Age level: 10-12 yrs.

- Lulu Delacre, *Us, in Progress: Short Stories about Young Latinos* (New York: HarperCollins, 2017).

From the publisher:

Acclaimed author and Pura Belpré Award honoree Lulu Delacre's beautifully illustrated collection of twelve short stories is a groundbreaking look at the diverse Latinos who live in the United States.

Age level: 8-12 yrs.

- Enrique Flores-Galbis, *90 Miles to Havana* (New York: Square Fish/Roaring Brook, 2012).

From the publisher:

This novel—based on the author's own experiences as a child fleeing Cuba—traces the journey of Julian, a boy who was swept up by Operation Pedro Pan in 1961 and taken to the United States. He winds up in a children's refugee camp in Miami, where he's separated from his brothers and subjected to brutal bullying.

Age level: 9-12 yrs.

- Diane Guerrero and Erica Moroz, *My Family Divided: One Girl's Journey of Home, Loss, and Hope* (New York: Henry Holt, 2018).

From the publisher:

Before landing a spot on the megahit Netflix show *Orange is the New Black*; before wow-ing audiences as Lina on *Jane the Virgin*; and before her incredible activism and work on immigration reform, Diane Guerrero was a young girl living in Boston. One day, while Guerrero was at school, her undocumented immigrant parents were taken from their home, detained, and deported. Guerrero's life, which had been full of the support of a loving family, was turned upside down.

Age level: 10-14 yrs.

- Judith Kerr, *When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit* (London: HarperCollins Children's Books, 2017).

From the publisher:

A nine-year-old girl and her family flee Germany and get out of the Nazis' path just in time. But they spend years as refugees in several different European countries, trying to find a safe and welcoming place to call home.

Age level: 9-12 yrs.

- Mary Beth Leatherdale, *Stormy Seas: Stories of Young Boat Refugees* (Toronto: Annick, 2017).

From the publisher:

A desperate last hope for safety and freedom. The plight of refugees risking their lives at sea has, unfortunately, made the headlines all too often in the past few years. This book presents five true stories, from 1939 to today, about young people who lived through the harrowing experience of setting sail in search of asylum: Ruth and her family board the *St. Louis* to escape Nazism; Phu sets out alone from war-torn Vietnam; José tries to reach the United States from Cuba; Najeeba flees Afghanistan and the Taliban; and after losing his family, Mohamed abandons his village on the Ivory Coast in search of a new life.

Age level: 10-12 yrs.

- Jenny Lombard, *Drita, My Homegirl*, reprint edition (New York: Puffin Books, 2008).

From the publisher:

Fourth grade in New York City is a shock to Drita, a Muslim-Albanian refugee from Kosovo, but she soon befriends Maxie—a native New Yorker with secrets of her own. Both girls learn about each other and their respective cultures over the course of their burgeoning friendship.

Age level: 8-12 yrs.

- José M. Mateo and Pedro J. Martínez, illus., *Migrant*, trans. Emmy S. Ready (New York: Abrams Books for Young Readers, 2014).

From the publisher:

On a small plot of land in Mexico, a young boy and his sister run and play in the fields while their mother and father farm. All this changes, though, when the men of the village, including the boy's father, are forced to seek work north of the border, in the United States. Left alone with no way to make a living, the boy's mother decides that the family must make the dangerous journey across the border in search of both work and the boy's father.

Age level: 8-12 yrs.

- Lai Thanhha, *Inside Out & Back Again* (Waterville, ME: Thorndike, 2018).

From the publisher:

Inspired by the author's childhood experience as a refugee—fleeing Vietnam after the fall of Saigon and immigrating to Alabama—this coming-of-age debut told in verse has been celebrated for its touching child's-eye view of family and immigration.

Age level: 8-12 yrs.

- Duncan Tonatiuh, *Undocumented: A Worker's Fight* (New York: Harry N. Abrams, 2018).

From the publisher:

Undocumented is the story of immigrant workers who have come to the United States without papers. Every day, these men and women join the work force and contribute positively to society. The story is told via the ancient Mixtec codex—accordion fold—format.

Age level: 9-14 yrs.

- Sandra Neil Wallace, Rich Wallace, and Agata Norwicka, illust., *First Generation: 36 Trailblazing Immigrants and Refugees Who Make America Great* (New York: Little, Brown, 2018).

From the publisher:

The men and women in this book represent nations from Somalia to Germany, from Syria to China, from Mexico to Sweden, and more. They are people like Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, international singing sensation Celia Cruz, star basketball player Dikembe Mutombo, world-renowned physicist Albert Einstein, and influential journalist Jorge Ramos. And they are *all* immigrants or refugees to the United States of America. Their courage, their achievements, and their determination to change the world have helped make our country a stronger place. Perhaps after reading their stories, *you* will be inspired to make the world a better place, too.

Age level: 8-12 yrs.

- Karen Lynn Williams and Khadra Mohammed, *Four Feet, Two Sandals* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Books for Young Readers, 2016).

From the publisher:

When relief workers bring used clothing to the refugee camp, everyone scrambles to grab whatever they can. Ten-year-old Lina is thrilled when she finds a sandal that fits her foot perfectly, until she sees that another girl has the matching shoe. But soon Lina and Feroza meet and decide that it is better to share the sandals than for each to wear only one.

Age level: 7-10 yrs.

- Steve Wilson, *The California Gold Rush: Chinese Laborers in America (1848-1882)* (New York: PowerKids, 2016).

From the publisher:

Relates how Chinese immigrants to the United States went on to the West with the gold rush and the need for railroad workers.

Age level: 9-12 yrs.