

**Text Set 1:
Authors' Books**

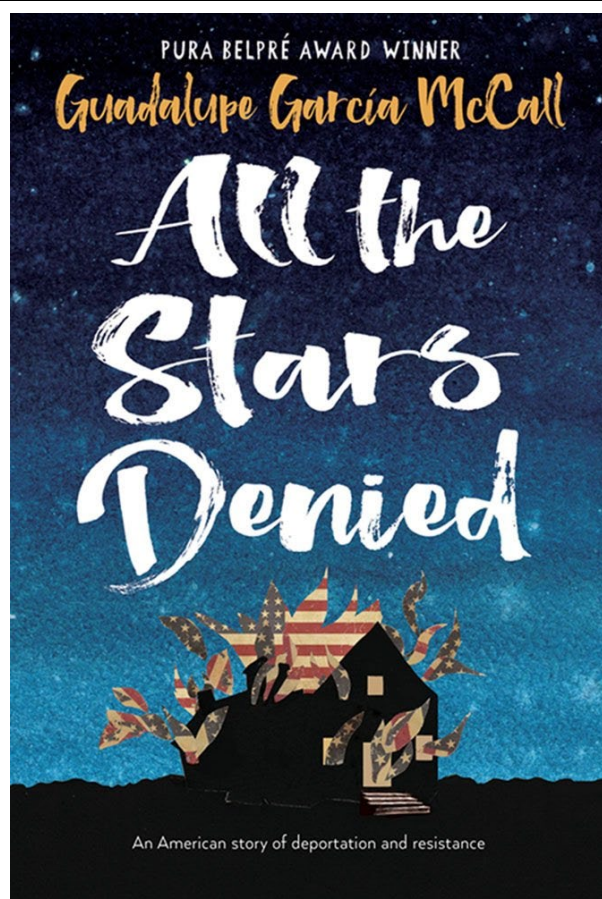
Annotated Bibliography

Overview: This text set features books by the four authors (and illustrator) from June 28th's Author Panel: Guadalupe Garcia McCall (*All the Stars Denied*), Alan Gratz (*Refugee*), Cynthia Kadohata (*Weedflower*), and S. D. Nelson (*Quiet Hero: The Ira Hayes Story*)

*Links to multimedia, online resources, and videos are located within each Authors' section below.

Guadalupe Garcia McCall	
COMING SOON	<p><i>Echoes of Grace</i> By Guadalupe Garcia McCall</p> <p>While waiting for her sister, Mercy, and taking care of her two-year-old nephew, Alexander, Grace has a strange vision, an echo, as she calls her don—the gift of second sight she inherited from her deceased mother. On the porch, a fuzzy, black caterpillar dies, withers, and decomposes in her nephew's hand. Horrified, Grace slaps the dreadful thing away. However, because she is helping her grandmother, Grace loses track of Alexander and he is run over by a car. Their new neighbor, a young man the girls haven't met yet, rushes over to help, but they are too late. Alexander passes away at the emergency room.</p> <p>This incident sets off a chain of events in which Grace flounders to restore her relationship with her sister, Mercy, while swimming against a current of strange, bewildering echoes. Flashbacks, premonitions, and visitations from the other side all weave a mysterious tapestry that weighs heavily on Grace's shoulders as she tries to navigate memories of a time three years earlier when she ran away from home and lost a week of her life. In the present—</p>

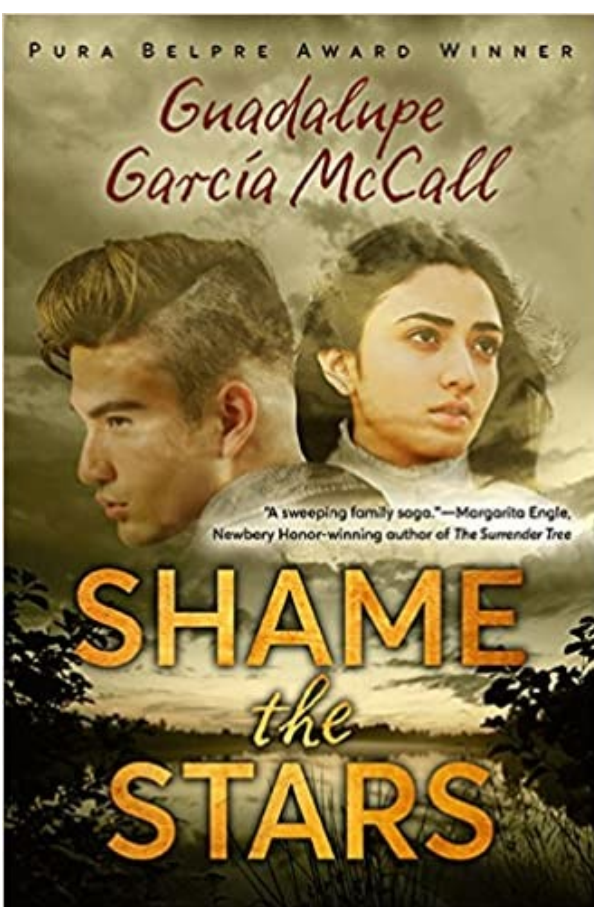
amidst the mundanities of college homework and dating—Grace tries to figure out if the things happening in her world are memories or premonitions, warnings of things yet to unfold. As she recovers time lost, Grace comes closer to reconciling with Mercy, even as she remembers, bit by bit, the horrible thing that happened to her when she spent a week with her maternal grandmother in Mexico—a grandmother she had been told was long gone. The things her regained memory reveals shed light on old family secrets.



All The Stars Denied

By Guadalupe Garcia McCall

In the heart of the Great Depression, Rancho Las Moras, like everywhere else in Texas, is gripped by the drought of the Dust Bowl, and resentment is building among white farmers against Mexican Americans. All around town, signs go up proclaiming No Dogs or Mexicans and No Mexicans Allowed. When Estrella organizes a protest against the treatment of tejanos in their town of Montesecco, Texas, her whole family becomes a target of repatriation efforts to send Mexicans back to Mexico whether they were ever Mexican citizens or not. Dumped across the border and separated from half her family, Estrella must figure out a way to survive and care for her mother and baby brother. How can she reunite with her father and grandparents and convince her country of birth that she deserves to return home? There are no easy answers in the first YA book to tackle this hidden history. In a companion novel to her critically acclaimed *Shame the Stars*, Guadalupe Garcia McCall tackles the first mass deportation event that swept up hundreds of thousands of Mexican American citizens during the Great Depression.



Shame the Stars

By Guadalupe Garcia McCall

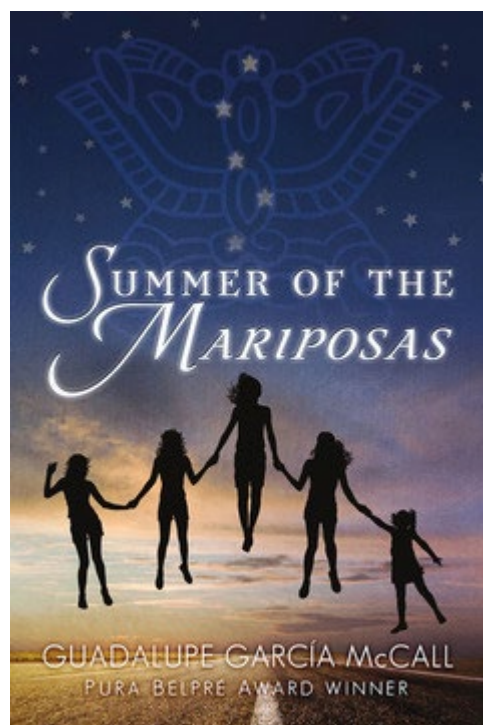
Eighteen-year-old Joaquín del Toro's future looks bright. With his older brother in the priesthood, he's set to inherit his family's Texas ranch. He's in love with Dulceña—and she's in love with him. But it's 1915, and trouble has been brewing along the US-Mexico border. On one side, the Mexican Revolution is taking hold; on the other, Texas Rangers fight Tejano insurgents, and ordinary citizens are caught in the middle.

As tensions grow, Joaquín is torn away from Dulceña, whose father's critical reporting on the Rangers in the local newspaper has driven a wedge between their families. Joaquín's own father insists that the Rangers are their friends, and refuses to take sides in the conflict. But when their family ranch becomes a target, Joaquín must decide how he will stand up for what's right.

Shame the Stars is a rich reimagining of Romeo and Juliet set in Texas during the explosive years of Mexico's revolution. Filled with period detail, captivating romance, and political intrigue, it brings Shakespeare's classic to life in an entirely new way.

Listen to McCall speak about her book here:

<https://youtu.be/Y4hHcfKjJ-8>



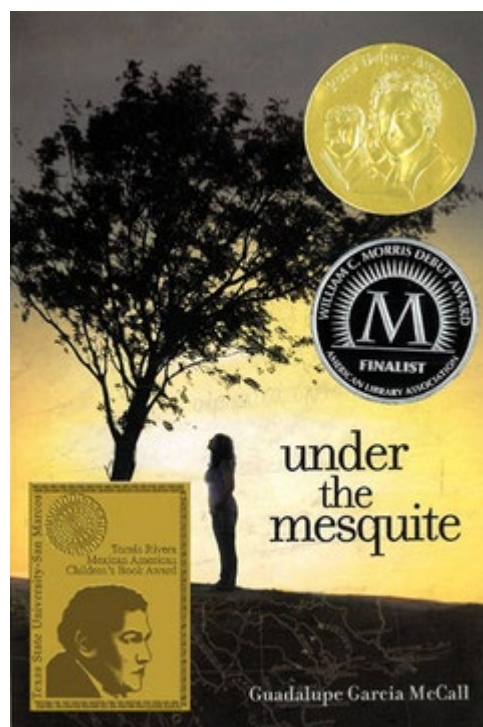
Summer of the Mariposas

By: Guadalupe Garcia McCall

When Odilia and her four sisters find a dead body in the swimming hole, they embark on a hero's journey to return the dead man to his family in Mexico. But returning home to Texas turns into an odyssey that would rival Homer's original tale.

With the supernatural aid of ghostly La Llorona via a magical earring, Odilia and her little sisters travel a road of tribulation to their long-lost grandmother's house. Along the way, they must outsmart a witch and her Evil Trinity: a wily warlock, a coven of vicious half-human barn owls, and a bloodthirsty livestock-hunting chupacabras. Can these fantastic trials prepare Odilia and her sisters for what happens when they face their final test, returning home to the real world, where goddesses and ghosts can no longer help them?

Summer of the Mariposas is not just a magical Mexican American retelling of The Odyssey, it is a celebration of sisterhood and maternal love.



Under the Mesquite

By: Guadalupe Garcia McCall

As the oldest of eight siblings, Lupita is used to taking the lead—and staying busy behind the scenes to help keep everyone together. But when she discovers Mami has been diagnosed with cancer, Lupita is terrified by the possibility of losing her mother, the anchor of her close-knit Mexican American family. Suddenly Lupita must face a whole new set of challenges, with new roles to play, and no one is handing her the script.

In the midst of juggling life as a high school student, testing her wings as an actress, and dealing with friends who don't always understand, Lupita desperately wants to support Mami in whatever way she can. While her father stays with Mami at an out-of-town clinic, Lupita takes charge of her siblings. As Lupita struggles to keep the family afloat, she escapes the chaos of home by writing in the shade of a mesquite tree. Overwhelmed by change and loss, she takes refuge in the healing power of words.

Told with honest emotion in evocative free verse, Lupita's journey is both heart-wrenching and hopeful. *Under the Mesquite* is an empowering story about the testing of family bonds, the strength of a young woman navigating pain and hardship with surprising resilience, and the kind of love that cannot be uprooted.

Chapter 1 read aloud:

<https://youtu.be/KbWxUIpm2pM>

Biography



Guadalupe Garcia McCall is the author of *Under the Mesquite* (Lee & Low Books), a novel in verse. *Under the Mesquite* received the prestigious Pura Belpré Author Award, was a William C. Morris Finalist, received the Lee Bennett Hopkins/International Literacy Promising Poet Award, the Tomas Rivera Children’s Book Award, and was included in Kirkus Review’s Best Teen Books of 2011, among many other accolades. Her second novel, *Summer of the Mariposas* (Tu Books, an imprint of Lee & Low Books), won a Westchester Young Adult Fiction award, was a finalist for the Andre Norton Award for Young Adult Science Fiction and Fantasy, was included in the 2013 Amelia Bloomer Project List, the Texas Lone Star Reading List, and the 2012 School Library Journal’s Best Books of the Year. Her third novel, *Shame the Stars* (Tu Books, 2016), was on the Kirkus Best Books 2016 list and was also selected as Texas’ Great Read in 2016. Her fourth novel, *All the Stars Denied* (Tu Books, 2018), received a starred

review from School Library Journal and was included in “2018 Best Multicultural Children’s Books” by the Center for the Study of Multicultural Children’s Literature (CSMCL). Her poems for children have appeared in *The Poetry Friday Anthology*, *The Poetry Friday Anthology for Middle School*, and *The Poetry Friday Anthology for Science*. Ms. Garcia McCall was born in Piedras Negras, Coahuila, Mexico. She immigrated with her family to the United States when she was six years old and grew up in Eagle Pass, Texas. She is currently an Assistant Professor of English at George Fox University in Newberg, Oregon.

(Biography from guadalupegarciamccall.com/biography/)

Website:

For more information on McCall and to view more of her books, visit the author’s website:

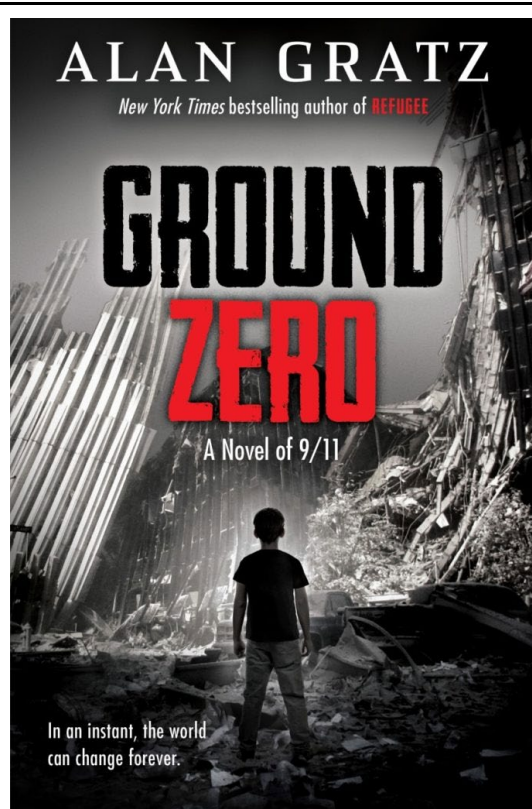
<https://guadalupegarciamccall.com/>

Additional Links:

- Listen to Garcia McCall speak about her journey in becoming an author and the importance of poetry and representation: <https://youtu.be/RiQu42Brba8>
- Listen to Garcia McCall discuss her writing process for the poem “Viridiana Sanchez Santos: Quinceañera at the Capitol (un baile de movimiento)” and the use of onomatopoeia: <https://youtu.be/kIU-2QfqPdQ>

Alan Gratz

NOVELS



Ground Zero

By: Alan Gratz

Two kids. One devastating day.

September 11, 2001. New York City. Nine year old Brandon goes to work with his dad on the 107th floor of the World Trade Center. Out of nowhere an airplane slams into the tower, creating a fiery nightmare of terror and confusion that threatens everyone in the building. Can Brandon survive—and escape?

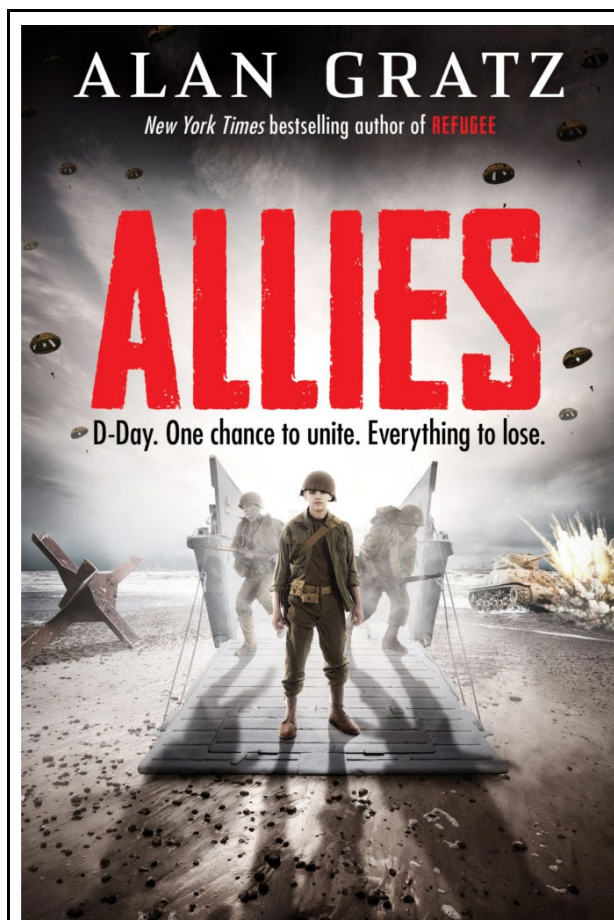
September 11, 2019. Afghanistan. Eleven year old Reshmina has grown up in the shadow of war, but she dreams of peace and progress. When a battle erupts in her village, Reshmina stumbles upon a wounded American soldier named Taz. Should she help him—and put herself and her family in mortal danger?

In time for the 20th anniversary of 9/11, Ground Zero delivers a pulse-pounding and unforgettable take on history and hope, revenge and fear—and the stunning links between the past and present.

Ages 8+

Watch the official book trailer:

<https://youtu.be/Xe3SD8XLD3I>



Allies

By: Alan Gratz

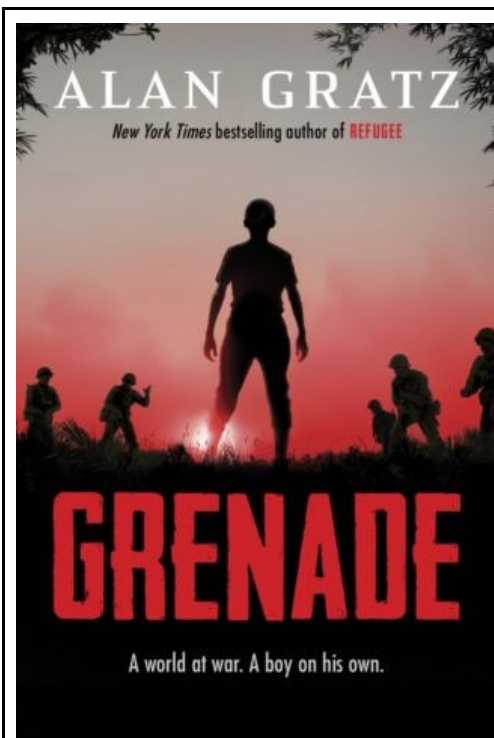
June 6, 1944. D-Day.

Nearly 160,000 troops crossed the English Channel to invade German-occupied France, most of them from the United States, the United Kingdom, and Canada. Thousands more in France fought the Nazis at home. It was a day of unprecedented unity and cooperation.

But many people played heroic roles on D-Day only to return to lives after the war filled with prejudice, segregation, and injustice. Algerian Muslim soldiers fought in the French Resistance and the Free French Army, only to have to wage a bloody war for independence after the war. Jewish soldiers fighting for the liberation of concentration camps dealt with anti-Semitism among the very men who fought alongside them. African-American soldiers fought on the beaches at D-Day but remained segregated from white soldiers throughout the war, and returned home to find German prisoners of war treated better than they were in their hometowns. Their stories and others are told in *Allies*, a novel that, like *D-Day* itself, proves we are stronger together.

Ages 8+

Listen to Gratz read the first few pages of his book *Allies*: <https://youtu.be/-POI76WFg8>



Grenade

By: Alan Gratz

The day the Americans land on Okinawa during World War II, the Japanese Army pulls Hideki Kaneshiro and all the other boys out of middle school and gives them each two grenades. One grenade, they tell Hideki, is to kill an American soldier.

The other grenade is to kill himself.

Ages 8+


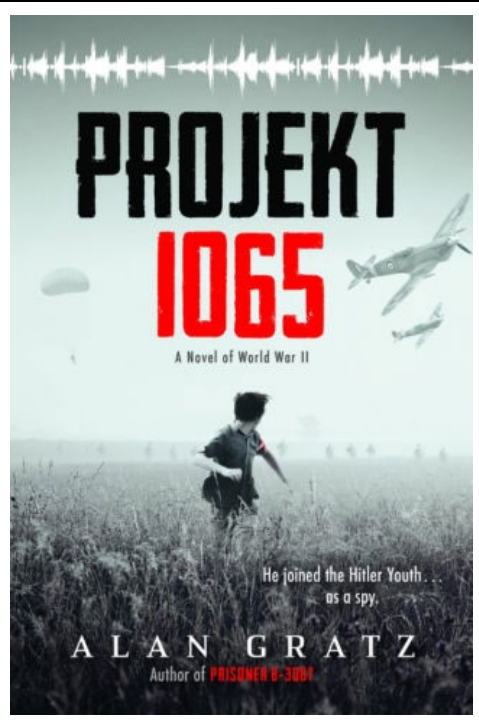


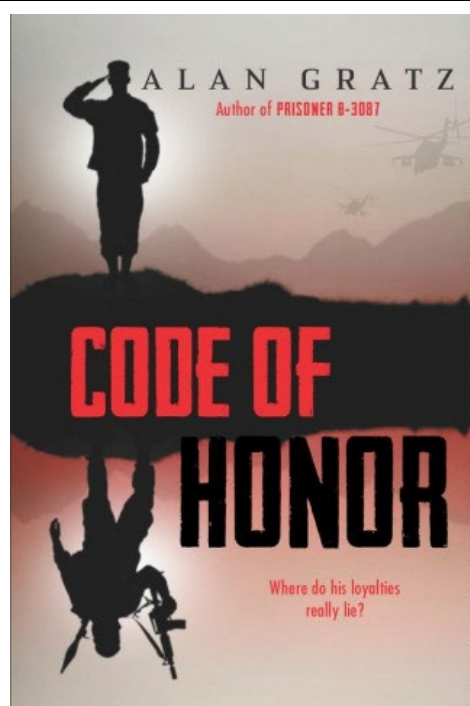
Ban This Book

By: Alan Gratz

When fourth-grader Amy Anne Ollinger's favorite book is banned from the school library, she fights back—by starting a secret banned book library out of her locker.

Ages 8+

	<p>Refugee By: Alan Gratz</p> <p>A Jewish boy flees Nazi Germany for Cuba aboard the MS St. Louis in 1939. A Cuban girl escapes Cuba on a raft bound for America in 1994. A Syrian boy travels from Syria to Germany in the present day. Three different kids, all connected by one goal: ESCAPE.</p> <p>Ages 8+</p>
	<p>Projekt 1065 By: Alan Gratz</p> <p>World War II is raging. Michael O'Shaunessey, the son of the Irish ambassador to Nazi Germany, lives in war-torn Berlin with his parents. Like the other boys at his school, Michael is a member of the Hitler Youth. But Michael has a secret: He and his parents are spies.</p> <p>Ages 8+</p>



Code of Honor

By: Alan Gratz

Kamran Smith has it all. He's the star of the football team, dates the most popular girl at school, and can't wait to go to West Point like his big brother, Darius. Although Kamran's mother is from Iran, Kamran has always felt 100% American. Accepted.

Then Kamran's older brother goes online claiming credit for a terrorist attack, and everything implodes.

Ages 12+



The League of Seven (Book One in The League of Seven)

By: Alan Gratz

Archie Dent's parents are members of the Septemberist Society, who protect humanity from giant monsters called Mangleborn.

When his parents and the other Septemberists are brainwashed by a Mangleborn, Archie must assemble a new team of seven young heroes to save the world: the League of Seven.

Ages 9+

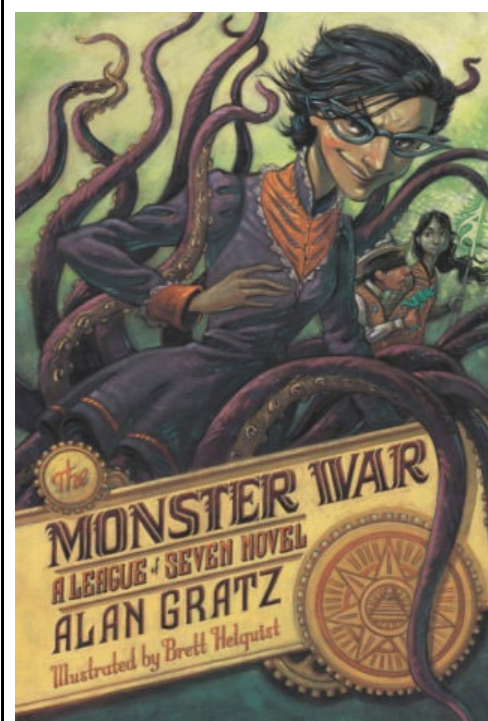


The Dragon Lantern (Book Two in The League of Seven)

By: Alan Gratz

When a new villain with amazing powers steals a powerful artifact called The Dragon Lantern, Archie, Hachi, and Fergus are forced to split up, meeting new members of the League along the way. But will the deep-rooted secrets they uncover destroy this new League before it even comes together?

Ages 9+

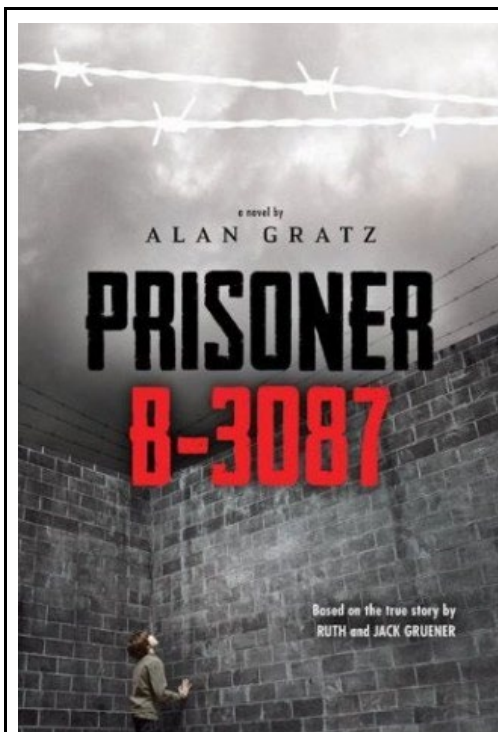


The Monster War (Book Three in The League of Seven)

By: Alan Gratz

Philomena Moffett has unleashed a 25,000-strong Monster Army on the American continent. Will Archie and his friends find the final two members of the League in time to save the world from utter destruction? Or will Moffett's madness finally destroy the League—and all of humanity—once and for all?

Ages 9+



Prisoner B-3087

By: Alan Gratz

10 different concentration camps. 10 different encounters with death. Can Yanek make it through the terror without losing his hope, his will to live, and, most of all, his identity? Based on the astonishing true story of one extraordinary boy.

Ages 10+

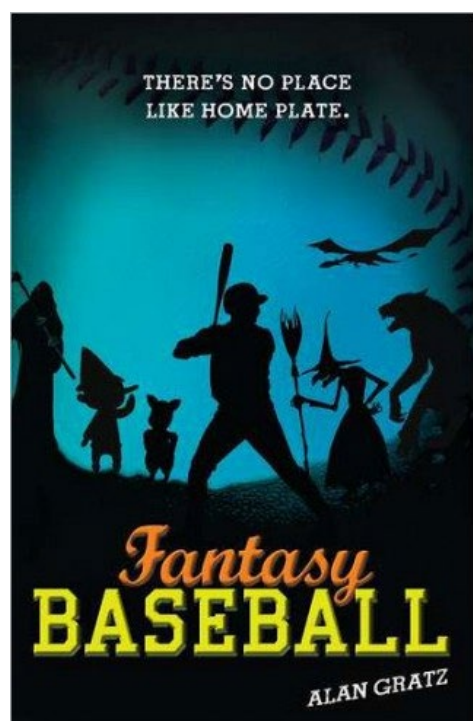


Starfleet Academy: The Assassination Game

By: Alan Gratz

When a series of terrorist attacks rock the usually placid Starfleet Academy campus, James Kirk and friends are on the case. Is it one of the visiting Varkolak, on Earth to attend an intergalactic medical conference? Or could it be a member of a super-secret society at the Academy dedicated to taking care of threats to the Federation, no matter what rules they have to break to do it?

Ages 12+

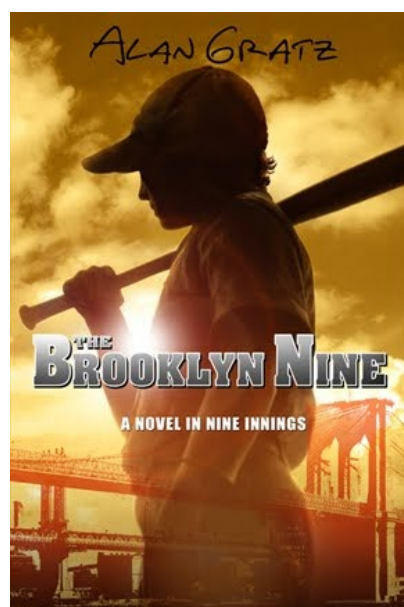


Fantasy Baseball

By: Alan Gratz

A flying monkey in the outfield. A toad at short. Dorothy from The Wizard of Oz on the mound. Alex Metcalf thinks he's dreaming, but the Oz Cyclones exist here in Ever After, where storybook characters live on as long as kids in the real world believe in them. But Alex isn't a storybook. To get home, he and the Cyclones will have to win the Ever After Baseball Tournament and earn wishes from the Wizard of Oz.

Ages 8-12



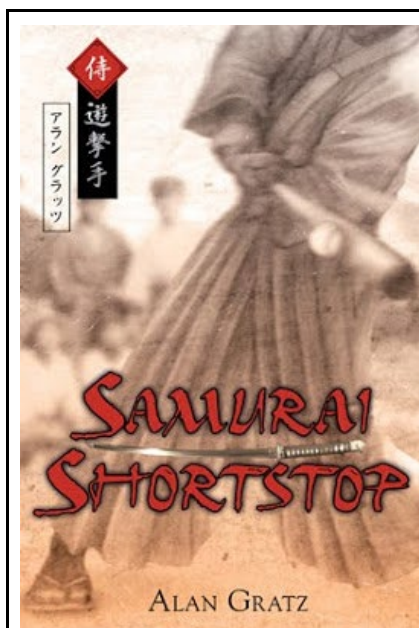
The Brooklyn Nine

By: Alan Gratz

From baseball's beginnings in old New York through the Civil War, the birth of professional baseball, the women's league of the 40s, the Cold War, and into the 2000s, The Brooklyn Nine follows nine generations of kids in one family as they experience the ups and downs of baseball and American history.

Ages 8-12

	<p><i>Something Rotten (Book One in Horatio Wilkes Mysteries)</i> By Alan Gratz</p> <p>Something is rotten in Denmark, Tennessee, and it's not just the paper plant and the polluted Copenhagen River. Hamilton Prince's father has been poisoned and the killer is still at large. If Hamilton's best friend Horatio Wilkes can just get past the smell, he might get to the bottom of all this...</p> <p>Ages 14+</p>
	<p><i>Something Wicked (Book Two in Horatio Wilkes Mysteries)</i> By Alan Gratz</p> <p>A Scottish Highland Fair turns foul when Horatio Wilkes discovers the games' founder, Duncan MacRae, dead in his tent. Now Horatio will need all his snark and smarts—and maybe a little amazing grace—to solve the mystery and thwart the fate a road-side psychic laid out for him and his friends.</p> <p>Ages 14+</p>



Samurai Shortstop

By: Alan Gratz

Tokyo, Japan. 1890. When his beloved Uncle Koji commits ritual suicide, 16-year-old Toyo Shimada must learn to blend bushido — the samurai way of the warrior — with his baseball practices to prevent his father from following in Koji's footsteps, all while navigating his first year at the punishing First Higher School of Tokyo.

Ages 12+

SHORT FICTION





Resist

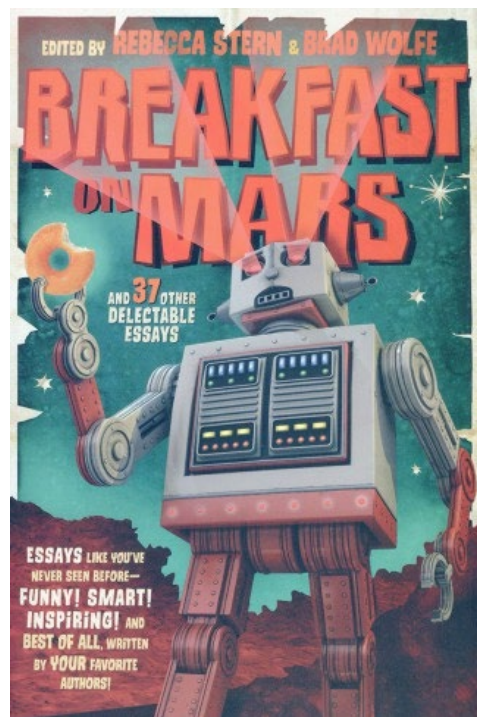
By: Alan Gratz

Appears in: Scholastic, September 1, 2020

In Alan Gratz's D-Day novel [Allies](#), Samira Zidane and her mother work for the French resistance during World War II. It's their job to tell the local Maquis hiding out in the countryside that the invasion of Normandy is imminent. But when her mother is captured by Nazis, Samira must do the job herself.

Resist picks up Samira's story where Allies left off, following Samira on her journey through the French countryside on a daring rescue mission to find her captured mother. Accompanied by a loyal dog named Cyrano, Samira has to rely on her courage and wits to avoid and outsmart the German forces. But it's D-Day, and with the Allied forces landing just miles away, fierce battles rage all around her. Can Samira find her mother in time to save her?

	<p>Resist is a companion novella to <i>Allies</i>. It can be read before or after reading <i>Allies</i>—or entirely on its own!</p> <p>Ages 8+</p>
	<p>“Hero of the Five Points” By: Alan Gratz Appears in: Tor.com, 2014</p> <p>“Hero of the Five Points” is a rollicking short adventure set in 1853 in the world of the <i>League of Seven</i> fantasy series for middle-grade readers. Grab your aether pistol and your favorite stovepipe hat and join Dalton Dent as he tracks down the foul creature known as Mose.</p>
	<p>“Join, or Die” By Alan Gratz Appears in: Tor.com, 2015</p> <p>Originally published as a limited edition chapbook, “Join, or Die” features Benjamin Franklin, his young assistant Willow Dent, and their indefatigable machine man Mr. Rivets as they battle sea serpents and fishermen in the true story of the Boston Tea Party.</p>

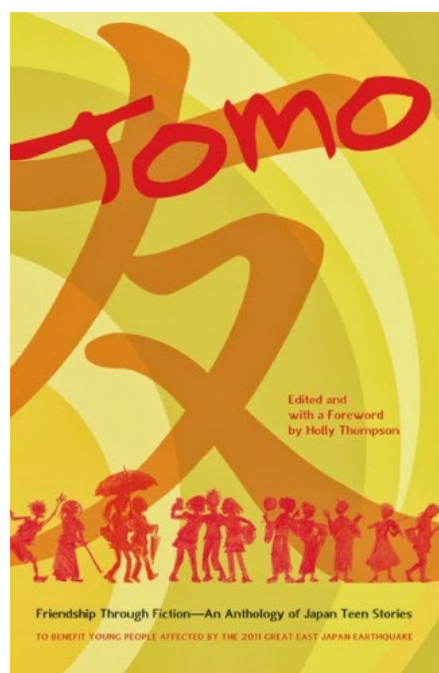


“It’s On Like Donkey Kong”

By: Alan Gratz

Appears in: Breakfast on Mars and 37 Other Delectable Essays, Roaring Book Press 2013

Donkey Kong’s tired of being the villain in Mario’s adventures, especially when Mario’s not such a nice guy himself.

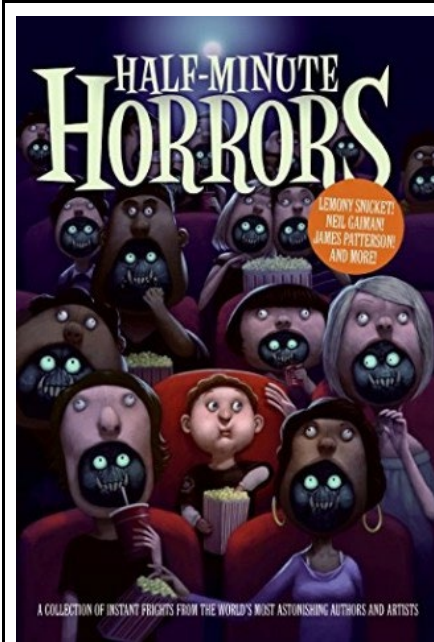


“The Ghost Who Came to Breakfast”

By: Alan Gratz

Appears in: Tomo: Friendship Through Fiction, Stone Bridge Press 2012

A modern Japanese family is visited by a warashi — a “good luck ghost” — whose friendship is financially rewarding. But as one member of the family will learn, good luck comes at a high price...

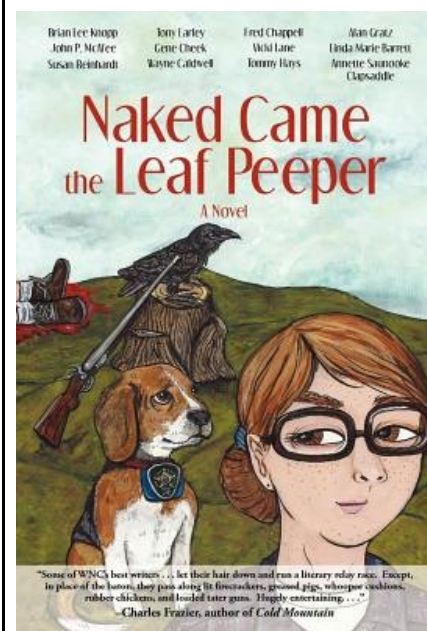


“Don’t Wet the Bed”

By: Alan Gratz

Appears in: Half-Minute Horrors, Harper Collins 2009

What’s worse than having to go to the bathroom in the middle of the night? The thing that’s waiting under the bed to get you, of course.



“The Silence of the Llamas”

By: Alan Gratz

Appears in: Naked Came the Leaf Peeper, Burning Bush Press 2011

Twelve authors based in or near Western North Carolina celebrate Malaprop’s Bookstore’s 30th Anniversary with their contributions to the serial collaborative novel, Naked Came the Leaf Peeper.

	<p>“Okiku and the Nine Plates” By Alan Gratz Appears in: Alfred Hitchcock’s Mystery Magazine, 2010</p> <p>A re-imagining of the classic Japanese ghost story of the same name. In this version, a samurai “Special Investigator” with a knack for dealing with yōkai — Japanese spirits — is sent by the Shogun to deal with a mysterious phenomenon menacing one of his faithful daimyo.</p>
	<p>“To Honor Ichiko and Defend Japan” By: Alan Gratz Appears in: Alfred Hitchcock’s Mystery Magazine, June 2007</p> <p>Welcome to Ichiko, the First Higher School of Japan, where life is so difficult in the Meiji period that a number of students die at school each year. Fatal Accidents, illnesses, and suicides are all common—but what if the latest student death was a murder? With no teachers or administrators overseeing the dorms, one boy takes the investigation into his own hands.</p>
	<p>Biography excerpt</p> <p>Alan Gratz is the bestselling author of seventeen novels for young readers. His 2017 novel <i>Refugee</i> has spent more than two years on the <i>New York Times</i> bestseller list, and is the winner of 14 state awards. Its other accolades include the Sydney Taylor Book Award, the National Jewish Book Award, the Cybils Middle Grade Fiction Award, a Charlotte Huck Award Honor, and a Malka Penn Award for Human Rights Honor. <i>Refugee</i> was also a Global Read Aloud Book for 2018.</p> <p>Alan was born and raised in Knoxville, Tennessee, home of the 1982 World’s Fair. After a carefree but humid childhood, Alan attended the University of Tennessee, where he</p>

earned a College Scholars degree with a specialization in creative writing, and, later, a Master's degree in English education. He now lives with his wife Wendi and his daughter Jo in Asheville, North Carolina, where he enjoys playing games, eating pizza, and, perhaps not too surprisingly, reading books.

(Biography excerpts from alangratz.com/about)

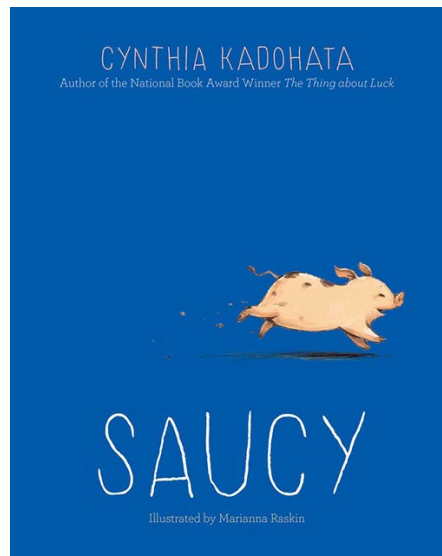
Website:

For more information on Gratz, to read the rest of his biography, and to view more of his books, visit the author's website: <https://www.alangratz.com/>

Additional Links:

- Watch an interview of Alan Gratz speaking about his books (including *Refugee*), offering insights on character development, and describing his writing process. In this video he also answers student questions: <https://youtu.be/NkT6kxPD-I>
- This video is from 5 years ago and intended for students, however it is an interesting video in which Gratz speaks about his writing process in his office, from writing long hand, outlining for building his book, and typing up his books. He also shares objects that he draws inspiration from: <https://youtu.be/wO8zaHqinGM>
- Check out Gratz's YouTube channel for more book talks and read alouds: <https://www.youtube.com/user/samuraigratz>

Cynthia Kadohata

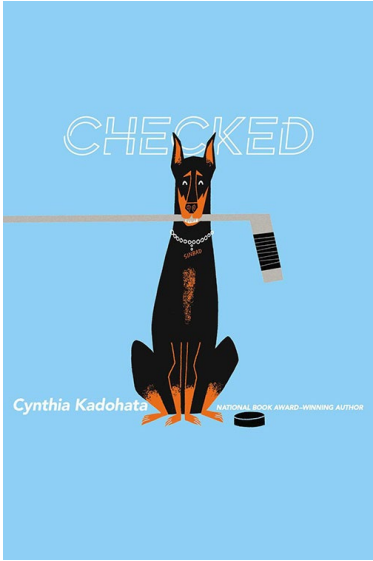
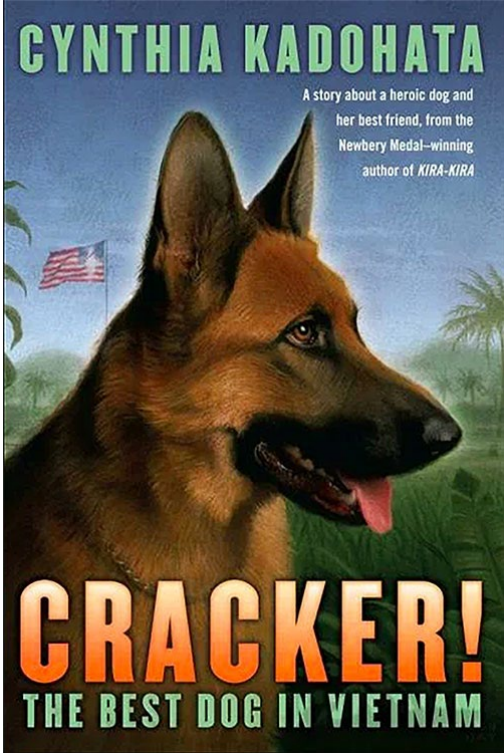


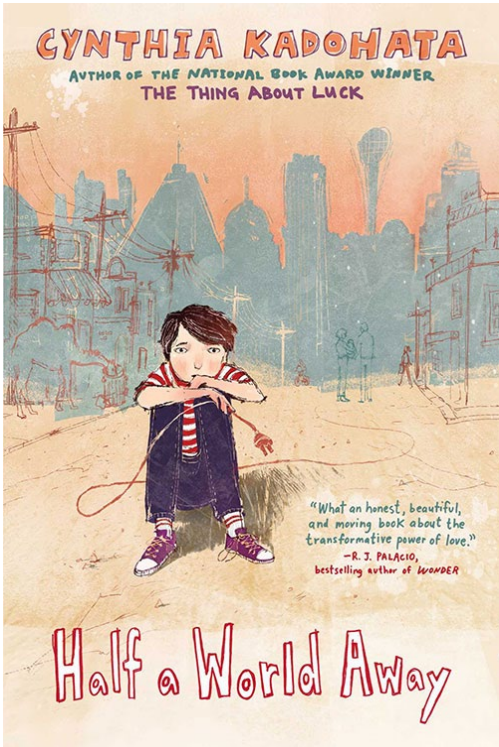
Saucy

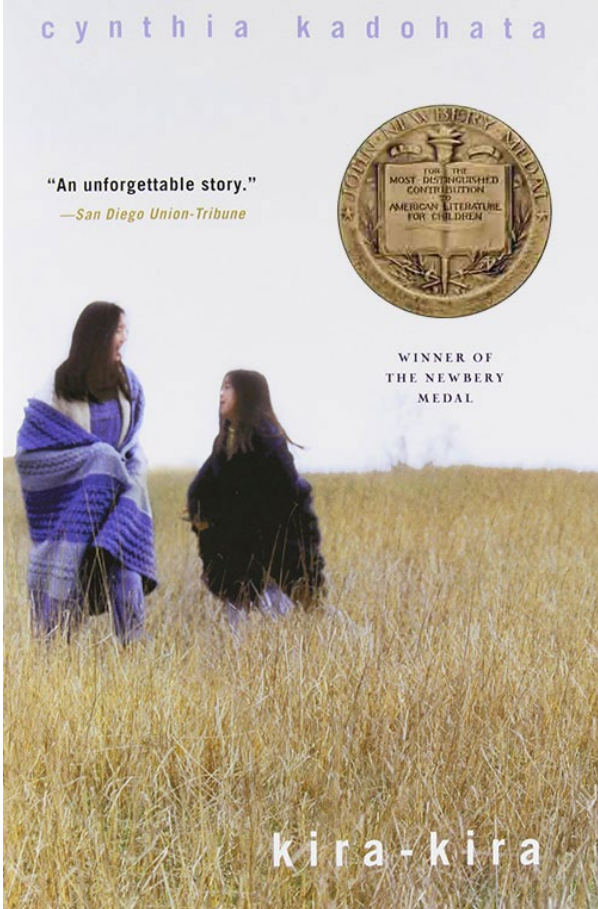
By: Cynthia Kadohata

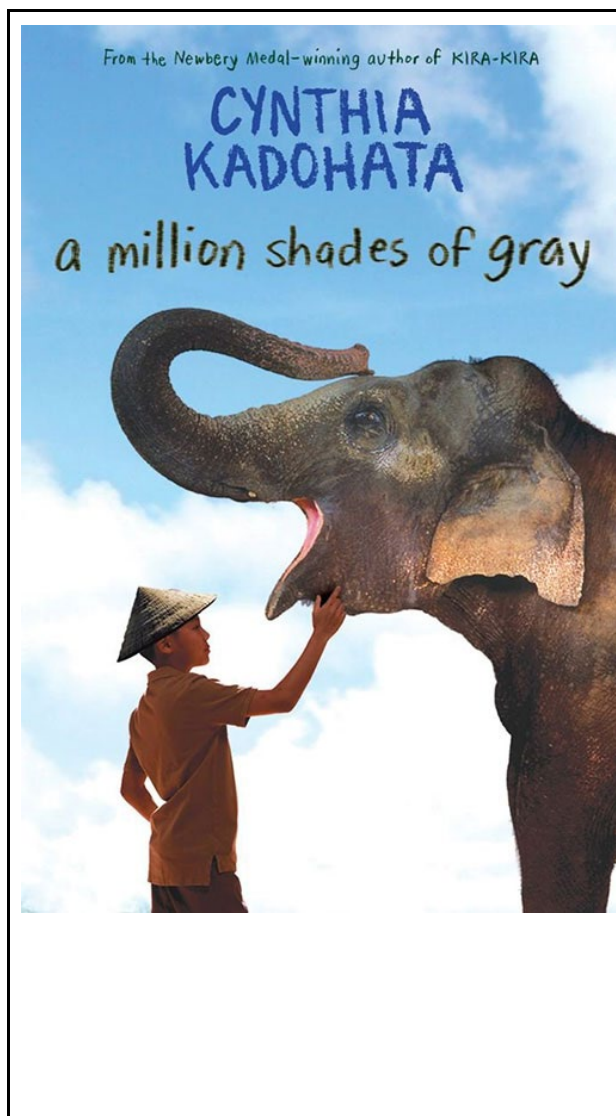
Being a quadruplet can make it hard to stand out from the crowd. Becca's three brothers all have something that makes them...them. Bailey has his music and dancing, Jammer plays hockey, and K.C. thinks they're all living in a simulation and doesn't see the point of doing much of anything. Becca is the only one with nothing to make her special. But when she finds a tiny, sick piglet on the side of the road, Becca knows this is it. This is her thing.

Listen to Kadohata in conversation with her editor as they discuss the inspiration for *Saucy*, ethical living, and living with rescue animals: <https://youtu.be/HuriFwkc-II>

	<p>Checked By: Cynthia Kadohata</p> <p>What's life like when you're an elite athlete, or even trying to be? Hockey is Conor's life. His whole life. He'll say it himself, he's a hockey beast. It's his dad's whole life too—and Conor is sure that's why his stepmom, Jenny, left. There are very few things Conor and his dad love more than the game, and one of those things is their Doberman, Sinbad. When Sinbad is diagnosed with cancer, Conor chooses to put his hockey lessons and practices on hold so they can pay for Sinbad's chemotherapy. But without hockey to distract him, Conor begins to notice more. Like his dad's crying bouts, and his friend's difficult family life. And then Conor notices one more thing: Without hockey, the one thing that makes him feel special, is he really special at all?</p>
	<p>Cracker! The Best Dog in Vietnam By: Cynthia Kadohata</p> <p>A story about war and the bond between a dog and the soldier she loves. Cracker is one of the United States Army's most valuable weapons: a German shepherd trained to sniff out bombs, traps, and the enemy. The fate of entire platoons rests on her keen sense of smell. She's a Big Deal, and she likes it that way. Sometimes Cracker remembers when she was younger, and her previous owner would feed her hot dogs and let her sleep in his bed. That was nice, too. Rick Hanski is headed to Vietnam. There, he's going to whip the world and prove to his family and his sergeant—and everyone else who didn't think he was cut out for war—wrong. But sometimes Rick can't help but wonder that maybe everyone else is right.</p>

	<p>Maybe he should have just stayed at home and worked in his dad's hardware store. When Cracker is paired with Rick, she isn't so sure about this new owner. He's going to have to prove himself to her before she's going to prove herself to him. They need to be friends before they can be a team, and they have to be a team if they want to get home alive.</p> <p>Told in part through the uncanny point of view of a German shepherd, Cracker! is an action-packed glimpse into the Vietnam War as seen through the eyes of a dog and her handler. It's an utterly unique powerhouse of a book.</p>
 <p>CYNTHIA KADOHATA AUTHOR OF THE NATIONAL BOOK AWARD WINNER THE THING ABOUT LUCK</p> <p>“What an honest, beautiful, and moving book about the transformative power of love.” —R. J. PALACIO, bestselling author of <i>Wonder</i></p> <p>Half a World Away</p>	<p><i>Half a World Away</i> By: Cynthia Kadohata</p> <p>Loneliness doesn't last forever: a story about the transformational power of love. Eleven-year-old Jaden is adopted, and he knows he's an 'epic fail.' That's why his family is traveling to Kazakhstan to adopt a new baby—to replace him, he's sure. And he gets it. He is incapable of stopping his stealing, hoarding, lighting fires, aggressive running, and obsession with electricity. He knows his parents love him, but he feels...nothing. But when they get to Kazakhstan, it turns out the infant they've travelled for has already been adopted, and literally within minutes are faced with having to choose from six other babies. While his parents agonize, Jaden is more interested in the toddlers. One, a little guy named Dimash, spies Jaden and barrels over to him every time he sees him. Jaden finds himself increasingly intrigued by and worried about Dimash. Already three years old and barely able to speak, Dimash will soon age out of the orphanage, and then his life will be as hopeless as Jaden feels now. For the first time in his life, Jaden actually</p>

	<p>feels something that isn't pure blinding fury, and there's no way to control it, or its power. From camels rooting through garbage like raccoons, to eagles being trained like hunting dogs, to streets that are more pothole than pavement, <i>Half a World Away</i> is a spark of a novel.</p>
 <p>cynthia kadohata</p> <p>"An unforgettable story." —San Diego Union-Tribune</p> <p>WINNER OF THE NEWBERY MEDAL</p> <p>kira-kira</p>	<p><i>Kira-Kira</i> By: Cynthia Kadohata</p> <p>A story about the things you can change, and the things you can't. 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 them 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. Luminous in its persistence of love and hope, <i>Kira-Kira</i> is a stunning book.</p>



A Million Shades of Gray

By: Cynthia Kadohata

War took everything from Y'Tin. But he had one friend: his elephant.

Y'Tin is brave. No one in his village denies that—his mother may wish that he'd spend more time on school work than on elephant training, but still she knows that it takes a great deal of courage and calm to deal with elephants the way that Y'Tin does. He is almost the best trainer in the village—and, at twelve-years old, he's certainly the youngest. Maybe he'll even open up his own school some day to teach other Montagnards how to train wild elephants? That was the plan anyway—back before American troops pulled out of the Vietnam War, back before his village became occupied by Viet Cong forces seeking revenge, back before Y'Tin watched his life change in a million terrible ways. At once heartbreaking and full of hope, this exploration into the depth of the jungle and the not-so-distant past brings us close to a world few people know about—and none will ever forget. Y'Tin's story is one of lasting friendships, desperate choices, and all that we lose when we are forced to change.

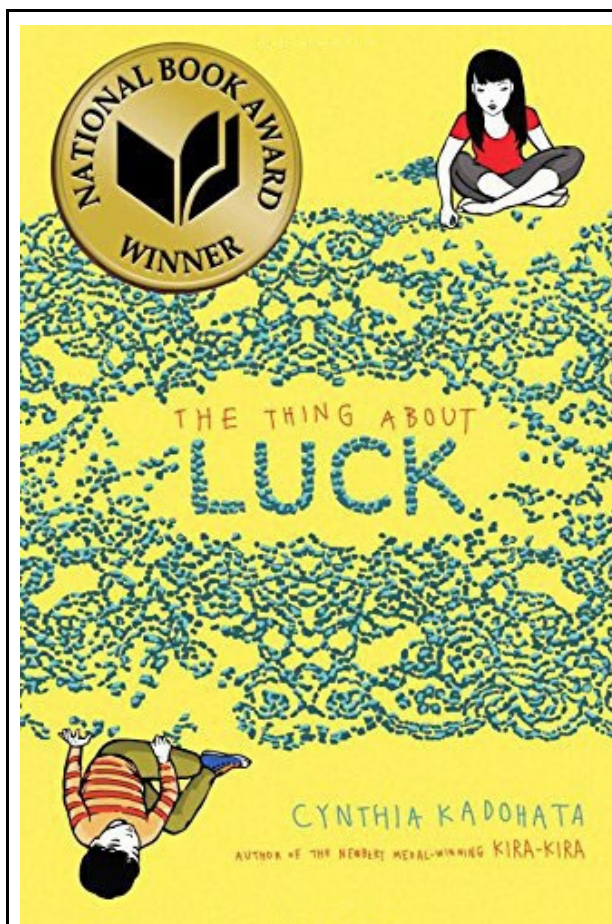


Outside Beauty

By: Cynthia Kadohata

What makes a family? An exploration of the ties that bind four half sisters together. There's only one way Shelby and her sisters can describe their mother: She's a sexpot. Helen Kimura collects men (and loans, spending money, and gifts of all kinds) from all over the country. Sure, she's not your typical role model, but she's also not just a pretty face and nail polish. She is confident and brave; she lives life on her own terms, and her four daughters simply adore her. These girls have been raised outside the traditional boundaries. They know how to take the back exit. They know how to dodge crazed lovers in highway car chases. They do not, however, know how to function without one another.

Then suddenly they must. A late-night phone call unexpectedly shreds the family apart, catapulting the girls across the country to live with their respective fathers. But these strong-willed sisters are, like their mother, determined to live life on their own terms, and what they do to pull their family back together is nothing short of beautiful.



The Thing About Luck

By: Cynthia Kadohata

Saving the day, and your family, is a lot of responsibility for a kid with bad luck.

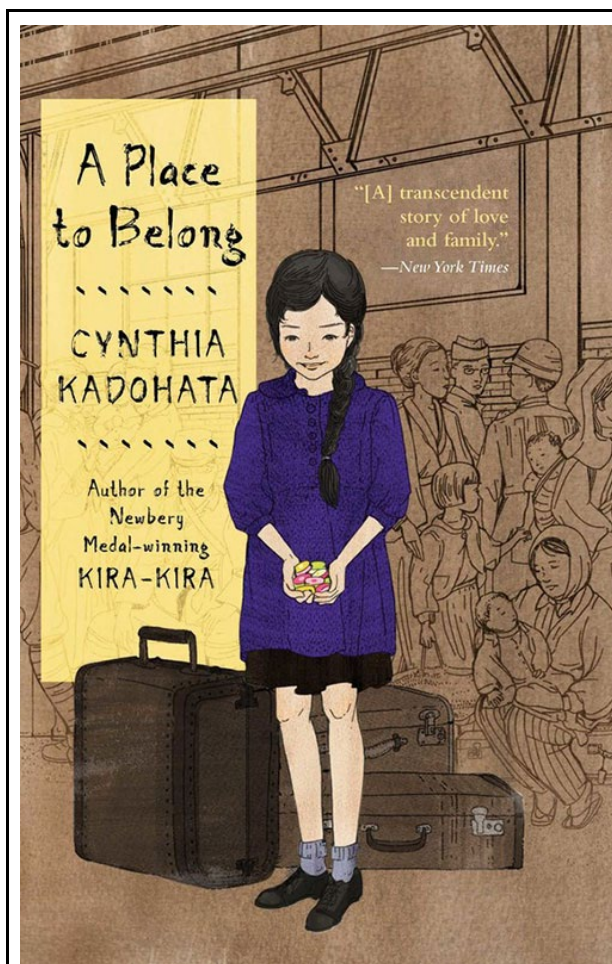
Summer knows that kouun means “good luck” in Japanese, and this year her family has none of it. Just when she thinks nothing else can possibly go wrong, an emergency whisks her parents away to Japan—right before harvest season. Summer and her little brother, Jaz, are left in the care of their grandparents, who come out of retirement in order to harvest wheat and help pay the bills.

The thing about Obaachan and Jiichan is that they are old-fashioned and demanding, and between helping Obaachan cook for the workers, covering for her when her back pain worsens, and worrying about her lonely little brother, Summer just barely has time to notice the attentions of their boss’s cute son. But notice she does, and what begins as a welcome distraction from the hard work soon turns into a mess of its own.

Having thoroughly disappointed her grandmother, Summer figures the bad luck must be finished—but then it gets worse. And when that happens, Summer has to figure out how to change it herself, even if it means further displeasing Obaachan. Because it might be the only way to save her family.

Listen to Kadohata read from her book:

<https://youtu.be/x-fLYC2cKWE>



A Place to Belong

By: Cynthia Kadohata

A girl's parents renounce their citizenship. With nowhere to belong, Hanako must discover who she is.

World War II has ended, but while America has won the war, twelve-year-old Hanako feels lost. To her, the world, and her world, seems irrevocably broken.

America, the only home she's ever known, imprisoned then rejected her and her family—and thousands of other innocent Americans—because of their Japanese heritage, because Japan had bombed Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

Japan, the country they've been forced to move to, the country they hope will be the family's saving grace, where they were supposed to start new and better lives, is in shambles because America dropped bombs of their own—one on Hiroshima unlike any other in history. And Hanako's grandparents live in a small village just outside the ravaged city.

The country is starving, the black markets run rampant, and countless orphans beg for food on the streets, but how can Hanako help them when there is not even enough food for her own brother?

Hanako feels she could crack under the pressure, but just because something is broken doesn't mean it can't be fixed. Cracks can make room for gold, her grandfather explains when he tells her about the tradition of kintsukuroi—fixing broken objects with gold lacquer, making them stronger and more beautiful than ever. As she struggles to adjust to find her place in a new world, Hanako will

	<p>find that the gold can come in many forms, and family may be hers.</p> <p>Listen to a read aloud of the first chapter: https://youtu.be/EI19_JxqsTE</p>
	<p>Weedflower By: Cynthia Kadohata</p> <p>“How could such a tragedy have occurred in a democratic society that prides itself on individual rights and freedoms?” (Milton S. Eisenhower)</p> <p>Twelve-year-old Sumiko feels her life has been made up of two parts: before Pearl Harbor and after it. The good part and the bad part. Raised on a flower farm in California, Sumiko is used to being the only Japanese girl in her class. Even when the other kids tease her, she always has had her flowers and family to go home to. That all changes after the horrific events of Pearl Harbor. Other Americans start to suspect that all Japanese people are spies for the emperor, even if, like Sumiko, they were born in the United States! As suspicions grow, Sumiko and her family find themselves being shipped to an internment camp in one of the hottest deserts in the United States. The vivid color of her previous life is gone forever, and now dust storms regularly choke the sky and seep into every crack of the military barrack that is her new “home.” Sumiko soon discovers that the camp is on an Indian reservation and that the Japanese are as unwanted there as they’d been at home. But then she meets a young Mohave boy who might just become her first real friend...if he can ever stop being angry about the fact that the internment camp is on his tribe’s land.</p> <p>Cynthia Kadohata explores an important and painful topic through the eyes of a young girl</p>

who yearns to belong. *Weedflower* is the story of the rewards and challenges of a friendship across the racial divide, as well as the based-on-real-life story of how the meeting of Japanese Americans and Native Americans changed the future of both.

Biography excerpt



Cynthia Kadohata was born in Chicago in 1956 and as a child lived in Chicago, Georgia, Arkansas, and California. In her adulthood, she has lived in Boston and Southern California. She was first published in *The New Yorker*, and has published ten children's books and three adult books. She is the winner of the 2005 Newbery Medal for *Kira-Kira* and the 2013 National Book Award for *The Thing About Luck*. She writes stories about children and animals who persevere through hardship.

(Biography excerpt from [cynthiakadohata.com/about/](https://www.cynthiakadohata.com/about/), and [cynthiakadohata.com/questions/](https://www.cynthiakadohata.com/questions/))

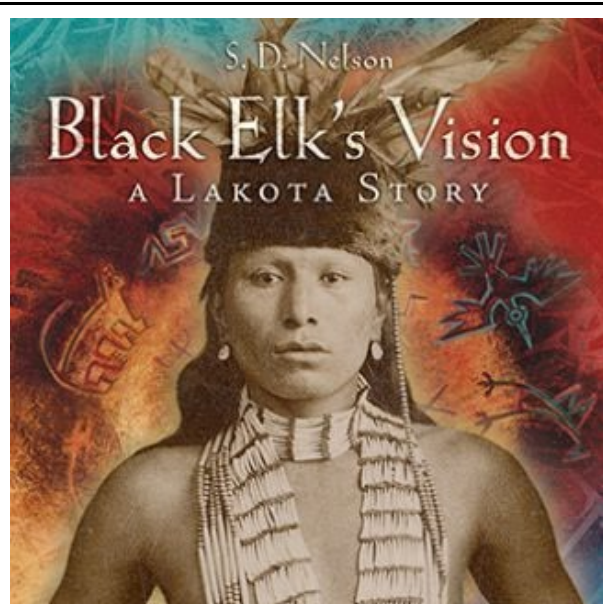
Website

For more information on Kadohata, to read the rest of her biography, and to view more of her books, visit the author's website: <https://www.cynthiakadohata.com/>

Additional Links:

- Listen to Kadohata speak at the 2014 National Book Festival: <https://youtu.be/e08fl90jnc0>
- Watch this "Meet the Author" to hear Kadohata speak about *Kira Kira* and *A Place to Belong*, as well as answer questions from middle school students: <https://youtu.be/4950PzE-M-Q>

S.D. Nelson



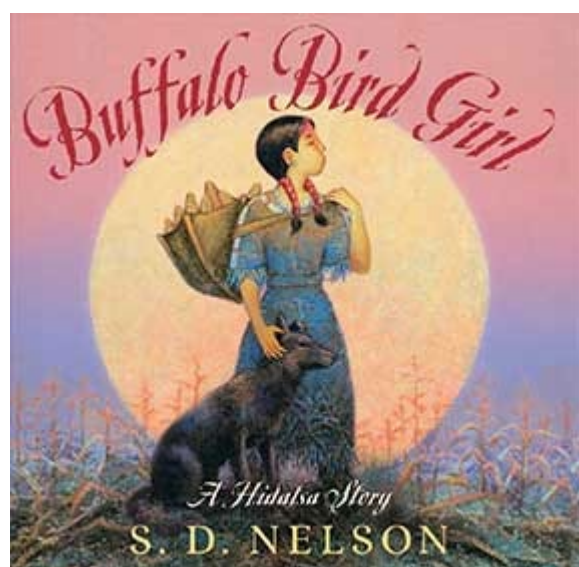
Black Elk's Vision: A Lakota Story

By: S.D. Nelson

Told from a Native American point of view, *Black Elk's Vision* provides a unique perspective on American history. From recounting the visions Black Elk had as a young boy, to his involvement in the battles of Little Big Horn and Wounded Knee, as well as his journeys to New York City and Europe with Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show, this biographical account of Black Elk—an Oglala Lakota medicine man who lived from 1863 to 1950—follows him from childhood through adulthood.

Watch this video to preview the book:

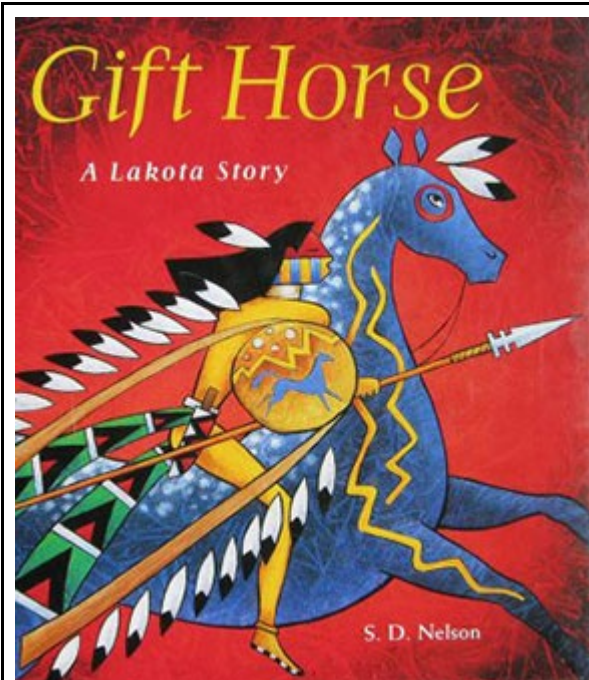
<https://youtu.be/SEvymfwLgWg>



Buffalo Bird Girl: A Hidatsa Story

By: S.D. Nelson

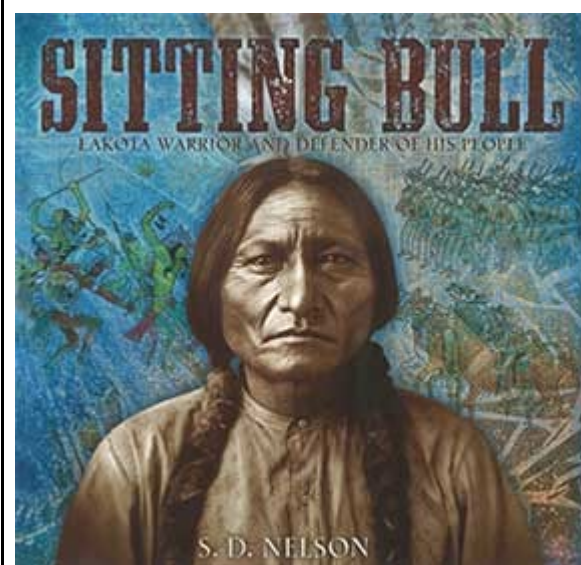
This fascinating picture book biography tells the childhood story of Buffalo Bird Woman, a Hidatsa Indian born around 1839. Through her true story, readers will learn what it was like to be part of this Native American community that lived along the Missouri River in the Dakotas, a society that depended more on agriculture for food and survival than on hunting.



Gift Horse: A Lakota Story

By: S.D. Nelson

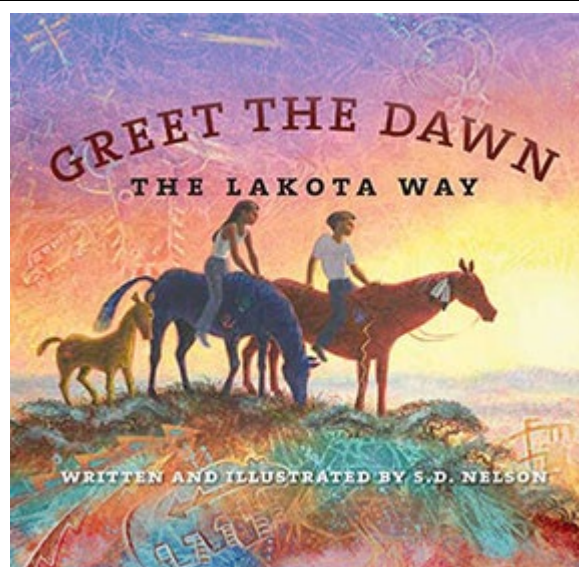
When his father gives him a gift horse, marking the beginning of his journey to manhood, Flying Cloud, and the horse Storm, spend their days hunting and roughhousing. But, when an enemy raiding party steals his beloved Storm, Flying Cloud faces the ultimate rite of passage.



Sitting Bull

By: S.D. Nelson

Sitting Bull (c. 1831–1890) was one of the greatest Lakota/Sioux warriors and chiefs who ever lived. From Sitting Bull's childhood—killing his first buffalo at age 10—to being named war chief to leading his people against the U.S. Army, *Sitting Bull: Lakota Warrior and Defender of His People* brings the story of the great chief to light.

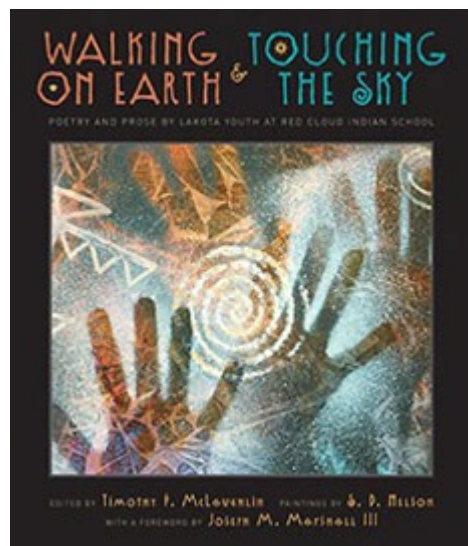


Greet the Dawn: The Lakota Way

By: S.D. Nelson

Watch the book trailer here:

https://youtu.be/maAtc_zjP3k

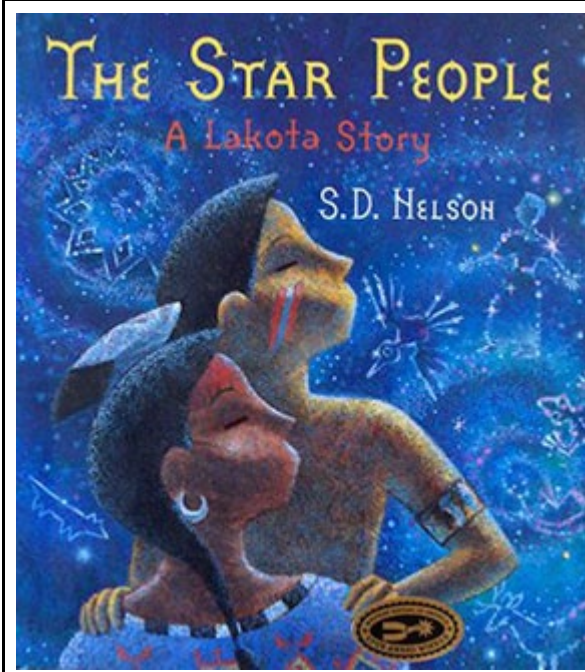


***Walking on Earth & Touching the Sky:
Poetry and Prose by Lakota Youth at Red
Cloud Indian School***

By Timothy P. McLaughlin

Illustrated by S. D. Nelson

This is an exceptional poetry collection written by Lakota students in the fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth grades at Red Cloud Indian School on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota. The historic school was founded in 1888 at the request of Chief Red Cloud of the Oglala Lakota. The poems enable readers to learn about the unique lives and heritage of students growing up in such distinctive circumstances and straddling cultures. The collection was compiled by a teacher at the school, working with school administrators, and contains never-before-published artworks by award-winning artist S. D. Nelson.



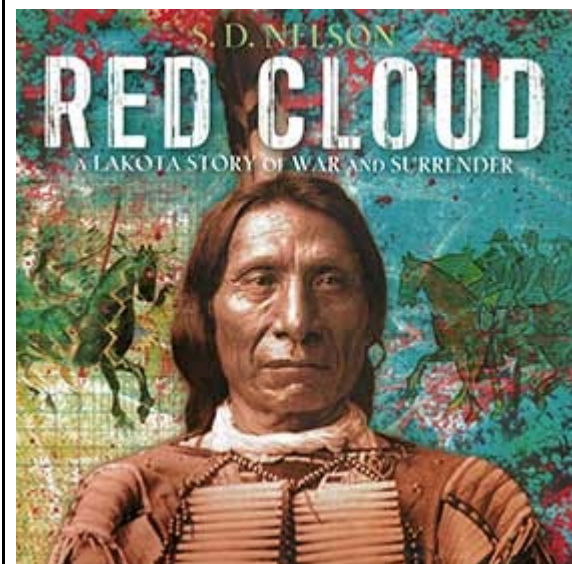
The Star People: A Lakota Story

by: S. D. Nelson

Sister Girl and her brother Young Wolf wander away from their village and soon find themselves far out in the surrounding prairie. They lie down in the grass and watch the clouds passing above billow to form an eagle, horses, and other creatures.

Watch this video to preview the book:

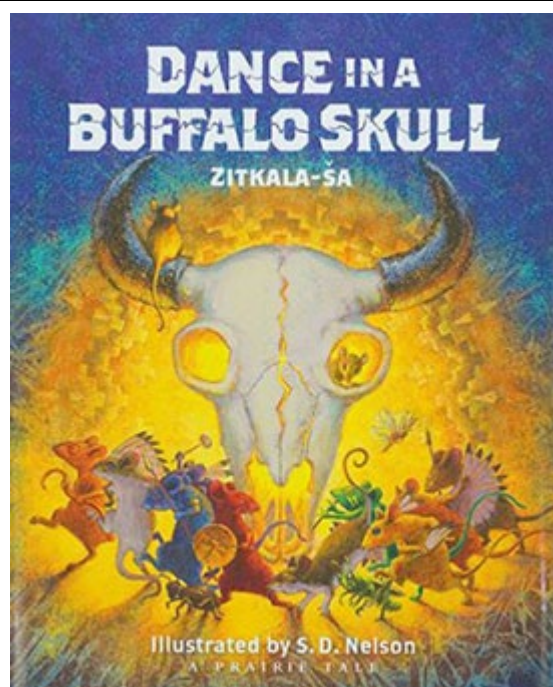
<https://youtu.be/n8VX1jF8txk>



Red Cloud

by: S. D. Nelson

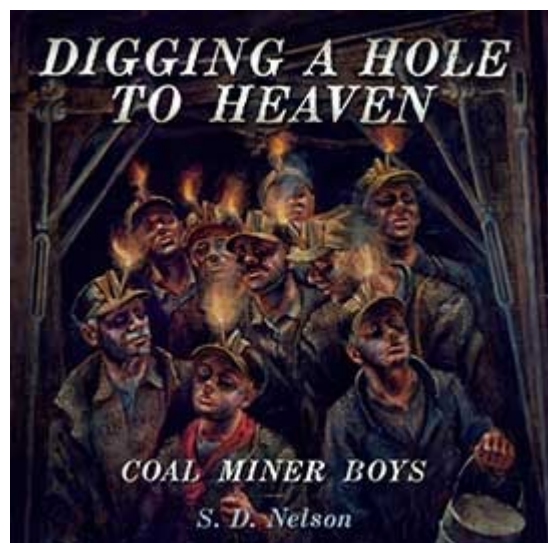
The award-winning author and illustrator of *Black Elk's Vision* and *Sitting Bull* continues his picture-book biography series with *Red Cloud*, the story of one of the most controversial leaders in Native American history



Dance in a Buffalo Skull

by: S. D. Nelson

A prowling wildcat finds a surprise in an old dried-up buffalo skull. A group of mice are dancing the night away and not paying attention to the dangers around them. Does the wildcat spell doom for the mice, or will they escape to safety? *Dance in a Buffalo Skull* is an American Indian tale of danger and survival on the Great Plains.



Digging a Hole to Heaven

by: S. D. Nelson

At 12 years old, Conall has already worked in the coal mines of West Virginia for two years. He spends his days deep underground with his faithful mule, Angel, carting loads of coal back and forth between the coal seams and the main shaft, where elevators take the coal up to the surface. One day a tunnel collapses, and his brother is trapped with others on the wrong side! How can Conall and Angel help to save them?

**Biography Excerpt:**

S.D. Nelson is a member of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe in the Dakotas. “My people are known as the Sioux or Lakota. During the 19th century they were renowned as the Horse People of the Great Plains. My ancestors were also the people of the Buffalo, for the Buffalo gave them most of their food, their warm robes, and the lodge skins of their tipis. My people followed great herds of them across the vast grasslands beneath an endless blue sky.” Nelson’s artwork appears on book jackets, greeting cards, and CD covers, and his paintings are held in both private and public collections. He has written and illustrated numerous award-winning children’s books.

S.D. Nelson earned his bachelor’s degree in Art at Minnesota State University at Moorhead. His paintings offer a fresh contemporary interpretation of traditional Lakota images. S.D. has painted extensively on animal skins and bone. He has crafted traditional rawhide drums, beaded on leather and created ledger book drawings. Nelson’s fluid style and traditional Native American imagery combines movement, color, and form into a visual celebration of life. (Biography excerpt from sdnelson.net/about/)

Website:

For more information on Nelson, to read the rest of his biography, to view more of his books, and to view his artwork, visit his website: <https://www.sdnelson.net/>

Additional Links:

- SD Nelson at the 2012 South Dakota Book Festival: <https://youtu.be/vtjSnTLEeJw>
- SD Nelson: Sharing My Vision 2019 Art Exhibit: <https://youtu.be/1DeNUsCsDBk>
- You can also visit starhenge.net to view and learn about S. D. Nelson's environmental interactive public artwork and observatory, STARHENGE, proposed for Flagstaff, AZ.