

Allie Knutson

**Title:** Stories of Joy

**Description:** This set looks at texts representing countries around the world that my students come from. I was interested in finding stories of joy and real life from students' home countries, as opposed to stories that focus on push factors, displacement, and traumatic events. Many texts included directly relate to our ELA curriculum and can supplement or replace existing texts to make the content more relevant and accessible to my students.

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Thompson, Laurie Ann, and Sean Qualls. *Emmanuel's Dream: The True Story of Emmanuel Ofose Yeboah*. Schwartz & Wade Books, 2015.

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## **Digital Collection:**

## Text Set

### Africa



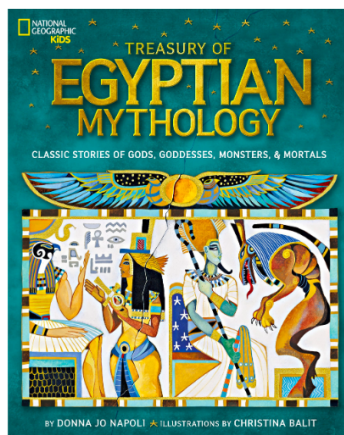
*Africa Amazing Africa* by Atinuke, illustrated by Mouni Feddag

Non-fiction book celebrating the 55 countries in Africa. The book explores geography, people, animals, history, and resources, highlighting the diversity within the continent of Africa.



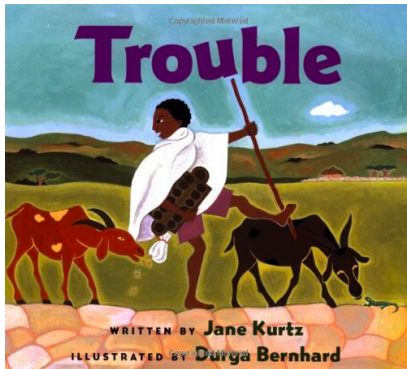
*The Ogress and the Snake and Other Stories from Somalia* by Elizabeth Laird

This book has a collection of oral traditions, folklore, and fairy tales from Somalia. Intended for ages 9-14.



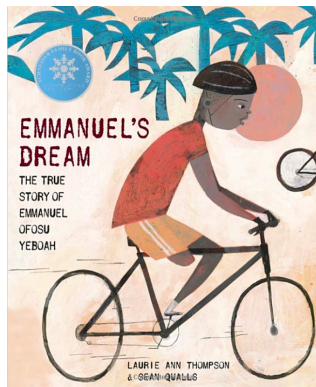
*National Geographic Kids Treasury of Egyptian Mythology* by Donna Jo Napoli, illustrated by Christina Balit

This book is a compilation of Egyptian myths and legends for an audience ages 6-9. Stories from ancient Egypt are dramatized and include legendary pharaohs, queens, and creatures.



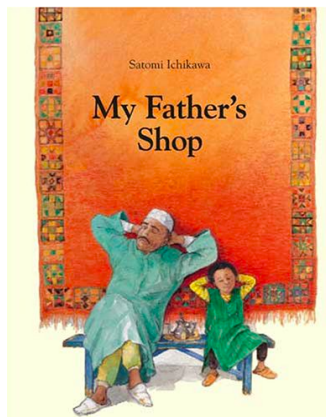
*Trouble* by Jane Kurtz, illustrated by Durga Yael Bernhard

A traditional Eritrean tale of a young boy disobeying his father by trading a board game that was meant to keep him out of trouble. Written for ages 2-6 as a folktale/fairytale. Bilingual versions available in several Ethiopian languages.



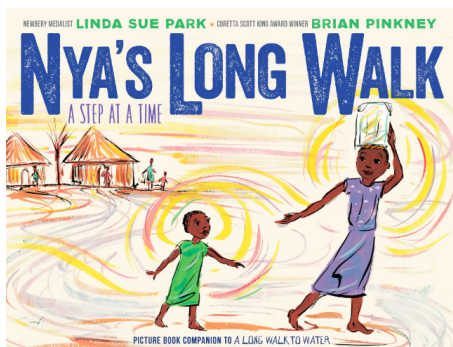
*Emmanuel's Dream* by Laurie Ann Thompson & Sean Qualls

Tells the true story of Emmanuel Ofosu Yeboah, from Ghana, who was born with a deformed leg. Emmanuel becomes a cyclist and the book shows that having a disability does not limit your dreams and all you can achieve.



*My Father's Shop* by Satomi Ichikawa

Set in Morocco, this book promotes bilingualism. A young boy does not want to learn other languages, despite his father's encouragement, though later in the market, he finds his own way to learn languages.



*Nya's Long Walk* by Linda Sue Parker, illustrated by Brian Pinkney

Set in South Sudan, Nya and her younger sister walk two hours to get water for their family. The story teaches lessons related to perseverance and compassion; intended for ages 6-9.

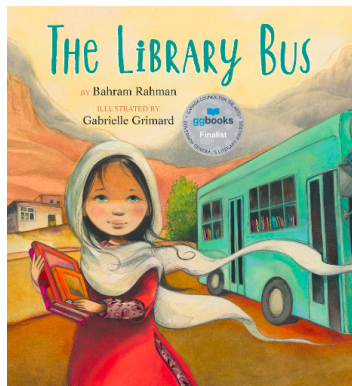




**Abdiiaziz Osman**, Somali painter  
This article explains Osman's background and the subject matter of his paintings.

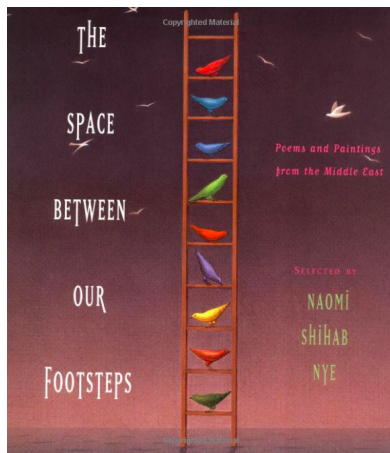
Website article:  
<https://www.arabnews.com/node/1870281/life-style>

## Asia



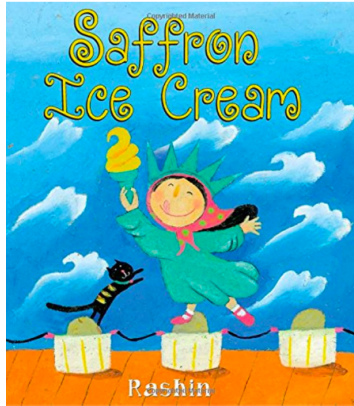
*The Library Bus* by Bahram Rahman,  
Illustrated by Gabrielle Grimard

Set in Afghanistan about a young girl, Pari, who helps out in her Mom's library bus. Pari's Mom is teaching children in a refugee camp how to read and write. At different times in Afghanistan, girls have not been permitted to do so.



*The Space Between Our Footsteps: Poems and Paintings from the Middle East* by Naomi Shihab Nye

This is a collection of poetry and artistic works by people from the Middle East. The book explores tradition and culture along with notes about the contributors.



**Saffron Ice Cream** by Rashin Kheiriyeh

A book that joyfully celebrates a girl's first family outing in a new country. The trip to the beach reminds her of all the things she loved when going to the beach in Iran. She appreciates all of the exciting things in this new place too.



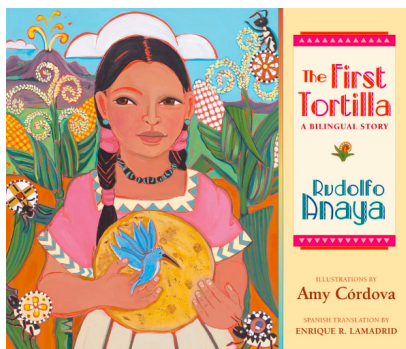
**Afghan Girl, 2019**  
Robaba Mohammadi

Mohammadi is an Afghan artist who paints with her mouth, due to a condition that has left her unable to walk or use her hands. She fiercely advocates for those with disabilities.



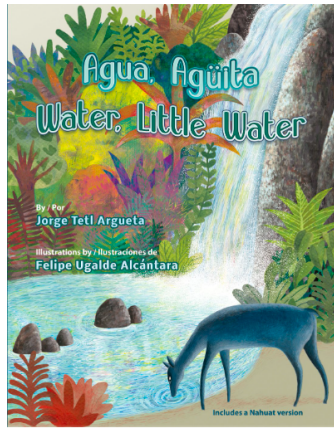
**Traditional Vietnamese games and toys:**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n0eJyezjzPI>

**Americas**



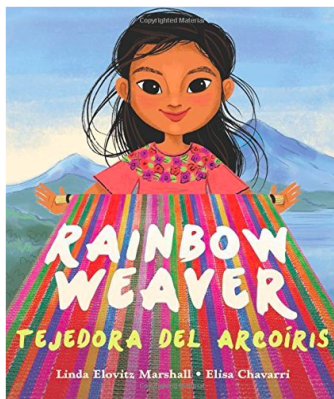
**The First Tortilla: A Bilingual Story** by Rudolfo Anaya, illustrated by Amy Cordova, translated by Enrique R. Lamadrid

Tells the courageous story of Jade who journeys to receive corn from the Mountain Spirit. From this corn she is able to make the first tortilla.



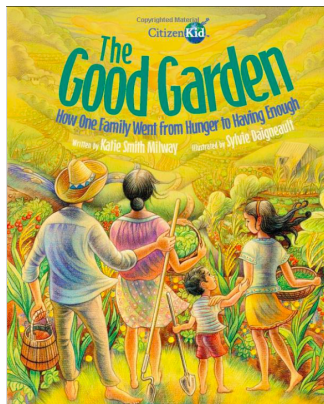
*Agua, Agua* by Jorge Tetl Argueta, illustrated by Felipe Ugalde Alcántara

In Spanish, English, and Nahuatl Argueta describes the water cycle through poetry. The book conveys an appreciation for nature and highlights the importance of water.



*Rainbow Weaver* by Linda Elovitz, illustrated by Elisa Chavarri

Tells the story of a young girl who desires to learn the tradition of weaving on backstrap looms as Mayan women have done for over 2,000 years. Resourcefully, she is able to do so from strips she has collected from plastic bags littered around her village.



*The Good Garden* by Katie Smith Milway, illustrated by Sylvie Daigneault

Based on a true story from Honduras. Eleven year old, Maria Luz, helps her family switch to using sustainable farming practices that help a good garden grow.



**Quito Azul**  
Oswaldo Guayasamin

Oil on canvas painting done by Ecuadorian artist Oswaldo Guayasamin (1919-1999).

## Europe



*I Hate Borsch!* by Yevgenia Nayberg

In Ukraine, a young girl hates this soup that everyone in Eastern Europe is supposed to love! Only later on in America does she give the soup another chance.



**Traditional Folk dance from Moldova:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q3wsDW6N22A>