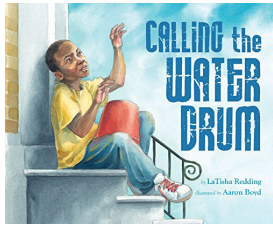


Inspiring books to help young people understand immigrant experiences

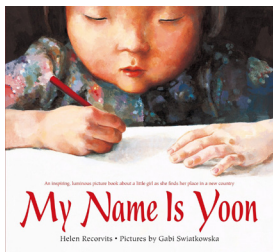


Calling the Water Drum

LaTisha Redding | Picture Book

Henri and his parent set out in a small boat that could barely keep the waves away. Forced to continue his journey—and new life—alone, he finds comfort in memories from Haiti.

"We left Haiti in the middle of the night so no one would see us. We had only enough money to buy a rickety boat from a fisherman...I told my parents I was pè, scared."

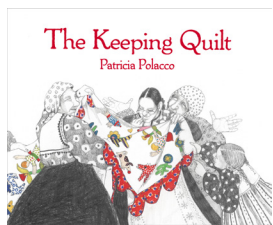


My name is Yoon

Helen Recorvits | Picture Book

Yoon and her family came to the U.S. from Korea. Discouraged by the differences in her new home, including writing in English, it takes a little exploring for her to find her place.

"I wrinkle my nose. I do not like YOON [written in English]. Lines. Circles. Each standing alone. 'My name looks happy in Korean,' I said. 'The symbols dance together.'"



The Keeping Quilt

Patricia Polacco | Picture Book

With one quilt adorned with dozens of patches, a Russian family celebrates and shares their family history through several generations.

"'We will make a quilt,' Anna's mother said. 'It will be like having the family in back home Russia dance around us at night.'"

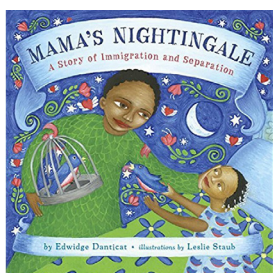


The Journey

Francesca Sanna | Picture Book

An unexpected war takes a father from his family, and forces the mother and young children to search for a safer place to live.

"We don't want to leave, but our mother tells us it will be a great adventure. We put everything we have into suitcases and say goodbye to everyone we know."

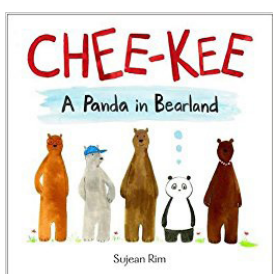


Mama's Nightingale: A Story of Immigration and Separation

Edwidge Danticat | Picture Book

Sara's mom is being held in a detention center and cannot leave. Each week she sends Sara recordings of stories inspired by the Haitian folklore. Encouraged, Sara uses her own gifts to help her mom come home.

"The next time we visit Mama, I do my best not to cry. I sit on her lap and kiss her whole face. I don't ask when she is coming home, because she doesn't know either."

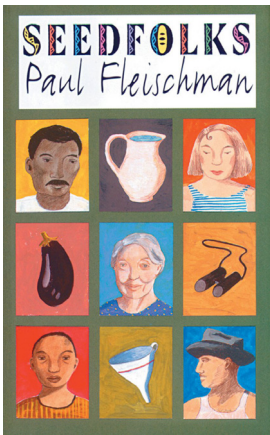


Chee-Kee: A Panda in Bearland

Sujean Rim | Picture Book

The Loo family has traveled very far to start a new life. For little Chee-Kee Loo, everything in his new home is strange—he looks and feels so different. But when some bears find themselves in a jam, Chee-Kee might be just the right panda to save the day.

"Even though Bearland was very different and they would miss the Island of Coney, Mr. And Mrs. Loo felt so fortunate to be able to come and make a new home in Bearland."

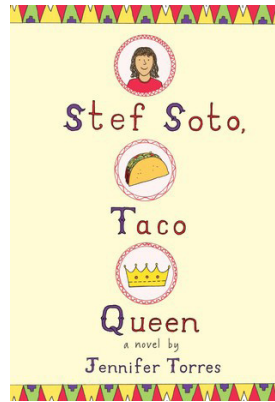


Seedfolks

Paul Fleischman | Chapter Book

In an American city where people typically keep to themselves, 13 neighbors from different backgrounds come together to transform a vacant lot into a community garden.

"It's sad every fall, seeing it turn brown. Fewer and fewer people there. That very first year was the hardest. It has been such a wonderful change to see people making something for themselves..."

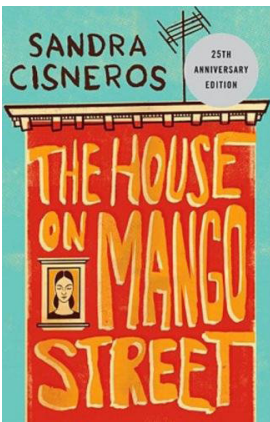


Stef Soto, Taco Queen

Jennifer Torres | Novel

Estefania "Stef" Soto, the daughter of Mexican immigrants, has a love-hate relationship with her family's business. She often wishes her Papi would get a normal job, but soon she surprises everyone (including herself) by becoming the truck's unlikely champion.

"His mother, my abuelita, had taught him to cook when he was my age. She didn't know where he might travel someday, she told him, but wherever he went, he would have her recipes to bring him back home."

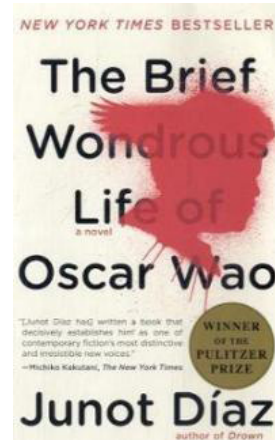


The House on Mango Street

Sandra Cisneros | Novel

Thirteen-year-old Esperanza decides to start documenting life in her Chicago barrio. As she writes, she realizes the influence the neighborhood has on her—a relationship she's not quite sure she wants to keep.

"I have begun my own quiet war. Simple. Sure. I am the one who leaves the table like a man, without putting back the chair or picking up the plate."



The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao

Junot Díaz | Novel

As Oscar struggles to balance the demands of his family, his Dominican roots and his heart, he unwittingly goes head-to-head with a curse that has plagued his family for generations.

"I couldn't help it. I tried to keep it down but it just flooded through all my quiet spaces. It was a message more than a feeling, a message that tolled like a bell: change, change, change."

Did you know that your library can obtain a special credential from the Department of Justice that allows trained staff to provide immigration services, outreach, screenings and referrals in the library?

The Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. advocates for humane and just immigration policy. Our network of nonprofit immigration programs—300 organizations in 47 states and the District of Columbia—is the largest in the nation. We are here to help programs like yours get the training, resources and technical assistance you need for your legal services program to flourish.

Are you a librarian or educator who needs help getting information and services to immigrants in your community? Sign up at cliniclegal.org/email to receive occasional emails from us with resources and ideas you can use to engage your students and neighbors on various immigration issues. It's completely free!