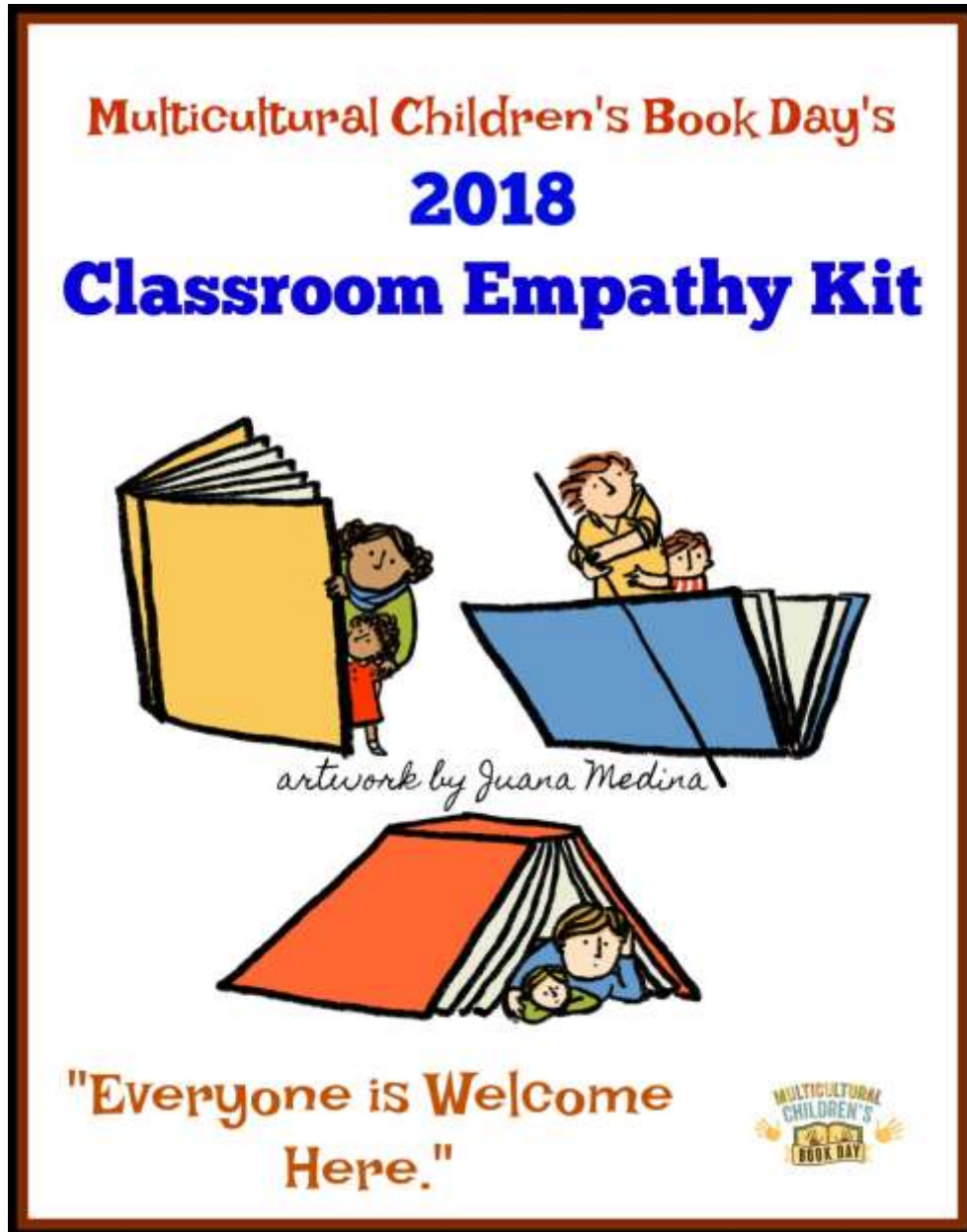


# MCBD Classroom Empathy Kit 2018

*“Everyone is Welcome Here”*

Understanding Immigration and Refugees



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**AFFILIATE DISCLAIMER:** Multicultural Children's Book Day never recommends any service or product solely for the reason of receiving commissions.

**N**OW more than ever, a message of hope, compassion, empathy and understanding is needed.

Now more than ever, children need to see themselves reflected in the pages of the books they read. Readers of all ages need to be able to “read their world” to both see themselves, and those who are different, whether by culture, religion, sexual orientation, special needs or ethnicity.

Now more than ever, we need to come together as a nation of beautifully diverse people.

Multicultural Children’s Book Day is proud to offer an initiative and holiday that encourages discovery, hope, acceptance and exploration through the pages of diverse children’s literature.

As our fifth Multicultural Children’s Book Day holiday approaches on January 27, 2018, we are thrilled to have you as part of our amazing community of supporters! With enthusiasm, optimism and hope, we are preparing for MCBBD 2017 and hope you will, again, join our celebration of diversity through children's books.

Thank you for cultivating understanding, kindness, inclusion and exploration of this beautiful world in your classroom.

### **Meet The Team**

Valarie, Mia and Becky (The Multicultural Children’s Book Day team)



# Read Your World- 19 Classroom Books to Assist in Understanding Immigration and Refugees

*\*\*Some of these links are affiliate links. This means if you click through a purchase a book our non-profit gets a small commission at no extra cost to you. These funds are used to continue our work getting books into the hands of readers, parents, educators and librarians.*

## [Where Will I Live](#) by Rosemary McCarney



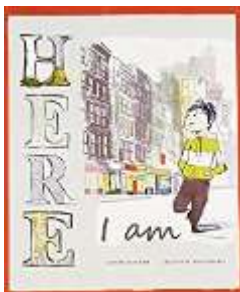
Every child needs a home. They need somewhere safe where they can be happy, eat their meals with their family, play with their toys, and go to sleep at night feeling unafraid. This book will help children whose lives are not directly affected by this crisis think about the importance of home, and what life is like for a child refugee who does not have a permanent, safe home to shelter them and their family. The beautiful photographs in this book were taken by the UNHCR—the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees—and include images of children on the move and in refugee camps in countries such as Lebanon, Rwanda, Iraq, Niger, Hungary, Jordan, South Sudan, and Greece.

## [I'm New Here](#) by Anne Sibley O'Brien



This picture book for age fours and up is about three children from Guatemala, Korea, and Somalia who are starting over in America. Their challenges include needing to learn a new language and discover how to make new friends. As the “new kids,” they feel isolated, confused, sad and very alone. Slowly, they learn how to overcome barriers, make progress on learning a new language and new customs. With the help of classmates, they settle into a new routine and life and discover the true power of human kindness and understanding. Charlesbridge Publishing

## [Here I Am](#) by Patti Kim, illustrated by Sonia Sánchez



This wordless picture book for age six and up tells a Korean to American immigration story that begins with a plane ride to New York City. The main character, a young boy, finds out first-hand that it's not easy to adjust to a new city and a new language. Slowly but surely he acclimates and adapts. As a comfort from home, he cherishes the seed that he brought with him from his old country; a seed that helps him make a new friend and a new happy life. Capstone Publishing.

[One Green Apple](#) by [Eve Bunting](#), illustrated by Ted Lewin



It's hard being the new kid in school and it's even worse for Farrah; a young Muslim girl. Still unfamiliar with English she speaks very little and oftentimes prefers to be alone. Some of her new classmates are friendly, but some are not. Her parents have advised her that people will not always like her because of where their family is from. One day she joins her class on a field trip to an apple orchard. While the other students pick red apples for the cider press, Farrah chooses a green apple. A classmate points out that it's unripe but her teacher intervenes and it's added to the cider press. The resulting cider is delicious; an analogy for the beauty of diversity. By the end of the trip the young girl makes a new friend, and feels like she is starting to fit in. *One Green Apple* is a picture book for ages 6-11.

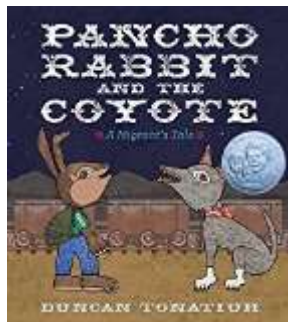
[My Name is Bilal](#) by Asma Mobin-Uddin, illustrated by Barbara Kiwak



Bilal and his sister Ayesha are born in America, and they have switched to a new school where there are not a lot of Muslim kids. Ayesha is bullied on her first day of school by two boys who make fun of her headscarf. Bilal is frozen, unable to come to his sister's aid. His teacher is a family friend, and he gives Bilal a book about another Bilal who was born in the time of Prophet Muhammed. This Bilal was also tormented by bullies who tried to get him to denounce his god. This new-found knowledge gives Bilal strength to stand up for his sister the next day when the bullies harass her at her locker. Bilal finds a way to connect with the bullies on the basketball court, and it's there he also meets an older boy who's also Muslim. Now Bilal can call them both to prayer, just like the Bilal of olden times. *My Name is Bilal* is a picture book for ages 6 and up.

## In Search of a Better Life Immigration Picture Books

[\*Pancho Rabbit and Coyote: A Migrant's Tale\*](#) by Duncan Tonatiuh



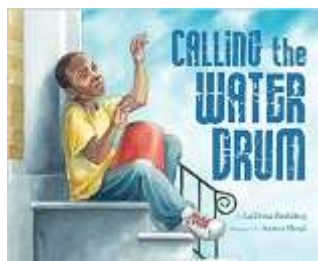
This is the perfect picture book for young children to introduce the issue of [undocumented immigrants](#) and the perils that they face. Young Pancho wants to find his papa who is long overdue from traveling North in search of work. After packing his father's favorite meal, he sets off and meets a coyote who offers to help for a fee. After the coyote consumes the food he's brought for his papa, Pancho realizes that the coyote is still hungry and has to make an escape. There's a happy ending with Pancho reuniting with his father. *Pancho Rabbit* is a picture book for ages 6 and up and also a Tomas Rivera Mexican-American Children's Book Award

winner.

*My Name is Yoon*, by Helen Recordist illustrated by Gabi Swiatkowska

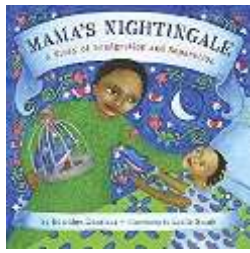
Yoon and her family have newly immigrated to the United States. As Yoon starts school she isn't certain that writing her name in English will have the same meaning as it does in Korean "Shining Wisdom". As her father reassures her that her name will hold the same meaning, Yoon learns that she is the same no matter if she writes her name in Korean or English.

[\*Calling the Water Drum\*](#) by LaTisha Redding, illustrated by Aaron Boyd



This beautiful picture book from publishers Lee & Low and new author LaTisha Redding is perfect for ages six and up. This immigration story is about Henri: a young boy who flees Haiti with his parents but only he survives the dangerous and tragic boat ride. Henri is sent to live with his uncle in New York and the bucket he brought with him is the only reminder his homeland and parents. For him, his drumming is his only form of communication. With the help of a new friend, Henri speaks his first word. Kids might not realize how dangerous the journey to the United States might be for some immigrants, including children and this book sheds a bright light on that subject.

*Mama's Nightingale: A Story of Immigration and Separation* by Edwidge Danticat (Author), Leslie Staub (Illustrator)



One of Kirkus Best Books of 2015, this book captures the sadness of a little girl whose Haitian mother has been sent away to a prison for undocumented immigrants. During their weekly visits to the detention center, Saya's mother tells her stories of the wosiyòl, or nightingale. Saya begins to receive cassette tapes in the mail from her mother. She finds hope and solace in the stories Mama has recorded for her. One night, amid a great deal of sadness and frustration, Saya writes a story of her own to ease the sadness and discovers the power of words and how the kindness of others can be a comfort during the most trying times. Based on the author's real-life experiences as a Haitian refugee, Danticat beautifully conveys a story about loss and grief and hope and joy.

*This Is Me: A Story of Who We Are and Where We Came From* by Jamie Lee Curtis (Author), Laura Cornell (Illustrator)

If you had to leave your home in a hurry, what would you pack in your suitcase? Raising important identity issues like “Where did we come from?” and “Who are we?” *This Is Me* is as delightful as it is important and is sure to stimulate dinner table conversation. This is such a wonderful opportunity to educate our children about immigrants while opening a discussion on why and how other people need and want to leave their home countries. The story is told in rhyme, this is such a fun, lyrical method of reading for adults and children ages 4-8.

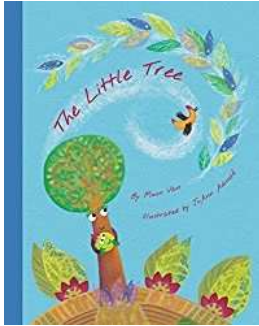
## The Refugee Experience Picture Books

*The Journey* by Francesca Sanna



Without being overly scary, this picture book for ages six and up shows a realistic version of the refugee experience. It starts with a war which takes the father. The mother and children decide to escape to another country which promises safety. They leave much behind in the cover of night, but they are denied by an enormous wall and border police. They run and hide in the darkness, and pay to have someone help them cross, but their journey is not over. The story is based on a meeting between the author and two young girls at a refugee center in Italy. This book is a collage of all those personal stories and the incredible strength of the people within them.

[The Little Tree](#) by Muon Van, illustrated by JoAnn Adinolfi



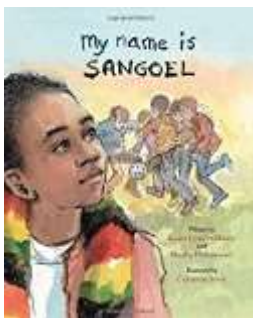
In this picture book for ages four and up, Author Muon Van tells the story of her family's exodus from Vietnam to escape the war in a parable about a tree sending her seed to a place that looked more promising than where she was. It's a beautiful story of parental love strong enough to let the little seed go.

[My Beautiful Birds](#) by Suzanne Del Rizzo



Sami and his family leave behind all that they have when civil war breaks out in Syria, and they walk for days to reach a refugee camp. Sami is safe for now but he can't stop worrying about his pigeons. In this new place, birds find him: a canary, a rose finch, and a pigeon. They bring him comfort and help him find joy again. When new kids come to the camp dazed and traumatized as he was, he is able to help. This picture book for ages 5 and up is published by Pajama Press.

[My Name is Sangoel](#) by Karen Williams and Khadra Mohammed, illustrated by Catherine Stock

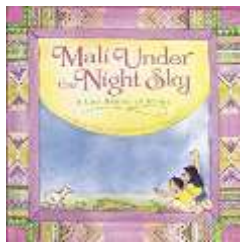


Sangoel's father has died in the war in Sudan, and now he and mother and sister are leaving the refugee camp to move to the United States. The wise man at camp tells Sangoel to be proud of his Dinka name, handed down to him from his father and grandfather. Lonely and homesick in this new country, Sangoel feels that he has lost his name because no one can pronounce it correctly. After he joins a soccer team, he gets an idea of how to teach everyone his name. The importance of one's name is not merely for his identity but represents all that he has left behind. This is a gentle story of the refugee experience. This picture book is excellent for

ages 6 and up.

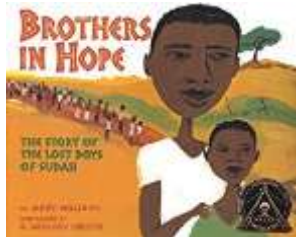


[\*Mali Under the Night Sky: A Lao Story of Home\*](#) by Youme Landowne



This is the true story of Laotian American artist Malichansouk Kouanchao, whose family was forced by civil war to flee Laos when she was five. Mali lived an idyllic life in the country with her family until the war began. Forced to flee, Mali and her family are arrested for not having a home in this country. With her childhood memories to sustain her, Mali tells stories of home to her fellow refugees. *Mali Under the Night Sky* is a picture book for ages 5 and up and is a 2011 Skipping Stones honor book.

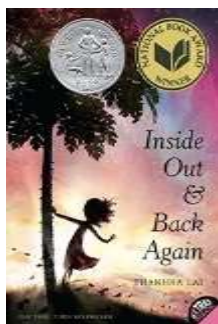
*Brothers in Hope: The Story of the Lost Boys of Sudan* by Mary Williams, illustrated by R. Gregory Christie



The Lost Boys of Sudan were usually the sole survivors of their families who were systematically killed village by village during the Sudan war. Those boys who were tending cattle survived, only to come back to find everything destroyed. This is the case of eight-year-old Garang who embarks on a treacherous journey to safety. First to Ethiopia, and then Kenya, he joins up with other boys in the same situation along the way. Their survival is a miracle and a testament to their courage and the power of the human spirit. *Brothers* is an advanced picture book for ages 8 and up.

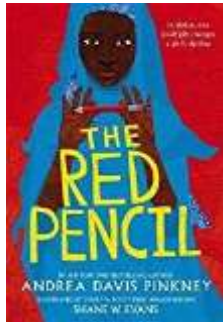
## The Refugee Experience Novels in Verse for Kids

[\*Inside Out and Back Again\*](#) by Thanhha Lai



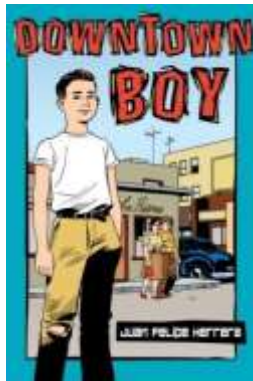
In free verse poems, a ten-year-old girl, Hà, chronicles the life-changing year of 1975, when she, her mother, and her brothers leave war-torn Vietnam to resettle in Alabama. Her voice is not what you'd expect from a refugee in America. Instead of humble gratitude, she brings a feisty and honest perspective of her new experiences, including bullying and rejection from her new classmates. She's a character that is hard to forget and easy to root for. *Inside Out and Back Again* is a novel in verse for ages 9 and up.

*The Red Pencil* by Andrea Davis Pinkney, illustrated by Shane W. Evans



Amira is twelve when war breaks out in Southern Sudan, and her peaceful village is attacked. Her father is killed and now she, her mother and sisters make the difficult journey to a refugee camp. Traumatized, Amira is unable to speak. At the camp, she is given a red pencil and pad of paper which helps her reclaim her voice and her creative spirit. [novel in verse, ages 9 and up]

*Downtown Boy* by Juan Felipe Herrera



In this novel told in verse, ten-year-old Juanito Palomares moves from a rural life to San Francisco and San Diego in the late 1950s. This family story of growing up Latino will resonate with readers of all backgrounds. Available through Scholastic, this book is excellent for grades 3-8.

## Understanding Modern Immigration Chapter Book for Kids

*A Long Pitch Home* by Natalie Dias Lorenzi



10-year-old Bilal and his mother and sister move to the United States, leaving their father behind in Pakistan. His father is caught in a web of political corruption, and Bilal finds a way to help him using his newfound baseball skills. *A Long Pitch Home* is a chapter book for ages 8 and up.

[Coming to America-The Story of Immigration](#) By Betsy Maestro , illustrated by Susannah Ryan



This bright picture book for grades 3-5 tells of the migration of diverse immigrant and ethnic groups to North America. Dating back to the travels of native peoples across the Bering Strait, and including the Atlantic slave trade and the journey of immigrants from Europe and Asia. The engaging text recounts the lives of various immigrant groups, celebrates their cultural contributions to America, and details the challenges of putting down roots in a new land. The quest for political and religious freedom and the existence of laws to reduce immigration to the United States are also explored. A table of dates and immigration facts is included. Available via Scholastic

*\*\*Some of these links are affiliate links. This means if you click through a purchase a book our non-profit gets a small commission at no extra cost to you. These funds are used to continue our work getting books into the hands of readers, parents, educators and librarians.*

## Helpful Resources, Articles and Talking Points for Teachers

Helping Kids Understand Immigration

<http://www.thebarefootmommy.com/2017/04/immigration-teach-children/>

How to stand up for immigrant rights with your kids

<http://www.thebarefootmommy.com/2017/05/immigrant-rights/>

## MCBD Classroom Kit Refugee/ Immigration Activity Guide

### How Do You Write Your Name?

We are so used to and familiar with our own names. Can you imagine if you were forced to leave your home, move to a different country where everything is *different*. The language isn't the same, everyone looks different than you, the food isn't what you're used to and even the weather isn't what you're accustomed to. Everything is brand new.

One of the first things a refugee or new immigrant has to encounter is how to write and pronounce their name. Sometimes the new country will even change their name. Let's take a moment to put ourselves in their shoes and discover what it would be like to have our name written in a different way.

## **Activity 1:**

Go to one of the two sites below and see what your name looks like in different languages. Not all languages use the same alphabet. Cut and paste the different versions of your name onto a word document. Then print it out. On a blank sheet of paper see if you can write your name in these new languages. How does it feel like to write your name in a different language? Does it feel natural or different? Now think about if you would always have to write your name in one of these new alphabets, how would that make you feel?

### **Language Name #1**



Check out [AlphaDictionary.com](http://AlphaDictionary.com) to discover fun ways to write your name in other languages.

### **Language Name #2**

MyLanguages.com is another fun and free site to explore writing and viewing names in other languages.

#### **Write Your Name**

Instructions: Try to write your name in English then **press the SPACE button or hit ENTER.**

Type in **GREEK** ▼

ρεβέκκα

## **Activity 2:**

What does your name mean? Visit [BehindTheName.com](http://BehindTheName.com) and have a look at this site and find the meaning of your name.

Discussion: **What's in a Name?**

- What does your name mean to you?
- Have you ever chosen to be called something different than your given name (nickname)?
- Have other people ever labelled you instead of using your name?
- If yes, why do you think that they did it? How did it make you feel? What can you do to stop it?

Oftentimes refugees or even immigrants will change their names so it is easier to understand in the language of the country they've immigrated to. How would you feel if your name was changed? Would you still feel like the same person?

## **The Refugee Bag**

Teachers: Ask the class to work individually and, after the exercise, share in a group. You will need a piece of paper and a pen.

**To teachers:** This exercise can prove stressful but no exercise can bring home the message of what becoming a refugee is like. Most refugees have to make these decisions in split seconds as they are fleeing for their lives.

1. When you get home from school today there is a note on the kitchen table which says you have to leave in half an hour. You do not know where you are going, but you do know it will be a long journey. You do not know if you will return or how long you will be gone. You can only take a small backpack. You need to choose 10 items to take with you. They can be personal or useful item but NO pets. (Give the students 5 minutes to write down their list of 10 items)

2. Also on the kitchen table are 4 tickets. Decide and write down which 3 people will come with you. (Give the students 3 minutes to decide)

3. You are now told that you have to share a backpack. You must cut your list of 10 items down to 3. You will need to cross 7 items off your list.

After the lists have been compiled, make a circle and share your backpack choices, the people you'd take with you, and finally the three items each student will be taking with them in their backpacks. Also be sure and discuss how each part of the exercise made them feel. How would they feel to have to do this in real life?

Would You Like to See What Other Refugees Have Carried? Read this very eye-opening and compelling article from Carryology.com to your students. ***What's in My Bag? :: What Refugees Bring When They Run for Their Lives***



## **Backstory Behind the Backpack Activity:**

*Hello Dear Teachers and Students,*

*I'm Valarie Budayr one of the co-founders of Multi-cultural Children's Book Day. The Backpack exercise above has actually happened to me and my children. Several years ago we found ourselves in the middle of an invasion while visiting an un-named country on vacation. There were 19 members of our family in one apartment. With me were my three children and my eldest daughter's best friend.*

*At one point we knew that if we got to a certain place we'd be able to be evacuated out of the situation. We were told that each one of us could bring a small suitcase. Then a short time later we were told we could bring one suitcase between all five of us. A short time later we were told*

*we could each bring one school back pack. We had 15 minutes to pack and leave. It posed a very real life questions of “What do we take with us?”*

*One backpack was filled with a couple pairs of clean underwear and socks, one hair brush and five tooth brushes and one tube of toothpaste for each person. The second backpack had food in it. The third backpack had water. It was the heaviest and I carried that. The fourth backpack was medications and first aid kit. The fifth backpack carried 2 journals, and family photos.*

*From there we were evacuated out to a refugee camp. Once there they didn't want to let our friend travel with us. They tried kicking us off the bus that would take us to the airport where we could get our flight back to the States. They said only families travel together and my daughters friend wasn't part of our family. I held tightly onto this beautiful girl Sarah and refused to get off the bus. Finally they accepted and after many more days of arduous travel we made it home.*

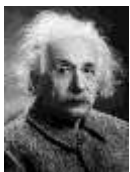
*Those who arrive at refugee camps are locked inside the camp and cannot leave. They wait days, months, and many times years to find a country or family member in another country who will take them. Many times families are broken up and a simple letter is left for the family members who must stay behind in the refugee camp. They are told that they were not chosen to leave the camp at this time.*

*The intention of the backpack exercise is to create empathy and a new lens to view a difficult situation through while remaining safe. If you should have students in your classroom who were refugees, or their parents were refugees, please use this valuable resource and ask if they would feel comfortable sharing their story with you. Thank you! -Valarie*

## **Common Ground | Why Everyone is Welcome Here**

Immigrants coming to the United States have been a big factor in creating the success of our country. Can you match these famous immigrants with their contributions? **(Teachers-answer key is below)**

*Albert Einstein:* Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Austria, Belgium, USA



*Sergey Brin: Russia, US*



*Liz Claiborne: Belgium, US*



*Madeleine Albright: Czech Republic, US*



*Robert Herjavec: Croatia*



*Jan Koum: Ukrainian Soviet Union, US*



*Isabel Allende: Peru, Chile, US*





*Freddy Adu: Ghana, US*



*Oscar de la Renta: Dominican Republic, US*



*Jawed Karim: East Germany, US*



*Steven Chen: Taiwan*



*Arianna Huffington: Greece, US*



*Mariano Rivera: Panama, US*



### **Contributions**

- Baseball
- Co-founder of Google
- Fashion designer
- Co-founder of YouTube
- Soccer Player
- Author
- Journalist and Newspaper owner
- Secretary of State
- Fashion Designer
- App Creator
- Physicist
- A TV star on Shark Tank and CEO of a global IT security firm.

### **Answers**

Albert Einstein: Physicist

Sergey Brin: Co-founder of Google

Liz Claiborne: Fashion Designer

Madeleine Albright: Secretary of State

Jan Koum: What's App

Isabel Allende: Author

Freddy Adu: Soccer Player

Oscar de la Renta: Fashion Designer

Steven Chen: Co- founder of YouTube

Jawed Karim: Co-founder of YouTube

Arianna Huffington: Founder and journalist at the Huffington Post

Mariano Rivera: Baseball Player

Robert Herjavec-Shark Tank

## Talking Point Classroom Discussion Questions

**Please Discuss the Following:**

- 1. What might force you (and your family) to abandon your home and leave your country?**
- 2. Have you heard about the refugee crisis in the news?**
- 3. What is a refugee?** *Refugees are people fleeing conflict or persecution.*
- 4. Where do refugees come from?** *Refugees come from all over the world. More than half come from Syria, Afghanistan and Somalia.*
- 5. What are some reasons that refugees leave their homes?**
- 6. Where do refugees go?** *Most refugees come from developing 3rd world countries. Most refugees flee to neighboring countries.*
- 6. What difficulties to refugees face on their journeys?**
- 7. Who helps refugees when they leave or flee their homes?** *The United Nations Refugee Agency, world and local governments, non-profit organizations, communities, and neighbors.*
- 8. Whose responsibility is it to help refugees?**
- 9. Why do you think it is their responsibility?**
- 10. What would you need if you moved to a new country and didn't have anything with you?**
- 11. If you were a refugee what help would be the most valuable to you?**
- 12. What do you have that you would be willing to give a refugee?**
- 13. If you met a refugee, how would you be kind to them?**

# The Mission of MCCBD

*Our mission is to not only raise awareness for the kid's books that celebrate diversity, but to get more of these books into classrooms and libraries.*

Children's reading and play advocates Valarie Budayr from [Jump Into a Book](#) and Mia Wenjen from [Pragmatic Mom](#) have teamed up to create an ambitious (and much needed) national event. On January 27th, 2014 Jump into a Book and Pragmatic Mom presented their very first Multicultural Children's Book Day as a way of celebrating diversity in children's books.

The results were overwhelming as authors, publishers, parents, teachers, bloggers and librarians joined forces to offer up an online event designed to shine the spotlight on diversity in children's literature.

As the non-profit initiative continues full steam ahead, MCCBD's main focus continues to be to put multicultural children's books on shelves and into the hands of deserving families through book donations and fundraising.

The MCCBD has partnered with the Junior Library Guild to provide one FREE hardcover, library quality multicultural children's book to any classroom, school or teacher who signs up for the **Multicultural Children's Book Day Free Books for Classroom Campaign**. **Learn how you can get a free book for your students here:**

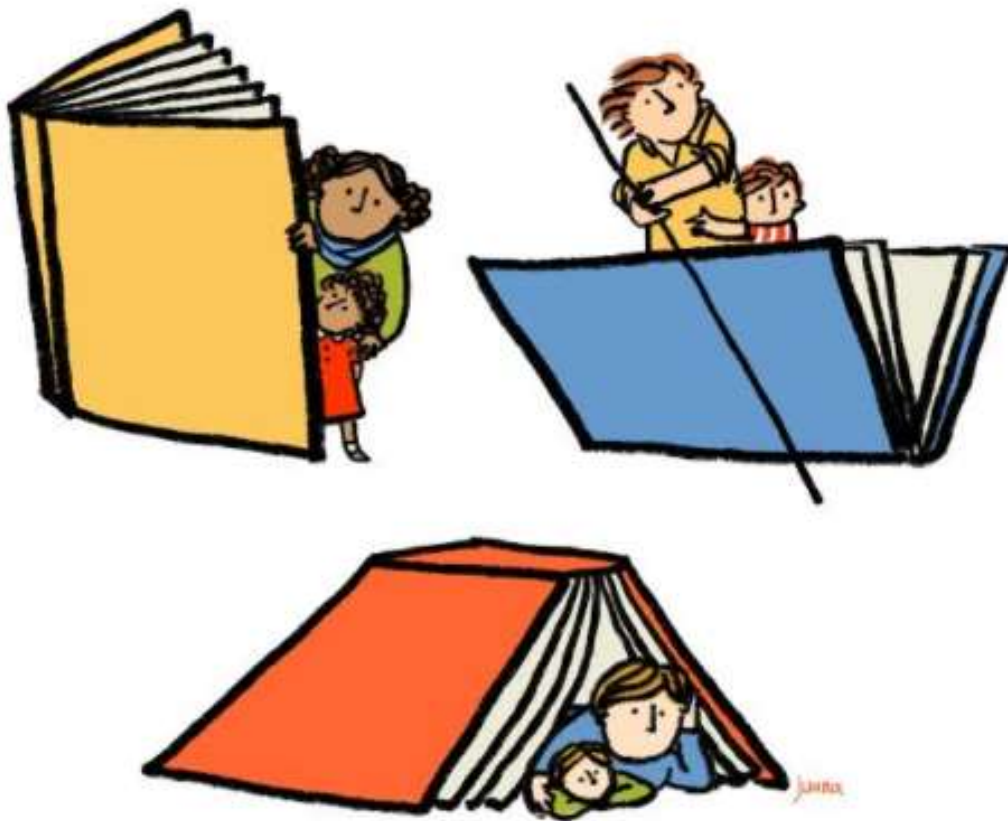
MCCBD also has another free resource for educators and parents: The [Diversity Book Lists & Resources for Teachers and Parents](#). *Go [here](#) to view all of our booklists grouped by a number of different multicultural topics.*

<http://multiculturalchildrensbookday.com/multicultural-reading-resources/diversity-book-lists-for-kids/>

Check out the MCCBD 2017 Classroom Kindness Kit [HERE](#):

[Printable Classroom Empathy Poster and other Assets](#)

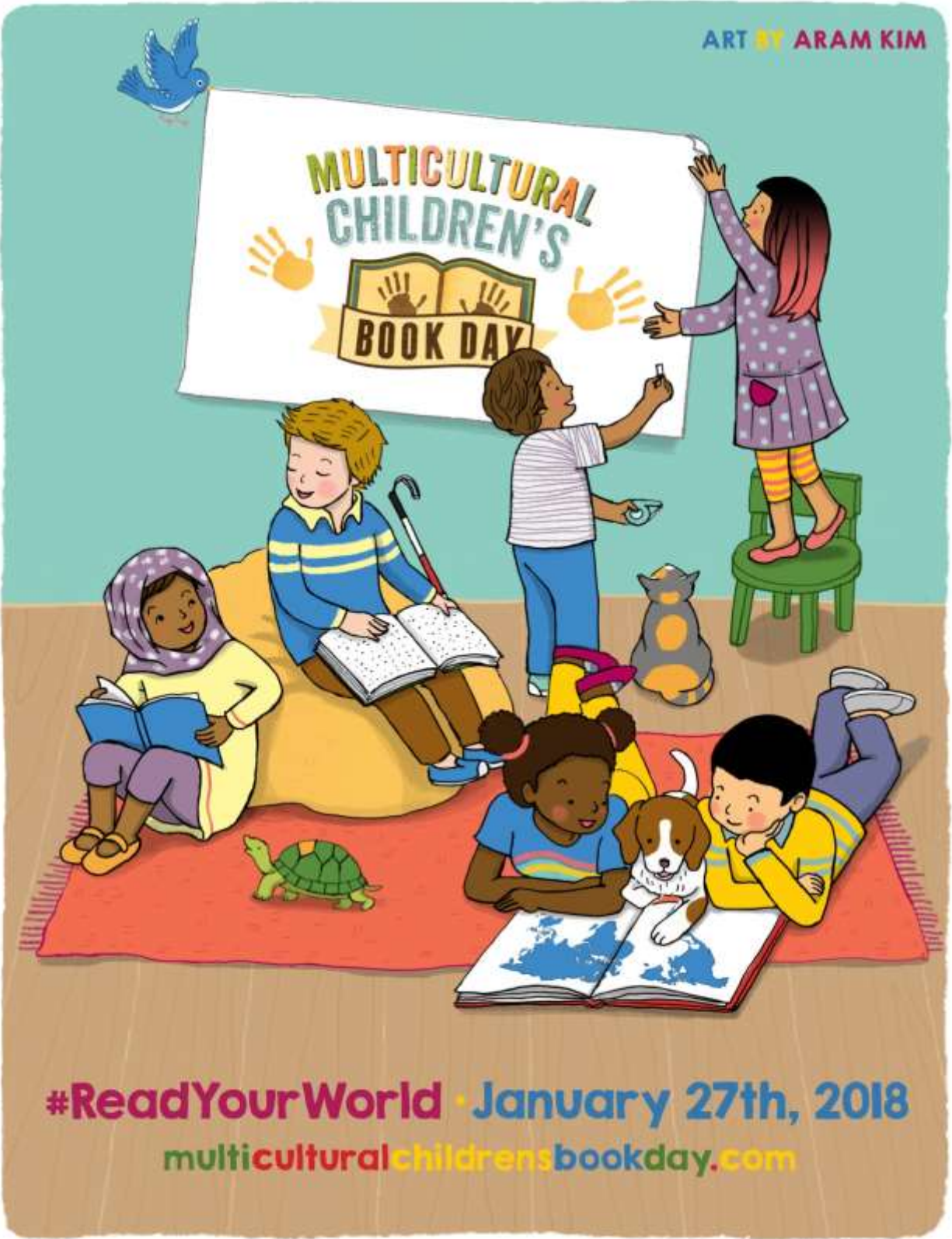
MULTICULTURAL CHILDREN'S BOOK DAY  
2018  
CLASSROOM EMPATHY KIT



EVERYONE IS WELCOME HERE



ART BY ARAM KIM



**#ReadYourWorld • January 27th, 2018**

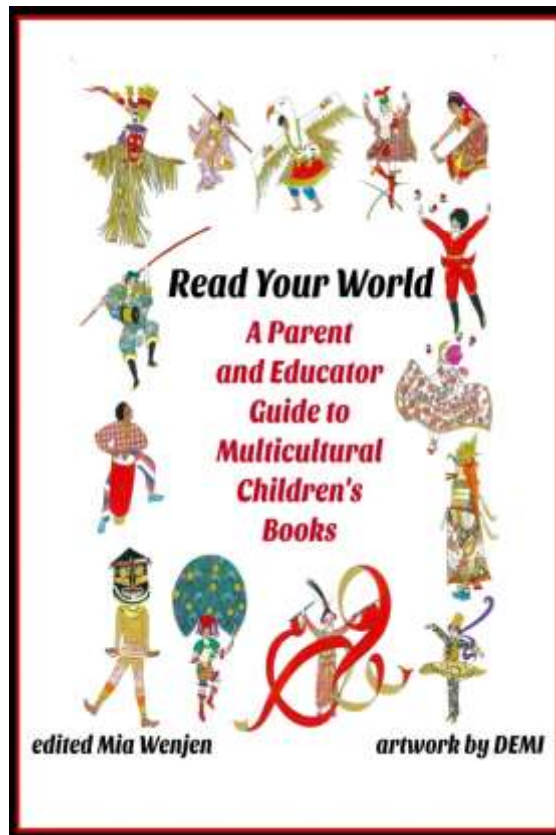
[multiculturalchildrensbookday.com](http://multiculturalchildrensbookday.com)

Multicultural Children's Book Day also has an eBook!

*Read Your World: A Guide to Multicultural Children's Books for Parents and Educators* is a "Best Of" list of diversity books lists for children.

***One hundred percent of proceeds will go towards donating books to teachers for their classroom libraries. In fact, for each book purchased, one book can be donated to a teacher!***

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