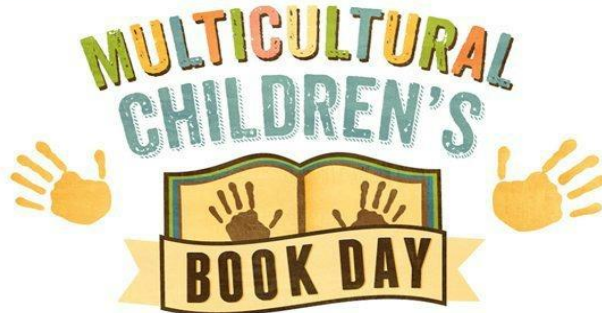


Multicultural Children's Book Day Classroom Poverty Kit 2019

Poverty Doesn't Discriminate | Understanding Poverty in
America

**January
25, 2019!**



#ReadYourWorld

PoVERTY



Doesn't

D I S C R I M I N A T E

Multicultural Children's Book Day January 25, 2019

Art by Mehrdokht Amini

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WELCOME

As our sixth Multicultural Children's Book Day holiday approaches on January 25, 2019, we are thrilled to have you as part of our amazing community of supporters! With enthusiasm, optimism and hope, we are preparing for MCBD 2019 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.

We are fortunate to live in a country that is a melting pot of diversity and land of opportunity. But not all those living in The Land of the Free have what they need for basic everyday living.

Current estimates in the U.S. show that the official poverty rate is somewhere around 12.7 percent, based on the U.S. Census Bureau's 2016 estimates. That year, an estimated 43.1 million Americans lived in poverty according to the official measure.

"People come into the United States from all over the world to find freedom and to uncover enough wealth to raise their families. Many come from poor regions where they believe that the country doesn't struggle with poverty. As one of the world's wealthiest nations, this is simply a fallacy. And the numbers can attest to the fact that poverty is a pervasive problem America, but we don't like to admit it. We would like to think that the poor only dwell in third-world countries, but there is no denying it, poverty is a pervasive quandary in America."

Source: <http://www.beliefnet.com/news/articles/7-facts-on-poverty-in-america.aspx#XeGtZ0e8CvWay7pd.99>

But what does that mean? The official definition of poverty is "*a condition where people's basic needs for food, clothing, and shelter are not being met.*" Poverty rates are highest for families headed by single women, particularly if they are black or Hispanic according to the National Poverty Center. Most of these women have children and without additional income from a spouse, are at a greater risk of poverty.

Now let's think about what that means, feels like, and looks like through the eyes of a child. Not having enough to eat or seeing their parent(s) struggle to pay bills creates stress and trauma in a child that feels powerless to help.

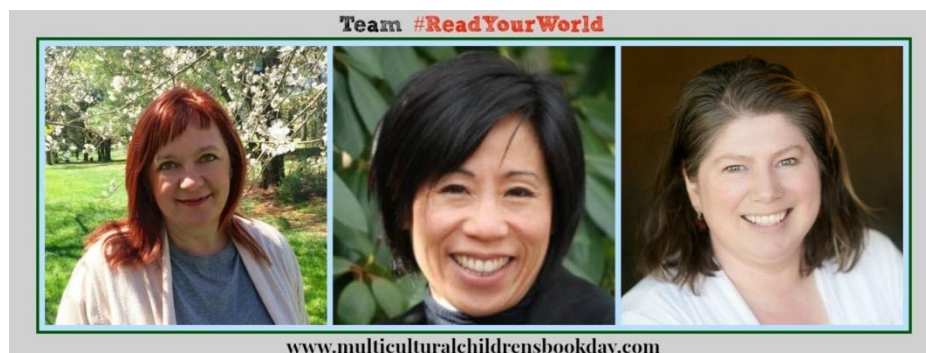
How about children who don't live in homes touched by poverty? What does poverty look like to them? How can educators, parents, and caregivers help the next generation of leaders understand and empathize with a growing issue that is likely affecting someone close to them?

This Multicultural Children's Book Day 2018 Poverty Classroom Kit is filled with books, activities, discussion questions, resources, and a free classroom poster to help students understand that Poverty Doesn't Discriminate.

Thank you to Mehrdokht Amini for creating the poster.

Meet the Team

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



Valarie Budayr

On any given day, you may hear as many as six different languages spoken in my home.

I'm Valarie Budayr, a children's book author & publisher, reading & play advocate, and reading activist who is committed to diversity in children's books.

My life and household has been diverse and multicultural for as long as I can remember. As the daughter of parents who emigrated from Sweden, I have been immersed in Nordic culture since childhood. As a child I attended German/English

schools, and as an adult I continued learning even more languages for a grand total of six (English, Swedish, French, Arabic, German, Japanese, plus working knowledge in a few others.)

Mia Wenjen

Because my children are 1/4 Japanese-American, 1/4 Chinese-American, and 1/2 Korean American, I personally sought out books for my kids where they could see themselves; something that I didn't have growing up despite being a bookworm who read every single biography and fiction chapter book in my Southern California elementary school library.

I'm Mia Wenjen and I blog at [PragmaticMom](#). I love children's books. Blogging on children's books for the past seven years made me realize that there simply isn't enough representation of kids of color in children's literature. And, for the diversity books that do exist, they don't get the exposure they need and deserve.

Becky Flansburg

I'm Becky Flansburg and I've been lucky enough to have been the Project Manager for the MCBBD initiative since Day One. I can honestly say that I love my role in this organization and am proud of the work we do. As the mom to two beautiful kids, I feel I am the voice of "invisible disabilities" like ADHD, severe anxiety, and childhood eating issues. My oldest son is also adopted, and I am as proud as proud could be to be an adoptive mommy. Connect with me at Becky (at) Multiculturalchildrensbookday.com

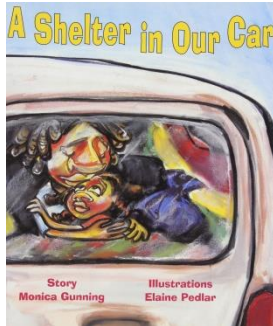
#ReadYourWorld

27 Classroom Books that will help Readers Understand Poverty in America

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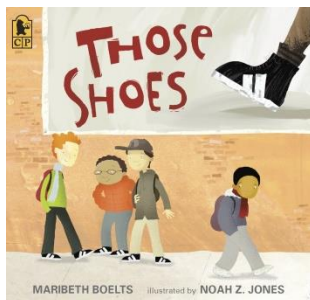
Picture Books:

[*A Shelter in Our Car*](#) by Monica Gunning, illustrated by Elaine Pedlar



Zettie and her mama left their warm and comfortable home in Jamaica for an uncertain life in the United States. With Papa gone, Mama can't find a steady job that will sustain them and so they are forced to live in their car. But Mama's unwavering love, support, and gutsy determination give Zettie the confidence that, together, she and her mother can meet all challenges. Monica Gunning's moving and authentic story about homelessness in an American city was developed with the help of the Homeless Children's Network in San Francisco. Elaine Pedlar's strong and lively illustrations bring the story to life in vibrant chalk pastel. (For ages 5 and up)

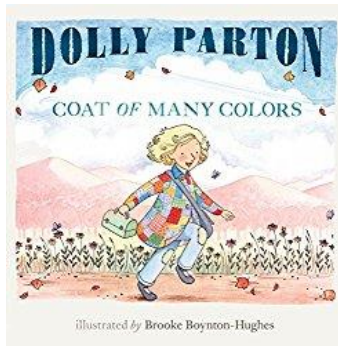
[*Those Shoes*](#) by Maribeth Boelts, illustrated by Noah Z. Jones



We've all been in a place where we want something that is just out of reach. That is the situation young Jeremy is in. All he wants is a pair of those shoes, the ones everyone at school seems to be wearing. On a tight budget, his family sees these amazing shoes as a "want" not a "need." But when Jeremy's old shoes fall apart at school, he is more determined than ever to have those shoes and, in a fit of desperation, settles for a pair of too-small thrift shoes. It doesn't take long to discover that sore feet are a drag, but at the same time Jeremy awakens to the gifts he already has; warm boots, a loving grandma, and the chance to help a friend. All of which are worth more than the material things he wants. (For ages 5 and up)

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Coat of Many Colors by Dolly Parton, illustrated by Brooke Boynton-Hughes



Now, I know we had no money,

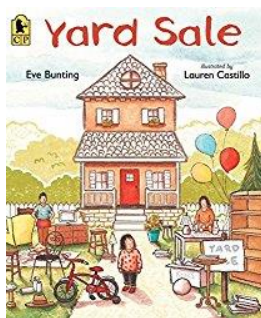
But I was rich as I could be

In my coat of many colors

My mama made for me ...

Parents will remember this award-winning, yet haunting, song from country music icon, Dolly Parton. Growing up in rural Tennessee, Dolly's family struggled to make ends meet. When there's no money to buy a coat for Dolly and winter is on the way, her mother makes her a coat from a box of donated rags. The kids at school make fun of her homemade coat, but the girl feels warmed both by the coat and her mother's love. This is Dolly Parton's true story. (For ages 4 and up)

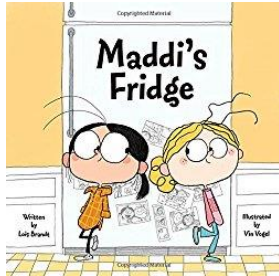
Yard Sale by Eve Bunting, illustrated by Lauren Castillo



It's hard to have all your things spread out and for sale in a yard sale, but the new apartment in the city that Callie and her family are moving to is small. Their things won't fit, like her bicycle which is hard to let go of. When a woman asks jokingly if Callie is for sale, she panics. Is she for sale? Not for a trillion dollars her parents reassure her. After the yard sale, they go back into the

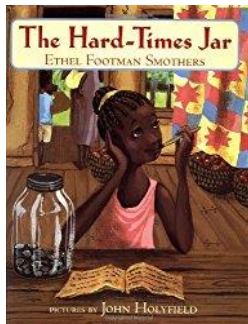
house. Callie feels ok now that their things are gone because a home is about those you love, not your possessions. (For ages 4 and up)

[Maddi's Fridge](#) by Lois Brandt, illustrated by Vin Vogel



This is an excellent picture book for understanding food insecurity. Sofia inadvertently discovers that her friend Maddi has a nearly empty fridge. The milk inside must be saved for Maddi's younger brother. Sofia promises Maddi that she won't tell anyone, but how can she help her friend? Is it ok to break her promise? The end note lists ways to help friends who have empty refrigerators. (For ages 4 and up)

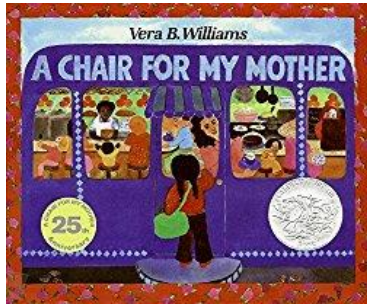
[The Hard-Times Jar](#) by Ethel Footman Smothers, illustrated by John Holyfield



The hard-times jar is for emergencies not for extras like the real book that Emma longs for. Today, instead of joining her family picking apples, she is going to school. Emma would rather work to earn money for a store bought book. Still, she goes to school. Her teacher shows Emma the class library. There are walls and walls of books! Emma isn't supposed to bring books home but she slips two into her sweater. Her mother discovers her book stash and makes her apologize to her teacher. All is forgiven. When Emma gets home, her mother has a gift for her from the hard-times jar because what Emma did to own up was hard. This picture book is based on the author's childhood. (For ages 4 and up)

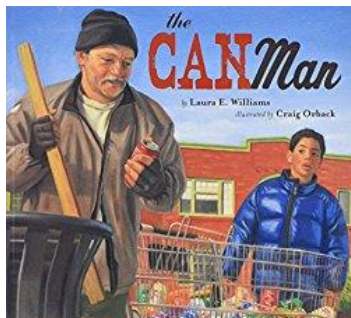
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A Chair for My Mother by Vera B. Williams



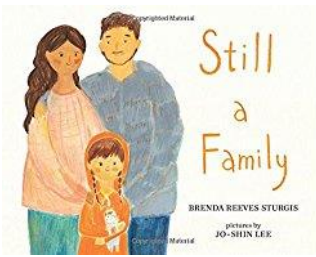
After a fire in their apartment, a multi-generational family of a girl, her mother and her grandmother lose all their possessions, and their community pitches in to help them out. Even with this generous help, they are without a sofa and armchairs. They carefully save coins in a large jar for a new armchair which takes them well over a year. Now, the time has come to pick out the perfect chair and bring it home. It is enjoyed all day by each member of the family. This sweet book is an uplifting story of love and resilience against adversity. (For ages 4 and up)

The Can Man by Laura E. Williams, illustrated by Craig Orback



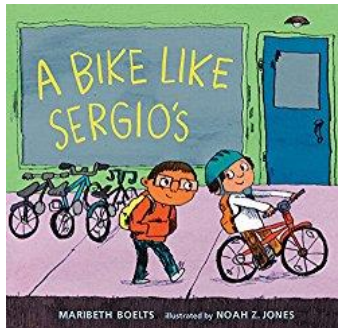
Tim wishes for a skateboard for his birthday but he knows that his parents can't afford it. Watching a homeless man collecting cans gives him an idea to raise the money himself. While people refer to him as The Can Man, Tim's parents remember him as their neighbor, Mr. Peters, who is down on his luck. Tim collects cans for a week, uneasy in the knowledge of taking the cans away from Mr. Peters. When it's time to cash in the cans, Tim decides to gift the money to Mr. Peters instead. On this birthday, his kindness is repaid. (For ages 5 and up)

Still a Family: A Story About Homelessness by Brenda Reeves Sturgis, illustrated by Jo-Shin Lee



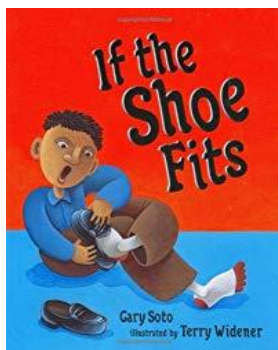
For a young girl and her parents who live in different homeless shelters, being a family means more than living under one roof. They still spend time as a family at the park, playing hide-and-seek, and playing in the playground. The girl still remembers her room at her old house and it's this that she wishes for on her birthday. (For ages 4 and up)

[A Bike Like Sergio's](#) by Maribeth Boelts, illustrated by Noah Z. Jones



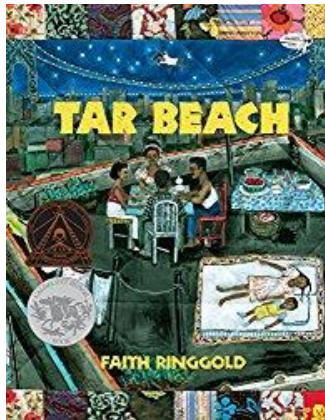
Every kid has a bike except Ruben and, due to the family finances, he knows he can't wish for one for his birthday either. Money is too tight in his family. When he finds a dollar bill at the grocery store, he doesn't chase down the owner. It's just a dollar. But when he gets home, he discovers it's actually a hundred dollar bill! It's enough to buy a bike! But when he loses the hundred dollar bill before finding it, he realizes how terrible that feeling is. When he sees the lady in the blue coat that lost the bill, he decides to give it back to her demonstrating that a good deed will always prevail over greed. (For ages 4 and up)

[If the Shoe Fits](#) by Gary Soto, illustrated by Terry Widener



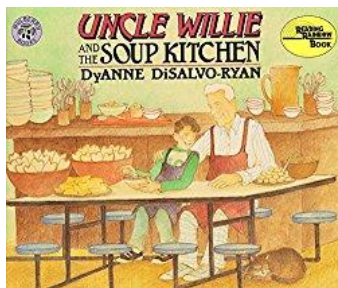
Rigo has a large family with three older brothers and he doesn't mind the noisy house. It's the hand-me-downs that he hates. For his ninth birthday, he gets brand new shoes. He gets bullied for putting nickels in his penny loafers which makes him reject his shoes. Still, by the end of summer, he decides to wear them to a party even though they are too small. When he gets home, he notices that his uncle, who lives with them, could use them. His uncle doesn't mind that they are used and fits two centavos into the slots. That's what Rigo will do if he ever gets loafers again! A great lesson for students on how hand-me-downs come from a place of love (For ages 4 and up)

Tar Beach by Faith Ringgold



Cassie Louise Lightfoot is only eight years old and in third grade. She dreams of flying as she sleeps on "Tar Beach," the rooftop of her building. If she can fly, then she can fly over bridges and buildings and claim them for her own. This is important to her because her father, a steel worker, is not allowed in the union because of racism. It makes finding work during the winter difficult for her father, stressing the family financially. Additional information about artist and author Faith Ringgold is included in the back matters page, including her illustration style of the book as a story quilt. (For ages 4 and up)

Uncle Willie and the Soup Kitchen by DyAnne DiSalvo

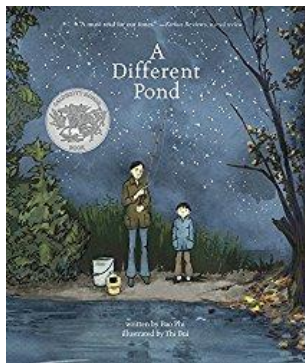


Uncle Willie works at the soup kitchen and brings his nephew there to visit on his day off from school. Along the way, they see one of the guests at the soup kitchen; a can man collecting cans

for money. The boy notices a woman sleeping on a park bench and feels sad for her. They pick up supplies as they walk to the soup kitchen, and then they both help with the day's food preparations. When it's time to serve the food one hundred and twenty-one guests get served that night. Use this book to talk about food insecurity and how not just the homeless experience hunger. (For ages 4 and up)

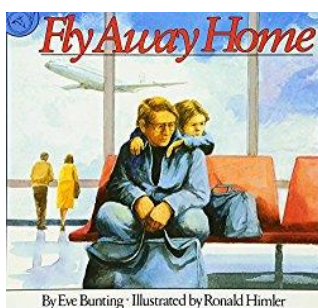
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[A Different Pond](#) by Bao Phi, illustrated by Thi Bui



A winner of both a 2018 Caldecott Award and a Charlotte Zolotow Award for outstanding writing. A Vietnamese boy and his father go fishing in the middle of the night, not for recreation, but to feed their family. His father works several jobs and his mother works as well, but money is always scarce. The boy also takes responsibility for his siblings when his parents are at work. This is a dignified portrait of new immigrants and how hard they work to get established in a new country. Despite working around the clock, the family is grateful for what they have and for their time together. (For ages 4 and up)

[Fly Away Home](#) by Eve Bunting, illustrated by Ronald Himler



Andrew and his dad live in an airport because they are homeless and it's safe and warm. They have to be careful not to be caught though. Eve Bunting is always careful to leave a window of hope open. Andrew spots a bird stuck in the airport and wills it to escape. When Andrew gets upset about not having a home, he remembers the bird. It took a while, but a door opened. And when the bird left and flew free, it was singing. (For ages 4 and up)

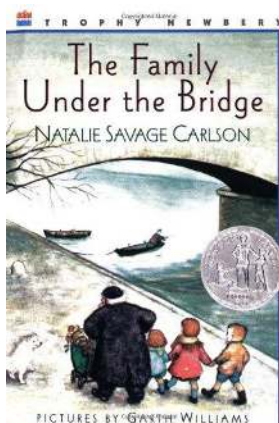
Early Chapter Books:

[The Hundred Dresses](#) by Eleanor Estes and illustrated by Louis Slobodkin



Eleanor Estes's *The Hundred Dresses* won a Newbery Honor in 1945 and has never been out of print since. At the heart of the story is Wanda Petronski, a Polish girl in a Connecticut school who is ridiculed by her classmates for wearing the same faded blue dress every day. Wanda claims she has one hundred dresses at home, but everyone knows she doesn't and bullies her mercilessly. The class feels terrible when Wanda is pulled out of the school, but by that time it's too late for apologies. Maddie, one of Wanda's classmates, ultimately decides that she is "never going to stand by and say nothing again." This powerful, timeless story has been reissued with a new letter from the author's daughter Helena Estes, and with the Caldecott artist Louis Slobodkin's original artwork in beautifully restored color.

[The Family Under the Bridge](#) by Natalie Savage Carlson

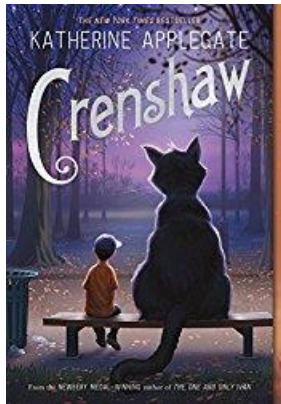


Armand, an old Parisian living on the streets of Paris, relished his solitary life. He begged and did odd jobs for money to keep himself warm and fed, and he liked his carefree life.

Then one day just before Christmas, a struggling mother and her three children walked into his life. Though he tried to ignore their troubles, Armand soon found himself caring for the family and sharing his unusual home under the bridge with them. (Early chapter book, ages 8 and up)

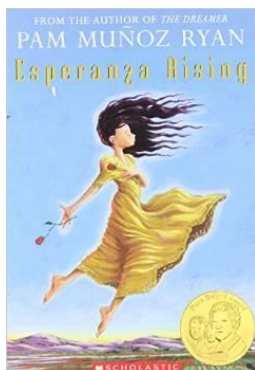
Chapter Books:

Crenshaw by Katherine Applegate



It's a slow sink into homelessness, but a hard scramble back up. Applegate's chapter book captures the stresses homelessness puts on a family, especially on the children. Going-into-fifth-grade Jackson's coping mechanism is an imaginary talking cat that pops up when he's homeless. Without pathos, but with a realistic portrayal of homelessness, this is a story that opens your heart to those in need. This book is also helpful in bringing home the understanding of how a family can slip into homelessness and the trauma it wreaks on children. (For ages 8 and up)

Esperanza Rising by Pam Muñoz Ryan

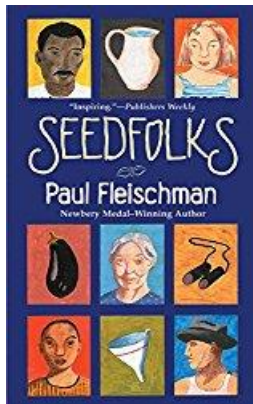


Esperanza Ortega lives a life of privilege in Aguascalientes, Mexico. Her father owns El Rancho de las Rosas where he grows rows of roses and grapes. Esperanza is treated like a princess, with beautiful gifts, loving parents, loyal servants, and wonderful friends.

When bandits kill her father, her mother and her lives are uprooted. Esperanza, Ramona, and their loyal servants are forced to flee Mexico, leaving an ill Abuelita to heal with her sisters at the convent. With all their papers in order, they sneak out of Aguascalientes by cover of darkness to travel into the United States for work. Here, Esperanza discovers the hardships of life, responsibility, and other experiences that her life of privilege had shielded her from.

Will the valleys, as abuelita says, ever turn into mountain tops? (For ages 8 and up)

Seedfolks by Paul Fleischman



A Newbery Honors winner. A young immigrant girl surreptitiously plants a handful of bean seeds in a run-down lot in memory of her father. This simple act sparks a chain of events that turns a neighborhood with the usual inner-city problems into a community. Gardening knits neighbors into friends who help each other out, whether it's plants that need water or a young man that needs a place to stay. An excellent book that shares the message of how a community garden can bring a neighborhood together. (For ages 10 and up)

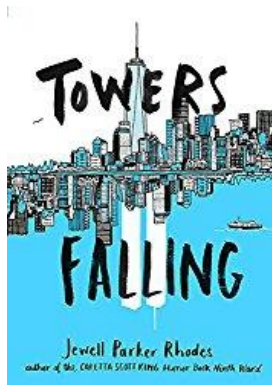
Paper Things by Jennifer Richard Jacobson



Ari and her older brother have left their guardian Janna's house, but they don't have a place to live. While her brother tries to secure an apartment for them, they couch surf and live in

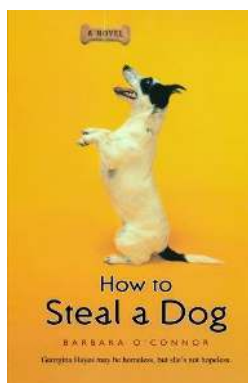
homeless shelters. She could have stayed with Janna but that would break the cardinal rule that their mother wanted for them before she died four years ago which was to stay together always. Living out her backpack makes Ari's goals seem impossible, including getting into the gifted middle school. (For ages 10 and up)

Towers Falling by Jewell Parker Rhodes



Deja is ten and her family of five live in a homeless shelter. She doesn't understand why her father can't work. At her new school, the curriculum explores home, community and the two towers that were once visible from the school's windows. With two new friends, each also hurting in ways that Deja is just beginning to understand, they piece together why the tragedy of 9/11 still affects them deeply and personally today. This book is excellent for helping readers understand homelessness and how mental illnesses that can be the root cause of it. (For ages 9 and up)

How to Steal a Dog by Barbara O'Connor



Young Georgina Hayes has been in a desperate frame of mind since her father left and they were evicted from their apartment. Forced to live in the family car with her parents, her mom juggles two jobs to make ends meet. Then Georgina sees a missing-dog poster with a reward of five hundred dollars and decides this is the solution to all her problems. All she has to do is "borrow"

the right dog and its owners are sure to offer a reward. What happens next is the last thing she expected.

A 2008 Bank Street -Best Children's Book of the Year, *How to Steal a Dog* is a title with Common Core connections. (For ages 8 and up)

Just Under the Clouds by Melissa Sarno



After Cora's father died, her mother does her best to hold the family together. Her younger sister Adare has special needs because she was born without enough oxygen to her brain. They are living in a shelter that isn't safe, and when they are robbed, they end up at her mother's friend's apartment. Her mother doesn't want to take handouts so that means they won't be here for long. Cora's struggling to maintain some kind of stability in her life, with her only connection to her father a diary of plants and trees. She makes a friend at school who also lives unconventionally and discovers that friendships and dreams can still be attainable, even with the constant changes in her life.

Though this book feels weighty with sadness, it's an honest depiction of the slide into homelessness caused by the loss of a parent. Cora is easy to root for but she also shows us how difficult maintaining a typical routine is when you are unrooted and under-resourced. It's a little frustrating how her mother refuses any help, including free school lunches, and it's unclear if Adare will get the special needs education that would benefit her. There is a glimmer of hope in the end when they find more permanent housing, but there's also this harsh reality in the background of the story of her mother making poor choices to pursue her dreams of becoming an artist and marrying the man that she loves. This is an excellent book for helping readers understand homelessness and how the loss of a parent can change a family's circumstances. (For ages 8 and up)

Front Desk by Kelly Yang

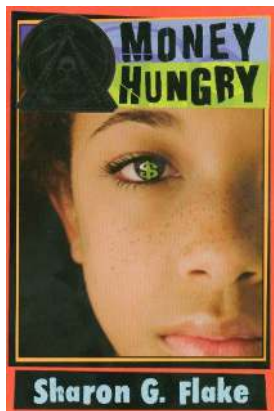


Mia and her parents have emigrated from China to Southern California where they are struggling to make ends meet. Her parents take a job running a motel, but they are exploited by the evil owner, Mr. Yao. Mia is learning English and dreams of many things including writing, but her mother thinks Mia can't compete with native speakers and wants her to focus on math.

The plot is fast-paced and touches on the many issues that are front and center right now: modern slavery, police bias, and racism. Throughout it all, Mia preserves with hard work, an indomitable spirit, a growing command of the English language, an ability to create a community, and a sense of justice that changes her family and everyone around her. This is an excellent book for helping readers understand new immigrant poverty and how they are especially vulnerable to corrupt employers and the cycle of poverty from starting out at the bottom. (For ages 8 and up)

Advanced Chapter Book/YA

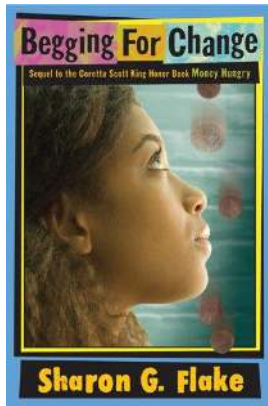
[Money Hungry](#) by Sharon Flake



Wanting money is one thing; being obsessed to the point of desperation is quite another. Teen Raspberry Hill is more than obsessed; it's all she thinks about and she is willing to do whatever it takes, even shady and illegal things, to get the money she so desperately craves. She is driven.

She is terrified. Memories of being homeless, sleeping in the streets, and eating handouts keep her eyes on the only prize that matters to her: cold, hard cash. A Coretta Scott King Honor Book. (For ages 11 and up)

[Begging for Change](#) by Sharon Flake



The sequel to *Money Hungry* has young Raspberry Hill still vowing to never to end up on the streets again. It's been a year since Raspberry's mother threw her hard-earned money out the window like trash, so to Raspberry money equals security and balance. And she's determined to do anything to achieve it. But when a troubled neighborhood teenager attacks her mother and Raspberry's drug-addicted father returns, Raspberry becomes desperate for her life to change and ends up doing the unthinkable. (For ages 11 and up)

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Multicultural Children's Book Day January 25, 2019

Art by Mehrdokht Amini

Activities to help Students Understand Poverty

Activity #1-M&M Demonstration

What You'll Need:

- A bowl for each child
- A bag of M & Ms (Give the order not to eat any of the M&Ms)
- Give each child a moderate amount of M & Ms. Make sure that every 4th or 5th child only gets 2 M&Ms in their bowl.

Observation Questions:

- Go around the room and ask the kids how they feel about the amount of candy they received?
- Notice how the kids with only 2 M&Ms feel.
- Notice how the kids with a lot of M&M's feel. Do they want even more?
- Notice how the kids with a moderate amount of M&Ms feel. Do they want more, less, or are they happy with what they have?

Ask the kids the following:

Do children who are poor or living in a shelter have any control over how much money they have?

Do you have any control over the amount of M & Ms I gave you?

Now think about the amount of candy you have. For those who have enough, they can go out after school and buy some more without even thinking about it. For people who are poor or living in a shelter, they don't get to buy any candy.

Think about having less or no M&Ms. What might it feel like to live in poverty or not have enough food at home?

Ask how can we make the distribution of M&Ms more fair and even?

Encourage those with M&Ms to share with those who have less.

IMPORTANT: After the experiment and discussion, be sure not to hand out more M&Ms to the students. This defeats the purpose of the exercise.

Activity #2-Discussion Questions to Create a Conversation about Poverty in the USA:

- 1. What is Poverty?**
- 2. What do you think it means to be in poverty?**
- 3. Who are the people living in poverty? Are they local? Are they around the world?**
- 4. Is it possible to help people in poverty?**
- 5. Do you think its possible to know if someone is living in poverty in your community?**
- 6. What does it mean to be unemployed?**
- 7. Who are the working poor?**
- 8. What is a life necessity?**

Empathy Questions

- 1. Describe how you think it might feel to live in poverty?**
- 2. How is life in poverty different than those who don't live in poverty?**

3. What are some things you might have to give up if you lived in poverty?
4. How do you think we can help those who live in poverty in our community?
5. How can we help people outside of our own community? In our country? Around the world?

Activity #3-Musical Chairs

There are many things which contribute to poverty: Less education, lack of food and health care, and where you live. Many people in poverty are people of color and some from immigrant/migrant backgrounds.

Two of the largest issues contributing to poverty are unemployment and underemployment. Not all people who are unemployed are living in poverty. Many who do live in poverty simply cannot find a job that pays a living wage or find any jobs at all.

Those living in poverty do not have a fair advantage in today's job market. To demonstrate this let's play a game of musical chairs.

Musical Chairs

What you need

- music
- chairs
- Exercise bands

Activity

Set up the chairs in a circle with the seats facing out (one chair less than the number of players).

The music is turned on, and the players walk around the chairs.

When the music stops the players race to sit in the available chairs.

The player left standing is taken out of the game.

The players all stand again and a chair is removed.

The music is started and the walk around the chairs begins again.

This procedure is continued until only one person remains.

This person is the winner.

What the chairs stand for:

Each chair stands for an available job. There are more people to be employed than there are jobs. In the job market, some people win and some people lose. In this first round of musical chairs, everyone has the same chance of being able to find a free chair.

Why couldn't everyone sit down? Did everyone have a fair chance to sit down?

Poverty Musical Chairs Round 2

Now to understand how a person living in poverty has a disadvantage let's make this a little more difficult. If a person living in poverty finds a job, they won't be given the same opportunity to interview for the job; they won't be paid the same wage for the job if they should get the job. They will be paid less because they don't have enough education and oftentimes is discrimination against their gender or race. Gender and race also factor in if they receive a job or not.

If you are playing with 8 or more players choose 2 to be singled out.

If you're playing with 5 players choose 1 to be singled out.

I find drawing numbers, straws, or some other way of objectively choosing a player is the best way.

The players who are singled out will be given exercise bands to put around their upper legs.

Not only this, but they have to start the game from the corner of the room. When the music starts they can start moving towards the circle to play the game. When the music stops, they stop. There will be more chairs than players for a while. When the music starts again they keep moving towards the circle until they get to it and can play normally but with the leg bands on.

Discussion Questions:

Does unemployment affect everyone the same way? Why or Why not?

For the players wearing the leg bands what happens to them when the music stops?

Does it take them longer to get into the game?

Which people have the hardest time finding jobs? Answer: Ethnic minorities and women.)

What are some obstacles to people in poverty getting jobs?

Is poverty an individual problem or a problem with society?

Resources and Projects for Poverty in America

[Homelessness Booklist on Pragmaticmom](#)

[Southern Poverty League and Poverty Defense League](#)

Second Harvest Food Bank

The Salvation Army

[How the Government Measures Poverty](#)

This is the 2018 version of the federal poverty measure, published annually by the [U.S. Department of Health and Human Services](#).

[The Institute for Children, Poverty, and Homelessness \(ICPH\)](#)

Ample Gardens: Extra produce from gardens is greatly appreciated by local food pantries. Join the AmpleHarvest.org Campaign to fight poverty and improve communities' health. They enable gardeners to share their excess garden produce with neighborhood food pantries

[National Poverty Center](#)

[PovertyUSA](#)

[National Center for Children in Poverty website.](#)

[Whole Planet Foundation®](#) is a private, nonprofit organization established by Whole Foods Market® and dedicated to poverty alleviation. We aim to empower the world's poorest people with microcredit in places where Whole Foods Market sources products.

[Heartland Alliance](#)

Heartland Alliance is fighting homelessness and poverty in the United States through housing and health care programs, as well as providing or promoting legal action on behalf of marginalized groups such as refugees, immigrants or asylum-seekers.

[Feeding America](#)

Teaming up with food banks across the country, Feeding America takes a local approach to national hunger. It provides public assistance programs and pays particular attention to child hunger in the U.S. with meal programs during and after school, as well as in summers.

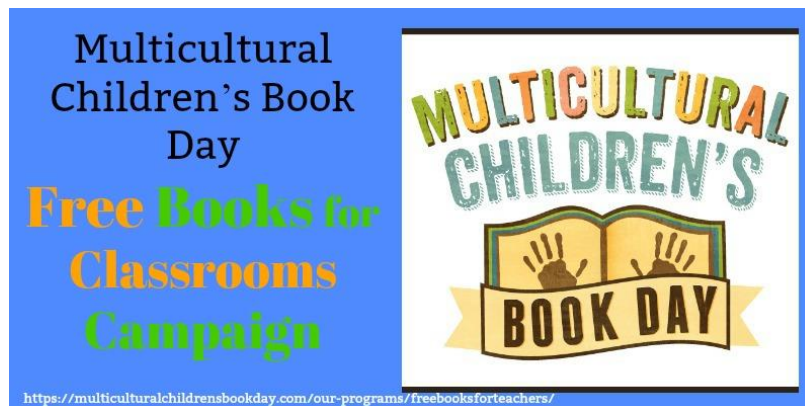
The Mission of MCCBD

Children's reading and play advocates Valarie Budayr from [Jump Into a Book](#) and Mia Wenjen from [PragmaticMom](#) 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.

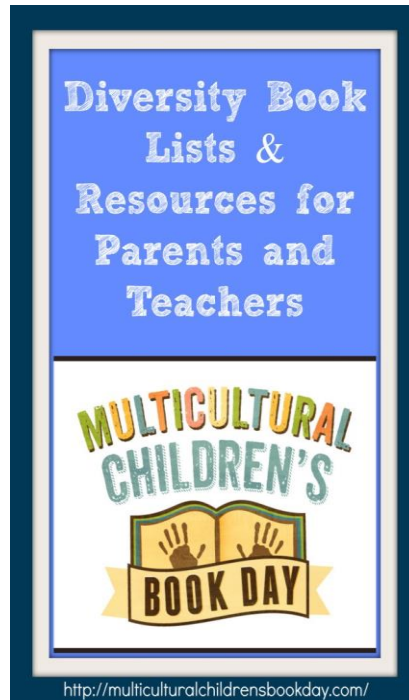
As the non-profit initiative continues full steam ahead, MCCBD's main focus continues to be to put multicultural children's books on shelves and into the hands of deserving families through book donations and fundraising. As of 2018, the MCCBD team has chosen to move to the "the last Friday in January" so as not to conflict with International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

For the last six years, 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](#):



MCBD 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/>



Our Other Classroom Kits

Free Classroom Empathy Kit for Homeschoolers, Organizations, Librarians and Educators: <http://multiculturalchildrensbookday.com/mcbd2018s-free-classroom-empathy-kit-is-here-empathy-immigration/>

Free Kindness Classroom Kit for Homeschoolers, Organizations, Librarians and Educators: <http://multiculturalchildrensbookday.com/teachers-classroom-kindness-kit/>

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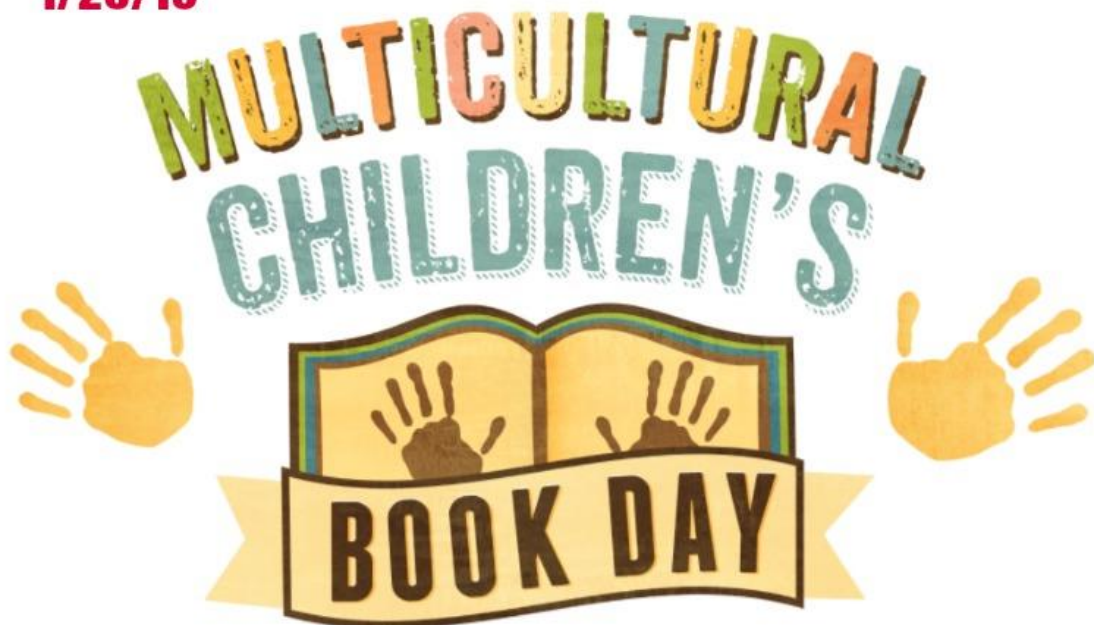
Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/readyourworldmcbd/>

Pinterest: <https://www.pinterest.com/pragmaticmom/multicultural-books-for-kids/>

Reminder: The hashtag for this event is #ReadYourWorld

Coming Soon!
1/25/19

#READYOURWORLD



www.MulticulturalChildrensBookDay.com