The Best of the Best Booklist celebrates stories from across the Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) diaspora. All APALA members were invited to nominate picture book titles about AANHPI communities and experiences that were published in the 2022 calendar year. Members of the APALA Family Literacy Focus Committee evaluated the nominations against the APALA Rubric and curated the final list. Eligible titles that earned a 2023 APALA Literature Award or Honoree designation were automatically added to the Best of the Best Booklist. The titles depict diverse representations of heritages and cultures across the AANHPI diaspora.

**Arab Arab All Year Long!**
*BY CATHY CAMPER, ILLUSTRATED BY SAWSAN CHALABI*  
ISBN: 9781536213959  
A joyful book of children celebrating Arab life all year long.

**Gibberish**
*BY YOUNG VO*  
ISBN: 9781646141104  
New to town, all Dat hears from his classmates and teacher is gibberish. Then with patience and friendship, Dat slowly begins to understand his new friend Julie.

**Hana’s Hundreds of Hijabs**
*BY RAZEENA OMAR GUTTA, ILLUSTRATED BY MANAL MIRZA*  
ISBN: 9781646866205  
Hana shares her love of fashionably styling her hijabs with others at her aunt’s salon.

**Holi Hai!**
*BY CHITRA SOUNDAR, ILLUSTRATED BY DARSHIKA VARMA*  
ISBN: 9780807533574  
Gauri wants to help her family prepare gulal for Holi, but does not get her favorite color.

**Hundred Years of Happiness**
*BY THANHHÂ LAI, ILLUSTRATED BY NGUYEN QUANG AND KIM LIEN*  
ISBN: 9780063026926  
Bà’s memory is failing, but An and Ông have a plan to bring her back to a happy memory. The pair grow food in the garden to create grandma’s favorite dish from her wedding day. A loving story illustrating intergenerational Vietnamese family life.

**Kapaemahu**
*BY HINALEIMOANA WONG-KALU, DEAN HAMER, AND JOE WILSON, ILLUSTRATED BY DANIEL SOUSA*  
ISBN: 9780593530061  
Four Tahitian Mahu infuse their healing powers into four boulders in Waikiki, sharing their knowledge with Native Hawaiians. Based on a Native Hawaiian legend told in English and the Niihau dialect of Hawaiian.

**The Katha Chest**
*BY RADIHIA CHOWDHURY, ILLUSTRATED BY LAVANYA NAIDU*  
ISBN: 9781665903905  
While exploring Nanu’s katha chest filled with quilts, Asiya connects to stories of the strong and brave women in her family.
Mommy’s Hometown
BY HOPE LIM,
ILLUSTRATED BY JAIME KIM
ISBN: 9781536213324
A boy listens to his mother’s stories about her hometown and creates his own version in his mind’s eye. The pair visit the hometown and the boy compares the memories against the reality. A heartwarming story that considers how to flow with the changes of time.

Love in the Library
BY MAGGIE TOKUDA–HALL,
ILLUSTRATED BY YAS IMAMURA
ISBN: 9781536204308
Based on true events – finding love and hope in a Japanese internment camp. Tama works in the library, and books offer her hope for a life beyond the camp. The author addresses heartbreaking realities and real life injustices.

Luli and the Language of Tea
BY ANDREA WANG,
ILLUSTRATED BY HYEWON YUM
ISBN: 9780623446148
Five-year-old Luli joins her new English as a Second Language Class. She uses a tea party to bring the classroom together. The book contains additional information regarding tea culture around the world.

Punky Aloha
BY SHAR TUIASOA
ISBN: 9780063079236
Behind grandma’s sunglasses, Punky gains the confidence to cross Oahu to complete her errands with her aloha. A sweet story teaching readers how to find the courage to make new friends.

Sitti’s Bird: A Gaza Story
BY MALAK MATTAR
ISBN: 9781623718251
The story of Palestine’s occupation set in Gaza. Malak writes about her experiences as a child in Palestine and being home for days during the bombings. Malak finds strength through her art.

Where Butterflies Fill the Sky: A Story of Immigration, Family, and Finding Home
BY ZAHRA MARWAN
ISBN: 9781547606511
The author’s immigration story from Kuwait to the US. Highlights hope, belonging, and handling scary new experiences.

Who Turned On The Sky
BY MARIELLE ATANACIO
ISBN: 9798985898408
An adventure story to find who turns on the sky, but meets the goddesses of Philippine mythology.

Nana, Nanek, & Nina
BY LIZA FERNEYHOUGH
ISBN: 9780593353943
Nina visits her two grandmas – one lives in Malaysia and one in England. An affectionate, warm story of the differences and similarities of two cultures.