



APALA Family Literacy Committee Recommended Picture Book List

The Family Literacy Committee's Recommended Books List features our "Best of the Best" Booklist, along with notable books that, while not making the top list, were still enjoyed by the committee. In 2024, the APALA Family Literacy Focus Committee evaluated 130 books. The Recommended Picture Book List includes additional titles the committee believes will be a great addition to readers' collections.

2024

Abalos, Rachell. *Our Nipa Hut: A Story in the Philippines*. Concord: Barefoot Books, 2024.

✧ Abbas, Marzieh. *Awe-Samosas!* New York: Clarion Books, 2024.

Adani, Nabila. *Aisha's Colors*. Somerville: Candlewick Press, 2024.

Cheng, Charlotte. *I Miss You Most*. New York: Rocky Pond Books, 2024.

Chouhan, Anu. *Hair Oil Magic*. New York: Bloomsbury Children's Books Bloomsbury Publishing Inc., 2024.

✧ Fujimoto-Johnson, Sharon. *The Mochi Makers*. New York: Beach Lane Books, 2024.

✧ George, Kaylin Melia. *Aloha Everything*. Brooklyn: Red Comet Press, 2024.

✧ Ghahremani, Zohreh. *Memory Garden*. New York: Godwin Books, Henry Holt and Company, 2024.

Gilmore-Young, Dorina Lazo. *Kailani's Gift*. New York: WaterBrook, 2024.

Greene, Kerisa. *I Am Both*. New York: Feiwel and Friends, 2024.

✧ Islam, Farhana. *Noor Needs to Know!* New York: Salaam Reads, 2024.

✧ Kazmi, Faith. *Box of Dreams*. New York: Harper, 2024.

✧ Kim, Cheryl. *Wat Takes His Shot: The Life & Legacy of Basketball Hero Wataru Misaka*. New York: Lee & Low Books, 2024.

Lee, Jessica J. *A Garden Called Home*. Toronto: Tundra Books, 2024.

Leung, Flo. *The Blue Bowl*. Toronto: Owlkids Books, 2024.

Nainy, Mamta. *My Momo-La Is a Museum*. United Kingdom: Lantana Publishing, 2024.

✧ Netane, Kealani. *Tala Learns to Siva*. New York: Orchard Books, 2024.

✧ Nguyen, Viet Thanh. *Simone*. New York: Minerva, 2024.

✧ Russell, Erin. *Seoul Food*. New York: Viking, 2024.

✧ Soo, Phillipa, and Maris Doran. *Piper Chen Sings*. New York: Random House Studio, 2024.

✧ Sriram, Meera. *The Spice Box*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2024.

Subramaniam, Suma. *My Name Is Long as a River*. New York: Penguin Workshop, 2024.

✧ Takei, George. *My Lost Freedom: A Japanese American World War II Story*. New York: Crown Books for Young Readers, 2024.

✧ Wang, Ann Suk. *The House before Falling into the Sea*. New York: Dial Books for Young Readers, 2024.

✧ Yang, Kao Kalia. *Caged*. New York: Kokila, 2024.

✧ ———. *The Rock in My Throat*. Minneapolis: Carolrhoda Books, 2024.

✧ Zaman, Farida. *Meena Can't Wait*. Victoria: Orca Book Publishers, 2024.

2023

- ✧ Abbas, Marzieh. *A Dupatta Is ...*. New York: Feiwel and Friends, 2023.
- ✧ Ahuli'i, Gabrielle. *Hi'iaka and Pana'ewa: A Hawaiian Graphic Legend*. Discover Graphics. North Mankato: Picture Window Books, 2023.
- Bui, Hanh. *The Yellow Áo Dài*. New York: Feiwel and Friends, 2023.
- ✧ Dabarera, Dinalie. *Quiet Time with My Seeya*. New York: Roaring Brook Press, 2023.
- Faruqi, Reem. *Milloo's Mind: The Story of Maryam Faruqi, Trailblazer for Women's Education*. New York: Harper, 2023.
- ✧ Fong, Adriena. *Ning and the Night Spirits*. London: Flying Eye Books, 2023.
- ✧ Giang, Kristen Mai. *Last Flight*. Montclair: Levine Querido, 2023.
- ✧ Gopal, Jyoti Rajan. *Desert Queen*. Montclair: Levine Querido, 2023.
- Harrison, Vashti. *Big*. New York: Little, Brown and Company, 2023.
- Hassani, Mojdeh, and Samira Iravani. *Mama Shamsi at the Bazaar*. Fairfax: Library Ideas, LLC, 2023.
- ✧ Ho, Richard. *Two New Years*. San Francisco: Chronicle Books LLC, 2023.
- Kamalyan, Astrid. *Bábo: A Tale of Armenian Rug-Washing Day*. Watertown: Charlesbridge, 2023.
- ✧ Krans, Angela Pham. *Finding Papa*. New York: Harper, 2023.
- ✧ LaRocca, Rajani. *Summer Is for Cousins*. New York: Abrams Books for Young Readers, 2023.
- ✧ Lee, Sophia N. *Lolo's Sari-Sari Store*. New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2023.
- Leung, Julie. *The Truth about Dragons*. New York: Henry Holt and Company, 2023.
- ✧ Li, Hui. *Scroll*. New York: Little, Brown and Company, 2023.
- Mahdavi, Azam. *Empty and Me: A Tale of Friendship and Loss*. New York: Lee & Low Books, 2023.

✧ Moushabeck, Hannah. *Homeland: My Father Dreams of Palestine*. San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 2023.

Muhammad, Ibtihaj, and S. K. Ali. *The Kindest Red: A Story of Hijab and Friendship*. New York: Little, Brown and Company, 2023.

Patel, Sanjay, and Emily Haynes. *Ganesha's Great Race*. San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 2023.

Satoko Seo, Emily. *The Perfect Sushi*. Concord: Barefoot Books, 2023.

✧ Sehgal, Kabir, and Surishtha Sehgal. *Bhangra Baby*. New York: Beach Lane Books, 2023.

Sinha, Sarthak. *Farah Loves Mangos*. London: Flying Eye Books, 2023.

✧ Sterling, Michelle. *Maribel's Year*. New York: Katherine Tegen Books, 2023.

Tanumihardja, Patricia. *Ramen for Everyone*. New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2023.

Ung, Kim-Hoa. *A Gift for Nai Nai*. New York: Feiwel and Friends, 2023.

✧ Wen, Lenny. *Spicy Spicy Hot!* New York: Little, Brown and Company, 2023.

✧ Yoon, Susan. *Waiting for Tomorrow*. New York: Farrar Straus Giroux, 2023.

2022

✧ Atanacio, Marielle. *Who Turned On the Sky?* PRC: 2157 Press, 2022.

✧ Camper, Cathy. *Arab Arab All Year Long!* Somerville: Candlewick Press, 2022.

✧ Chowdhury, Radhiah. *The Katha Chest*. New York: Salaam Reads, 2022.

✧ Ferneyhough, Liza. *Nana, Nenek & Nina*. New York: Dial Books for Young Readers, 2022.

✧ Gutta, Razeena Omar. *Hana's Hundreds of Hijabs*. Concord: Barefoot Books, 2022.

✧ Lại, Thanh Hà. *Hundred Years of Happiness*. New York: Harper, 2022.

✧ Lim, Hope. *Mommy's Hometown*. Somerville: Candlewick Press, 2022.

- ✧ Marwan, Zahra. *Where Butterflies Fill the Sky: A Story of Immigration, Family, and Finding Home*. New York: Bloomsbury Children's Books, 2022.
- ✧ Mattar, Malak. *Sitti's Bird: A Gaza Story*. Northampton: Crocodile Books, 2022.
- ✧ Soundar, Chitra. *Holi Hai!* Chicago: Albert Whitman & Company, 2022.
- ✧ Tokuda-Hall, Maggie. *Love in the Library*. Somerville: Candlewick Press, 2022.
- ✧ Tuiasoa, Shar. *Punky Aloha*. New York: Harper, 2022.
- ✧ Vo, Young. *Gibberish*. Montclair: Levine Querido, 2022.
- ✧ Wang, Andrea. *Luli and the Language of Tea*. New York: Neal Porter Books / Holiday House, 2022.
- ✧ Wong-Kalu, Hinaileimoana, Dean Hamer, and Joe Wilson. *Kapaemahu*. Fairfax: Library Ideas, LLC, 2022.