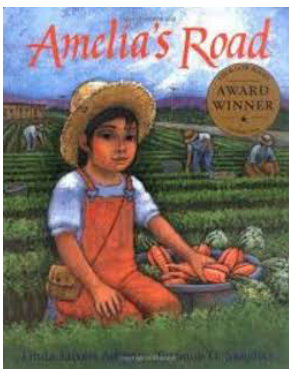


Celebrating Diversity in Children's Agricultural Literature

“All children deserve books in which they can see themselves and the world in which they live reflected. Diverse literature belongs in every classroom and library—on the shelves and in the hands of children, librarians, and teachers.”
- Cooperative Children's Book Center, University of Wisconsin-Madison

This list includes diverse literature from the National Agricultural Literacy Curriculum Matrix recommended book collection.



Amelia's Road

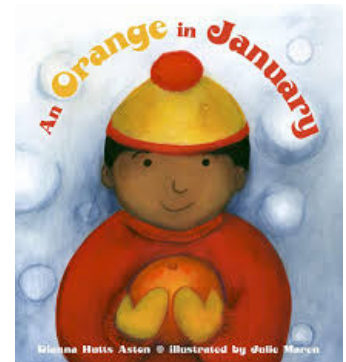
Amelia Luisa Martinez hates roads. Los caminos, the roads, take her migrant worker family to fields where they labor all day, to schools where no one knows Amelia's name, and to bleak cabins that are not home. Amelia longs for a beautiful white house with a fine shade tree in the yard, where she can live without worrying about los caminos again. Then one day, Amelia discovers an “accidental road.” At its end, she finds an amazing old tree reminiscent of the one in her dreams. Its stately sense of permanence inspires her to put her own roots down in a very special way. The richly colored illustrations bring to life the landscape of California's Central Valley farmland. Amelia's road is an inspirational tale about the importance of home.

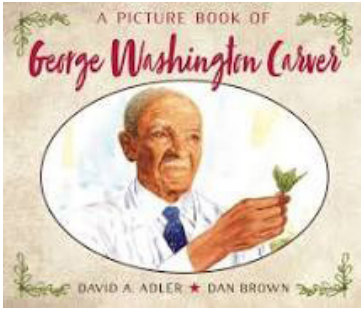
Author: Susan Roth **Illustrator:** Enrique O. Sanchez

An Orange in January

From blossom to the hands of a child, an orange is seemingly bursting with sunshine even on the coldest of January days. An Orange in January is a story about a child who shares his juicy orange segments on a cold day and feels the sunshine it brings to all.

Author: Diane Hutts Aston **Illustrator:** Julie Maren





[A Picture Book of George Washington Carver](#)

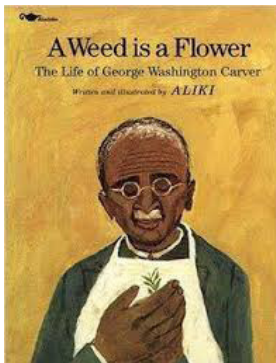
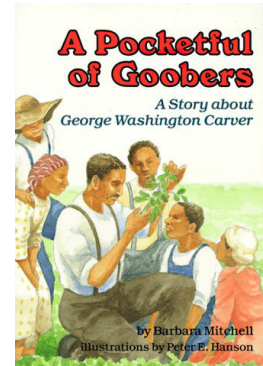
This is the inspiring story of the pioneering African-American teacher, scientist, and artist. Carver is perhaps best known for his scientific work with peanuts and sweet potatoes (and for inventing peanut butter!). Adler tells of Carver's work at the Tuskegee Institute with Booker T. Washington, his hard childhood, and his determination to learn despite many obstacles. A man of deep faith, Carver worked throughout his life to create scientific discoveries that would improve the lives of southerners—especially African-Americans.

Author: David A. Adler **Illustrator:** Dan Brown

[A Pocketful of Goobers: A Story About George Washington Carver](#)

There wasn't anything that George Washington Carver couldn't grow. He took the common goober—today's peanut—and created hundreds of useful products from it, turning goobers into a very profitable staple for the South. At the same time, this very special man passed on to everyone who knew him the importance of following one's own dreams.

Author: Barbara Mitchell **Illustrator:** Peter E. Hansen



[A Weed is a Flower: The Life of George Washington Carver](#)

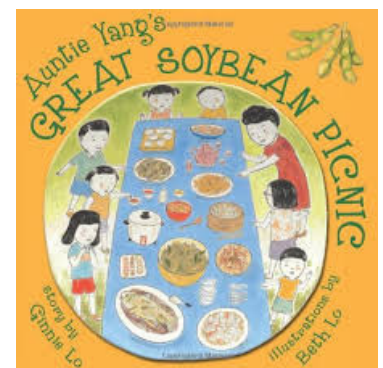
George Washington Carver often said that a weed is a flower growing in the wrong place. From humble beginnings, Carver became one of the greatest scientists in the United States. His dedication to helping his people led him to find over three hundred uses for the peanut and over one hundred uses for the sweet potato. A simple biography of the man born a slave, who became a scientist and devoted his entire life to helping the South improve its agriculture.

Author & Illustrator: Aliko

[Auntie Yang's Great Soybean Picnic](#)

Auntie Yang starts an enduring picnic tradition when she discovers soybeans, a dearly-missed food from China, growing in Illinois. The picnic tradition quickly grows into an annual community celebration. Based on actual events, this story can be used to teach about soybeans, immigration, diversity, culture, and community.

Author: Ginnie Lo **Illustrator:** Beth Lo





Bea's Bees

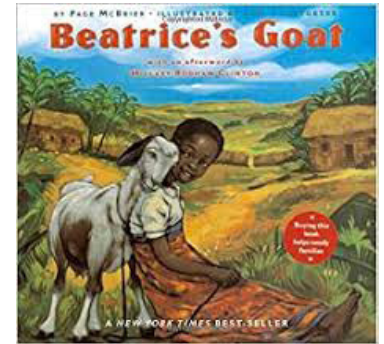
Beatrix discovers a wild bumblebee nest on her way home from school and finds herself drawn to their busy world. When her bees mysteriously disappear, Bea hatches a plan to bring them back. Can Bea inspire her school and community to save the bees? Bees provide us with valuable resources, and some types of bees are in danger of disappearing forever. But ordinary people (and kids!) can help save them. Filled with fascinating facts about bumblebees and ideas to help preserve their environment, *Bea's Bees* encourage kids to help protect bees and other pollinators.

Author: Katherine Pryor **Illustrator:** Ellie Peterson

Beatrice's Goat

Page McBrier and Lori Lohstoeter beautifully recount the true story of Beatrice, a young girl from Uganda, Africa who longs to go to school more than anything else. Unfortunately, only children who can afford uniforms and books can go to school, and with five other brothers and sisters, Beatrice knows that her family is much too poor. But then Beatrice receives a wonderful gift: a goat that will give milk that she can sell. Thanks to Heifer International—a charitable organization that donates livestock to poor communities around the world—Beatrice and other families like hers will have a chance to change their lives. Book based on a true story.

Author: Page McBrier **Illustrator:** Lori Lohstoeter



Bread Lab!

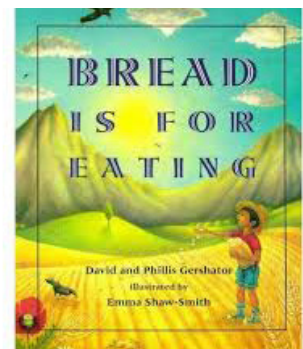
It's a sleepy Saturday morning for most people, but not for Iris, who has to feed her many pets before Aunt Mary arrives. Iris likes to call Aunt Mary "Plant Mary" because she is a plant scientist. Today Aunt Mary wants to experiment with making whole wheat sourdough bread from scratch! As the family kitchen transforms into a bread lab, Iris is surprised that bread needs only four ingredients—flour, water, salt, and starter. She also learns about the invisible microbes that make the dough rise, and how flour comes from wheat grown by farmers. It all seems magical, but it's really science.

Authors: Kim Binczewski & Bethany Econopouly **Illustrator:** Hayelin Choi

Bread is for Eating

A bilingual, rhythmic celebration of bread, from farmer to baker. This playful, English-Spanish children's book traces the process and production of traditional South American bread making from harvest, to crafting, to packaging, and its sale on the market.

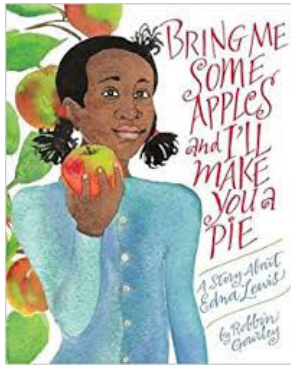
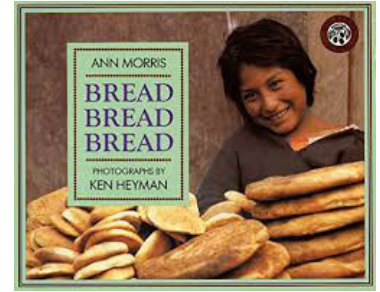
Authors: David & Phillis Gershator **Illustrator:** Emma Shaw-Smith



Bread, Bread, Bread

Bread is a food enjoyed by people in all parts of the world. Its many shapes, sizes, textures, and colors are as varied as the people who eat it. This photographic round-the-world tour provides a glimpse into the rich variety of world cultures, as well as an informative look at an important food.

Author: Ann Morris **Illustrator:** Ken Heyman



Bring Me Some Apples and I'll Make You a Pie

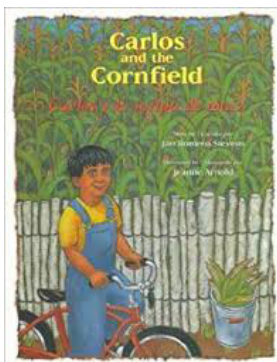
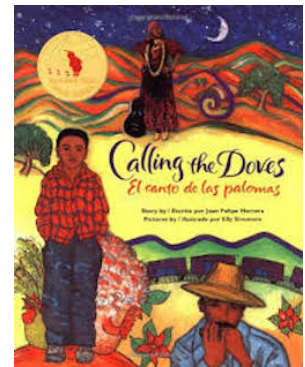
From the whippoorwill's call on the first day of spring through the first snowfall, Edna and members of her family gather fruits, berries, and vegetables from the fields, garden, and orchard on their Virginia farm and turn them into wonderful meals. Includes facts about the life of Edna Lewis, a descendant of slaves who grew up to be a famous chef.

Author: Robbin Gourley **Illustrator:** John Stevens

Calling the Doves

Poet Juan Felipe Herrera's bilingual memoir paints a vivid picture of his migrant farmworker childhood. In delightful and lyrical language, he recreates the joy of eating breakfast under the open sky, listening to Mexican songs in the little trailer house his father built, and celebrating with other families at a fiesta in the mountains. He remembers his mother singing songs and reciting poetry, and his father telling stories and calling the doves.

Author: Juan Felipe Herrera **Illustrator:** Elly Simmons



Carlos and the Cornfield

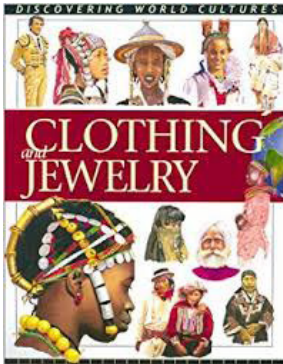
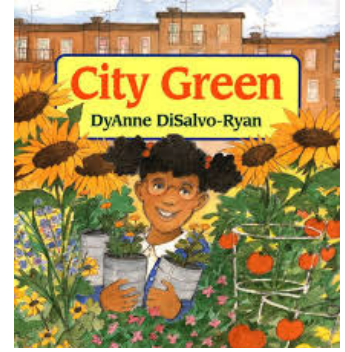
This dual language (Spanish and English) book tells the story of Carlos whose father offers him a little money if he will help plant the family's corn field. Carlos takes a shortcut but feels guilty and learns the meaning of the phrase 'cosechas lo que siembras'—you reap what you sow. This engaging story illustrates the simple life of a farming family and underscores the importance of hard work and honesty.

Author: Jan Romero Stevens **Illustrator:** Jeanne Stevens

City Green

Right in the middle of Marcy's city block is a vacant lot, littered and forlorn. Sometimes just looking at it makes Marcy feel sad. Then one spring, Marcy has a wonderful idea: instead of a useless lot, why not a green and growing space for everyone to enjoy? With her warm, hopeful text and inviting illustrations, DyAnne DiSalvo-Ryan shows how a whole neighborhood blossoms when people join together and get involved.

Author & Illustrator: DyAnne DiSalvo-Ryan



Clothing and Jewelry

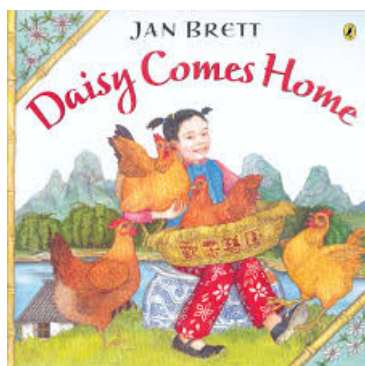
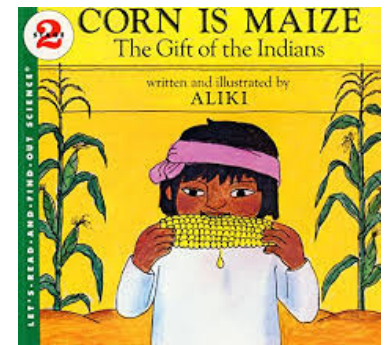
A celebration of cultural differences, this beautifully illustrated book gives young readers a fascinating look at the clothes and jewelry of other people around the world. Use this book to discuss where clothes come from and how agriculture supplies a variety of fibers.

Author: Fiona MacDonald **Illustrators:** Antonella Patorelli, Paola Ravaglia, Ivan Stalio

Corn is Maize: The Gift of the Indians

A simple description of how corn was discovered and used by Native Americans and how it came to be an important food throughout the world. Popcorn, corn on the cob, cornbread, tacos, tamales, tortillas, and more are all made from this amazing plant.

Author & Illustrator: Aliko



Daisy Comes Home

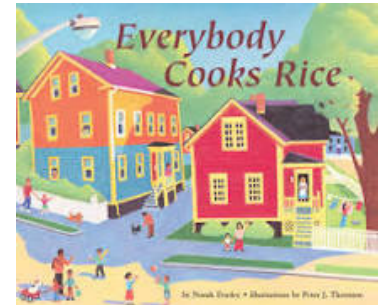
This is the story of six hens in China. Cared for by the young Mei Mei, the hens lay eggs for selling at the market. But one hen, Daisy, is not so happy. Picked at and plucked by the others, she is ousted from the clan and ends up taking a serendipitous adventure. When Mei Mei finally brings her back home, Daisy uses her newly learned skills to stave off the mean hens and gain a rightful spot on the perch.

Author & Illustrator: Jan Brett

Everybody Cooks Rice

Carrie goes from one neighbor's house to the next looking for her brother, who is late for dinner. Each family invites her to taste what they are cooking. She discovers that although each family is from a different country, 'everybody cooks rice.'

Author: Noorah Dooley **Illustrator:** Peter J. Thornton



Esperanza Rising

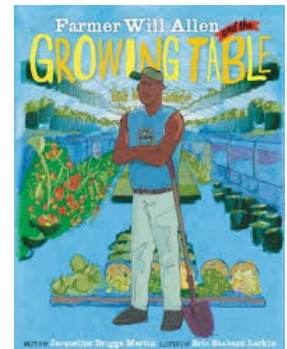
Esperanza always thought she'd live a privileged life on her family's ranch in Mexico. She'd always have fancy dresses, a beautiful home filled with servants, and Mama, Papa, and Abuelita to care for her. But a sudden tragedy forces Esperanza and Mama to flee to California and settle in a Mexican farm labor camp. Esperanza isn't ready for the hard work, financial struggles brought on by the Great Depression, or lack of acceptance she now faces. When Mama gets sick and a strike for better working conditions threatens to uproot their new life, Esperanza must find a way to rise above her difficult circumstances—because Mama's life, and her own, depend on it.

Author: Pam Muñoz Ryan

Farmer Will Allen and the Growing Table

Will Allen is no ordinary farmer. A former basketball star, he's as tall as a truck, and he can hold a cabbage—or a basketball—in one hand. But what is most special about Farmer Will is that he can see what others can't see. When he looked at an abandoned lot in Milwaukee, he saw a huge table, big enough to feed the whole world. No space? No problem. Poor soil? There's a solution. Need help? Found it. Farmer Will is a genius in solving problems. Jacqueline Briggs Martin tells the inspiring story of an innovator, educator, and community leader.

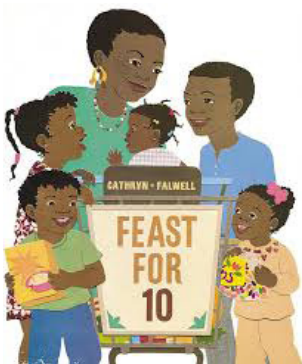
Author: Jacqueline Briggs Martin **Illustrator:** Eric-Shabazz Larkin



Feast for 10

Count from one to ten and then count again. What does it take to make a feast for ten hungry people? First, there's shopping, then there's cooking, and setting the table. Everyone in the family helps, and as fast as you can count to ten, the feasting begins.

Author & Illustrator: Cathryn Falwell





First Apple

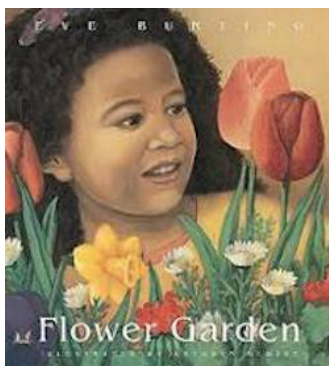
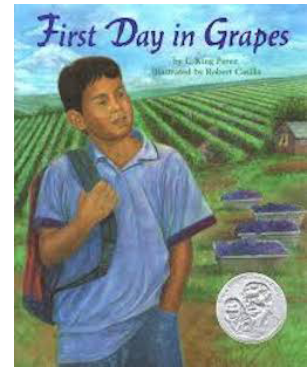
In this autobiographical novel set in the 1940s, the author tells of her childhood in China and her dream to buy a special gift for her grandmother's birthday—an apple, a fruit that is precious and rare in her part of mainland China. The child's voice and the intensity of her desire to do something for her grandmother, who has raised her from early childhood, are very real.

Author: Ching Yeung Russell **Illustrator:** Christopher Zhong-Yuan Zhang

First Day in Grapes

All year long, Chico and his family move up and down the state of California picking fruits and vegetables. Every September, they pick grapes and Chico starts at a new school again. Often other children pick on him—maybe because he is always new or maybe because he speaks Spanish sometimes. Chico's first day in third grade turns out to be different. His teacher likes him right away, and she and his classmates are quick to recognize his excellent math skills. He may even get to go to the math fair! When the fourth-grade bullies confront Chico in the lunchroom, he responds wisely with strengths of his own.

Author: L. King Perez **Illustrator:** Robert Casilla



Flower Garden

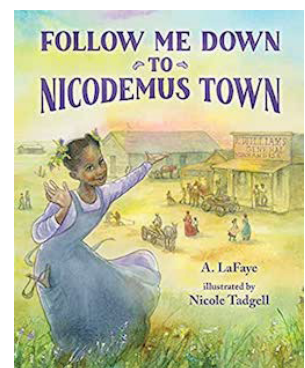
Filled with excitement, a city girl and her father pick out a wonderful assortment of flowers, carrying them home, and, sitting on a newspaper, lovingly transplant them to a window box as a birthday surprise for mom.

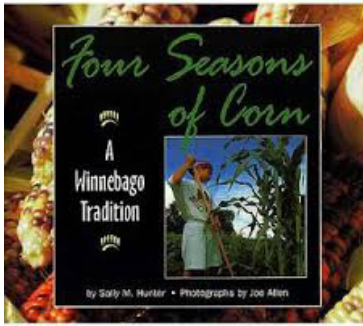
Author: Eve Bunting **Illustrator:** Kathryn Hewitt

Follow Me Down to Nicodemus Town

When Dede sees a notice offering land to black people in Kansas, her family decides to give up their life of sharecropping to become homesteading pioneers in the Midwest. Inspired by the true story of Nicodemus, Kansas, a town founded in the late 1870s by Exodusters—former slaves leaving the Jim Crow South in search of a new beginning—this fictional story follows Dede and her parents as they set out to stake and secure a claim, finally allowing them to have a home to call their own.

Author: A. LaFaye **Illustrator:** Nicole Tadgell





Four Seasons of Corn: A Winnebago Tradition

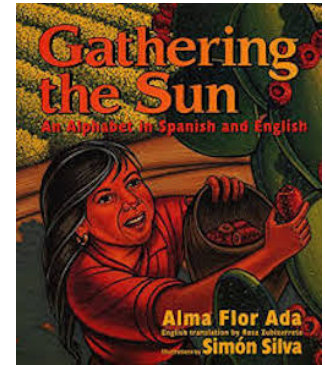
Many Native Americans regard corn as a gift, a food with sacred value. The Winnebago, or Hochunk people, tell a story about a clan leader who saw a spirit called Corn Person in a dream. Corn Person showed the man how to plant, grow, and preserve corn so his people would have food to eat all year. In this photographic essay, twelve-year-old Russell learns the traditions of corn from his grandfather, who is from the Winnebago reservation in Nebraska.

Author: Sally M. Hunter **Illustrator:** Joe Allen

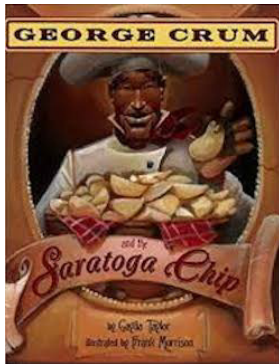
Gathering the Sun

In simple words and sun-drenched paintings, Alma Flor Ada and Simón Silva take us into the fields and orchards, and into the lives of the people who work them. Simple poems in Spanish and English, one for each letter of the Spanish alphabet, describe the wonder of the vegetable and fruit farms. Together, the poems and rich illustrations celebrate the glory of nature and the hearts of all who dedicate their lives to working the land.

Author: Alma Flor Ada **Illustrator:** Simon Silva



George Crum and the Saratoga Chip



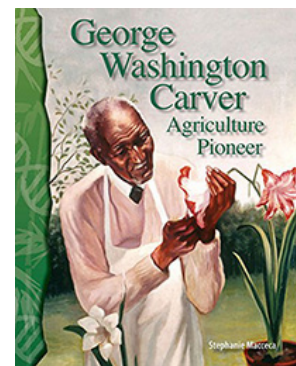
Growing up in the 1830s in Saratoga Springs, New York isn't easy for George Crum. Picked on at school because of the color of his skin, George escapes into his favorite pastimes—hunting and fishing. Soon George learns to cook too, and as a young man he lands a job as a chef at the fancy Moon's Lake House. George loves his work, except for the fussy customers, who are always complaining! One hot day, George's patience boils over and he cooks up a potato dish so unique it changes his life forever. Readers will delight in this spirited story of the invention of the potato chip—one of America's favorite snack foods. George Crum and the Saratoga Chip is a testament to human ingenuity, and a tasty slice of culinary history.

Author: Gaylia Taylor **Illustrator:** Frank Morrison

George Washington Carver: Agriculture Pioneer

Born into slavery, George Washington Carver worked hard, earned a university graduate degree, and eventually became a world-famous expert on plants. By experimenting with peanuts and other plants, he learned how to make many useful products from them. Carver taught students and farmers how to grow plants without damaging the soil.

Author: Stephanie Maccoca





George Washington Carver for Kids

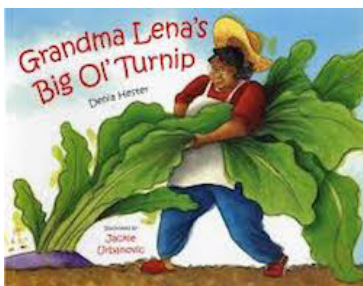
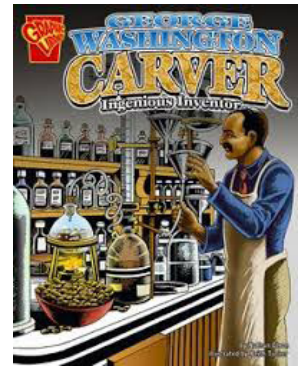
George Washington Carver was a scientist, educator, artist, inventor, and humanitarian. Born into slavery during the Civil War, he later pursued an education and would become the first black graduate from Iowa Agricultural College. Carver then took a teaching position at the Tuskegee Institute, founded by Booker T. Washington. There, Carver taught poor Southern farmers how to nourish the soil, conserve resources, and feed their families. He also developed hundreds of new products from the sweet potato, peanut, and other crops, and his discoveries gained him a place in the national spotlight. *George Washington Carver for Kids* tells the inspiring story of this remarkable American. It includes a time line, resources for further research, and 21 hands-on activities to help better appreciate Carver's genius.

Author: Peggy Thomas

George Washington Carver: Ingenious Inventor

In a graphic novel format, this book details the life and accomplishments of George Washington Carver, teacher, inventor, and agriculturist. Carver was born as a slave. After his mother's kidnapping, he was adopted by the Carver family. He left their home at age 12 in search of an education, eventually becoming an educator, plant scientist, and inventor. A timeline of George Washington Carver's advances is included.

Author: Nathan Olson **Illustrator:** Keith Tucker



Grandma Lena's Big 'Ol Turnip

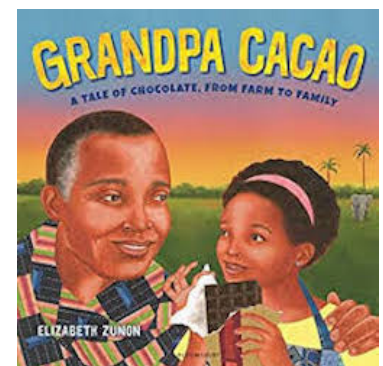
Grandma Lena takes good care of the turnips she plants in her garden. One turnip grows so big that Grandma can't pull it out of the ground! Even when Grandpa, Uncle Izzy, and the dog help Grandma yank and tug, the big 'ol turnip doesn't budge.

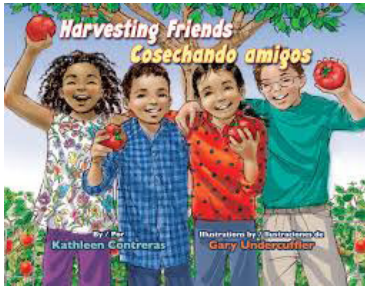
Author: Denia Lewis Hester **Illustrator:** Jackie Urbanovic

Grandpa Cacao: A Tale of Chocolate, From Farm to Family

As a little girl and her father bake her birthday cake together, Daddy tells the story of her Grandpa Cacao, a farmer from the Ivory Coast in West Africa. In a land where elephants roam and the air is hot and damp, Grandpa Cacao worked in his village to harvest cacao, the most important ingredient in chocolate. "Chocolate is a gift to you from Grandpa Cacao," Daddy says. "We can only enjoy chocolate treats thanks to farmers like him." Once the cake is baked, it's ready to eat, but this isn't her only birthday present. There's a special surprise waiting at the front door...

Author & Illustrator: Elizabeth Zunon





Harvesting Friends, Cosechando Amigos

Harvesting Friends, Cosechando Amigos is a story about a garden that grows more than its garden vegetables; it grows friendships! Come meet young Lupe and her new friend Antonio as they meet in an unexpected way and grow their friendship to include their neighbors and friends of all ages.

Author: Kathleen Contreras **Illustrator:** Gary Undercuffler

Harvesting Hope: The Story of Cesar Chavez

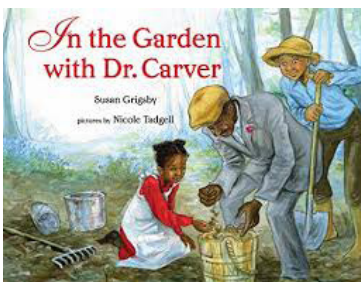
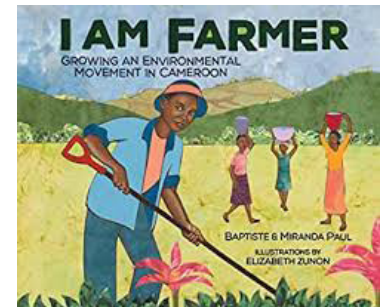
Cesar Chavez is known as one of America's greatest civil rights leaders. When he led a 340-mile peaceful protest march through California, he ignited a cause and improved the lives of thousands of migrant farmworkers. But Cesar wasn't always a leader. As a boy, he was shy and teased at school. His family slaved in the fields for barely enough money to survive. Cesar knew things had to change, and he thought that—maybe—he could help change them. So he took charge. He spoke up. And an entire country listened.

Author: Kathleen Krull **Illustrator:** Yuyi Morales



I Am Farmer: Growing an Environmental Movement in Cameroon

When Tantoh Nforba was a child, his fellow students mocked him for his interest in gardening. Today he's an environmental hero, bringing clean water and bountiful gardens to the central African nation of Cameroon. Authors Miranda Paul and Baptiste Paul share Farmer Tantoh's inspiring story. **Author:** Baptiste & Miranda Paul **Illustrator:** Elizabeth Zunon



In the Garden with Dr. Carver

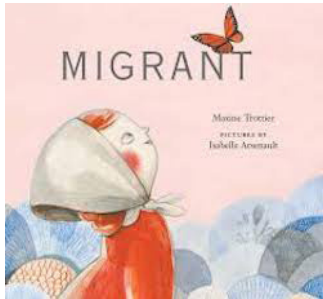
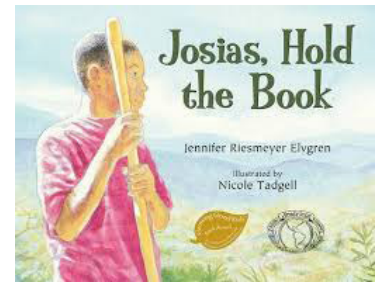
Sally is a young girl living in rural Alabama in the early 1900s, a time when people were struggling to grow food in soil that had been depleted by years of cotton production. One day, Dr. George Washington Carver shows up to help. He teaches them how to restore the soil nutrients. He even prepares a delicious lunch made of plants, including “chicken” made from peanuts. Susan Grigsby's warm story shines new light on an African American scientist who was way ahead of his time.

Author: Susan Grigsby **Illustrator:** Nicole Tadgell

Josias, Hold the Book

Every morning Josias, a Haitian boy, is hard at work in the family's garden under the hot Haitian sun. His friend Chrislove asks, "When will you join us and hold the book?" With his garden failing, Josias has no time to learn how to read and write. There may not be enough food for his family. Soon, Josias realizes a book might hold the solution to his problem.

Author: Jennifer Elvgren **Illustrator:** Nicole Tadgell



Migrant

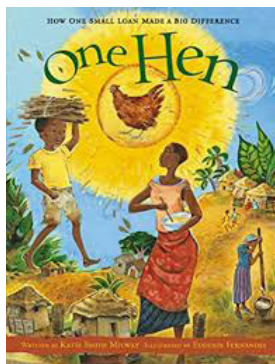
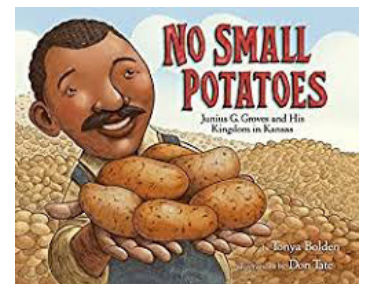
Anna is the child of Mennonites from Mexico, who have come north to harvest fruits and vegetables. Sometimes she feels like a bird, flying north in the spring and south in the fall, sometimes like a jackrabbit in an abandoned burrow, since her family occupies an abandoned farmhouse near the field, sometimes like a kitten, as she shares a bed with her sisters...But above all, Anna wonders what it would be like to be a tree rooted deeply in the earth, watching the seasons come and go, instead of being like a "feather in the wind."

Author: Maxine Trottier **Illustrator:** Isabelle Arsenault

No Small Potatoes: Junius G. Groves and His Kingdom in Kansas

Discover the incredible true story of how one of history's most successful potato farmers began life as a slave and worked until he was named the "Potato King of the World!" Junius G. Groves came from humble beginnings in the Bluegrass State. Born in Kentucky into slavery, freedom came when he was still a young man and he intended to make a name for himself. Along with thousands of other African Americans who migrated from the South, Junius walked west and stopped in Kansas. Working for a pittance on a small potato farm was no reason to feel sorry for himself, especially when he was made foreman. But Junius did dream of owning his own farm, so he did the next best thing. He rented the land and worked hard!

Author: Tonya Bolden **Illustrator:** Nicole Tadgell



One Hen: How One Small Loan Made a Big Difference

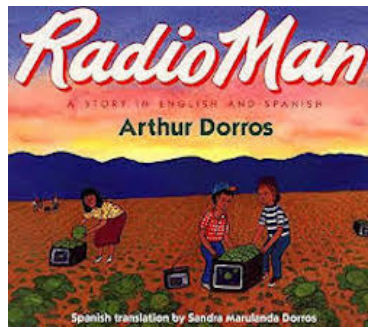
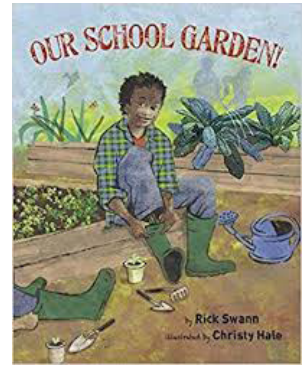
Inspired by true events, One Hen tells the story of Kojo, a boy from Ghana who turns a small loan into a thriving farm and a livelihood for many. After his father died, Kojo had to quit school to help his mother collect firewood to sell at the market. When his mother receives a loan from some village families, she gives a little money to her son. With this tiny loan, Kojo buys a hen. A year later, Kojo has built up a flock of 25 hens. With his earnings, Kojo is able to return to school, and soon Kojo's farm grows to become the largest in the region.

Author: Katie Smith Milway **Illustrator:** Eugenie Fernandes

Our School Garden!

New city. New school. Michael is feeling all alone—until he discovers the school garden! There’s so many ways to learn, and so much to do. Taste a leaf? Mmm, nice and tangy hot. Dig for bugs? “Roly-poly!” he yells. But the garden is much more than activities outdoors: making school garden stone soup, writing Found Poems and solving garden riddles, getting involved in community projects such as Harvest Day, food bank donations, and spring plant sales. Each season creates a new way to learn, explore, and make new friends.

Author: Rick Swann **Illustrator:** Christy Hale



Radio Man

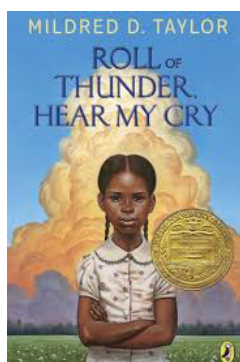
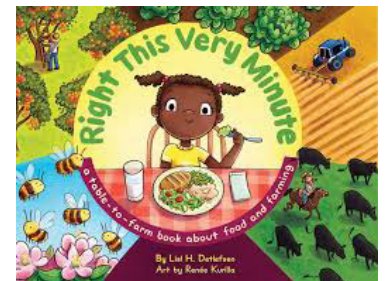
Diego and his family are migrant workers who move from state to state picking fruits and vegetables. Each day brings a new experience—a different place, a different crop, and different people to meet. But no matter where Diego goes, his radio goes with him—it helps him to learn about the places he’s going and to keep in touch with the people he meets along the way.

Author & Illustrator: Arthur Dorros

Right This Very Minute

What’s that you say? You’re hungry? Right this very minute? Then you need a farmer. You have the stories of so many right here on your table! Award winners Lisl H. Detlefsen and Renee Kurilla’s delicious celebration of food and farming is sure to inspire readers of all ages to learn more about where their food comes from—right this very minute!

Author: Lisl H. Detlefsen **Illustrator:** Nicole Tadgell



Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry

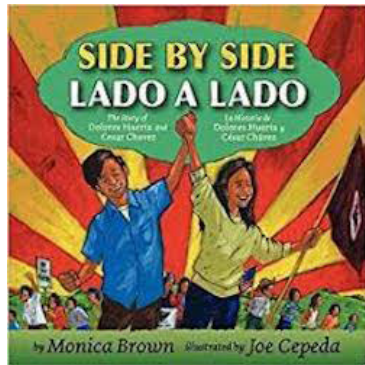
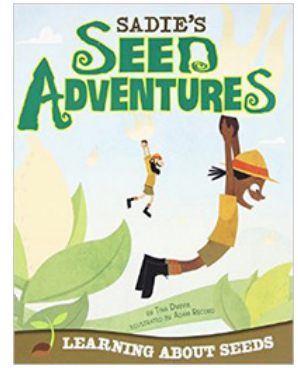
The story of one African American family fighting to stay together and strong in the face of brutal racist attacks, illness, poverty, and betrayal in the Deep South of the 1930s. Nine-year-old Cassie Logan, growing up protected by her loving family, has never had reason to suspect that any white person could consider her inferior or wish her harm. But during the course of one devastating year when her community begins to be ripped apart by angry night riders threatening African Americans, she and her three brothers come to understand why the land they own means so much to their Papa. “Look out there, Cassie girl. All that belongs to you. You ain’t never had to live on nobody’s place but your own and long as I live and the family survives, you’ll never have to. That’s important. You may not understand that now but one day you will. Then you’ll see.”

Author: Mildred D. Taylor

Sadie's Seed Adventures

Sadie and Gardener Marv set out to clear weeds from a garden plot. While working, they go on a magical adventure to learn all about seeds. From hitching a ride with a cocklebur to flying through the sky with a milkweed seed, join Sadie as she figures out how seeds disperse.

Author: Tim Dybvik **Illustrator:** Adam Record



Side By Side: The Story of Dolores Huerta and Cesar Chavez

Every day, thousands of farmworkers harvested the food that ended up on kitchen tables all over the country. But at the end of the day, when the workers sat down to eat, there were only beans on their own tables. Then Dolores Huerta and Cesar Chavez teamed up. Together they motivated the workers to fight for their rights and in, the process, changed history.

Author: Monica Brown **Illustrator:** Joe Cepeda

Sonya's Chickens

Sonya raises her three chickens from the time they are tiny chicks. She feeds them, shelters them, and loves them. Everywhere Sonya goes, her chicks are peeping at her heels. Under her care, the chicks grow into hens and even give Sonya a wonderful gift: an egg! One night, Sonya hears noises coming from the chicken coop and discovers that one of her hens has disappeared. Where did the hen go? What happened to her? When Sonya discovers the answers, she learns some important truths about the interconnectedness of nature and the true joys and sorrows of caring for another creature.

Author & Illustrator: Phoebe Wahl



Sparrow Girl

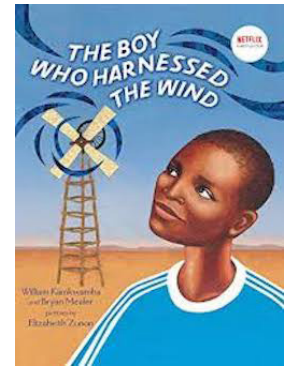
Ming-Li looked up and tried to imagine the sky silent, empty of birds. It was a terrible thought. Her country's leader had called sparrows the enemy of the farmers—they were eating too much grain, he said. He announced a great "Sparrow War" to banish them from China, but Ming-Li did not want to chase the birds away. As the people of her village gathered with firecrackers and gongs to scatter the sparrows, Ming-Li held her ears and watched in dismay. The birds were falling from the trees, frightened to death! Ming-Li knew she had to do something—even if she couldn't stop the noise. Quietly, she vowed to save as many sparrows as she could, one by one...Based on a true story about the 1958 Sparrow War in China that caused the locust population to grow to plague proportions and contributed to widespread famine.

Author: Sara Pennypacker **Illustrator:** Yoko Tanaka

The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind

When a terrible drought struck William Kamkwamba's tiny village in Malawi, his family lost all of the season's crops, leaving them with nothing to eat and nothing to sell. William began to explore science books in his village library, looking for a solution. There, he came up with the idea that would change his family's life forever—he would build a windmill. Made out of scrap metal and old bicycle parts, William's windmill brought electricity to his home and helped his family pump the water they needed to farm the land.

Author: William Kamkwamba & Bryan Mealer **Illustrator:** Elizabeth Zunon



The Chicken-Chasing Queen of Lamar County

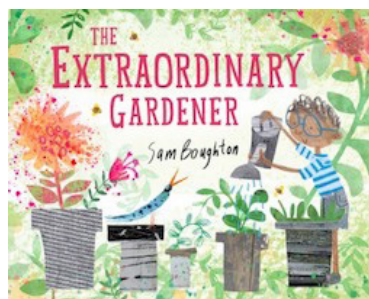
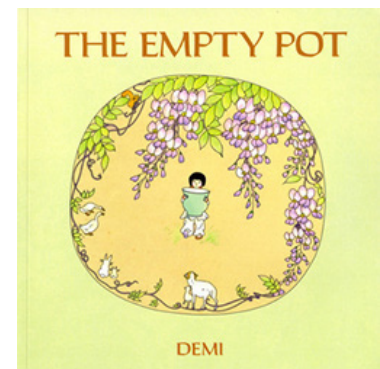
Meet one smart chicken chaser. She can catch any chicken on her grandmother's farm except one—the elusive Miss Hen. In a hilarious battle of wits, the spirited narrator regales readers with her campaign to catch Miss Hen, but this chicken is “fast as a mosquito buzzing and quick as a fleabite.” Our chicken chaser has her mind set on winning, until she discovers that sometimes it's just as satisfying not to catch chickens as it is to catch them.

Author: Janice N. Harrington **Illustrator:** Shelley Jackson

The Empty Pot

When Ping admits that he is the only child in China unable to grow a flower from the seeds distributed by the Emperor, he is rewarded for his honesty. This simple story with its clear moral is illustrated with beautiful paintings. The story shows how Ping carefully plants his seed in a flowerpot with rich soil and waters it daily, but to his surprise it doesn't grow. The emperor later reveals that the seeds he'd provided had been cooked and could not grow.

Author & Illustrator: Demi



The Extraordinary Gardener

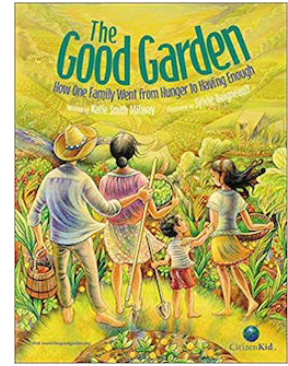
Joe is a boy just like any other, but with a bigger imagination. Joe lives in an ordinary apartment building in a rather ordinary city. His world is rather gray. But he spends his time imagining a wonderful, colorful world filled with exotic plants and unusual animals. One day, Joe decides to plant a seed on his balcony. He waits and waits, but nothing happens! Joe gives up and returns to his daily life, but when he least expects it, he sees that the seed has taken root and turned into the most beautiful tree.

Author & Illustrator: Sam Broughton

The Good Garden

Maria's family are poor Honduran farmers, growing barely enough to eat. Then a new teacher comes to town and shows Maria sustainable farming practices that yield good crops. An inspiring story, based on actual events, that shows us how farms and hopes are transformed as good gardens begin to grow.

Author: Katie Smith Milway **Illustrator:** Sylvie Daigneault



The Thing About Bees: A Love Letter

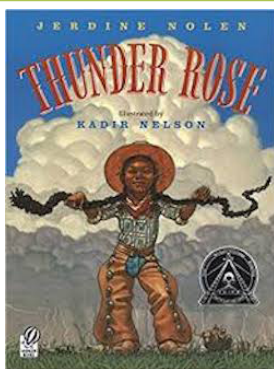
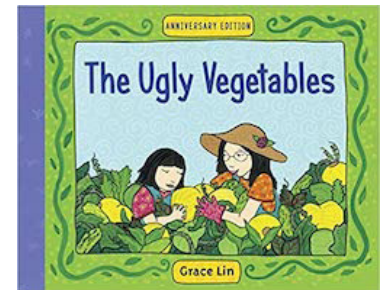
A love poem from a father to his two sons, and a tribute to bees that pollinate the foods we love to eat. “Sometimes bees can be a bit rude. They fly in your face and prance on your food.” And yet...without bees, we might not have strawberries for shortcakes or avacados for tacos! Children are introduced to different kinds of bees, “how not to get stung,” and how the things we fear are often things we don’t fully understand.

Author & Illustrator: Shabazz Larkin

The Ugly Vegetables

A Chinese-American girl wishes for a garden of bright flowers instead of one full of bumpy, ugly vegetables. The neighbors’ gardens look so much prettier and so much more inviting to the young gardener than the garden of “black-purple-green vines, fuzzy wrinkled leaves, prickly stems, and a few little yellow flowers” that she and her mother grow. Nevertheless, mother assures her that “these are better than flowers.” Come harvest time, everyone agrees as those ugly Chinese vegetables become the tastiest, most aromatic soup they have ever known. As the neighborhood comes together to share flowers and ugly vegetable soup, the young gardener learns that regardless of appearances, everything has its own beauty and purpose.

Author & Illustrator: Grace Lin



Thunder Rose

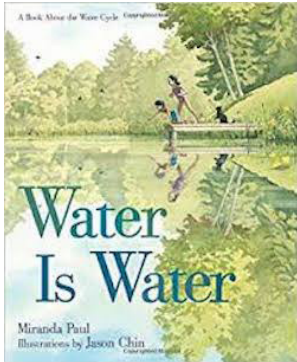
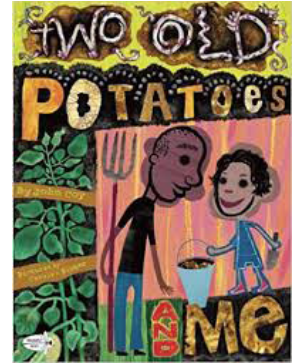
One hopelessly stormy night, an especially hopeful child was born. She became known as Thunder Rose. Right from the start, Rose decided she would do more than just grow up to be good and strong, thank you very kindly! And, indeed she does. Rose grows up to soothe the rankest of beasts and subdue the wiliest of outlaws. With her trusty steer, Tater, at her side, there seems to be no mountain too high and no desert too dry for Rose. But when a whirling storm on a riotous rampage threatens, has Rose finally met her match? Don't be too sure. Wrought from the thunderous voice of Jerdine Nolen, and forged under the smoldering touch of Kadir Nelson, Thunder Rose is a heroine with more mettle than we've ever seen before.

Author: Jerdine Nolen **Illustrator:** Kadir Nelson

Two Old Potatoes and Me

One day at her dad's house, a young girl finds two old potatoes in the cupboard. "Gross." But before she can throw them away, her dad suggests they try to grow new potatoes from the old ones, which have sprouted eyes. Told from May to September, the potato-growing season, the story includes all the basic steps for growing potatoes while subtly dealing with the parents' recent divorce. Just like the new potatoes that emerge from ugly old potatoes, this dad and daughter move on and make a new life together in the face of unavoidable and unpleasant change.

Author: John Coy **Illustrator:** Carolyn Fisher



Water is Water

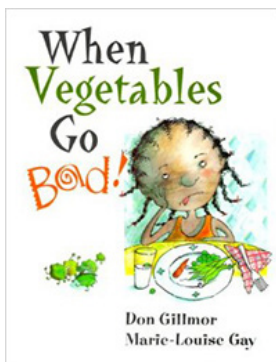
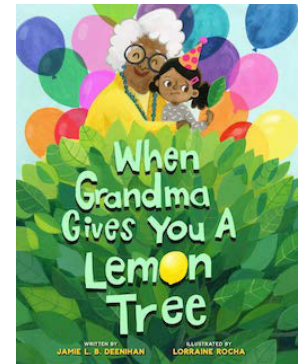
This spare, poetic picture book follows a group of kids as they move through all the different phases of the water cycle. From rain to fog to snow to mist, Miranda Paul and Jason Chin combine to create a beautiful and informative journey in this innovative nonfiction picture book that will leave you thirsty for more.

Author: Miranda Paul **Illustrator:** Jason Chin

When Grandma Gives You a Lemon Tree

When grandma gives you a lemon tree, definitely don't make a face! Care for the tree, and you might be surprised at how new things, and new ideas, bloom.

Author: Jamie L.B. Deenihan **Illustrator:** Lorraine Rocha



When Vegetables Go Bad

Instead of eating her vegetables, Ivy stuffs them into her pocket. At night, when she's sleeping, the vegetables form a taunting chorus in Ivy's sleep and invade her dreams with nasty songs. No matter how Ivy tries to run from this nightmare, the vegetables chase her down and continue their harassment. Once she admits she likes vegetables, the nightmare stops.

Author: Don Gillmor **Illustrator:** Marie-Louise Gay

Working Cotton

Working Cotton describes the long days of work in a cotton field from the view of a child in a migrant family. Shelan describes how her parents, brothers, and sisters arrive at the cotton fields before dawn and work until night to harvest cotton.

Author: Sherley Anne Williams **Illustrator:** Carole Byard

