

## Story Builders Book Selection List

*Please Note: Grade level suggestions are flexible, if there is a book from outside your classroom's grade range that you are interested in, please let us know! Teachers are also welcome to suggest their own books, subject to approval by Berkeley Rep staff. Indicated books are available in Spanish for bilingual teaching.*

**PETE THE CAT'S GROOVY IMAGINATION by James & Kimberly Dean (Grades TK-K)**

Pete the Cat wants to go surfing, but he looks outside and—oh no!—it's gray and rainy. Does Pete get sad? No, he doesn't! Instead, he finds a really big and GROOVY box. Find out in this epic adventure just where Pete's imagination takes him.

**THE MAGICAL YET by Angela DiTerlizzi (Grades TK-K)**

Each of us, from the day we're born, is accompanied by a special companion—the Yet. Can't tie your shoes? Yet! Can't ride a bike? Yet! Can't play the bassoon? Don't worry, Yet is there to help you out.

**LUCÍA THE LUCHADOR by Cynthia Leonor Garza (English & Spanish) (Grades TK-K)**

Lucía zips through the playground in her cape just like the boys, but when they tell her "girls can't be superheroes," suddenly she doesn't feel so mighty. That's when her beloved abuela reveals a dazzling secret: Lucía comes from a family of luchadoras, the bold and valiant women of the Mexican lucha libre tradition. Cloaked in a flashy new disguise, Lucía returns as a recess sensation! But when she's confronted with a case of injustice, Lucía must decide if she can stay true to the ways of the luchadora.

**SHH! WE HAVE A PLAN by Chris Hourton (English & Spanish) (Grades TK-K)**

Four friends creep through the woods, and what do they spot? An exquisite bird high in a tree! "Hello birdie," waves one. "Shh! We have a plan," hush the others. They stealthily make their advance, nets in the air. Ready one, ready two, ready three, and go! But as one comically foiled plan follows another, it soon becomes clear that their quiet, observant companion, hand outstretched, has a far better idea.

**AMY WU & THE PATCHWORK DRAGON by Kat Zhang (Grades TK-K)**

Amy loves craft time at school. But when her teacher asks everyone to make their own dragon, Amy feels stuck. Her first dragon has a long, wingless body, stag-like horns, and eagle claws, but her friends don't think it's a *real* dragon. Then she makes dragons like theirs, but none of them feels quite right...None of them feels like *hers*. After school, a story from Grandma sparks new inspiration, and Amy rounds up her family to help her. Together, can they make Amy's perfect dragon?

**THANK YOU, OMU! by Oge Mora (English & Spanish) (Grades K-1)**

Everyone in the neighborhood dreams of a taste of Omu's delicious stew! One by one, they follow their noses toward the scrumptious scent. And one by one, Omu offers a portion of her meal. Soon the pot is empty. Has she been so generous that she has nothing left for herself?

**JABARI JUMPS by Gaia Cornwall (English & Spanish) (Grades K-1)**

Jabari is definitely ready to jump off the diving board. He's finished his swimming lessons and passed his swim test, and he's a great jumper, so certainly...surely, he's not scared at all... in a sweetly appealing tale of overcoming your fears, newcomer Gaia Cornwall captures a moment between a patient and encouraging father and a determined little boy you can't help but root for.

**FERN AND OTTO: A Picture Book Story About Two Best Friends by Stephanie Graegin (Grades K-1)**

When best friends Fern, a bear, and Otto, a cat, go searching for an exciting story in the forest, they have different ideas about what that means. Fern thinks they should stop and watch a race between a tortoise and a hare, but Otto worries a tortoise is too slow to be exciting. Fern thinks the three brothers talking about how to build a house is incredibly interesting, but Otto isn't convinced. It's not until they run into a big scary witch that they both can agree that this is not the kind of excitement they had in mind...

**DIARY OF A WORM by Doreen Cornin** (English & Spanish)

**(Grades 1-2)**

This is the diary of a worm. This worm lives with his parents, plays with his friends, and even goes to school. But unlike you or me, he never has to take a bath, he gets to eat his homework, and because he doesn't have legs, he just can't do the hokey pokey—no matter how hard he tries.

**THE TRUE STORY OF THE THREE LITTLE PIGS by Jon Scieszka** (English & Spanish)

**(Grades 1-2)**

You thought you knew the story of the “The Three Little Pigs” ... You thought wrong. In this hysterical and clever fractured fairy tale picture book that twists point of view and perspective, young readers will finally hear the wolf’s side of the story of “The Three Little Pigs.”

**LAST STOP ON MARKET STREET by Matt de la Peña** (English & Spanish)

**(Grades 1-2)**

Every Sunday after church, CJ and his grandma ride the bus across town. But today, CJ wonders why they don’t own a car like his friend Colby. Why doesn’t he have an iPod like the boys on the bus? How come they always have to get off in the dirty part of town? Each question is met with an encouraging answer from grandma, who helps him see the beauty—and fun—in their routine and the world around them.

**COQUI IN THE CITY by Nomar Perez** (English & Spanish)

**(Grades 1-2)**

Miguel's pet frog, Coquí, is always with him as he moves through his life in San Juan. When Miguel learns that he and his parents are moving to the U.S. mainland, that also means leaving his beloved grandparents, home in Puerto Rico, and even his frog Coquí behind. Life in New York City is overwhelming and unfamiliar. But when he and Mamá go exploring, they find a few familiar sights that remind them of home, and Miguel realizes there might be a way to keep a little bit of Puerto Rico with him wherever he goes.

**ANANSI THE SPIDER: A Tale from the Ashanti by Gerald McDermott**

**(Grades 2-3)**

When the cunning and mischievous Anansi is about to become someone else's dinner, his six sons come to his rescue. This Caldecott Honor award-winning book celebrates the value of family and how everyone's unique talents make up the whole.

**LUCHA LIBRE by Xavier Garza** (English & Spanish)

**(Grades 2-3)**

Carlitos travels with his father to Mexico City where he attends his first luchador match. As the good guys enter the ring, the most famous luchador walks past Carlitos and smiles right at him! There's something familiar about the Man in the Silver Mask...but in any case, he is Carlitos' new greatest hero.

**MY FATHER'S SHOP by Satomi Ichikaw**

**(Grades 2-3)**

Mustafa's father owns a glorious shop full of colorful carpets and attracts guests from all over the world! When Mustafa finds a carpet that his father cannot sell, he uses his imagination to make it into a costume. Avoiding a boring lesson from his father about learning new languages, Mustafa runs to a nearby market with the carpet still over his head! A rooster at a nearby market finds this colorful creature interesting, so it starts to follow Mustafa attracting different tourists who teach Mustafa how to crow in many different languages.

**THE HUNGRY COAT: A Tale from Turkey by Demi**

**(Grades 2-3)**

The Turkish folk hero Nasrettin Hoca is a friend to all. After corralling an escaped goat, he attends a friend's party in his dirty coat, and is shunned by his friends because of his appearance. However, when Nasrettin changes into a fancy new coat, he is treated like a king and served a feast. To his friends' astonishment, he begins to feed his coat! Discover how Nasrettin teaches his friends a valuable lesson about what really matters.

**ROSA RAPOSA by F. Isabel Campoy**

**(Grades 2-3)**

Rosa Raposa is a jungle fox who loves planning tricks, especially when it comes to the sharp-toothed, beady-eyed bully, Jaguar. With a little bit of imagination and very quick paws, this fox can get out of any sticky situation! The Green Dress is the last of three stories in this book that show us how Rosa Raposa—with the help of a few jungle friends of course—escape the trap of becoming Jaguar's dinner.

**THE NAME JAR by Yangsook Choi**

**(Grades 2-3)**

Arriving to a new school, and a new country, is very difficult for Unhei who misses her home and grandmother back in Korea. She feels that being different is bad, especially when it comes to a name that nobody can pronounce. She decides to collect new name ideas in a jar with the help of a few classmates. However, with the support of her family, memories of what makes her culture special to her, and a new friend, Unhei decides to keep the one thing that makes her unique and reminders of home the most.

**MUSICIANS OF THE SUN by Gerald McDermott**

**(Grades 2-3)**

The day the Lord of the Night came out into the world he was struck by its gray joylessness. He called Wind to his side and bade him to free the musicians of the sun and bring joy back into the world. Will Wind succeed? Or will the world remain colorless for all time?

**THE BIG ORANGE SPLOT by Daniel Manus Pinkwater**

**(Grades 3-4)**

Mr. Plumbean lives in a town where all the houses look exactly the same. But when a lucky accident gives his home a spot of color, Mr. Plumbean has a choice to make. Will he cave to the demands of his neighbors, or will he find the courage to break free of the mold? A riveting tale about daring to make your dreams come true that is sure to add a little color to your life.

**GANESHA'S SWEET TOOTH by Sanjay Patel & Emily Haynes**

**(Grades 3-4)**

Ganesha, a Hindu god, loves candy. With an elephant's head, and a magical mouse for transport, he wanders from temple to temple collecting fruit, rice and sweets. But when one day he breaks a tusk, his confidence is shook. What can he do with a lopsided tusk? Will the other gods laugh and poke fun? Find out in this encouraging tale about the power of believing in yourself.

**THE STORY OF THE NOT-SO-SMALL ANIMAL by Isabel Campoy and Alma Ada**

**(Grades 3-4)**

The story of a tiny beetle who is nearly squashed by the hoof of a cow, Dona Vaca. When Dona Vaca nearly steps on him again and laughs at him, the beetle declares war on her and even calls some other tiny troops to help him out. To her surprise, Dona Vaca and her other large animal friends find that there may be cause for worry when many small creatures come together.

**JABUTI THE TORTOISE: A Trickster Tale from the Amazon by Gerald McDermott**

**(Grades 3-4)**

The talented flute-playing tortoise, Jabuti, uses his song to trick others into performing actions to benefit him. The vulture, however, gets very annoyed by his song and tricks Jabuti into breaking his shell on a rock. The rest of the birds love Jabuti's song and come to his rescue, and once more his music flows through the Amazon.

**DREAMERS by Yuyi Morales**

**(Grades 3-4)**

In 1994, Yuyi Morales left her home in Xalapa, Mexico and came to the US with her infant son. She left behind nearly everything she owned, but she didn't come empty-handed. She brought her strength, her work, her passion, her hopes and dreams. Dreamers is a celebration of what migrants bring with them when they leave their homes. This story about family that reminds us that we are all dreamers, bringing our own gifts wherever we roam.

**FLOATING ON MAMA'S SONG by Laura Lacamara (English & Spanish)**

**(Grades 3-4)**

Mama loves to sing. Her song is so beautiful that when notes escape her throat, everyone around her is so filled with happiness they begin to float in the air (even the neighbor's cow!). But what happens when Mama stops singing and her family can no longer float on her song? This melodic story of family and the magic of music is available in both English and Spanish.

**BOWWOW POWWOW: An Ojibwe story by Brenda Child**

**(Grades 3-4)**

Windy Girl is blessed with a vivid imagination. From Uncle she gathers stories of long-ago traditions, about dances and sharing and gratitude. When Uncle and Windy Girl and Itchy Boy attend a powwow, Windy watches the dancers in their jingle dresses and listens to the singers. She eats tasty food and joins family and friends around the campfire. Later, Windy falls asleep under the stars. Now Uncle's stories inspire other visions in her head: a bowwow powwow, where all the dancers are dogs. In these magical scenes, Windy sees veterans in a Grand Entry, and a visiting drum group, and traditional dancers all celebrating in song and dance.

**A STORY, A STORY by Gail E. Haley**

**(Grades 3-4)**

Ananse, the famed African trickster spider, makes a bargain with the Sky God to obtain all the stories in the world, but first he must complete several nearly impossible tasks. Witness how Ananse outwits the forest animals and wins the fabled book of stories.

**TASTY BABY BELLY BUTTONS by Judy Sierra**

**(Grades 4-5)**

In this tale from Japan, Uriko's parents taught her to be a great warrior and master dumpling maker. When giant monsters named oni (who love to munch on baby belly buttons) invade her village and steal all the babies, Uriko's skills are put to the test. With a sack full of dumplings, a sword, and some loyal companions, Uriko's quest teaches that brains and teamwork are worth far more than brute strength.

**TOMAS AND THE LIBRARY LADY by Pat Mora (English & Spanish)**

**(Grades 4-5)**

It's not easy moving time and again, but Tomas and his family are migrant workers who travel from state to state, helping farmers harvest their crops. When they arrive in Iowa for the summer, Tomas finds an escape from the scorching heat at the town library. And once inside, he also discovers a surprising world filled with dinosaurs, tigers, and a great new friend.

**THE WOMAN WHO OUTSHONE THE SUN by Alejandro Martinez (English & Spanish)**

**(Grades 4-5)**

When Lucia Zenteno arrives in an ancient Mexican village surrounded by butterflies and accompanied by an iguana, the civilians are overwhelmed with her beauty and majesty. Despite the elders' warnings to respect Lucia, they are frightened of her power and turn to insults to drive her out of their village. With her departure she brings the village's river, and they must seek her forgiveness to save their homes.

**THUNDER ROSE by Jerdine Nolen**

**(Grades 4-5)**

Thunder Rose vows to grow up to be more than just big and strong, thank you very kindly--and boy, does she ever! Born on a stormy night, Thunder Rose is a hopeful child who turns away a tornado with her song and the depth of her "fortunate feeling." A tall tale of joy, love and thunderous music.

**SMOKY NIGHT by Eve Bunting**

**(Grades 4-5)**

Daniel and his mom are living in turbulent times: riots in the streets, looting, and fires. In all the chaos, Jasmine, Daniel's cat, goes missing. But when she is later found paw-in-paw with Mrs. Kim's fat, mean cat, everyone learns a little something new about being kind to thy neighbor.

**THE REMEMBERING STONE by Barbara Timberlake Russell**

**(Grades 4-5)**

As a young girl, Ana feels unsure of the person she wants to become. One night, after placing a stone from the volcanoes of Costa Rica underneath her pillow, Ana finds herself in a deep slumber full of magical adventures. What will she learn about herself in her dreams? Journey alongside in this tale of family, friends, and self-discovery.

**PERSEPHONE: From D'Aulaires' Book of Greek Myths by Ingri & Edgar D'Aulaire**

**(Grades 4-5)**

A Greek myth used to explain the coming and going of the seasons. Follow the goddess of the spring, Persephone, as she faces the possibility of spending eternity in the underworld with Hades. Will spring ever return, or will the earth be shrouded in cold and darkness forever?