



## 2016-17 Story Builders Literature Selections

***ANANSI THE SPIDER: A Tale from the Ashanti* by Gerald McDermott** (Grades K-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 K-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.

***THE HUNGRY COAT* by Demi** (Grades K-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.

***ROOM ON THE BROOM* by Julia Donaldson** (Grades K-3)

A witch, a cat and a big black hat. The hat falls to the ground, by a dog it is found. A bow made of ribbon from her braid does it fly, snatched from the air by a bird in the sky. Her wand! Slips from her hands and tumbles below, rescued by a frog in a pond with a croak. A fun, rhyme-infused storybook about helping others and friendship.

***MUSICIANS OF THE SUN* by Gerald McDermott** (Grades 1-3)

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?

***GANESHA'S SWEET TOOTH* by Sanjay Patel & Emily Haynes** (Grades 1-3)

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 WORD COLLECTOR* by Sonja Wimmer (English & Spanish)** (Grades 1-3)

Just like some people collect stamps or coins or bottle caps, Luna collects words. All types of words: big words, little words, funny words, and beautiful words. But one day the interesting words begin to disappear. Afraid of what that might mean, Luna sets out on a journey to spread words of love and friendship across the world.

***ZOMO THE RABBIT* by Gerald McDermott** (Grades 1-4)

Zomo the Rabbit goes to the Sky God to ask for the gift of wisdom. Sky God gives Zomo three impossible tasks to complete in order to earn this valuable gift. Will Zomo's clever tricks be enough to appease the Sky God and reach his goal? A trickster tale from West Africa.

***COYOTE* by Gerald McDermott** (Grades 1-4)

Coyote has a nose for trouble. He always finds it. And he always wants to be something other than what he is. The day he meets the crows is no different. Does he have what it takes to be one of them? Or will he stay acoyote forever?



## 2016-17 Story Builders Literature Selections

***FLOATING ON MAMA'S SONG* by Laura Lacamara (English and Spanish) (Grades 1-4)**

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.

***TASTY BABY BELLY BUTTONS* by Judy Sierra (Grades 2-4)**

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.

***ANANSE AND THE LIZARD: A West African Tale retold by Pat Cummings* (Grades 2-5)**

In this retelling of a West African tale, the ever-popular Spider, Ananse, makes another appearance in a story about why the lizard stretches its neck. The clever Ananse happened to discover along his journey that the Chief was looking to have his daughter married, and the one who knows her name will win her hand. Due to a combination of luck and slyness, Ananse discovers the name of the girl, but through Ananse's lapse in judgment, the lizard ends up marrying the Chief's daughter. A variation of the Rumpelstiltskin tale.

***THE BIG ORANGE SPLOT* by Daniel Manus Pinkwater (Grades 3-5)**

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.

***THE MAGIC GOURD* by Baba Wagué Diakité (Grades 3-5)**

During a terrible drought, Brother Rabbit saves Chameleon from a thorn bush. In exchange, Chameleon gives Brother Rabbit a magic gourd that will fill with whatever the owner desires. The magic gourd sustains Brother Rabbit and his family until a greedy king hears about its wonders and steals it to build an endless supply of gold. However, the king underestimates the power of friendship and generosity and is soon taught that they are worth far more than any shiny treasure in this story from Mali.

***RAISEL'S RIDDLE* by Erica Silverman (Grades 3-5)**

A Polish Cinderella story, Raisel is brought up by her scholarly grandfather to value learning and studying. When her grandfather dies, Raisel leaves for the city to seek work. The work is hard, but she finds solace in the kindness of the rabbi's son. On the night of the Purim play, an act of kindness earns Raisel a chance to attend the play in a beautiful costume which captures the attention of the rabbi's son. However, it is her wit in creating the perfect riddle which captures his heart.

***GRACE FOR PRESIDENT* by Kelly DiPucchio (Grades 3-5)**

Grace cannot believe there has never been a woman president, so she decides to run for President of her class and is pretty sure she'll win... until Thomas Cobb, the very popular spelling-bee-champion-soccer-captain, decides to run against her. Will hard work and good ideas be enough to win this election? *Grace for President* gives an excellent explanation of the election process while also teaching lessons in defying stereotypes and achieving goals.



## **2016-17 Story Builders Literature Selections**

***THE WOMAN WHO OUTSHONE THE SUN* by Alejandro Martinez (English & Spanish) (Grades 3-5)**

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. Written in Spanish and English, this story works well with multicultural and environmental units.

***THUNDER ROSE* by Jerdine Nolen (Grades 3-5)**

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 3-5)**

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.

***RED BIRD* by Barbara Mitchel and Todd L.W. Doney (Grades 3-5)**

There is often more to a person than meets the eye. Although Katie leads a life like any other kid at school, she is also part of a completely different, vibrant community. As she goes off to a powwow, we see the world through the eyes of *Red Bird*, as she's known in her Native American tribe, and explore her heritage through the sights, sounds, and smells of a time-honored cultural tradition.

***THE REMEMBERING STONE* by Barbara Timberlake Russell (Grades 3-5)**

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.

***BROTHERS* by Yin (Grades 3-5)**

Ming travels from China to join his brothers at their grocery shop in San Francisco. Business is so bad that his brothers are often gone while working on the railroad and frequently leaves him alone. Against his brother's wishes, Ming ventures outside of Chinatown and meets an American boy named Patrick. What follows is a true tale of friendship and brotherhood.

***RIDING THE TIGER* by Eve Bunting (Grades 4-5)**

Sometimes we can make bad choices when we're lonely and bored. Things are no different for young Danny. When the Tiger asks Danny if he wants a ride, Danny jumps at the chance to make a new friend. But the more time they spend together, the more Danny realizes that Tiger isn't who he thought he was. Will Danny succumb to the Tiger's desires? Or will his strength be enough to break free?