WNC BOOK LISTS

TOPIC CURATED TITLE SUGGESTIONS



IMMIGRATION

HOW TO USE THIS RESOURCE

In this resource you will find a curated list of books about immigration as well as a variety of accompanying materials.

How to Use This Resource

1. Choose a title from the animal main character list.
2. Scan the QR code to play the read-aloud video.
3. Students complete the response sheet while listening.
4. Students vote: Would you keep reading?
5. Display the book cover poster to build classroom book buzz.

Classroom Use Ideas Quick List:

- First Chapter Friday
- Sub plans
- Book tasting stations
- Library preview lessons
- Early finisher reading activities

To check the reading level, video length or to find a book purchasing link, look at this Google Doc that organizes ALL of my First Chapter Friday read aloud videos alphabetically.

Table of Contents

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Page 4: What is Frist Chapter Friday?
Pages 5-6: Book Tracking Charts
Page 7: Book List
Page 8: Full List Book Cover Poster
Pages 10-19 Individual Book First Chapter Friday Sheets
Pages 21-30: Individual Book Posters

** More resources will be added in the future including a Reading Round Up Video to briefly explain every video on this list and possibly even some thematic coloring sheets.
As always, please email me with any title requests or questions. (wordnerd@amandazieba.com)



HAPPY READING!

MUST TRY

Word Nerd Daily

an app from Amanda Zieba



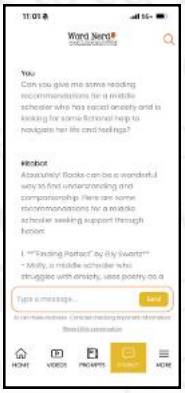
First Chapter Friday Videos



Writing Prompt Library



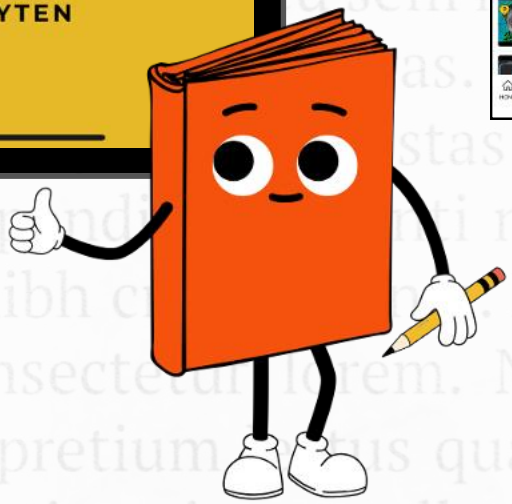
ChatBot for Reading Recs and Lesson Planning





Brain Break Videos





AVIALBLE FOR APPLE AND ANDROID DEVICES



FIRST CHAPTER Friday Videos

Not sure how First Chapter Friday works?

Check out this video for a full explanation and 4 implementation ideas.



If you prefer a written description in lieu of a video, click here.

Click here for a live, continually updated, Google Doc of the First Chapter Friday videos on my channel. Additionally you will find links to purchase the books and watch the read aloud videos, as well as book reading levels, genre/format, video length and more!

All my best,
Amanda Zieba

Teacher Planning Sheet

First CHAPTER Friday

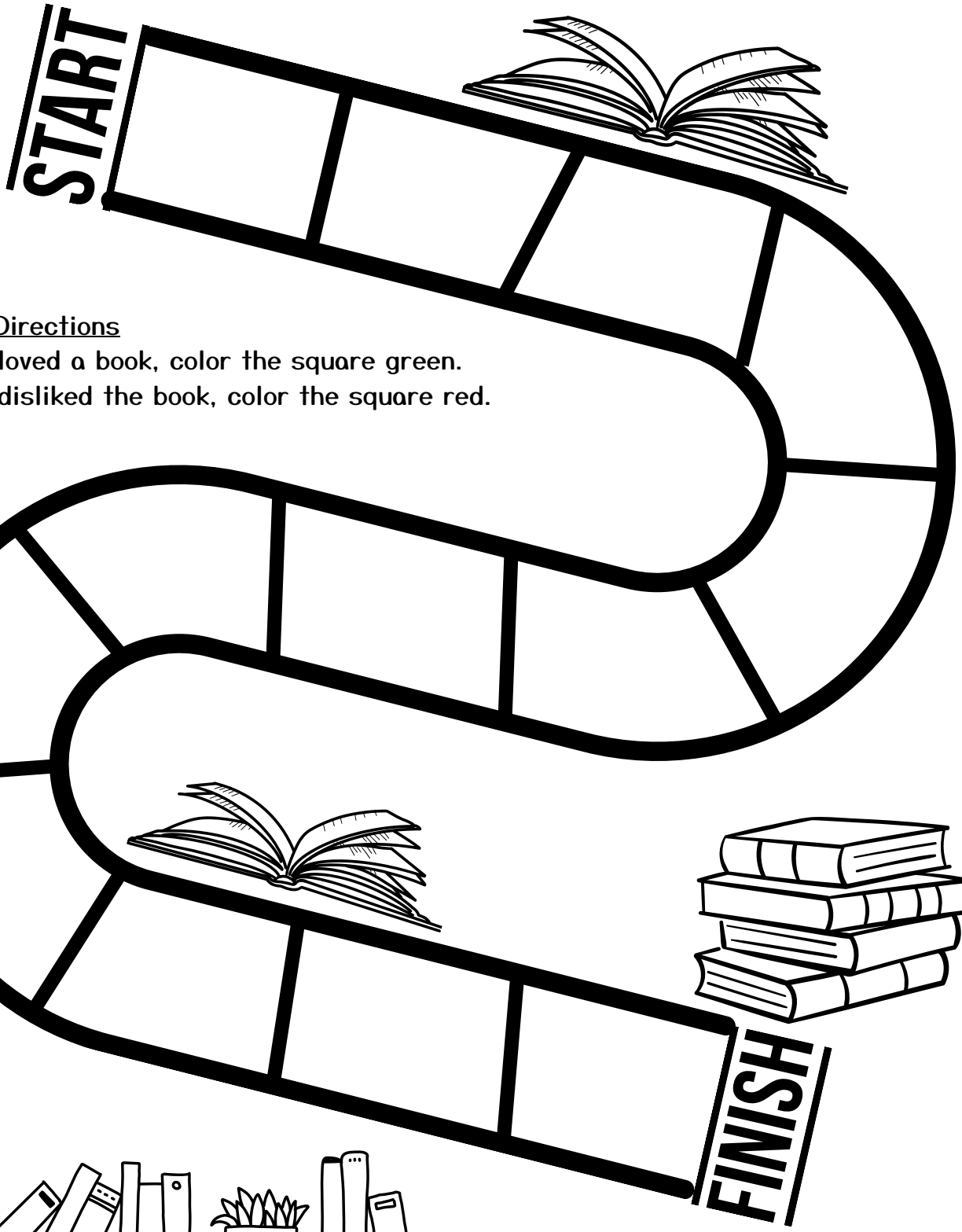


DATE	TITLE	AUTHOR	GENRE	STUDENT REACTION?



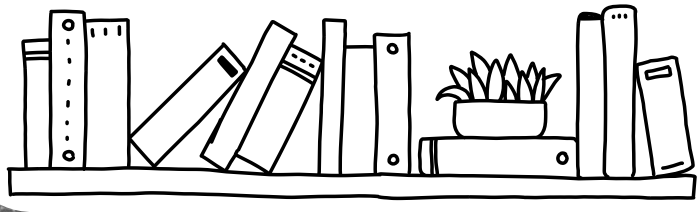
First Chapter Friday Game Board

Every time you listen to a First Chapter Friday read aloud video, write its title in the square. To win, fill up the entire game board!



Addtional Directions

- If you loved a book, color the square green.
- If you disliked the book, color the square red.



Name: _____

Created by Amanda Zieba, The Word Nerd

WNC BOOK LIST

IMMIGRATION

The books on this list include events and stories of those navigating immigration.

Front Desk by Kelly Yang

Inside Out and Back Again by Thanhha Lai

Kareem Between by Shifa Safadi

Letters from Rifka by Karen Hesse

The Lost Year by Katherine Marsh

The Night Diary by Veera Hirinandani

Nowhere Boy by Katherine Marsh

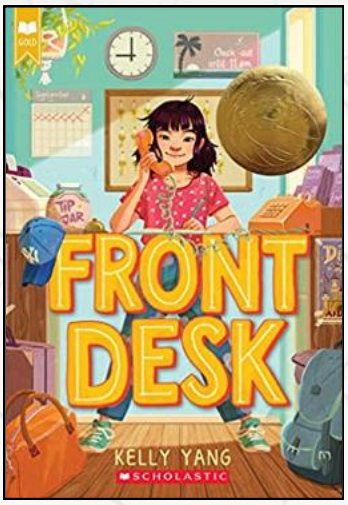
Other Words for Home by Jasmine Warga

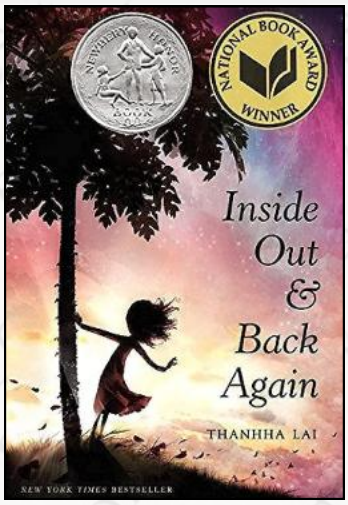
Parachute Kids by Betty C. Tang

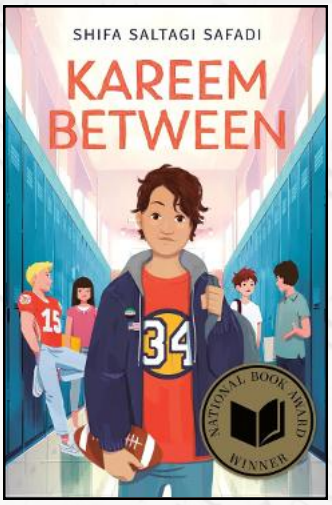
Stealing Home by J. Torres

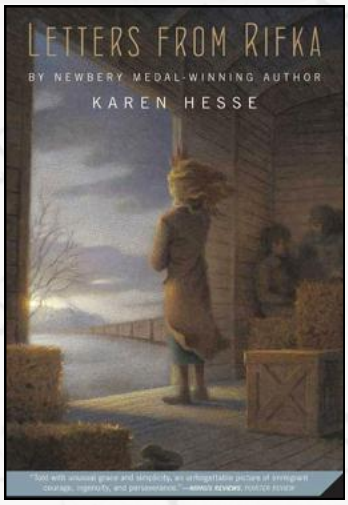


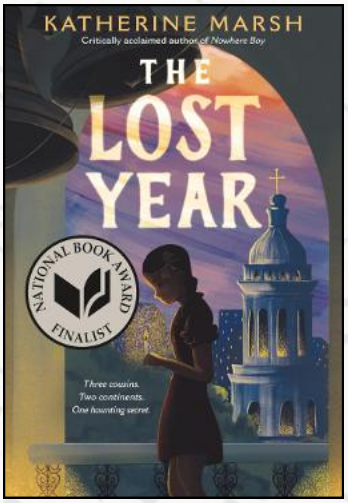
BOOKS ABOUT: IMMIGRATION

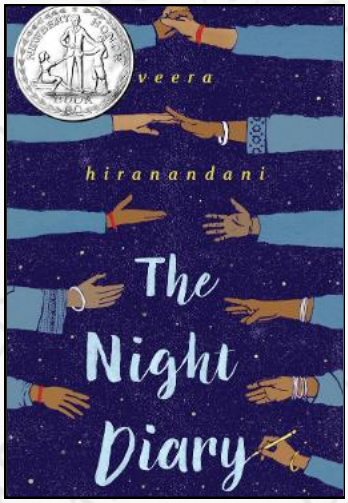


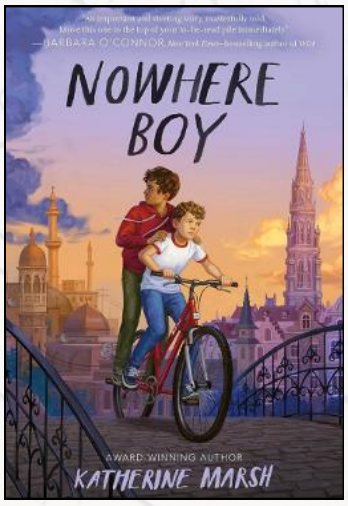


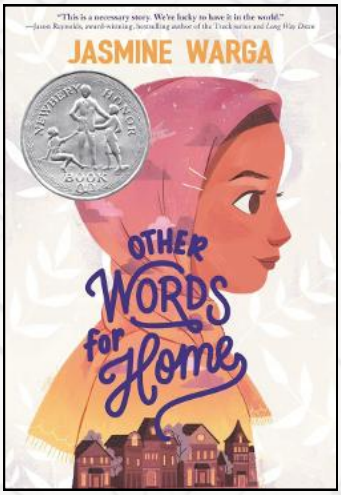


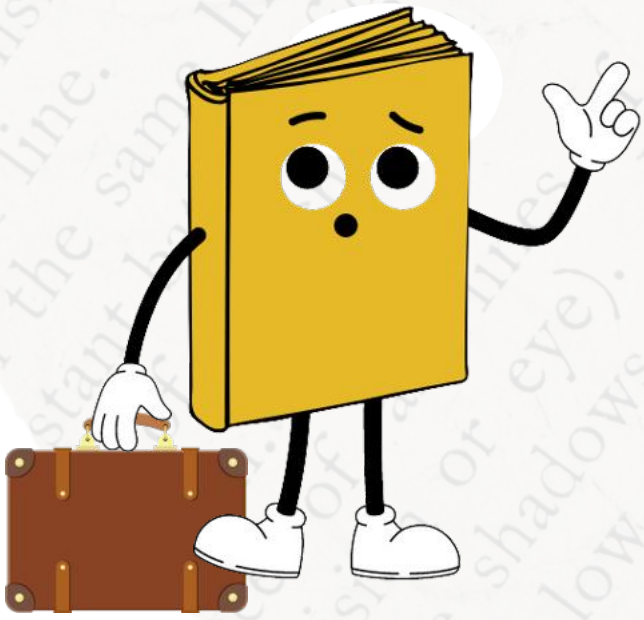


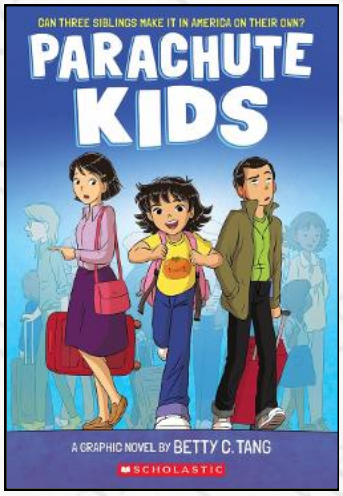


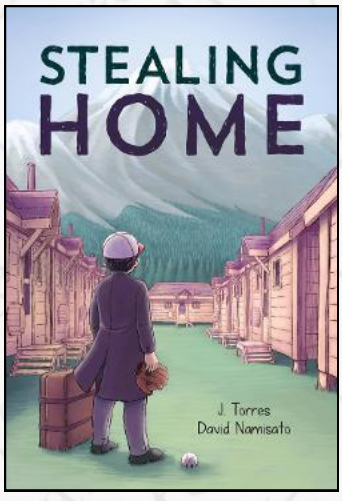










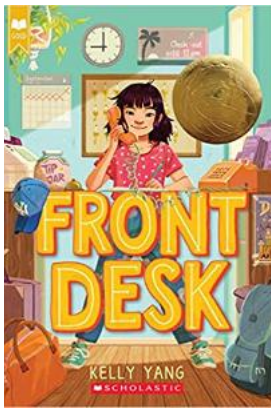


INDIVIDUAL BOOK SHEETS



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

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Name _____ Date _____

Front Desk

by Kelly Yang

Read Aloud Video

Here is a little background information about our First Chapter Friday title and its creator. Feel free to add your own notes and thoughts in the bottom box.

What's It About?

Mia Tang has a lot of secrets. Number 1: She lives in a motel, not a big house. Every day, while her immigrant parents clean the rooms, ten-year-old Mia manages the front desk of the Calivista Motel and tends to its guests. Number 2: Her parents hide immigrants. And if the mean motel owner, Mr. Yao, finds out they've been letting them stay in the empty rooms for free, the Tangs will be doomed. Number 3: She wants to be a writer. But how can she when her mom thinks she should stick to math because English is not her first language?It will take all of Mia's courage, kindness, and hard work to get through this year. Will she be able to hold on to her job, help the immigrants and guests, escape Mr. Yao, and go for her dreams?

This book won the Asian / Pacific American Award for Children's Literature in 2019.

Who Wrote It?

Kelly immigrated to America when she was 6 years old and grew up in Southern California, where she and her parents worked in three different motels. She eventually left the motels and went to college at the age of 13 and law school at the age of 17. She is a graduate of UC Berkeley, where she majored in Political Science, and Harvard Law School. After law school, she gave up law to pursue her passion of writing and teaching children writing. She is the founder of The Kelly Yang Project (kellyyang.edu.hk), a leading writing and debating program for kids in Asia. Before turning to fiction and writing novels, she was a columnist for the South China Morning Post for many years.



She has three children and splits her time between Hong Kong and San Francisco, California. You can learn more about Kelly on her website. www.kellyyang.com

AR Reading Level: 4.5 Lexile Level: 640L

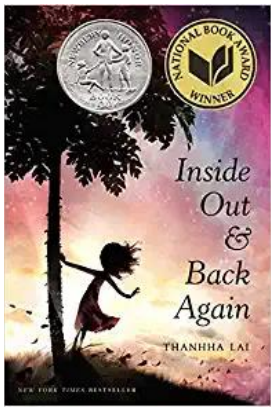
I want to read this book: YES / NO

WHAT I THINK



Use this graphic organizer with the First Chapter Friday videos on YouTube from the Word Nerd.

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Name _____ Date _____

Inside Out and Back Again by Thanhhà Lai

Read Aloud Video

Here is a little background information about our First Chapter Friday title and its creator. Feel free to add your own notes and thoughts in the bottom box.

What's It About?

Inspired by the author's childhood experience as a refugee—fleeing Vietnam after the fall of Saigon and immigrating to Alabama—this coming-of-age debut told in verse has been celebrated for its touching child's-eye view of family and immigration. Hà has only ever known Saigon: the thrills of its markets, the joy of its traditions, and the warmth of her friends close by. But now the Vietnam War has reached her home. Hà and her family are forced to flee as Saigon falls, and they board a ship headed toward hope—toward America.

This book is told in poems.

This book was the winner of the National Book Award, a Newbery Honor, and was a #1 New York Times bestseller!

Who Wrote It?

Thanhhà Lại is a Vietnamese-American writer of middle-grade and young adult novels. She lives in upstate New York with her husband and daughter. Her dog Pico assists her by stepping directly onto the keys of her computer as she types. Aside from writing, she started a non-profit organization called Viet Kids Inc. Her goal was, and still is, so simple: to buy bicycles for poor students who otherwise would walk two hours to and two hours from school. With a bike, the trip would shorten to half an hour, leaving energy to spend in the classrooms. You can learn more about this project and Thanhha's other book on her website: www.thanhhalai.com/



AR Reading Level: 4.8 Lexile Level: 800L

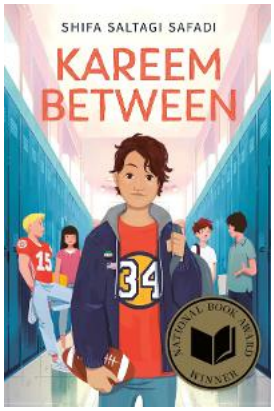
I want to read this book: YES / NO

WHAT I THINK



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Name _____ Date _____

Kareem Between
by Shifa Saltagi Safadi

Here is a little background information about our First Chapter Friday title and its creator. Feel free to add your own notes and thoughts in the bottom box.

Read Aloud Video

What's It About?

Seventh grade begins, and Kareem's already fumbled it. His best friend moved away, he messed up his tryout for the football team, and because of his heritage, he was voluntold to show the new kid—a Syrian refugee with a thick and embarrassing accent—around school. Just when Kareem thinks his middle school life has imploded, the hotshot QB promises to get Kareem another tryout for the squad. There's a catch: to secure that chance, Kareem must do something he knows is wrong.

Then, like a surprise blitz, Kareem's mom returns to Syria to help her family but can't make it back home. If Kareem could throw a penalty flag on the fouls of his school and home life, it would be for unnecessary roughness. Kareem is stuck between. Between countries. Between friends, between football, between parents—and between right and wrong. It's up to him to step up, find his confidence, and navigate the beauty and hope found somewhere in the middle.

Who Wrote It?

Shifa Saltagi Safadi is the National Book Award Winning author of Kareem Between, the Amina Banana series, and several picture books, including The Gift of Eid. She was born in Syria and immigrated to the US with her parents when she was a young girl. When she got married, she moved to the Chicagoland area and says she is a Midwest gal, through and through! She is a bilingual Arabic/English speaker, and is very familiar with the challenges of learning English and navigating two languages. Shifa also used to be a teacher and a book reviewer. Shifa loves to cook and says her favorite foods are Shakriyeh, a lamb yogurt stew served with rice, as well as cheeseburgers with extra onions (yummy) and of course, CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES! You can learn more about Shifa (and get free printables and activies for her books) here: https://shifasafadi.com/



AR Reading Level: 4.7

Lexile Level: Unavailable

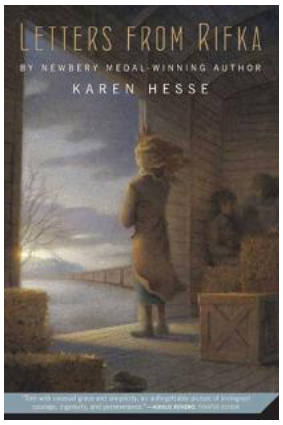
I want to read this book: YES / NO

WHAT I THINK



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Name _____ Date _____

Letters from Rifka by Karen Hesse

Here is a little background information about our First Chapter Friday title and its creator. Feel free to add your own notes and thoughts in the bottom box.

Read Aloud Video

What's It About?

With Nazis bombing London every night, it's time for thirteen-year-old Ken to escape. He suspects his stepmother is glad to see him go, but his dad says he's one of the lucky ones—one of ninety boys and girls to ship out aboard the SS City of Benares to safety in Canada. Life aboard the luxury ship is grand—nine-course meals, new friends, and a life far from the bombs, rations, and his stepmum's glare. And after five days at sea, the ship's officers announce that they're out of danger. They're wrong. Late that night, an explosion hurls Ken from his bunk. They've been hit. Torpedoed! The Benares is sinking fast. Terrified, Ken scrambles aboard Lifeboat 12 with five other boys. Will they get away? Will they survive?

A Junior Library Guild Selection
The 2019 Golden Kite Middle Grade Fiction Award Winner
A 2019 ALSC Notable Children's Book
The 2019-2020 Lectio Book Award Winner
The 2020-2021 Florida Sunshine State Young Readers Award List
The 2020 Oklahoma Library Association's Children's Sequoyah Book Award Winner
The Connecticut Book Award Winner

Who Wrote It?

I was born in 1952, in Baltimore, Maryland. I lived in a brick, row house in the city and my neighborhood brimmed with children my age. Summers were spent flying in and out of each other's homes. We were generally unsupervised, playing from early morning until late in the evening when our parents came out on their porches and called us home. We played everything from jacks to hopscotch, jump rope to 'swinging statues', 'talent show' to 'mothers and babies'. There was a park about 5 blocks from my house in one direction and a public library about the same distance in the other direction and I loved going to both. I graduated from high school when I was sixteen and attended Towson State College for one year as a theater major, then the University of Maryland for three more years where I graduated with a B.A. in English with double minors in Psychology and Anthropology. I've



lived in Vermont since 1976 where, with my husband, I've raised two amazing daughters. I love to knit dolls, go hiking, take photographs, read, write little tunes for the piano, paint, sing, and cook.

AR Reading Level: 4.2

Lexile Level: 660L

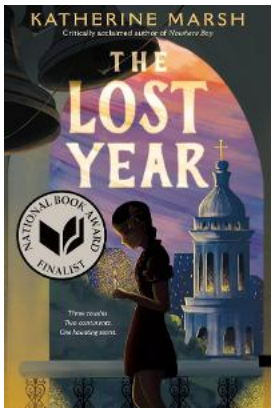
I want to read this book: YES / NO

WHAT I THINK



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Name _____ Date _____

The Lost Year
by Katherine Marsh

Read Aloud Video

Here is a little background information about our First Chapter Friday title and its creator. Feel free to add your own notes and thoughts in the bottom box.

What's It About?

Thirteen-year-old Matthew is miserable. His journalist dad is stuck overseas indefinitely, and his mom has moved in his one-hundred-year-old great-grandmother to ride out the pandemic, adding to his stress and isolation.
But when Matthew finds a tattered black-and-white photo in his great-grandmother's belongings, he discovers a clue to a hidden chapter of her past, one that will lead to a life-shattering family secret. Set in alternating timelines that connect the present-day to the 1930s and the US to the USSR, Katherine Marsh's latest novel sheds fresh light on the Holodomor—the horrific famine that killed millions of Ukrainians, and which the Soviet government covered up for decades.

From the author of Nowhere Boy—called 'a resistance novel for our times' by The New York Times—comes a brilliant middle-grade survival story that traces a harrowing family secret back to the Holodomor, a terrible famine that devastated Soviet Ukraine in the 1930s.

Who Wrote It?

Katherine grew up in Yonkers, New York in the home of her Ukrainian grandma who taught her to love stories and borscht. er parents, an artist/videographer and a stay-at-home mom, didn't have much money but we always had books; Mother Goose and the Little Bear stories with Maurice Sendak's wonderful etchings were some of my favorites. A former journalist and managing editor of The New Republic, Besides writing, I like to read, cook for friends and family, travel, correspond with friends, family and readers around the world, study languages (in addition to speaking some French and Russian, I'm learning Ukrainian), do puzzles, and visit off-beat museums. Most of all, I like to spend time with my family. My husband, two children and I live in Washington, DC with two cats, a rabbit, a bunch of fish, a frog and an axolotl. Learn more about Katharine and her books at www.katherinemarsh.com



AR Reading Level: N/A

Lexile Level: 710L

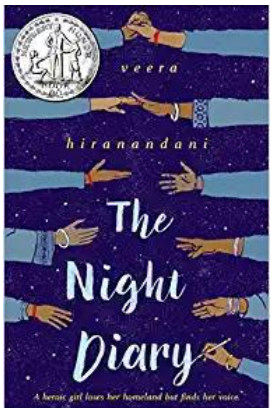
I want to read this book: YES / NO

WHAT I THINK



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Name _____ Date _____

The Night Diary
By Veera Hiranandani

Read Aloud Video

Here is a little background information about our First Chapter Friday title and its creator. Feel free to add your own notes and thoughts in the bottom box.

What's It About?

It's 1947, and India, newly independent of British rule, has been separated into two countries: Pakistan and India. The divide has created much tension between Hindus and Muslims, and hundreds of thousands are killed crossing borders. Half-Muslim, half-Hindu twelve-year-old Nisha doesn't know where she belongs, or what her country is anymore.

When Papa decides it's too dangerous to stay in what is now Pakistan, Nisha and her family become refugees and embark first by train but later on foot to reach her new home. The journey is long, difficult, and dangerous, and after losing her mother as a baby, Nisha can't imagine losing her homeland, too. But even if her country has been ripped apart, Nisha still believes in the possibility of putting herself back together. Told through Nisha's letters to her mother, The Night Diary is a story of one girl's search for home, for her own identity...and for a hopeful future.

This book won a Newbery Honor Award in 2019.

Who Wrote It?

When I was a kid, I liked video games a lot and since I grew up in the '80s before the internet, xbox, and wii, going to the arcade and playing Pacman was just about the most exciting thing in the world. When I wasn't begging my parents to take me to an arcade, I was reading, making up stories, doing gymnastics, baking cookies, drawing, and making my little sister play the games I wanted to play. I was raised in a small town in Connecticut. Growing up wasn't always easy. My mother is Jewish-American, my father is from a Hindu family in India, and I didn't know any kids like me where I lived. But coming from two cultures and not always fitting in has probably made me a stronger person. Now I live in a little town on the Hudson River with my husband, daughter, son, and a very moody cat who we love anyway.



AR Reading Level: 4.5

Lexile Level: 700L

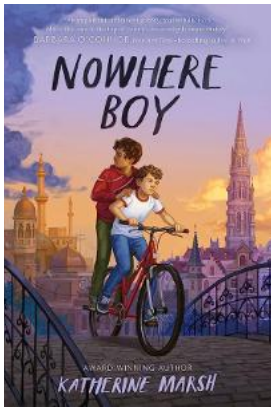
I want to read this book: YES / NO

WHAT I THINK



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Name _____ Date _____

Nowhere Boy
by Katherine Marsh

Read Aloud Video

Here is a little background information about our First Chapter Friday title and its creator. Feel free to add your own notes and thoughts in the bottom box.

What's It About?

A devastating tornado tears apart more than just houses in this striking novel in verse about a girl rebuilding herself. Before the storm, thirteen-year-old Quinn was happy flying under the radar. She was average. Unremarkable. Always looking for an escape from her house, where her bickering parents fawned over her genius big brother. But after the storm, Quinn can't seem to go back to average. Her friends weren't affected by the tornado in the same way. To them, the storm left behind a playground of abandoned houses and distracted adults. As Quinn struggles to find stability in the tornado's aftermath, she must choose: between homes, friendships, and versions of herself. Told in rich, spectacular verse, Caroline Brooks DuBois crafts a powerful story of redemption as Quinn makes her way from Before to After. There's nothing average about the world Quinn wakes up to after the storm; maybe there's nothing average about her, either. This emotional coming-of-age journey for middle grade readers proves that it's never too late to be the person you want to be.

Who Wrote It?

Katherine grew up in Yonkers, New York in the home of her Ukrainian grandma who taught her to love stories and borscht. er parents, an artist/videographer and a stay-at-home mom, didn't have much money but we always had books; Mother Goose and the Little Bear stories with Maurice Sendak's wonderful etchings were some of my favorites. A former journalist and managing editor of The New Republic, Besides writing, I like to read, cook for friends and family, travel, correspond with friends, family and readers around the world, study languages (in addition to speaking some French and Russian, I'm learning Ukrainian), do puzzles, and visit off-beat museums. Most of all, I like to



spend time with my family. My husband, two children and I live in Washington, DC with two cats, a rabbit, a bunch of fish, a frog and an axolotl. Learn more about Katharine and her books at www.katherinemarsh.com

AR Reading Level: 5.4

Lexile Level: 810L

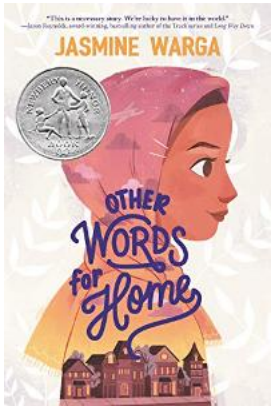
I want to read this book: YES / NO

WHAT I THINK



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* FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY * FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY * FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY *



Name _____ Date _____

Other Words for Home by Jasmine Warga

Read Aloud Video

Here is a little background information about our First Chapter Friday title and its creator. Feel free to add your own notes and thoughts in the bottom box.

What's It About?

Jude never thought she'd be leaving her beloved older brother and father behind, all the way across the ocean in Syria. But when things in her hometown start becoming volatile, Jude and her mother are sent to live in Cincinnati with relatives. At first, everything in America seems too fast and too loud. The American movies that Jude has always loved haven't quite prepared her for starting school in the US—and her new label of 'Middle Eastern,' an identity she's never known before. But this life also brings unexpected surprises—there are new friends, a whole new family, and a school musical that Jude might just try out for. Maybe America, too, is a place where Jude can be seen as she really is. This lyrical, life-affirming story written as a novel in verse is about losing and finding home and, most importantly, finding yourself.

Who Wrote It?

I was born on April 24, 1988 at 11:59 PM in Cincinnati, Ohio. This means that I am a Taurus if you are into astrology and star stuff, which I most definitely am. Also, like all other people from Cincinnati, I am inordinately proud of my little Midwestern city and think that Graeter's black raspberry chip ice cream is the most delicious food in the whole world. (I'm really into a baby hippo named Fiona, too. She makes her home at the Cincinnati Zoo.) I loved to read. I also loved to tell stories. I come from a long-line of story-tellers. I only met my paternal grandmother twice —she lived in Jordan— but one of my most distinct childhood



memories is of her telling me a story about the mermaids that live in the Dead Sea. That story has stayed with me for years. Stories are the way I make sense of our messy and complicated world.

AR Reading Level: 5.3 Lexile Level: 930L

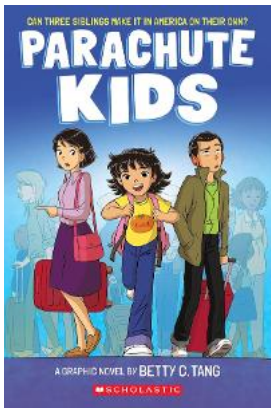
I want to read this book: YES / NO

WHAT I THINK



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Name _____ Date _____

Parachute Kids by Betty C. Tang

Here is a little background information about our First Chapter Friday title and its creator. Feel free to add your own notes and thoughts in the bottom box.

Read Aloud Video

What's It About?

A DREAM TRIP TO AMERICA TURNS INTO A NIGHTMARE!
Feng-Li can't wait to discover America with her family! But after an action-packed vacation, her parents deliver shocking news: They are returning to Taiwan and leaving Feng-Li and her older siblings in California on their own. Suddenly, the three kids must fend for themselves in a strange new world--and get along. Starting a new school, learning a new language, and trying to make new friends while managing a household is hard enough, but Bro and Sis's constant bickering makes everything worse. Thankfully, there are some hilarious moments to balance the stress and loneliness. But as tensions escalate--and all three kids get tangled in a web of bad choices--can Feng-Li keep her family together?

This funny, fast-paced, and heartrending story about three siblings living on their own as undocumented new immigrants is perfect for fans of New Kid and Front Desk.

**National Book Award Longlist Title
**Asian/Pacific American Award Honor Book

Who Wrote It?

From Betty's Author Website: I spent my childhood nights secretly reading mangas under the covers with a flashlight, much to my mother's dismay. It did no favor to my eyes, but my love for drawing ignited. After graduating from CalArts with a BFA, I worked for various Hollywood animation studios including Disney TV and Dreamworks Animation. Then adventurously, I moved to Beijing, China for a couple of years, and co-directed Where's the Dragon?, an animated feature. Now I'm 100% devoted to creating meaningful books for children. I'm also a NY Times Bestselling Illustrator of the graphic novel, JACKY HA-HA, written by James Patterson and Chris Grabenstein and adapted by Adam Rau. I love squirrels and hate roaches. I am also a 4th degree black belt in Aikido-a Japanese martia art-but the roached aren't impressed. Born in Taiwan, I arrived in America as a parachute kid. Currenly, I live in Los Angeles, CA.



AR Reading Level: N/A

Lexile Level: 250L

I want to read this book: YES / NO

WHAT I THINK



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Name _____ Date _____

Stealing Home
by J. Torres

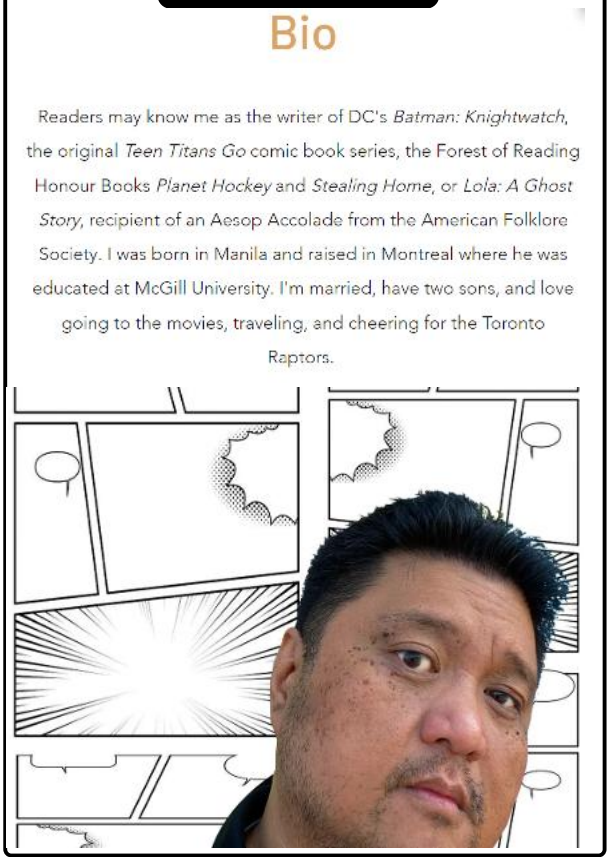
Here is a little background information about our First Chapter Friday title and its creator. Feel free to add your own notes and thoughts in the bottom box.

Read Aloud Video

What's It About?

Sandy Saito is a happy boy who reads comic books and is obsessed with baseball --- especially the Asahi team, the pride of his Japanese Canadian community. But when the Japanese attack Pearl Harbor, his life, like that of every other North American of Japanese descent, changes forever. His family is forced to move to a remote internment camp, and his father must spend months away from them. Sandy, his mother and his brother cope as best they can with the difficulties at the camp. Over time, Sandy comes to realize that life is a lot like baseball. It's about dealing with whatever is thrown at you, however you can. And it's about finding your way home. In this emotionally gripping graphic novel, J. Torres has artfully woven a fictional story into a historically accurate, thoroughly researched account of the events surrounding the internment of Japanese Canadians during World War II. Using the approachable graphic novel format, the story of this grave chapter in North American history is gently told with sensitivity and insight, and the theme of baseball runs through the story as a message of hope and renewal.

Who Wrote It?



AR Reading Level: 3.3

Lexile Level: 430L

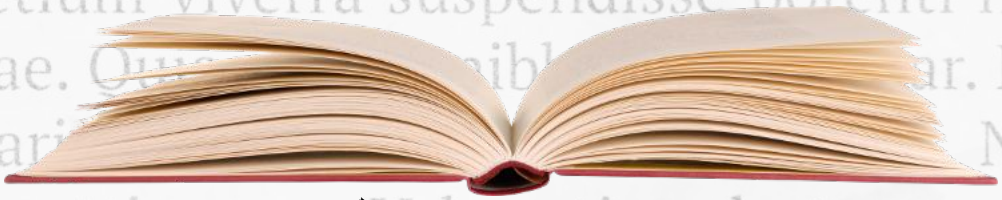
I want to read this book: YES / NO

WHAT I THINK

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INDIVIDUAL BOOK POSTERS

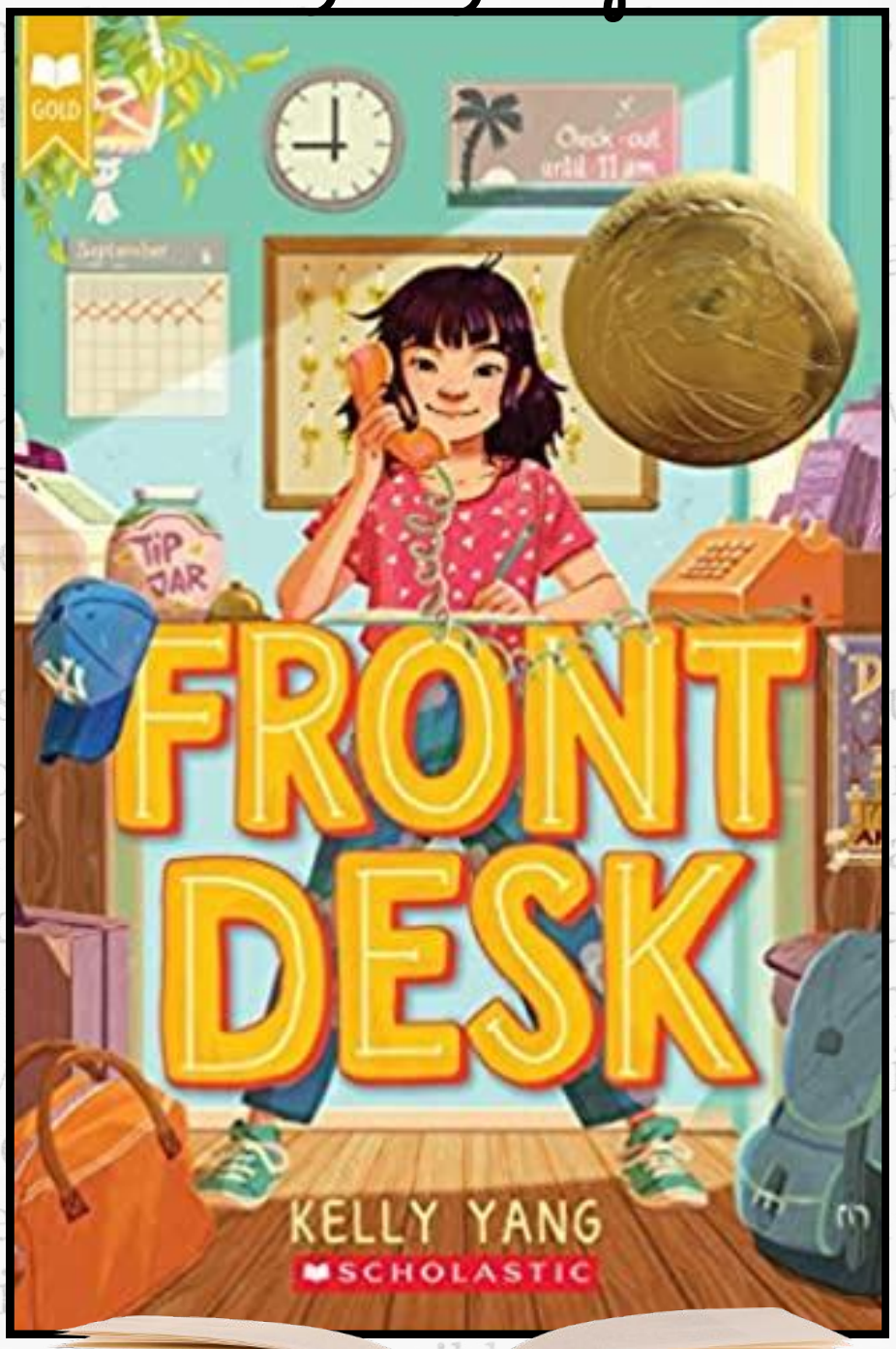




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FRONT DESK

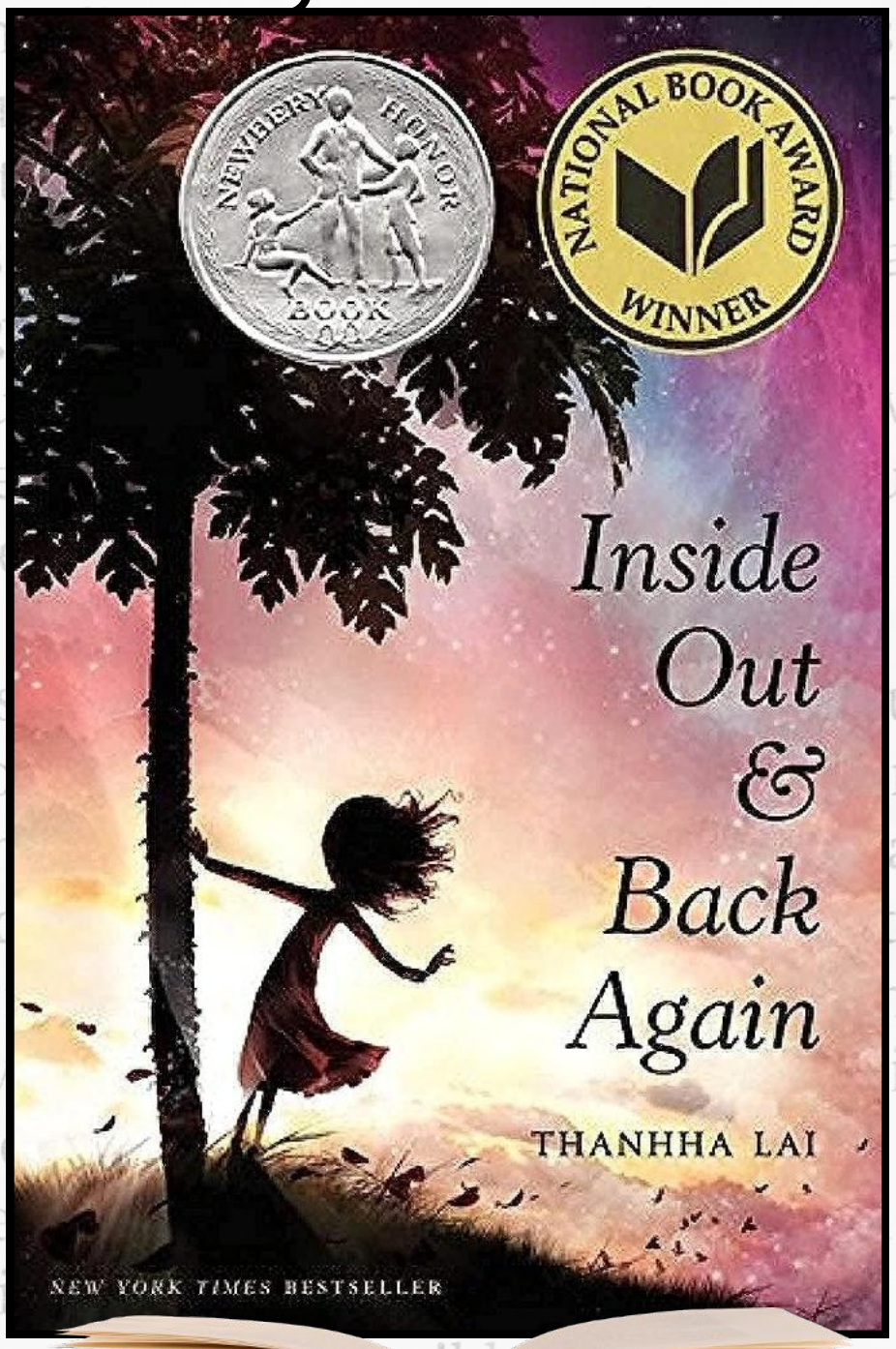
By Kelly Yang

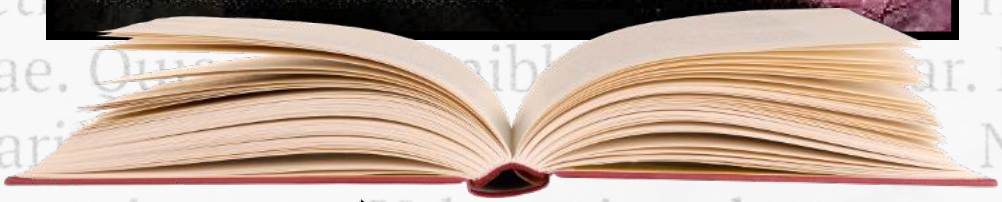


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INSIDE OUT & BACK AGAIN

By Thanhha Lai

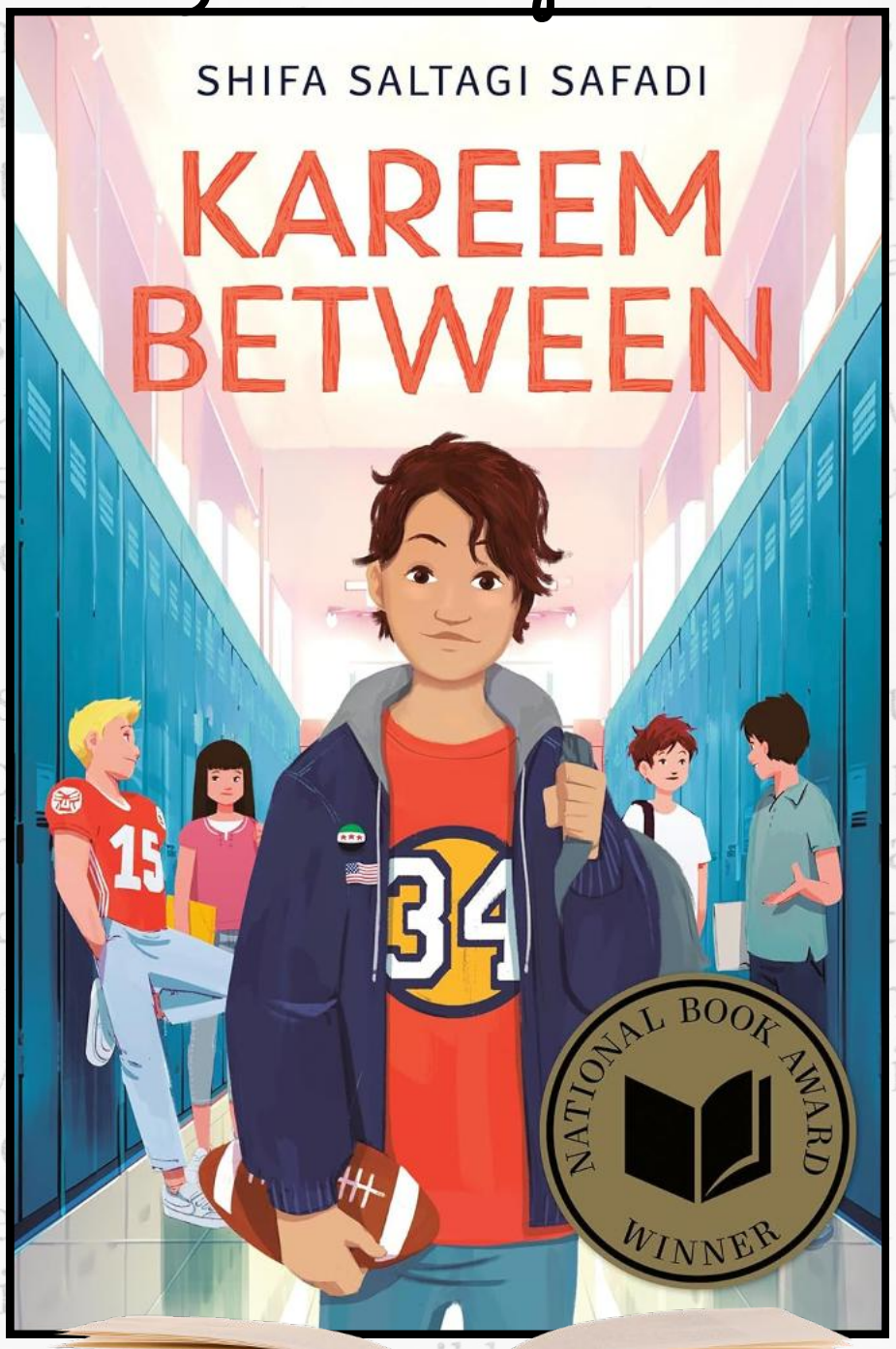




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KAREEM BETWEEN

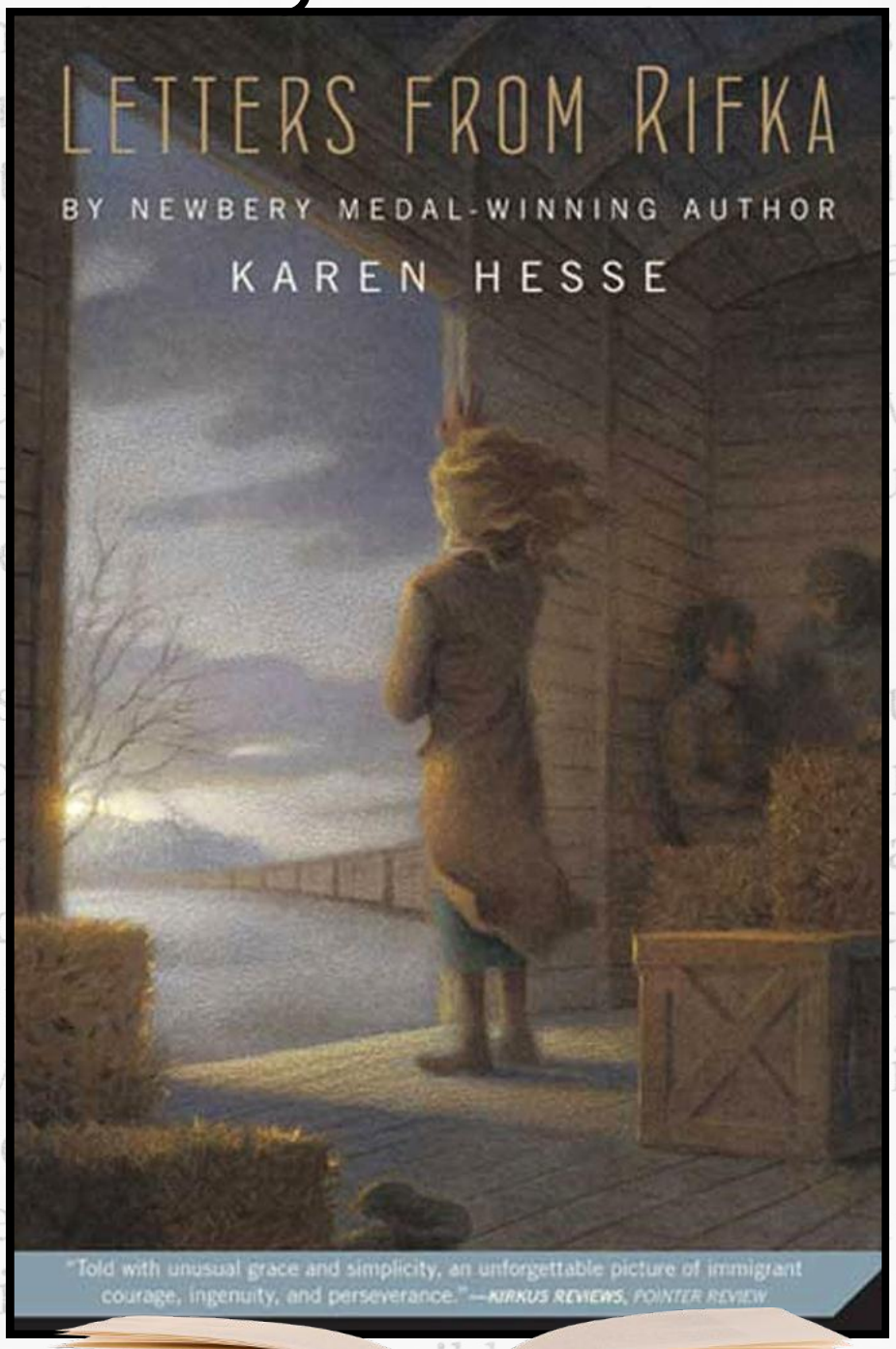
By Shifa Saltagi Safadi



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LETTERS FROM RIFKA

By Karen Hesse

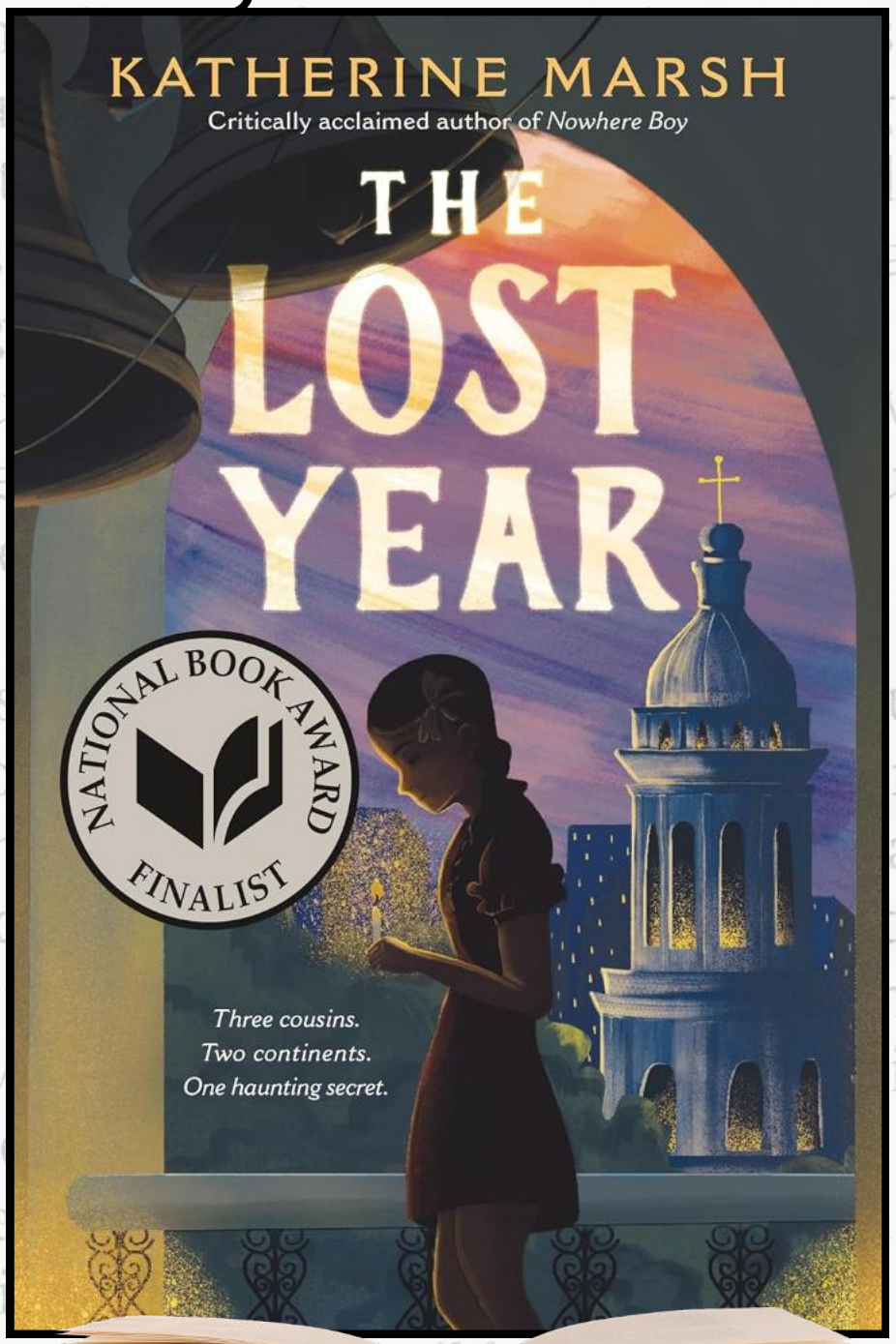




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THE LOST YEAR

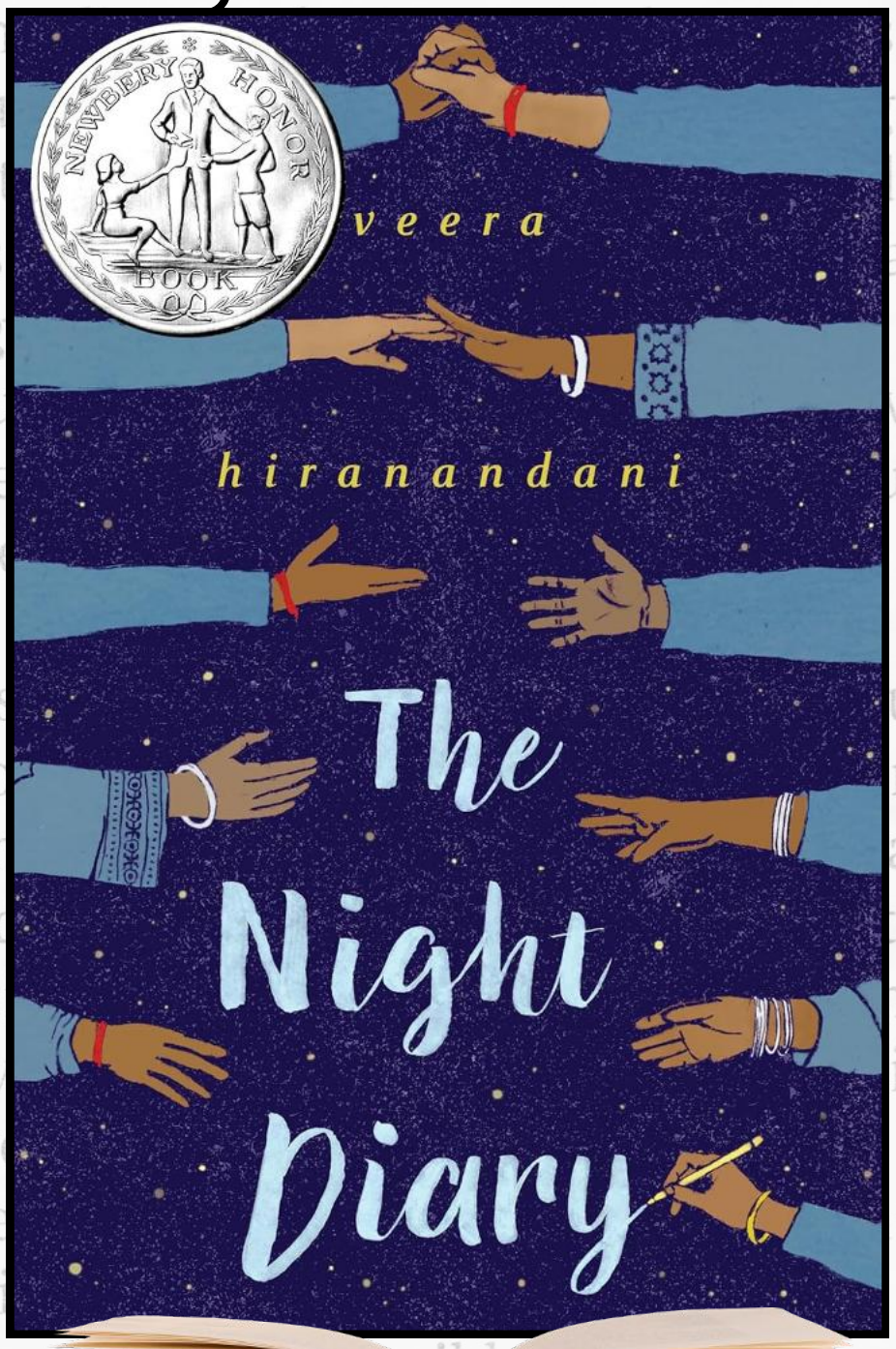
By Katherine Marsh



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THE NIGHT DIARY

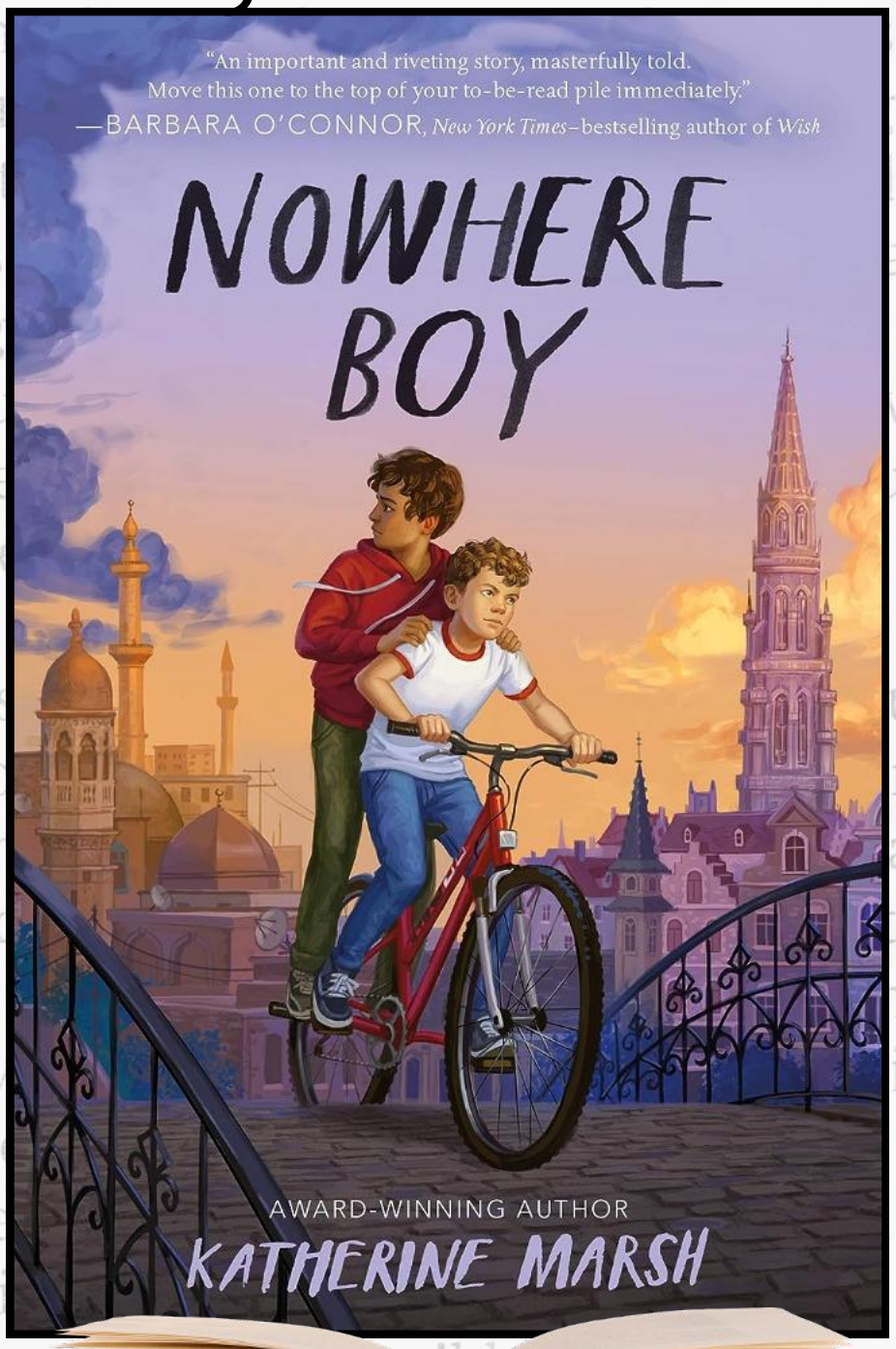
By Veera Hiranandani



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NOWHERE BOY

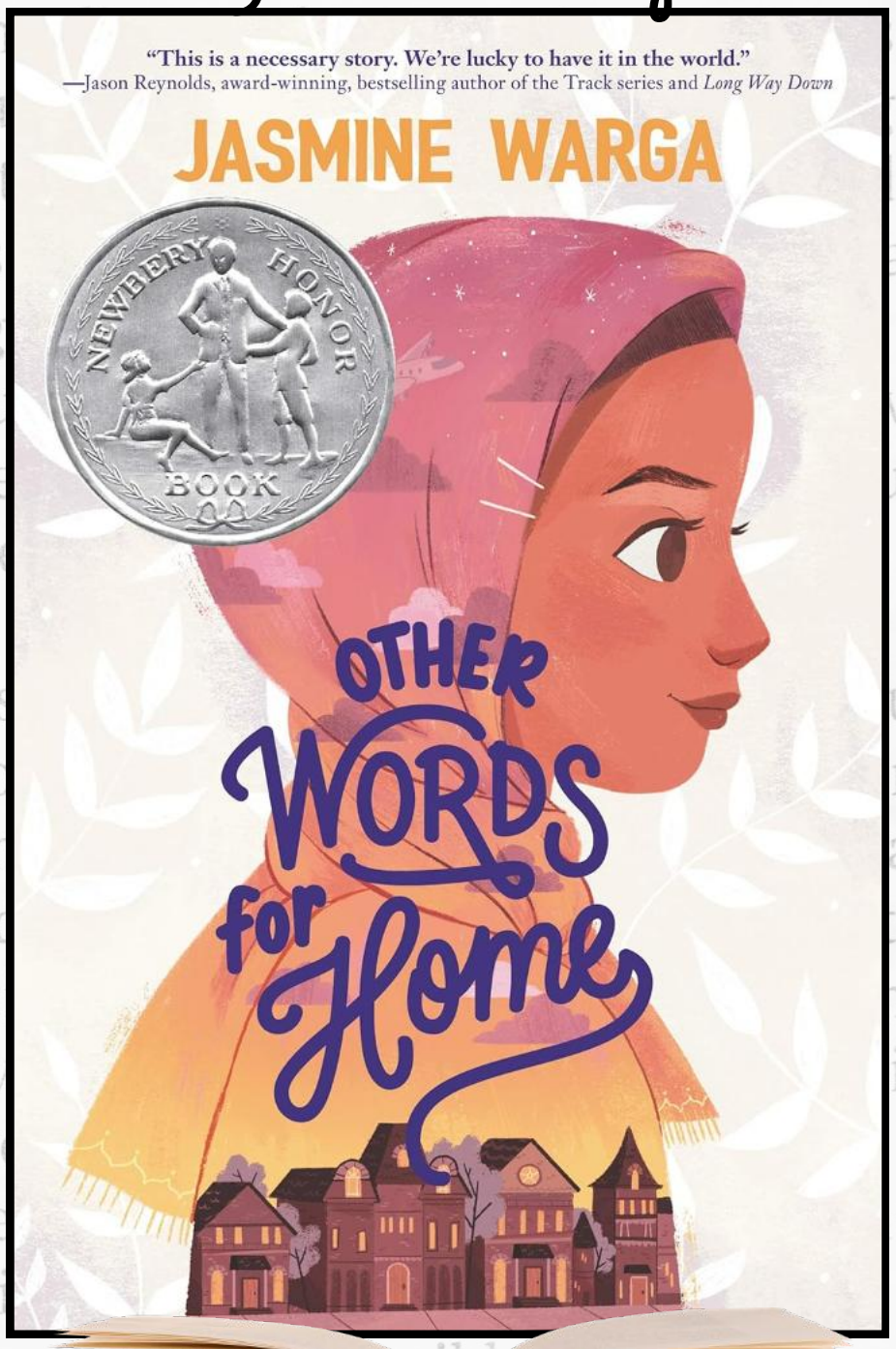
By Katherine Marsh



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OTHER WORDS FOR HOME

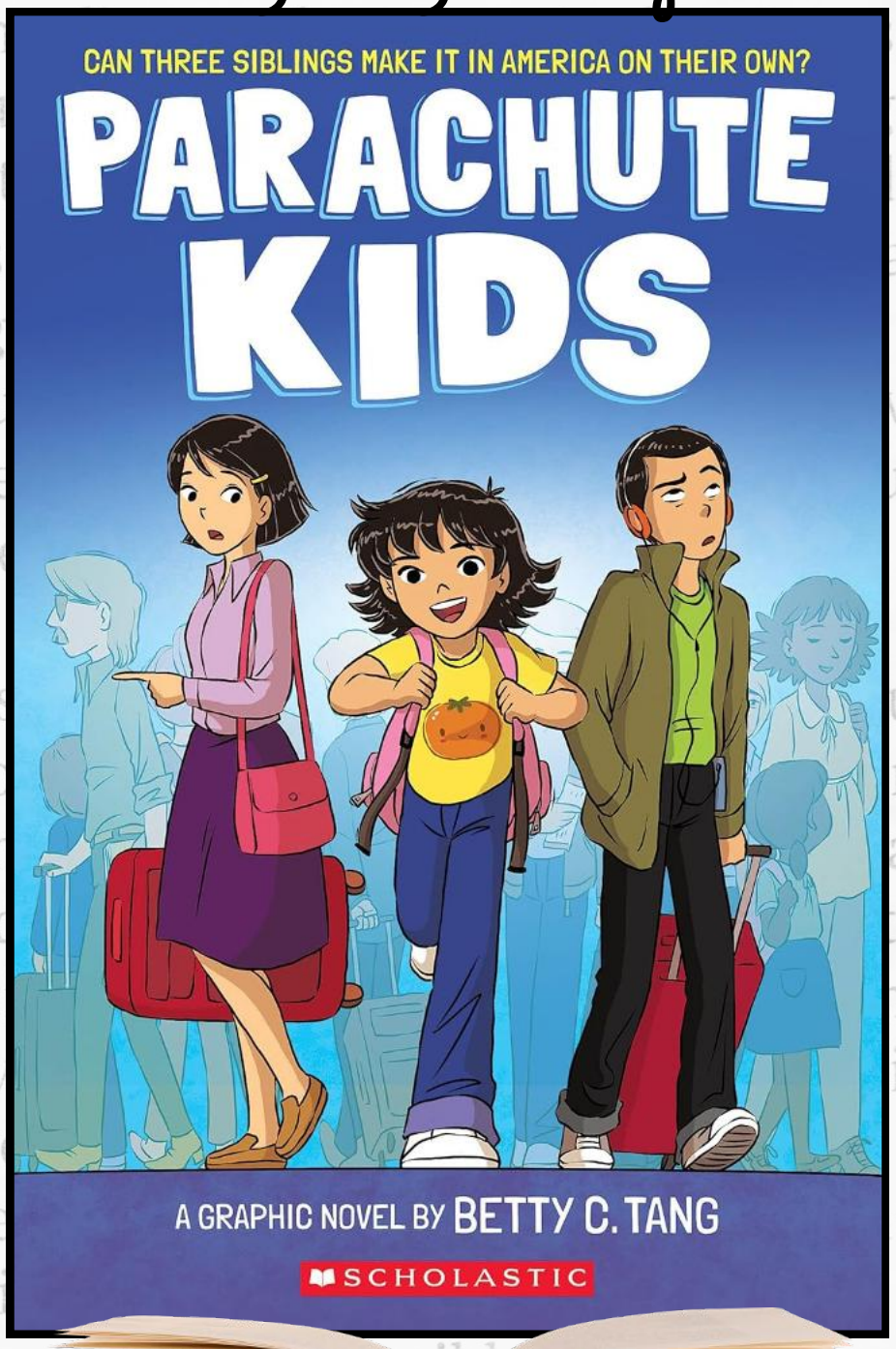
By Jasmine Warga



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PARACHUTE KIDS

By Betty C. Tang

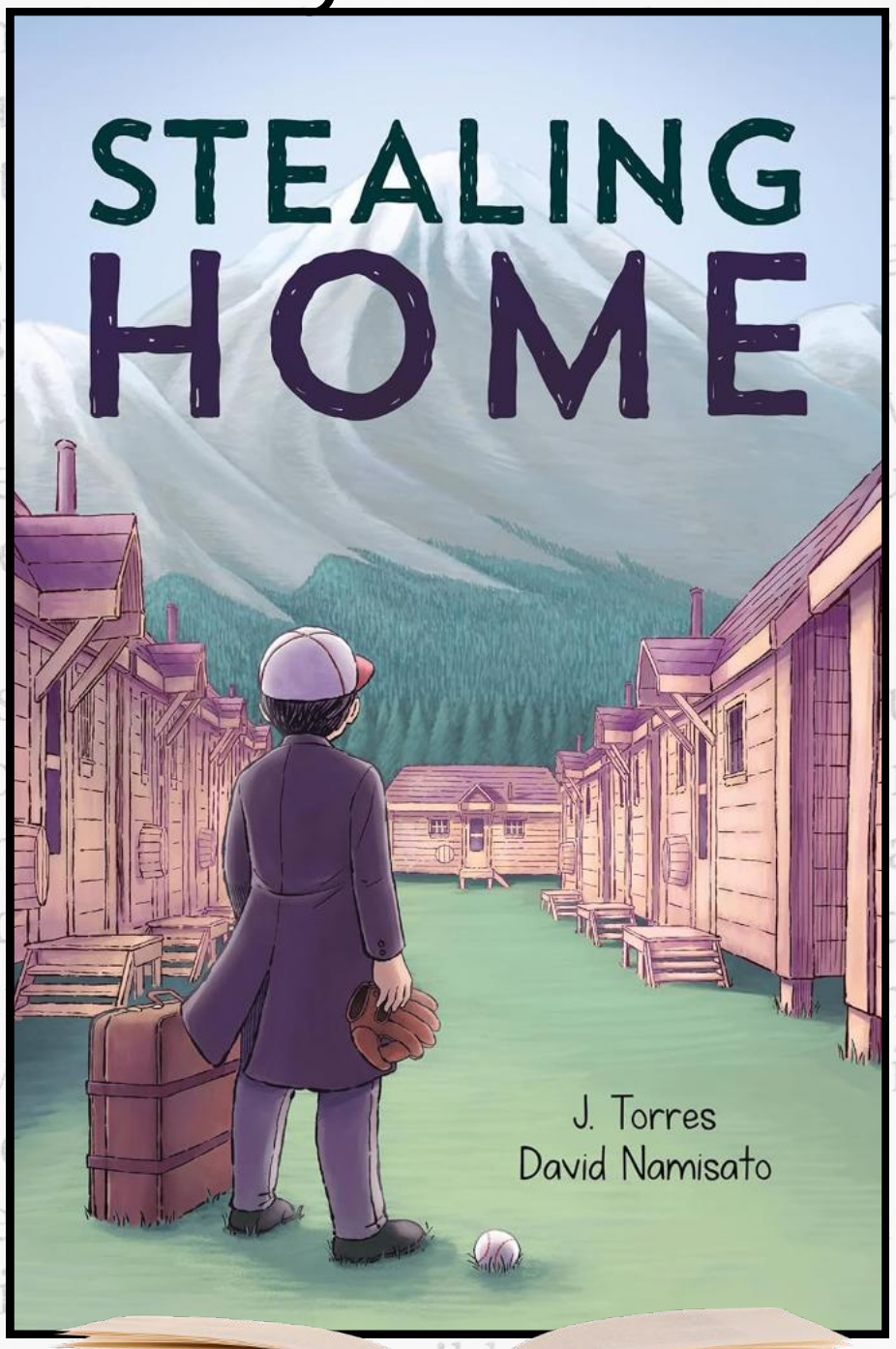




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STEALING HOME

By J. Torres



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