

CA BOCES – Professional Library 2026-2027

<p>Alma y como obtuvo su nombre (Alma and How She Got Her Name)</p>	<p>If you ask her, Alma Sofía Esperanza José Pura Candela has way too many names: six! Just think of how hard it is to fit them all on the back of a little photo. How did such a small person wind up with such a large name? Alma turns to Daddy for an answer and learns of Sofia, the grandmother who loved books and flowers; Esperanza, the great-grandmother who longed to travel; José, the grandfather who was an artist; and other namesakes too. As she hears the story of her name, Alma starts to think it might be a perfect fit after all — and realizes that <i>she</i> will one day have her own story to tell. In her author-illustrator debut, Juana Martinez-Neal opens a treasure box of discovery for children who may be curious about their own origin or name story.</p>	<p>Word Count: 353 Reading Level: 1.9 Interest Level: P-2</p>
<p>American Street</p>	<p>On the corner of American Street and Joy Road, Fabiola Toussaint thought she would finally find <i>une belle vie</i>—a good life. But after they leave Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Fabiola’s mother is detained by U.S. immigration, leaving Fabiola to navigate her loud American cousins, Chantal, Donna, and Princess; the grittiness of Detroit’s west side; a new school; and a surprising romance, all on her own. Just as she finds her footing in this strange new world, a dangerous proposition presents itself, and Fabiola soon realizes that freedom comes at a cost. Trapped at the crossroads of an impossible choice, will she pay the price for the American dream?</p>	<p>Word Count: 73,622 Reading Level: 4.4 Interest Level: 7-12</p>
<p>Americanized: Rebel Without a Green Card</p>	<p>Americanized follows Sara's progress toward getting her green card, but that's only a portion of her experiences as an Iranian-"American" teenager. From discovering that her parents secretly divorced to facilitate her mother's green card application to learning how to tame her unibrow, Sara pivots gracefully from the terrifying prospect that she might be kicked out of the country at any time to the almost-as-terrifying possibility that she might be the only one of her friends without a date to the prom. This moving, often hilarious story is for anyone who has ever shared either fear.</p>	<p>Word Count: 60,026 Reading Level: 7.5 Interest Level: 9-12</p>
<p>Amil and the After</p>	<p>At the turn of the new year in 1948, Amil and his family are trying to make a home in India, now independent of British rule. Both Muslim and Hindu, twelve-year-old Amil is not sure what home means anymore. The memory of the long and difficult journey from their hometown in what is now Pakistan lives with him. And despite having an apartment in Bombay to live in and a school to attend, life in India feels uncertain. Nisha, his twin sister, suggests that Amil begin to tell his story through drawings meant for their mother, who died when they were just babies. Through Amil, readers witness the unwavering spirit of a young boy trying to make sense of a chaotic world, and find hope for himself and a newly reborn nation.</p>	<p>Word Count: 47,290 Reading Level: 4.7 Interest Level: 4-7</p>
<p>The Arabic Quilt: An Immigrant Story</p>	<p>Kanzi's family has moved from Egypt to America, and on her first day in a new school, what she wants more than anything is to fit in. Maybe that's why she forgets to take the kofta sandwich her mother has made for her lunch, but that backfires when Mama shows up at school with the sandwich. Mama wears a hijab and calls her daughter Habibtí (dear one). When she leaves, the teasing starts. That night, Kanzi wraps herself in the beautiful Arabic quilt her teita (grandma) in Cairo gave her and writes a poem in Arabic about the quilt. Next day her teacher sees the poem and gets the entire class excited about creating a "quilt" (a paper collage) of student names in Arabic. In the end, Kanzi's most treasured reminder of her old home provides a pathway for acceptance in her new one. This authentic story with beautiful illustrations includes a glossary of Arabic words and a presentation of Arabic letters with their phonetic English equivalents.</p>	<p>Word Count: 1,080 Reading Level: 3.7 Interest Level: K-3</p>

CA BOCES – Professional Library 2026-2027

<p>Areli es una dreamer: una historia real por Areli Morales, beneficiaria de DACA (Areli Is a Dreamer: A True Story by Areli Morales, A DACA Recipient)</p>	<p>When Areli was just a baby, her mama and papa moved from Mexico to New York with her brother, Alex, to make a better life for the family--and when she was in kindergarten, they sent for her, too. Everything in New York was different. Gone were the Saturdays at Abuela's house, filled with cousins and sunshine. Instead, things were busy and fast and noisy. Areli's limited English came out wrong, and schoolmates accused her of being illegal. But time passed, and Areli slowly became a New Yorker--although not an American citizen. "I could do anything here," Areli says one day to the city sky. "Someday, I will."</p>	<p>Word Count: 1,449 Reading Level: 2.9 Interest Level: K-3</p>
<p>Barefoot Dreams of Petra Luna</p>	<p>It is 1913, and twelve-year-old Petra Luna's mama has died while the Revolution rages in Mexico. Before her papa is dragged away by soldiers, Petra vows to him that she will care for the family she has left--her abuelita, little sister Amelia, and baby brother Luisito--until they can be reunited. They flee north through the unforgiving desert as their town burns, searching for safe harbor in a world that offers none. Each night when Petra closes her eyes, she holds her dreams close, especially her long-held desire to learn to read. Abuelita calls these barefoot dreams: "They're like us barefoot peasants and indios--they're not meant to go far." But Petra refuses to listen. Through battlefields and deserts, hunger and fear, Petra will stop at nothing to keep her family safe and lead them to a better life across the U.S. border--a life where her barefoot dreams could finally become reality.</p>	<p>Word Count: 45,198 Reading Level: 4.8 Interest Level: 4-7</p>
<p>Boy, Everywhere</p>	<p>Sami loves his life in Damascus, Syria. He hangs out with his best friend playing video games; he's trying out for the football team; he adores his family and gets annoyed by them in equal measure. But his comfortable life gets sidetracked abruptly after a bombing in a nearby shopping mall. Knowing that the violence will only get worse, Sami's parents decide they must flee their home for the safety of the UK</p>	<p>Reading Level: 4.0 Interest Level: 5-9</p>
<p>Brother's Keeper</p>	<p>North Korea. December, 1950. Twelve-year-old Sora and her family live under an iron set of rules: No travel without a permit. No criticism of the government. No absences from Communist meetings. Wear red. Hang pictures of the Great Leader. Don't trust your neighbors. Don't speak your mind. You are being watched. But war is coming, war between North and South Korea, between the Soviets and the Americans. War causes chaos--and war is the perfect time to escape. The plan is simple: Sora and her family will walk hundreds of miles to the South Korean city of Busan from their tiny mountain village. They just need to avoid napalm, frostbite, border guards, and enemy soldiers. But they can't. And when an incendiary bombing changes everything, Sora and her little brother Young will have to get to Busan on their own. Can a twelve-year-old girl and her eight-year-old brother survive three hundred miles of warzone in winter?</p>	<p>Word Count: 63,948 Reading Level: 4.7 Interest Level: 4-7</p>
<p>Caged</p>	<p>A young Hmong girl has never been outside the camp she lives in with her parents and thousands of other families. Most days, she spends her time playing with her cousins and pretending they can fly above the clouds and far away from here. When her family's papers are finally approved, she's uncertain if she's ready to leave everything—and everyone—she's ever known behind. But on the day she leaves, her favorite aunt, Golden Flower, sees her off with the words, <i>Your wings have arrived.</i></p>	<p>Reading Level: 2.0 Interest Level: K-3</p>

CA BOCES – Professional Library 2026-2027

<p>Carry On: Poetry by Young Immigrants</p>	<p>Poet Simon Boulerice conducted creative-writing workshops for young newcomers to Canada. As the students began writing, their poems gave voice to their reflections on leaving family, friends, and countries of origin to make new homes and connections in their new home, Canada. Paired with expressive portraits by award-winning artist Rog , each young writer reflects on the experience of leaving one home for another. The collection of poems express feelings of anxiety, sorrow, anticipation, gratitude, and hope for the future.</p>	<p>Reading Level: 4.0 Interest Level: 4-7</p>
<p>Clap When You Land</p>	<p>Camino Rios lives for the summers when her father visits her in the Dominican Republic. But this time, on the day when his plane is supposed to land, Camino arrives at the airport to see crowds of crying people... In New York City, Yahaira Rios is called to the principal’s office, where her mother is waiting to tell her that her father, her hero, has died in a plane crash. Separated by distance—and Papi’s secrets—the two girls are forced to face a new reality in which their father is dead and their lives are forever altered. And then, when it seems like they’ve lost everything of their father, they learn of each other.</p>	<p>Word Count: 44,517 Reading Level: 5.3 Interest Level: 9-12</p>
<p>Cousins in the Time of Magic</p>	<p>Three cousins get transported back to 1862 to play an important role in the Battle of Puebla, the reason we celebrate Cinco de Mayo today, in this “spellbinding” middle grade fantasy adventure.</p>	<p>Word Count: 40,732 Reading Level: 5.2 Interest Level: 4-7</p>
<p>The Cricket War</p>	<p>As a twelve-year-old boy growing up in South Vietnam, Tho has heard of other boys disappearing from time to time, smuggled out of the country so they wouldn't have to be conscripted into the Communist army. But Tho is too young to worry about any of that. He spends his afternoons cricket fighting and playing soccer with his friends. Until one day, he finds out that his parents have arranged for him to leave the country – alone.</p>	<p>Word Count: 34,334 Reading Level: 5.0 Interest Level: 4-7</p>
<p>The Crossroads</p>	<p>Jaime, twelve, and Angela, fifteen, discover what it means to be living as undocumented immigrants in the United States, while news from home gets increasingly worse.</p>	<p>Word Count: 64,928 Reading Level: 5.5 Interest Level: 4-7</p>
<p>Crying in H Mart: A Memoir</p>	<p>In this exquisite story of family, food, grief, and endurance, Michelle Zauner proves herself far more than a dazzling singer, songwriter, and guitarist. With humor and heart, she tells of growing up one of the few Asian American kids at her school in Eugene, Oregon; of struggling with her mother's particular, high expectations of her; of a painful adolescence; of treasured months spent in her grandmother's tiny apartment in Seoul, where she and her mother would bond, late at night, over heaping plates of food. As she grew up, moving to the East Coast for college, finding work in the restaurant industry, and performing gigs with her fledgling band--and meeting the man who would become her husband--her Koreanness began to feel ever more distant, even as she found the life she wanted to live. It was her mother's diagnosis of terminal cancer, when Michelle was twenty-five, that forced a reckoning with her identity and brought her to reclaim the gifts of taste, language, and history her mother had given her.</p>	<p>Reading Level: 6.0 Interest Level: 9+</p>
<p>De donde eres? (Where Are You From?)</p>	<p>When other children and their parents keep asking a young girl where she is from, she puts the same question to her grandfather who describes the land and people from which her family originated.</p>	<p>Word Count: 347 Reading Level: 2.6 Interest Level: K-3</p>

CA BOCES – Professional Library 2026-2027

<p>Dumplings for Lili</p>	<p>Lili loves to cook baos, and Nai Nai has taught her all the secrets to making them, from kneading the dough lovingly and firmly to being thankful for the strong and healthy ingredients in the filling. But when Nai Nai realizes that they are out of cabbage (Secret #8: line the basket with cabbage leaves!), she sends Lili up to Babcia's apartment on the sixth floor to get some. Babcia is happy to share her cabbage, but she needs some potatoes for her pierogi. . . . What follows is a race up and down the stairs as Lili helps all the grandmothers in her building borrow ingredients for different dumplings: Jamaican beef patties, Italian ravioli, Lebanese fatayer, and more</p>	<p>Reading Level: 2.0 Interest Level: K-3</p>
<p>Efren Dividido (Efren Divided)</p>	<p>While his father works two jobs, seventh-grader Efren Nava must take care of his twin siblings, kindergartners Max and Mia, after their mother is deported to Mexico. Includes glossary of Spanish words.</p>	<p>Word Count: 47,027 Reading Level: 4.0 Interest Level: 4-7</p>
<p>Exclusion and the Chinese American Story</p>	<p>If you've learned about the history of Chinese people in America, it was probably about their work on the railroads in the 1800s. But more likely, you may not have learned about it at all. This may make it feel like Chinese immigration is a newer part of this country, but some scholars believe the first immigrant arrived from China 499 CE--one thousand years before Columbus did! When immigration picked up in the mid-1800s, efforts to ban immigrants from China began swiftly. But hope, strength, and community allowed the Chinese population in America to flourish.</p>	<p>Reading Level: 5.0 Interest Level: 4-7</p>
<p>Eyes That Kiss in the Corners</p>	<p>A young Asian girl notices that her eyes look different from her peers'. They have big, round eyes and long lashes. She realizes that her eyes are like her mother's, her grandmother's, and her little sister's. They have eyes that kiss in the corners and glow like warm tea, crinkle into crescent moons, and are filled with stories of the past and hope for the future.</p>	<p>Word Count: 405 Reading Level: 3.7 Interest Level: P-2</p>
<p>Family Style: Memories of an American from Vietnam</p>	<p>Thien's first memory isn't a sight or a sound. It's the sweetness of watermelon and the saltiness of fish. It's the taste of the foods he ate while adrift at sea as his family fled Vietnam. After the Pham family arrives at a refugee camp in Thailand, they struggle to survive. Things don't get much easier once they resettle in California. And through each chapter of their lives, food takes on a new meaning. Strawberries come to signify struggle as Thien's mom and dad look for work. Potato chips are an indulgence that bring Thien so much joy that they become a necessity. Behind every cut of steak and inside every croissant lies a story. And for Thien Pham, that story is about a search--for belonging, for happiness, for the American dream.</p>	<p>Word Count: 7,352 Reading Level: 2.8 Interest Level: 9-12</p>
<p>Finally Seen</p>	<p>When ten-year-old Lina Gao leaves China to live with her parents and sister, after five years apart, she must reckon with her hurt, anger, and curiosity and find a way to get her bearings in this new country--and the almost-new family that comes along with it.</p>	<p>Word Count: 65,297 Reading Level: 4.3 Interest Level: 4-7</p>
<p>Finding Home: The Journey of Immigrants and Refugees</p>	<p>From war zones to politics, there are many reasons why people have always searched for a place to call home. In <i>Finding Home: The Journey of Immigrants and Refugees</i> we discover how human migration has shaped our world. We explore its origins and the current issues facing immigrants and refugees today, and we hear the first-hand stories of people who have moved across the globe looking for safety, security and happiness. Author Jen Sookfong Lee shares her personal experience of growing up as the child of immigrants and gives a human face to the realities of being an immigrant or refugee today.</p>	<p>Word Count: 22,237 Reading Level: 8.3 Interest Level: 4-7</p>

CA BOCES – Professional Library 2026-2027

<p>Finding Junie Kim</p>	<p>Junie Kim just wants to fit in. So she keeps her head down and tries not to draw attention to herself. But when racist graffiti appears at her middle school, Junie must decide between staying silent or speaking out.</p> <p>Then Junie’s history teacher assigns a project and Junie decides to interview her grandparents, learning about their unbelievable experiences as kids during the Korean War. Junie comes to admire her grandma’s fierce determination to overcome impossible odds, and her grandpa’s unwavering compassion during wartime. And as racism becomes more pervasive at school, Junie taps into the strength of her ancestors and finds the courage to do what is right.</p>	<p>Word Count: 73,795 Reading Level: 4.7 Interest Level: 4-7</p>
<p>Home in a Lunchbox</p>	<p>When Jun moves from Hong Kong to America, the only words she knows are <i>hello</i>, <i>thank you</i>, <i>I don’t know</i>, and <i>toilet</i>. Her new school feels foreign and terrifying.</p> <p>But when she opens her lunchbox to find her favorite meals—like bao, dumplings, and bok choy—she realizes home isn’t so far away after all.</p>	<p>Reading Level: 2.0 Interest Level: K-3</p>
<p>Homeland: My Father Dreams of Palestine</p>	<p>As bedtime approaches, three young girls eagerly await the return of their father who tells them stories of a faraway homeland—Palestine. Through their father's memories, the Old City of Jerusalem comes to life: the sounds of juice vendors beating rhythms with brass cups, the smell of argileh drifting through windows, and the sight of doves flapping their wings toward home. These daughters of the diaspora feel love for a place they have never been, a home they cannot visit. But, as their father’s story comes to an end, they know that through his memories, they will always return.</p>	<p>Word Count: 703 Reading Level: 4.4 Interest Level: K-3</p>
<p>How to Pronounce Knife: Stories</p>	<p>A failed boxer painting nails at the local salon. A woman plucking feathers at a chicken processing plant. A housewife learning English from daytime soap operas. A mother teaching her daughter the art of worm harvesting. In her stunning debut story collection, O. Henry Award winner Souvankham Thammavongsa focuses on characters struggling to make a living, illuminating their hopes, disappointments, love affairs, acts of defiance, and above all their pursuit of a place to belong. In spare, intimate prose charged with emotional power and a sly wit, she paints an indelible portrait of watchful children, wounded men, and restless women caught between cultures, languages, and values.</p>	<p>Reading Level: 6.0 Interest Level: 9+</p>
<p>Hurricane Summer</p>	<p>Tilla has spent her entire life trying to make her father love her. But every six months, he leaves their family and returns to his true home: the island of Jamaica. When Tilla's mother tells her she'll be spending the summer on the island, Tilla dreads the idea of seeing him again, but longs to discover what life in Jamaica has always held for him. In an unexpected turn of events, Tilla is forced to face the storm that unravels in her own life as she learns about the dark secrets that lie beyond the veil of paradise--all in the midst of an impending hurricane. Hurricane Summer is a powerful coming of age story that deals with colorism, classism, young love, the father-daughter dynamic--and what it means to discover your own voice in the center of complete destruction.</p>	<p>Reading Level: 5.0 Interest Level: 7-12</p>
<p>In Limbo: A Graphic Memoir</p>	<p>Ever since Deborah (Jung-Jin) Lee emigrated from South Korea to the United States, she's felt her otherness. For a while, her English wasn't perfect. Her teachers can't pronounce her Korean name. Her face and her eyes--especially her eyes--feel wrong. In high school, everything gets harder. Friendships change and end, she falls behind in classes, and fights with her mom escalate. Caught in limbo, with nowhere safe to go, Deb finds her mental health plummeting, resulting in a suicide attempt. But Deb is resilient and slowly heals with the help of art and self-care, guiding her to a deeper understanding of her heritage and herself.</p>	<p>Word Count: 9,875 Reading Level: 2.7 Interest Level: 9-12</p>

CA BOCES – Professional Library 2026-2027

Isla to Island	<p>Marisol loves her colorful island home. Cuba is vibrant with flowers and food and people...but things are changing. The home Marisol loves is no longer safe—and then it’s no longer her home at all. Her parents are sending her to the United States. Alone.</p> <p>Nothing about Marisol’s new life in cold, gray Brooklyn feels like home—not the language, school, or even her foster parents. But Marisol starts to realize that home isn’t always a place. And finding her way can be as simple as staying true to herself.</p>	<p>Reading Level: 6.0 Interest Level: 5-9</p>
Key Player	<p>The Women’s World Cup is coming to Southern California, and everyone has soccer fever, especially Mia Tang! The U.S. team is playing China in the finals, and Mia feels like her two identities are finally coming together. But when her P.E. teacher gives her a C, Mia tries to pull up her grade by scoring interviews with the championship teams.</p>	<p>Word Count: 61,467 Reading Level: 4.2 Interest Level: 4-7</p>
Kween	<p>Following her Ba’s deportation back to Cambodia, <i>everything’s</i> changed. Her Ma is away trying to help Ba adjust to his new life, and her older sister has taken charge with a new authoritarian tone. Meanwhile, Soma’s trending video pushes her to ask if it’s time to level up. With her school’s spoken word contest looming, Soma must decide: Is she brave enough to put herself out there? To publicly reveal her fears of Ba not returning? To admit that things may never be the same?</p> <p>Tasked with stepping into the legacy of her namesake, the warrior queen Soma, she must find the courage to embrace her Khmer identity, her queerness, and her own unique power.</p>	<p>Reading Level: 5.8 Interest Level: 7-12</p>
La Guardiania De La Libreta: Una Historia De Bondad Desde La Frontera (The Notebook Keeper: A Story of Kindness from the Border)	<p>En este libro impactante y bellamente ilustrado, Noemí y su mamá huyen de su hogar en México y viajan hacia la frontera de los Estados Unidos. Ahí, buscan «la guardiania de la libreta», una refugiada que escribe los nombres de las familias que buscan asilo, y añaden sus nombres a la lista. Mientras los días pasan a ser semanas, y la esperanza se desvanece, la niña busca la bondad alrededor de ella, y dentro de sí misma. Un día, cuando el nombre de «la guardiania de la libreta» es llamado para cruzar, Noemí y su mamá —por la generosidad de sus corazones— son elegidas a tomar su lugar.</p>	<p>Word Count: 517 Reading Level: 2.3 Interest Level: K-3</p>
La Maleta De Tesoros	<p>It’s been three years since Abuela’s last visit, and Dulce revels in every tiny detail—from Abuela’s maletas full of candies in crinkly wrappers and gifts from primos to the sweet, earthy smell of Peru that floats out of Abuela’s room and down the hall. But Abuela’s visit can’t last forever, and all too soon she’s packing her suitcases again. Then Dulce has an idea: maybe there are things she can gather for her cousins and send with Abuela to remind them of the U.S. relatives they’ve never met.</p>	<p>Word Count: 710 Reading Level: 3.5 Interest Level: P-2</p>
Land of Broken Promises	<p>Anna’s family have settled into life in California—their small restaurant is even turning a profit. Then her parents make a shattering discovery: their visas have expired.</p> <p>Anna’s world is quickly overwhelmed by unfamiliar words like “undocumented.” She longs to share the towering secret that looms over every aspect of her life with a friend, but her parents strictly forbid her from telling anyone.</p> <p>As Anna grapples with the complexities of being undocumented, the strain that it places on her family, and the loneliness of keeping it all to herself, she has to wonder—if America is the promised land, why does everything she’s hoped for feel like a lie?</p>	<p>Reading Level: 5.2 Interest Level: 3-6</p>
The Last Words We Said	<p>Nine months ago, Danny disappeared. His closest friends, Ellie, Rae, and Deenie, are all dealing with the loss differently. Rae’s pouring herself into rage-baking. Deenie’s deepening her commitment to Orthodox Judaism. And Ellie—who was Danny’s girlfriend and closest friend—is the only one who doesn’t believe he’s dead. Because she still sees him.</p>	<p>Word Count: 84,835 Reading Level: 4.6 Interest Level: 7-12</p>

CA BOCES – Professional Library 2026-2027

A Letter to My Best Friend	Jihun recently moved to the United States. In his new classroom, he receives an assignment to write a letter to his best friend--but he's not sure how it will turn out. First off, he's still learning English. Second, he doesn't have any friends at school yet. What's more, his best friend back in Korea can't read. Fueled by wonderful memories of his former home, Jihun uses his creativity to craft a letter for his best friend, Oto. The result is nothing short of extraordinary and opens a door for Jihun to make new friends.	Reading Level: 2.0 Interest Level: K-3
Lety out Loud	When Lety jumps at the chance to write animal profiles for the Furry Friends Animal Shelter, she is forced to team up with a grumpy classmate named Hunter, who devises a contest to decide who gets to be the official shelter scribe.	Word Count: 33,984 Reading Level: 4.5 Interest Level: 4-7
Living with Viola	Livy is already having trouble fitting in as the new girl at school--and then there's Viola. Viola is Livy's anxiety brought to life, a shadowy twin that only Livy can see or hear. Livy tries to push back against Viola's relentless judgment, but nothing seems to work until she strikes up new friendships at school. Livy hopes that Viola's days are numbered. But when tensions arise both at home and at school, Viola rears her head stronger than ever. Only when Livy learns how to ask for help and face her anxiety does she finally figure out living with Viola.	Word Count: 8,764 Reading Level: 2.7 Interest Level: 4-7
The Lost Year: A Survival Story of the Ukrainian Famine	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.	Word Count: 73,444 Reading Level: 4.8 Interest Level: 4-7
Love, Hate and Other Filters	Maya Aziz, seventeen, is caught between her India-born parents' world of college and marrying a suitable Muslim boy, and her dream world of film school and dating her classmate, Phil, when a terrorist attack changes her life forever.	Word Count: 64,998 Reading Level: 4.8 Interest Level: 9-12
Love in English	Sixteen-year-old Ana is a poet and a lover of language. Except that since she moved to New Jersey from Argentina, she can barely find the words to express how she feels. At first Ana just wants to return home. Then she meets Harrison, the very cute, very American boy in her math class, and discovers the universal language of racing hearts. But when she begins to spend time with Neo, the Greek Cypriot boy from ESL, Ana wonders how figuring out what her heart wants can be even more confusing than the grammar they're both trying to master. After all, the rules of English may be confounding, but there are no rules when it comes to love.	Word Count: 54,623 Reading Level: 4.3 Interest Level: 9-12
Love, Love	Frances Chin, a 10-year old Chinese-American girl, lives with her immigrant parents and older sister, Clara. At school Frances copes with bullies and the loneliness of not quite fitting in. And at home, her parents are preoccupied with work and worry about Clara, whose hair is inexplicably falling out. But, with the help of her friend Annie, Frances is determined to solve the mystery of Clara's condition. Frances's powerful inner voice resonates in gorgeous imagery and evocative free verse.	Reading Level: 4.0 Interest Level: 4-7
Mama's Nightingale: A Story of Immigration and Separation	When Saya's mother is sent to jail as an illegal immigrant, she sends her daughter a cassette tape with a song and a bedtime story. The gift inspires Saya to write a story of her own--one that just might bring her mother home.	Word Count: 1,173 Reading Level: 3.9 Interest Level: K-3

CA BOCES – Professional Library 2026-2027

Messy Roots: A Graphic Memoir of a Wuhanese-American	Messy Roots is a laugh-out-loud, heartfelt, and deeply engaging story of their journey to find themselves--as an American, as the daughter of Chinese immigrants, as a queer person, and as a Wuhanese American in the middle of a pandemic.	Reading Level: 5.0 Interest Level: 9-12
Mexikid: A Graphic Memoir	Pedro Martín has grown up hearing stories about his abuelito—his legendary crime-fighting, grandfather who was once a part of the Mexican Revolution! But that doesn't mean Pedro is excited at the news that Abuelito is coming to live with their family. After all, Pedro has 8 brothers and sisters and the house is crowded enough! Still, Pedro piles into the Winnebago with his family for a road trip to Mexico to bring Abuelito home, and what follows is the trip of a lifetime, one filled with laughs and heartache. Along the way, Pedro finally connects with his abuelito and learns what it means to grow up and find his grito.	Word Count: 25,025 Reading Level: 3.6 Interest Level: 5-9
Mi Tierra	Amaya Nuñez loves that no one else has her name. She loves her apartment and her busy New York City neighborhood. She loves when her Abuelo visits all the way from Spain. She loves summer trips to Vermont and dinners with her Tía and Tío. But those aren't su tierra. Amaya's tierra has subways and bodegas, sidewalks and sprawling parks, and the most beautiful city sunsets. Su tierra is one of a kind. Just like her.	Reading Level: 2.0 Interest Level: 1-4
Mis dos pueblos fronterizos (My Two Border Towns)	<i>My Two Border Towns</i> by David Bowles, with stunning watercolor illustrations by Erika Meza, is the loving story of a father and son's weekend ritual, a demonstration of community care, and a tribute to the fluidity, complexity, and vibrancy of life on the U.S.-Mexico border.	Word Count: 772 Reading Level: 3.2 Interest Level: P-2
Once Upon a Sari	Avani is having a wonderful time looking at all of her mother's saris, but she soon realizes she's made a big mess. When her mom comes in, Avani expects a scolding, but instead, her mom sits down with her and tells her about the memories associated with each sari: memories of weddings and celebrations, memories of when and where the sari came from. And, in case of one very special sari, memories that were passed down from her parents and grandparents.	Reading Level: 2.0 Interest Level: K-3
Other Words for Home	Sent with her mother to the safety of a relative's home in Cincinnati when her Syrian hometown is overshadowed by violence, Jude worries for the family members who were left behind as she adjusts to a new life with unexpected surprises.	Word Count: 30,180 Reading Level: 5.3 Interest Level: 4-7
A Place to Belong	Twelve-year-old Hanako and her family, reeling from their confinement in an internment camp, renounce their American citizenship to move to Hiroshima, a city devastated by the atomic bomb dropped by Americans.	Word Count: 74,805 Reading Level: 4.6 Interest Level: 4-7
A Pocketful of Stars	When thirteen-year-old Safiya's mother falls into a coma, Safiya comes to terms with their complicated relationship and discovers more about herself through dreams that transport her to her mother's childhood in Kuwait.	Word Count: 50,884 Reading Level: 4.7 Interest Level: 4-7
Room to Dream	While visiting family in China, Mia Tang witnesses some of the big changes the country is going through, which makes her think about the changes in her own life that need to be dealt with.	Word Count: 69,881 Reading Level: 4.5 Interest Level: 4-7

CA BOCES – Professional Library 2026-2027

Sashiko's Stitches	Sashiko is a young girl with very big feelings. When her mother teaches her about her namesake—the traditional Japanese practice of mending through embroidery—she finds an outlet for some of those emotions. With each stitch, the dark cloud around her lightens, until her big fears begin to feel less scary. As she heals tears in the fabric, she begins to find a sense of calm and hope.	Reading Level: 1.0 Interest Level: P-2
The Sky at Our Feet	Discovering that his Afghan mother has been living illegally in the United States since his father was killed in Afghanistan, American-born Jason fears that she has been deported and runs away to New York City in the hope of connecting with a family member who might be able to help.	Word Count: 61,497 Reading Level: 4.8 Interest Level: 4-7
Solito: A Memoir	This novelistic memoir tells the true story of a young man who, at the age of nine, embarked on a harrowing unaccompanied journey from El Salvador to the United States to be reunited with his parents.	Reading Level: 7.0 Interest Level: 9+
Sonadores (Dreamers)	In this illustrated picture-book autobiography, award-winning author Yuyi Morales tells her own immigration story.	Word Count: 194 Reading Level: 2.7 Interest Level: P-2
Spanish Is the Language of My Family	As a boy prepares for his school's Spanish spelling bee, he asks his grandmother for help with some of the words he doesn't know how to spell yet. When she studies with him, she tells him how different things were back when she was a girl, when she was only allowed to speak English in school. This only inspires him to study even harder and make his family proud.	Word Count: 709 Reading Level: 2.8 Interest Level: K-3
Still Dreaming = Seguimos Sonando	In the first children's book to describe the chapter of U.S. history known as Mexican Repatriation, a boy and his family leave their home to avoid being separated by the government.	Word Count: 723 Reading Level: 3.3 Interest Level: K-3
Tagging Freedom	Kareem Haddad of Damascus, Syria, never dreamed of becoming a graffiti artist. But when a group of boys from another town tag subversive slogans outside their school, and another boy is killed while in custody, Kareem and his friends are inspired to start secretly tag messages of freedom around their city. Meanwhile, in the United States, his cousin, Samira, has been trying to make her own mark. Anxious to fit in at school, she joins the Spirit Squad where her natural artistic ability attracts the attention of the popular leader. Then Kareem is sent to live with Sam's family, and their worlds collide. As graffitied messages appear around town and all eyes turn to Kareem, Sam must make a choice: does she shy away to protect her new social status, or does she stand with her cousin?	Reading Level: 5.0 Interest Level: 4-7 Lexile: 610L
These Olive Trees	The story of a Palestinian family's ties to the land, and how one young girl finds a way to care for her home, even as she says goodbye. It's 1967 in Nablus, Palestine. Oraib loves the olive trees that grow outside the refugee camp where she lives. Each harvest, she and her mama pick the small fruits and she eagerly stomp stomp stomps on them to release their golden oil. Olives have always tied her family to the land, as Oraib learns from the stories Mama tells of a home before war. But war has come to their door once more, forcing them to flee. Even as her family is uprooted, Oraib makes a solemn promise to her beloved olive tree.	Reading Level: 1.0 Interest Level: P-2

CA BOCES – Professional Library 2026-2027

They Call Her Fregona	<p>“You can be my boyfriend.” It only takes five words to change Güero’s life at the end of seventh grade. The summer becomes extra busy as he learns to balance new band practice with his old crew, Los Bobbys, and being Joanna Padilla’s boyfriend. They call her “fregona” because she’s tough, always sticking up for her family and keeping the school bully in check. But Güero sees her softness. Together they cook dollar-store spaghetti and hold hands in the orange grove, learning more about themselves and each other than they could have imagined. But when they start eighth grade, Joanna faces a tragedy that requires Güero to reconsider what it means to show up for someone you love.</p>	<p>Reading Level: 5.0 Interest Level: 5-9</p>
Tiger Daughter	<p>Wen Zhou is a first-generation daughter of Chinese migrant parents. She has high expectations from her parents to succeed in school, especially her father whose strict rules leave her feeling trapped. She dreams of creating a future for herself more satisfying than the one her parents expect her to lead. Then she befriends a boy named Henry who is also a first generation immigrant. He is the smartest boy at school despite struggling with his English and understands her in a way nobody has lately. Both of them dream of escaping and together they come up with a plan to take an entrance exam for a selective school far from home. But when tragedy strikes, it will take all of Wen’s resilience and tiger strength to get herself and Henry through the storm that follows.</p>	<p>Word Count: 35,575 Reading Level: 6.0 Interest Level: 5-9</p>
Top Story	<p>Mia is spending winter break with Mom, Lupe, Jason, and Hank in San Francisco's Chinatown! Rich with history and hilarious aunties and uncles, it's the place to find a great story--one she hopes to publish while attending journalism camp at the Tribune. But this trip has as many bumps as the hills of San Francisco.</p>	<p>Word Count: 62,260 Reading Level: 4.4 Interest Level: 4-7</p>
Un trineo para Gabo (A Sled for Gabo)	<p>The Spanish language edition of this heartwarming classic in the making about a young boy who is in a new town and doesn’t have much, but with the help of a loving community discovers the joys of his first snowy day.</p>	<p>Word Count: 792 Reading Level: 3.0 Interest Level: P-2</p>
Una Semilla Al Sol (A Seed in the Sun)	<p>A young girl with big dreams meets activist Dolores Huerta and joins the 1965 protest for migrant workers' rights in this tender-hearted middle grade novel in verse, perfect for fans of Rita Williams-Garcia and Pam Muñoz Ryan.</p>	<p>WordCount: 29,434 Reading Level: 4.7 Interest Level: 4-7</p>
Unsettled	<p>Young Nurah reluctantly moves with her family from Karachi, Pakistan, to Peachtree City, Georgia, but, after some ups and downs, begins to feel at home.</p>	<p>Word Count: 15,476 Reading Level: 4.8 Interest Level: 4-7</p>
Waiting to Welcome: A New Baby Story from West Africa	<p>A little girl and her Ghanaian extended family joyfully prepare to celebrate the arrival of a new baby in this warm, inviting picture book.</p>	<p>Reading Level: 2.0 Interest Level: P-2</p>
When Stars Are Scattered	<p>Omar and his younger brother Hassan live in a refugee camp, and when an opportunity for Omar to get an education comes along, he must decide between going to school every day or caring for his nonverbal brother in this intimate and touching portrayal of family and daily life in a refugee camp.</p>	<p>Word Count: 27,175 Reading Level: 3.7 Interest Level: 4-7</p>

CA BOCES – Professional Library 2026-2027

<p>While I Was Away</p>	<p>When twelve-year-old Waka’s parents suspect she can’t understand the basic Japanese they speak to her, they make a drastic decision to send her to Tokyo to live for several months with her strict grandmother. Forced to say goodbye to her friends and what would have been her summer vacation, Waka is plucked from her straight-A-student life in rural Kansas and flown across the globe, where she faces the culture shock of a lifetime.</p>	<p>Word Count: 65,800 Reading Level: 5.1 Interest Level: 4-7</p>
<p>Wings to Soar</p>	<p>It's 1972 and Viva’s Indian family has been expelled from Uganda and sent to a resettlement camp in England, but not all of them made the trip. Her father is supposed to meet them in London, but he never shows up. As they wait for him, Viva, her mother, and her sister get settled in camp and try to make the best of their life there.</p> <p>Just when she is beginning to feel at home with new friends, Viva and her family move out of the camp and to a part of London where they are not welcome. While grappling with the hate for brown-skinned people in their new community, Viva is determined to find her missing father so they can finish their move to Canada. When it turns out he has been sponsored to move to the United States, they have to save enough money to join him.</p>	<p>Reading Level: 6.0 Interest Level: 5-9</p>
<p>World in Between: Based on a True Refugee Story</p>	<p>Co-written by a New York Times best-selling author, this moving account of a Muslim boy's refugee journey from war-torn Bosnia to the U.S. celebrates tolerance and kindness while delivering a riveting read.</p>	<p>Word Count: 84,129 Reading Level: 4.9 Interest Level: 4-7</p>
<p>The Year I Flew Away</p>	<p>In this magical middle-grade novel, ten-year-old Gabrielle finds out that America isn't the perfect place she imagined when she moves from Haiti to Brooklyn. With the help of a clever witch, Gabrielle becomes the perfect American -- but will she lose herself in the process? P</p>	<p>Word Count: 59,381 Reading Level: 3.8 Interest Level: 4-7</p>
<p>The Yellow Áo Dài</p>	<p>A debut picture book about a little girl who connects to her Vietnamese heritage when she accidentally rips her late grandmother's áo dài.</p>	<p>Reading Level: 1.0 Interest Level: P-2</p>
<p>You Are Here: Connecting Flights</p>	<p>An incident at a TSA security checkpoint results in a chain of events that impacts twelve young Asian Americans in a crowded and restless airport. As their disrupted journeys crisscross and collide, they encounter travelers—some helpful, some hostile—as they discover the challenges of friendship, the power of courage, the importance of the right word at the right time.</p>	<p>Word Count: 50,869 Reading Level: 5.1 Interest Level: 4-7</p>

CA BOCES – Professional Library 2026-2027

Resources.caboces.org Gumdrop	164 titles Fiction and Non-Fiction	PreK – grade 2
Sora Collection	774 titles	Espanol Juvenile (PreK-grade 6)
	323 titles	Espanol YA – Adult (grades 7-12)
	72 titles	Haitian Creole
	22 titles	Vietnamese
	8 titles	Albanian
	273 titles	French
	157 titles	Russian
	83 titles	Italian
	226 titles	Portuguese
	64 titles	Ukrainian
	213 titles	Arabic
	3 titles	Urdu
	1 title	Napali
	21 titles	Bengali
	4 titles	Punjabi
	12 titles	Malayalam
	3 titles	Burmese
	61 titles	Korean
	155 titles	Chinese