



Linking All Types of Teachers for International and Cultural Education
LATTICE Book Club's "Life List" 2001 – 2012

The International Book Club is hosted by Amy Kilbridge and Mary Hennesey – members of LATTICE. For over a decade – educators and international graduate students have met to read and discuss children's literature – authored by Internationals. The selections below – that have been highlighted are those that might be especially helpful to a teacher utilizing arts integration.

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2001-2005

Lahiri, Jhumpa *Namesake*
(also discussed Lahiri's short stories *Interpreter of Maladies*)

Ung, Loung *First They Killed My Father: a Daughter of Cambodia Remembers*
Sample of information shared by Book Club participants. "I found another book that could accompany it: *Teenage Refugees from Cambodia Speak Out* by Stephanie St. Pierre. It's part of the *In Their Own Voices* series from Rosen Publishing Company (others in this series are *Teenage Refugees from Bosnia-Herzegovina..China...Haiti....Iran...Vietnam.... and more.....Speak Out.*)
They are thin, lots of pictures, and moving stories" Mary Hennesey, East Lansing Public Librarian

Miklowitz, Gloria *The Enemy Has a Face*

Rifa'i, Ainbinder, and Tempel *We Just Want to Live Here: the letters of two teenagers, one Israeli and the other Palestinian.*

Hello, dear Enemy! an exhibition of 100 international children's picture book for peace and tolerance from 55 countries.

Scheduled for September, October and November 2005 in mid-Michigan

Examples:

*Batezut, Elinor Sisulu *The Day Gogo Went to Vote* - Illustrated in rich pastels, the book provides a child's-eye view of an important milestone in South African history – a black grandmother is allowed to vote.

Innocenti, Roberto *Rose Blanche*

Maruki, Toshi *Hiroshima No Pika*

Leaf, Munro *The Story of Ferdinand*

Scholes, Katherin *Peacetimes*

Dr. Seuss, *Butter Battle Book*

Satrapi, Marjane *Persepolis 1 and 2*

This graphic autobiography caught our interest because of the Iranian background of the author. Iranian discussants assured us that Satrapi's experience was typical of the upper class family in Teheran during the time period she covers. Members commented on the unique experience of "reading" the art as well as the words. It was a novel and powerful experience.

Fadiman, Anne *Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down*

This is the story of a Hmong family with a child who suffers from epilepsy...the medical culture in the US meets medical beliefs and customs of Hmong family. This is a powerful story which is written for adults, not children. However, educators find it particularly

interesting since it tells the heartrending story of a culture clash between well meaning professionals and a family in need. It's possible to have similar situations/conflicts in our schools.

Sharra, Steve. *Fleeing the War*

Written by a LATTICE member, this wonderful book with story and illustrations is not available in the US. Another LATTICE member brought back 20 copies from Malawi last summer.

*Park, Linda Sue. *A Single Shard*

Park's book about Korean celadon pottery and life long ago in Korea is definitely appropriate for 4th graders. There are good websites available for information about celadon pottery, and discussion questions for school readings.

Stephanek, Mattie T.J. *Heartsongs*

Lekuton, Joseph Lemasolai. *Facing the Lion: Growing up Maasai on the African Savanna*

Our Kenyan LATTICE members assure us that this book is accurate. Local educators found the story to be inspirational, informational and amazing.

Osa, Nancy. *Cuba 15*

Cohen, Barbara and Lovejoy, Bahija. *Seven Daughters and Seven Sons*

Ho, Minfong *Clay Marble*

This story about war and the life of refugees in Cambodia led to similar tales from LATTICE members who come from many different parts of the world. Elementary children will find this book captivating and worthy of discussions which will broaden their perspectives.

Sephaniah, Benjamin. *Refugee Boy (Eritrean/Ethiopian refugee to England)*

Here's another take on the life of a refugee. An Ethiopian refugee confirmed that the situation for a child with mixed heritage is accurate but the LATTICE readers questioned the portrayal of the amazing social workers.

Kurtz, Jane. *Jakarta Missing (Third Culture Children)*

"Third Culture" issues kept us talking for hours. Kurtz has captured the dilemma's faced by these children who have lived an infinite variety of situations like this.

Armstrong, Jenifer editor. *Shattered: Stories of Children in War*

These fictional accounts by recognized authors of children's stories offered a number of different points of view as well as different settings of war. Highly recommended.

Peacock, Louise. *Crossing the Delaware*

Written by a LATTICE member, the readers appreciated the history as well as the fiction in this book for elementary and middle school aged children.

Staples, Suzanne Fisher. *Shabanu: Daughter of the Wind*

It's hard to put this book down once you get started on it. A middle school student will certainly get caught up in Shabanu's unique setting and life challenges. However, our Pakistani members helped us to see that the book tells the story through the eyes of a westerner rather than through the eyes of a Pakistani. Students will get the most out of

this read if there are resource people to join them in discussions.

Li Li Jiang, *Red Scarf Girl*

The Cultural Revolution lasted for ten years in the People's Republic of China (PRC). As dramatic and challenging as this period was for everyone in the country, it seemed to us that this story should not be the only one that students read about the PRC. However, when Chinese LATTICE members shared their own family stories about this period and then told us contrasting stories of their lives in the 21st century, they held our attention for hours!

Coerr, Eleanor. *Sadako and the Thousand Cranes*

Our Japanese mentors found a number of aspects of this story for young adults to be lacking in accuracy. First of all, from interviews with Sadako's father, it is clear that the details about Sadako's life are not true. Furthermore, the Japanese do not treat illness in the way that is described in this book. Although it is an inspiring story because the making of the cranes remind us of the universal wish for peace in the midst of terrible stories of war, we decided that Sadako's story is too often used as a reason to make paper cranes rather than as a reason to have deeper discussions about war and conflict resolution.

Gordon, Sheila. *Waiting for Rain*

One LATTICE teacher in a local high school not only taught *Waiting for the Rain* to her students but arranged for her students to correspond with a class of Zulu students in South Africa who had also read this book.

Broker, Ignatia. *Night Flying Woman: An Ojibway Narrative*

Esbensen, Barbara Juster. *Star Maiden: An Ojibway Tale*

Fuller, Alexandra. *Don't Let's Go to the Dog's Tonight*

This adult book is an amazing read. Fuller, born in Rhodesia, takes us through the last forty years with her family. It's a complicated but not flattering story about a kind of "white" family which lived throughout southern Africa.

Hossenei, Khaled. *The Kite Runner* - Setting: Afghanistan and the U.S.

Buck, Pearl S. *The Big Wave* -- Paired with *The Ink Keeper's Apprentice* by Allen Say (a picture book) Setting: Japan

Shihab-Nye, Naomi *Habibi* and *Sitti's Secrets* -- Middle East **Sitti's Secrets* is a picture book that gives a fictionalized account of the author's trip to visit her Palestinian grandmother.

Adichie, Chimamanda Ngozi. *Purple Hibiscus* Setting: Nigeria

Bok, Francis *Escape from Slavery: The True Story of My Ten Years in Captivity -- and My Journey to Freedom in America* - Sudan

LATTICE Book Club's "Life List" Continued - 2006 to present

March 13, 2006 *City of the Beasts* by Isabel Allende -- South America

April 17, 2006 *Show Way* by Jacqueline Woodson -- meeting was held at the M.S.U. museum for a talk about quilting by guest speaker: Marcia McDonald

November 16, 2006 The Language of Baklava by Diana Abu-Jaber – Jordan Guests: Adnan Shinnag and Sakeena Elayan

January 18, 2007 Mountains Beyond Mountains by Tracy Kidder – Haiti Guest: Pierre Balthazar

February 15, 2007 Unbowed, A Memoir by Wangari Maathai - Kenya

March 15, 2007 Shiva's Fire by Susan Fisher Staples Guests: E. Lansing High School students performed Indian dances

April 12, 2007 Palestine by Joe Sacco – Palestine Guests: Motasem _____ Hassan _____

*September 6, 2007 Books: Galimoto by Karen Lynn Williams – This picture book describes a young boy from Mali and his quest to find enough materials to make himself a galimoto toy, a traditional toy in Mali and other parts of Africa. There are themes of persistence and creativity in the book and it would integrate well with an art class since students could make a galimoto toy. Another good theme for this book would be recycle/reuse since the Galimotos are made from used cans, wire, etc. Catherine Stock and Heaven Shop by Deborah Ellis Themes: Malawi/Aids/Persistence Guest Speakers: Steve Sharra and Sam and Grace Kamponderi

October 4, 2007 Book: Stealing Buddha's Dinner: A Memoir by Bich Minh Nguyen Theme: Vietnam/Assimilation Guest Speaker: Le Tran

November 1, 2007 Book: Before We Were Free by Julia Alvarez Themes: Dominican Republic/Oppression Guest Speakers: David Smith and Pierre Balthazar

January 17, 2008 Book: American Born Chinese by Gene Luen Yang Themes: Chinese American/Graphic Novels Guest Speakers: Jay Jong, and visiting scholars Zhao, Chan-Carol and Yang, Emily.

February 14, 2008 Books: Ask Me No Questions by Marina Budhos and At Ellis Island: A History in Many Voices by Louise Peacock and Walter Lyon Krudop Theme: Immigration Guest Speakers: Vincent Delgado and Louise Peacock

March 20, 2008 Book: Born Confused by Tanuja Desai Hidier Themes: Indian American/Identity Guest Speakers: Dorey Daniels and Kali Majumdar

April 24, 2008 Book: When My Name Was Keoko by Linda Sue Park Themes: Korea/WWII Guest Speaker: Jade Richards

September 11, 2008 - They Poured Fire on Us From the Sky This is the One Book/One Community book for East Lansing and MSU. We paired this with the children's book Home of the Brave by Katherine Applegate. Guest Speaker: David Deng

* October 9, 2008 - Three Cups of Tea by Greg Mortenson We paired this with children's books by Rukhsana Khan. She has written the following picture books: *Roses in My Carpet*, *Ruler of the Courtyard* *and *Silly Chicken*, a picture book set in rural Pakistan. The *Roses in my Carpets* is a picture book about a young boy and his mother and sister who come to a refugee camp to escape the war in Afghanistan. The young boy finds some comfort in the beauty of the carpets he is learning to weave. Would be great to use in any lesson about power of art to heal the human spirit.
Guest Speaker: Saad Bin

November 13, 2008 The Dewbreaker by Edwidge Danticat We paired this with her book for a younger audience: *Behind the Mountains* by Edwidge Danticat. Guest Speaker: Pierre Balthazar

January 15, 2009 Monique and the Mango Rains by Kris Holloway about Mali We paired this with a *children's book, Sundiata: Lion King of Mali by David Wisniewski. In the thirteenth century, Sundiata overcame physical handicaps, social disgrace, and strong opposition to rule the West African trading empire of Mali. The illustrations in the book are beautiful.

Guest Speaker: Chris Worland and guest

February 19, 2009 - Still Life With Rice by Helie Lee about Korea. Guest Speaker: Mi Kyung

March 12, 2009 Oracle Bones by Peter Hessler about China Guest Speakers: Marianne Forman, Nancy Lubeski and Pam Moore

April 16, 2009 Elijah of Buxton by Christopher Paul Curtis, paired with Copper Sun by Sharon Draper – African American Guest Speaker: Greta McHaney Trice

September 17, 2009 - Home of the Brave by Katherine Applegate and No English by Jacqueline Jules and Amy Huntington – Immigration (Sudan)

October 15, 2009 Things Fall Apart by Chinua Achebe and The Night Has Ears: African Proverbs by Ashley Bryan - Nigeria Guest Speaker: Chukwuemeka O. Igwe

November 12, 2009 After Tupac and D Foster (Newbery Honor Book) by Jacqueline Woodson and Remember: The Journey to School Integration (Bccb Blue Ribbon Nonfiction Book Award (Awards)) by Toni Morrison - African American Guest Speaker: Valerie Smith

January 21, 2010 City Boy by Jan Michael – Malawi, My Grandfather is a Magician: Work and Wisdom in an African Village by Ifeoma Onyefulu, and Kofi and his Magic by Maya Angelou and Margaret Courtney-Clarke Guest Speaker: Dr. Valerie Struthers

February 18, 2010 The Shephard's Granddaughter by Anne Laurel Carter – Palestine

***March 18, 2010** Where the Mountain Meets the Moon by Grace Lin This is a fantasy story crossed with Chinese folklore. Lin's beautiful illustrations, printed in full-color, accompany the text throughout. She is influenced by artists like Matisse and it shows in her drawings. Picture Book: The Ugly Vegetables by Grace Lin The artwork is colorful and fun.

April 15, 2010 Red Glass by Laura Resau – Mexico Guest Speaker: Juana Gonzales

Sept. 28, 2010 – Yuki and the One Thousand Carriers by Gloria Whelen - Japan
Waiting for the Owl's Call by Gloria Whelen- Afghanistan

***Yatandou** by Gloria Whelen – Mali

Yatandou lives in a Mali village with her family and neighbors. And though she is only eight years old and would much rather play with her pet goat, she must sit with the women and pound millet kernels. But as they work, the women dream of a machine that can grind the millet and free them from their pounding sticks. Yatandou must help raise the money, even if it means parting with something she holds dear. Through the eyes and voice of a young girl, award-winning author Gloria Whelen brings to life one village's dream of a better future. Atmospheric paintings from artist Peter Sylvada capture the landscape and spirit of this inspiring story of sacrifice and hope.

Guests: Gloria Whelen and a representative from Sleeping Bear Pres talked about the Discover the World Series and Tales of the World Series.

***October 28, 2010** Diamond Willow by Helen Frost - Native American Using diamond-shaped poems inspired by forms found in polished diamond willow sticks, Helen Frost tells the moving story of Willow and her family. Hidden

messages within each diamond carry the reader further, into feelings Willow doesn't reveal even to herself. This book could be used to talk about the connection between art and nature.

Guest Speaker: Debbie Reese, author of a blog on American Indians in Children's Literature

*November 18, 2010 *The Dreamer* by Pam Munoz Ryan – A fictionalized book about the famous Poet Pablo Neruda's childhood. The book combines elements of magical realism with biography, poetry, literary fiction, and exceptional illustrations that are sprinkled throughout the text.

Chile Guest Speaker: Fredy Rodriguez of the Residential College of Arts and Humanities at M.S.U.

January 20, 2011 *The Surrender Tree: Poems of Cuba's Struggle for Freedom* by Margarita Engle – Cuba

OPTIONAL: other recent books about Cuba:

The Red Umbrella by Christina Gonzalez *Leaving Glorytown: One Boy's Struggle Under Castro* by Eduardo F.

Calcines also optional: Margarita Engle's other titles:

Tropical Secrets: Holocaust Refugees in Cuba *The Firefly Letters: A Suggraette's Journey to Cuba*, and *The Poet Slave of Cuba: A Biography of Juan Francisco Manzano*.

February 24, 2011 *Free? Stories about Human Rights* edited by Amnesty International (for grades 7 and up) and *We Are All Born Free: The Universal Declaration of Human Rights* Ed. by Amnesty International. (for grades 2 and up) Guest Speaker: Keneth Harrow, Amnesty International member

March 24, 2011 Author study of Karen Lynn Williams.

October 13, 2011 *Between Shades of Gray* by Ruta Sepetys - Lithuania Guest Speaker: International student from Lithuania

November 10, 2011- *A Time of Miracles* by Anne-Laure Bondoux – Republic of Georgia

*January 12, 2012 - *Inside Out and Back Again* by Thanhha Lai – a novel in verse. *Inside Out & Back Again* is based on the author's own experiences as a ten year old coming to America from Vietnam in the 1970's. The book is one long beautiful poem and a 2012 Newbery Honor book. and *Noodle Pie* by Ruth Starke – Vietnam Judy Huynh

February 9, 2012 - *A School for my Village* (former title: *The Price of Stones*) by Jackson Kaguri – Uganda Guest Speaker: Jackson Kaguri

March 8, 2012 — *The Bamboo People* by Mitali Perkins – Burma/Myanmar Guest Speakers: Several students/refugees from Burma

Thursday April 26, *The Friendship Doll* by Kirby Larson - Japan Guest Speaker: Madomi Ishika