

Picture Our Journey



Yuyi Morales

"There were so many things," from *Dreamers/Soñadores* / 2018



Katonah Museum of Art

In the Learning Center

October 3, 2021 – January 23, 2022

Picture Our Journey

Picture Our Journey features original children's picture book art that shares personal yet universal stories of immigration from the perspective of children and families. In a country filled with people that trace their roots back to other homelands, these stories have resonated throughout American history and have shaped the vibrant fabric of our inclusive nation. The selected books in *Picture Our Journey* highlight stories from Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Europe, Latin America, and the Middle East.

The struggle to belong in their new country is explored in:

- ***Be Prepared***, written and illustrated by **Vera Brosgol**, an autobiographical graphic novel about a Russian girl who desperately wants to fit in with her peers and discovers the value of true friendship.
- ***Dreamers***, written and illustrated by **Yuyi Morales**, a picture book memoir about coming to the U.S. with her infant son and finding her way in a new place, and navigating an unfamiliar world and finding the best parts of it.
- ***My Name is Sangoel***, written by Karen Lynn Williams and Khadra Mohammed and illustrated by **Catherine Stock** about a Sudanese boy who devises an ingenious solution to the problem that his new classmates can't pronounce his name, and in the process he begins to feel at home.



Kam Mak

Mid-Autumn Festival from *My Chinatown: One Year in Poems* / 2002

The pain of separation is the focus of:

- ***Mama's Nightingale: A Story of Immigration and Separation***, written by Edwidge Danticat and illustrated by **Leslie Staub**, about a young Haitian-American girl whose mother has been incarcerated as an illegal immigrant. The girl, Saya, finds a way to share her story in hopes of uniting her family again.



Leslie Staub

"Gotta go, folks," from *Mama's Nightingale: A Story of Immigration and Separation* / 2015

The ties that bind immigrants and their descendants to their country and culture of origin are personally described in:

- ***All the Way to America: The Story of a Big Italian Family and a Little Shovel***, written and illustrated by **Dan Yaccarino**, whose great-grandfather arrived at Ellis Island with a small shovel and his parents' good advice: "Work hard, but remember to enjoy life, and never forget your family."
- ***My Chinatown: One Year in Poems***, written and illustrated by **Kam Mak**, an homage to family, culture, and a childhood spent in one of the most striking places in any city—Chinatown.
- ***Saffron Ice Cream***, written and illustrated by **Rashin Kheiriyeh** about young Rashin who is excited about her first visit to the beach in her family's new home and remembers what beach trips were like in Iran.
- ***The Keeping Quilt***, written and illustrated by **Patricia Polacco**, who tells the story of her own family and a quilt that remains a symbol of their enduring love and faith.

All the Way to America
The Story of a Big Italian Family and a Little Shovel

Written and Illustrated by Dan Yaccarino



It was a long journey.
And how different New York was from his
tiny village in Italy!
Like many immigrants passing through
Ellis Island at the turn of the last century,
he was given a new name. Michele Iaccarino
was now Michael Yaccarino.
He was happy to be in America, but never
forgot his family in Sorrento.

Dan Yaccarino

"It was a long journey." from All the Way to America: The Story of a Big Italian Family and a Little Shovel / 2011

Looking at this illustration, how did Dan Yaccarino's great grandfather make the journey to America and where did he arrive when he got here?

In this book a small shovel has been passed from father to son. Why is this item important to the Yaccarino family?

How and why did your family make the journey to America?

Does your family have any objects, photos, or recipes that are passed from generation to generation? What are they and why are they important?



Vera Brosgol

"My last day wasn't all that different from the others," from *Be Prepared* / 2018

Vera Brosgol wrote and illustrated this graphic novel about a hard, lonely summer she had as a kid. She wrote down her memories and her feelings before she started the book.

Describe a memorable summer day you have had.

What were your feelings on that day?

In the boxes draw a series of pictures that describe this day.

MY MEMORABLE SUMMER DAY



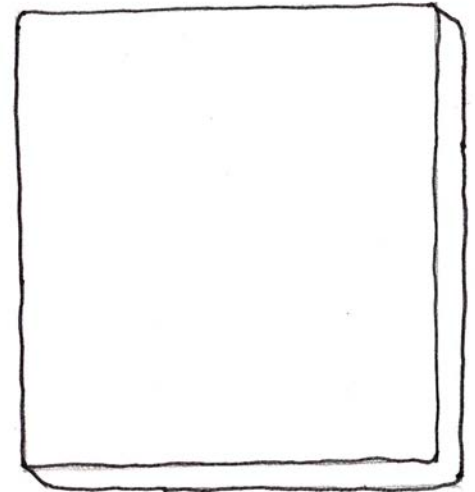
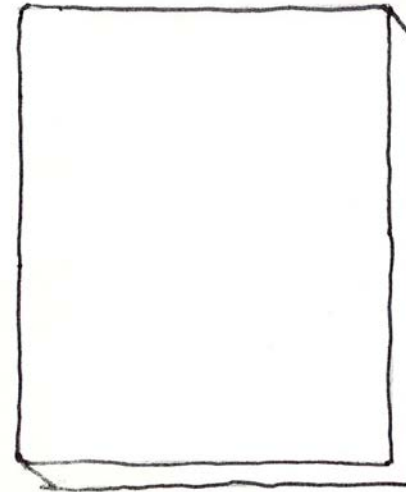
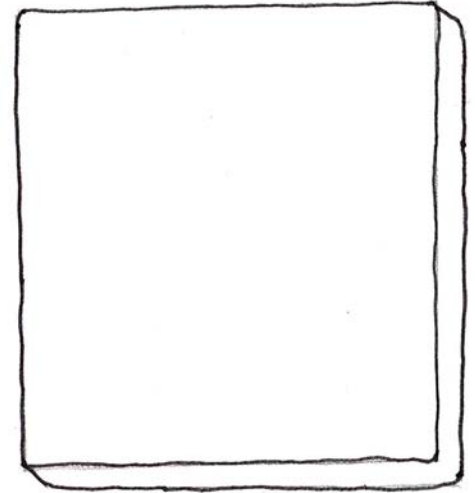
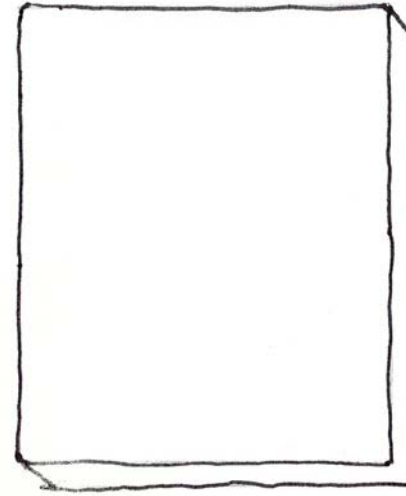
Yuyi Morales
"Unbelievable. Surprising." from *Dreamers/Soñadores* / 2018

Have you ever moved to a different home? How would you feel if you moved to a new place where you didn't speak the language?

In *Dreamers*, Yuyi Morales describes her story about coming to America with her infant son and the challenges she faces navigating her new home while not speaking the language. She finds her place of comfort at the library. Books help inspire her to become a children's book writer and illustrator.

What books inspire you?

Draw your favorite and inspiring book covers.



MY INSPIRING BOOKS

Mama's Nightingale: A Story of Immigration and Separation

Written by Edwige Danticat
Illustrated by Leslie Staub



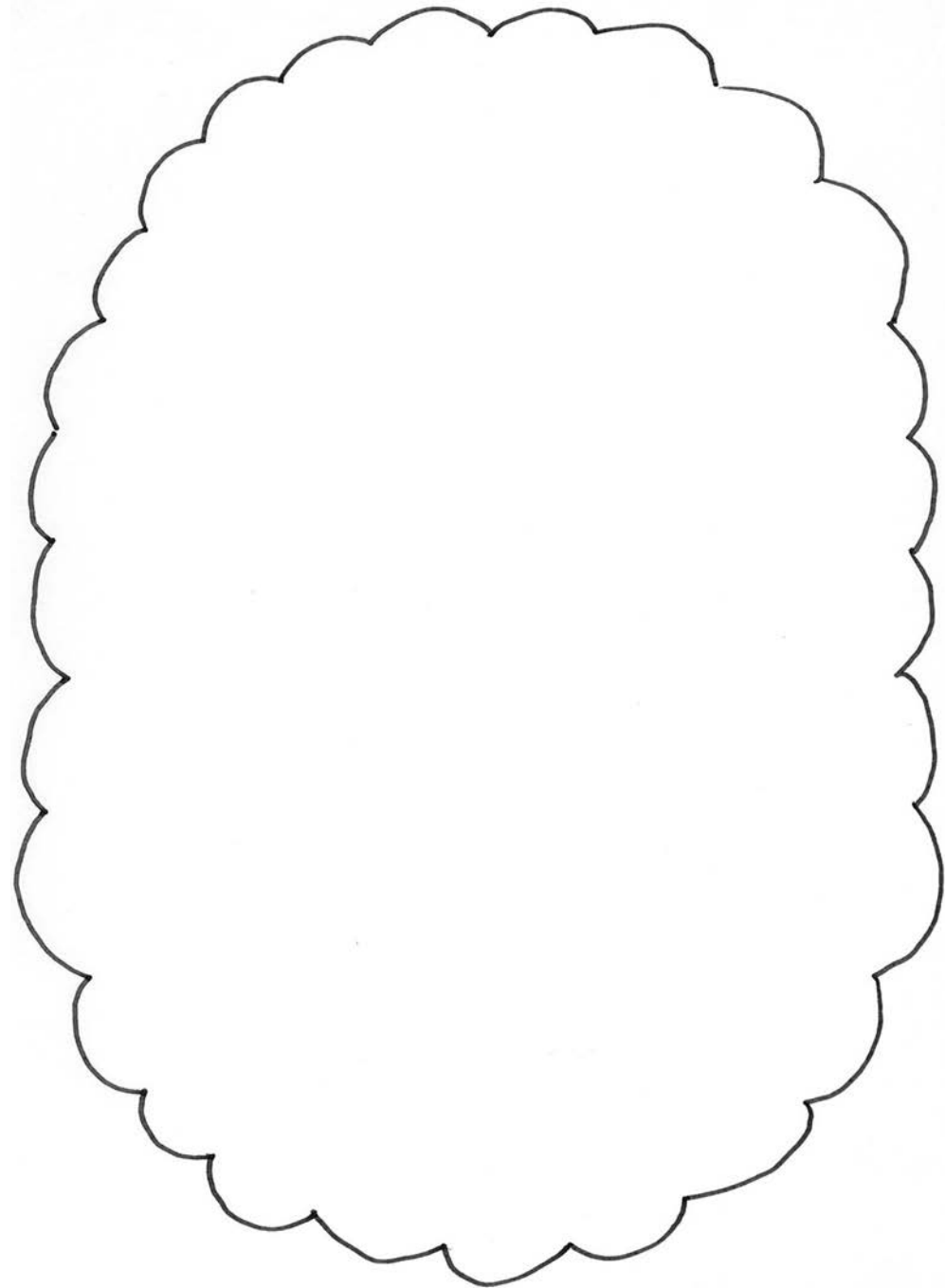
Leslie Staub

"The next time we visit Mama," from *Mama's Nightingale: A Story of Immigration and Separation* / 2015

In *Mama's Nightingale: A Story of Immigration and Separation*, Saya's mother has been separated from her family. She sends recordings of bedtime stories inspired by Haitian folklore. This encourages Saya to write her own story that helps bring her mother home. What images do you see in this illustration that give you clues as to what Mama's story is about?

Do you have special bedtime stories or family stories you love? Write a favorite story here.

Draw images that give us clues to your favorite story.



MY FAVORITE STORY



Kam Mak
My Animal Chess Game from *My Chinatown: One Year in Poems* / 2002

When we left Hong Kong,
we had to pack quick.
So many things got left behind—
a country
a language
a grandmother
and my animal chess game.

But tonight my father comes home
and hands me a package.
“I found it in a book shop,” he says. “Surprise!”
Inside, the red and green pieces sleep close together.
But on the board, the cat pounces on the mouse,
the mouse terrifies the elephant.
And I beat my sister.
Just like home.



MY FAVORITE GAME

In *My Chinatown: One Year in Poems*, Kam Mak wrote poems and illustrations about growing up in Chinatown. When you read *My Animal Chess Game* what thoughts go through your head about Kam Mak’s experience?

If you had to move, what favorite game would you pack? Why is this your favorite game? Who do you play it with? Illustrate the game above.

My name is Sangoel

Written by Karen Lynn Williams and Khadra Mohammed
Illustrated by Catherine Stock



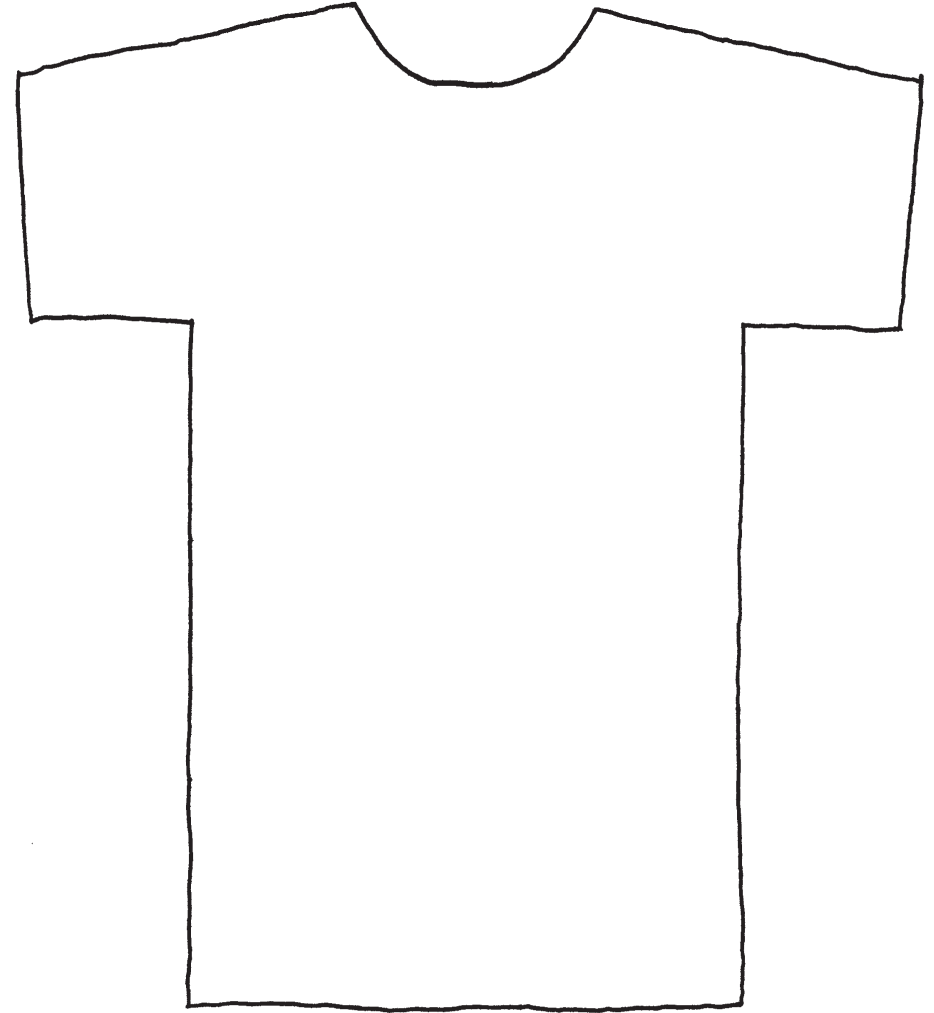
Catherine Stock

"All the children crowded around," from *My name is Sangoel* / 2009

Sangoel's name connects him to his Sudanese heritage which is very important to him now that he lives in America. How would you feel if people could not pronounce your name? Sangoel creates a pictogram of his name to help his new classmates say it correctly.



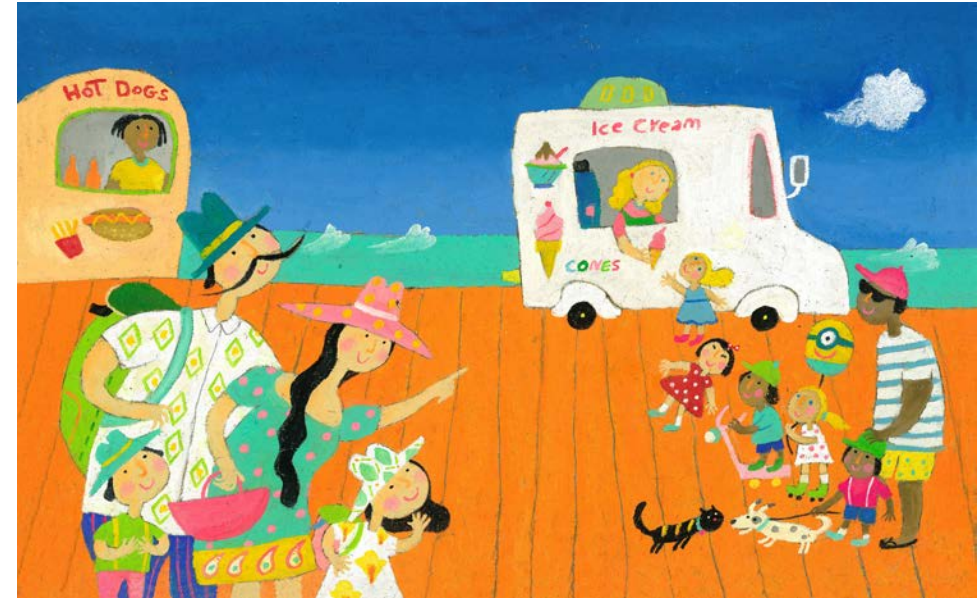
Design a T-shirt that illustrates your name. You can make a pictogram like Sangoel did, or you can draw something that tells others about yourself.



MY NAME IS _____



Rashin Kheiriyeh
"The exciting part of the beach," from *Saffron Ice Cream* / 2018



Rashin Kheiriyeh
"A block from the beach," from *Saffron Ice Cream* / 2018

Rashin's family have moved to American from Iran in *Saffron Ice Cream*. She is excited about her first visit to the beach in her family's new country. It is a big change and she can't help but look back on her old life. In this illustration of Rashin with her friends at the Caspian Sea in Iran, what do you see?

What activities are the people doing?

What flavor ice cream does Rashin get?

In this illustration of the Coney Island beach, what do you see?

What activities are the people doing?

What favorite ice cream flavor would you suggest for Rashin to try?

What are some similarities and differences in Rashin's beach experience in both countries?

The Keeping Quilt

Written and Illustrated by Patricia Polacco



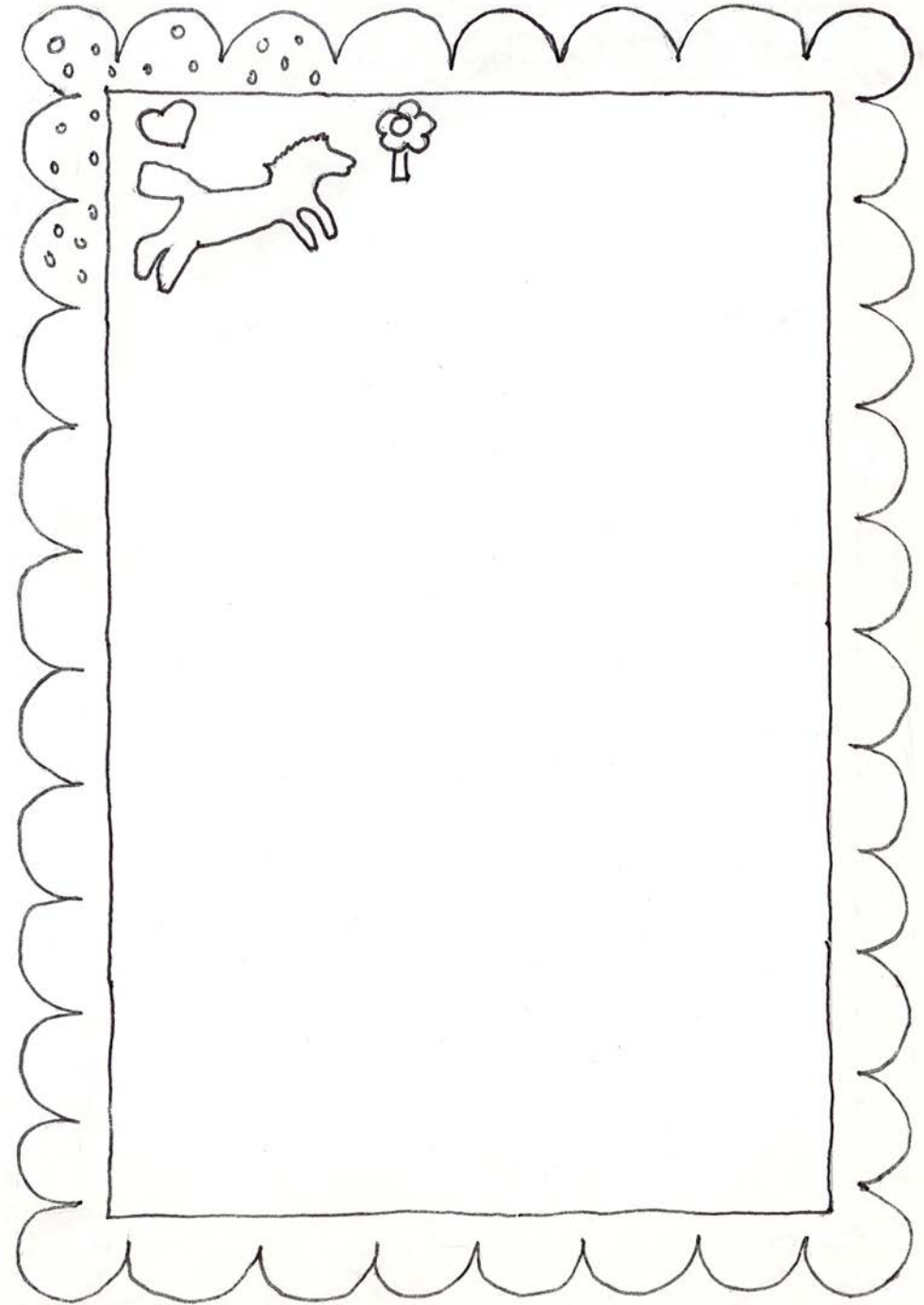
Patricia Polacco

"And so it was." from *The Keeping Quilt* / 2018

In *The Keeping Quilt*, Patricia Polacco's great-great-grandmother made a quilt out of their family's old clothing. The quilt was handed down from generation to generation. In this illustration what images do you see on their quilt?

What special piece of clothing or fabric would you want included in a family quilt? How would you and your family use this quilt?

Add your own animals and flowers to create your keeping quilt.



MY KEEPING QUILT

Checklist of the Exhibition

Vera Brosgol, “Hey, Vera, where’s your doll?” from *Be Prepared* [First Second, 2018]. Ink on Bristol board. Courtesy of the artist. © Vera Brosgol, 2018.

Vera Brosgol, “My last day wasn’t all that different from the others,” from *Be Prepared* [First Second, 2018]. Ink on Bristol board. Courtesy of the artist. © Vera Brosgol, 2018.

Rashin Kheiriyeh, “The exciting part of the beach,” from *Saffron Ice Cream* [Arthur A. Levine Books, 2018]. Oil on textured paper. Courtesy of the artist. © Rashin Kheiriyeh, 2018.

Rashin Kheiriyeh, “A block from the beach,” from *Saffron Ice Cream* [Arthur A. Levine Books, 2018]. Oil on textured paper. Courtesy of the artist. © Rashin Kheiriyeh, 2018.

Kam Mak, Animal Chess Game from *My Chinatown: One Year in Poems* [HarperCollins, 2002]. Oil on gesso. Courtesy of the artist. © Kam Mak / HarperCollins, 2002.

Kam Mak, Mid-Autumn Festival from *My Chinatown: One Year in Poems* [HarperCollins, 2002]. Oil on gesso. Courtesy of the artist. © Kam Mak / HarperCollins, 2002.

Yuyi Morales, “There were so many things,” from *Dreamers/Soñadores* [Holiday House Publishing, Inc./Neal Porter Books, 2018]. Giclee print on archival paper. Courtesy of the artist. © Yuyi Morales, 2018.

Yuyi Morales, “Unbelievable. Surprising.” from *Dreamers/Soñadores* [Holiday House Publishing, Inc./Neal Porter Books, 2018]. Giclee print on archival paper. Courtesy of the artist. © Yuyi Morales, 2018.

Patricia Polacco, “And so it was.” from *The Keeping Quilt* [Simon & Schuster, 1988]. Graphite and felt-tip pen on paper. Courtesy of University of Findlay’s Mazza Museum. © Patricia Polacco, 2018.

Patricia Polacco, “At my wedding to Enzo-Mario,” from *The Keeping Quilt* [Simon & Schuster, 1988]. Graphite and felt-tip pen on paper. Courtesy of University of Findlay’s Mazza Museum. © Patricia Polacco, 2018.

Leslie Staub, “Gotta go, folks,” from *Mama’s Nightingale: A Story of Immigration and Separation*, by Edwidge Danticat [Dial Books for Young Readers, 2015]. Oil on paper. Courtesy of Renee Allie. © Leslie Staub, 2015.

Leslie Staub, “The next time we visit Mama,” from *Mama’s Nightingale: A Story of Immigration and Separation*, by Edwidge Danticat [Dial Books for Young Readers, 2015]. Oil on paper. Courtesy of the artist and LeMieux Gallery, New Orleans, LA. © Leslie Staub, 2015. © Leslie Staub, 2015.

Catherine Stock, “Everywhere, people rushed around,” from *My name is Sangoel*, by Karen Lynn Williams and Khadra Mohammed [Eerdmans Books for Young Readers, 2009]. Watercolor on paper. Courtesy of the artist. © Catherine Stock, 2009.

Catherine Stock, “All the children crowded around,” from *My name is Sangoel*, by Karen Lynn Williams and Khadra Mohammed [Eerdmans Books for Young Readers, 2009]. Watercolor on paper. Courtesy of the artist. © Catherine Stock, 2009.

Dan Yaccarino, “It was a long journey.” from *All the Way to America: The Story of a Big Italian Family and a Little Shovel* [Alfred A. Knopf, 2011]. Gouache on watercolor paper. Courtesy of the artist. © Dan Yaccarino, 2011.

Dan Yaccarino, “So when I grew up,” from *All the Way to America: The Story of a Big Italian Family and a Little Shovel* [Alfred A. Knopf, 2011]. Gouache on watercolor paper. Courtesy of the artist. © Dan Yaccarino, 2011.