

Lulu and the Hunger Monster Age 5-9 \$12.00

When Lulu's mother's van breaks down, money for food becomes tight and the Hunger Monster comes into their lives. Only visible to Lulu, Hunger Monster is a troublemaker who makes it hard for her to concentrate in school. How will Lulu help her mom and defeat the Monster when Lulu has promised never to speak the monster's name to anyone?

This realistic—and hopeful—story of food insecurity builds awareness of the issue of childhood hunger, increases empathy for people who are food insecure, and demonstrates how anyone can help end hunger. *Lulu and the Hunger Monster*[™] empowers children to destigmatize the issue of hunger before the feeling turns into shame.

The author combines years of experience fighting hunger as a food bank CEO with an MFA in writing for young children to craft an honest story of how poverty and food insecurity can affect adults and their children. Lulu's story addresses the effects of hunger on learning and can be used in group settings to address social justice issues in an accessible and encouraging way.

Lulu and the Hunger Monster has been awarded the International Literacy Association's 2021 Social Justice Literature Award and a 2020 Foreword INDIES Honorable Mention, Picture Books, Early Reader (Children's).

“In this story illustrating the reality of childhood hunger and food insecurity, Lulu invites kids into her world to help them understand what it's like to battle the Hunger Monster. Lulu and the Hunger Monster delivers the right message at the right time, helping readers recognize the problem of childhood hunger and moving them to find solutions.”

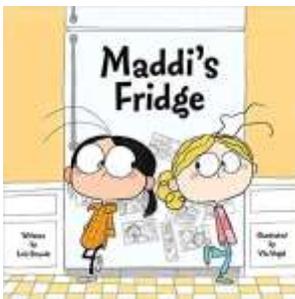
—Jeff Bridges, actor and anti-hunger advocate



Saturday at the Food Pantry Ages 3-8 \$15.00

Chicago Public Library Best Picture Books of 2021
Parents Magazine October 2021 Book of the Month

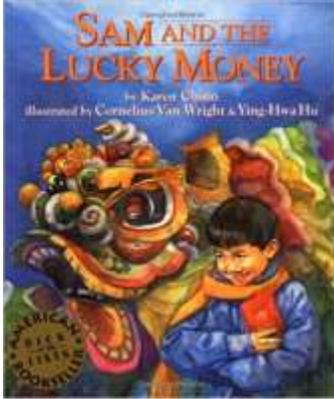
Molly and her mom don't always have enough food, so one Saturday they visit their local food pantry. Molly's happy to get food to eat until she sees her classmate Caitlin, who's embarrassed to be at the food pantry. Can Molly help Caitlin realize that everyone needs help sometimes?



Maddi's Fridge Ages 4-8 \$16.00

With humor and warmth, this children's picture book raises awareness about poverty and hunger

Best friends Sofia and Maddi live in the same neighborhood, go to the same school, and play in the same park, but while Sofia's fridge at home is full of nutritious food, the fridge at Maddi's house is empty. Sofia learns that Maddi's family doesn't have enough money to fill their fridge and promises Maddi she'll keep this discovery a secret. But because Sofia wants to help her friend, she's faced with a difficult decision: to keep her promise or tell her parents about Maddi's empty fridge. Filled with colorful artwork, this storybook addresses issues of poverty with honesty and sensitivity while instilling important lessons in friendship, empathy, trust, and helping others. A call to action section, with six effective ways for children to help fight hunger and information on antihunger groups, is also included.



Sam and the Lucky Money Ages 4-7 \$11.00

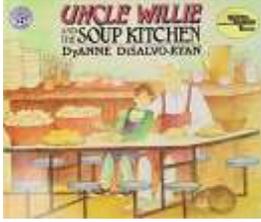
Notable Books for a Global Society, International Reading Association (IRA)
Choices, Cooperative Children's Book Center (CCBC)
Marion Vannett Ridgway Award Honoree
Pick of the List, American Bookseller's Association
Story Pick, Storytime, PBS

During Chinese New Year, a young boy encounters a homeless person and discovers that no gift is too small when it comes from the heart.

Sam can hardly wait to go shopping with his mom. It's Chinese New Year's day and his grandparents have given him the traditional gift of lucky money-red envelopes called leisees (lay-sees). This year Sam is finally old enough to spend it any way he chooses. Best of all, he gets to spend his lucky money in his favorite place - Chinatown!

But when Sam realizes that his grandparents' gift is not enough to get the things he wants, his excitement turns to disappointment. Even though his mother reminds him that he should appreciate the gift, Sam is not convinced - until a surprise encounter with a stranger.

With vivid watercolor paintings, artists Cornelius Van Wright and Ying-Hwa Hu celebrate the sights and sounds of festive Chinatown streets. In her picture book debut, author Karen Chinn tells the affecting story of a child who discovers that sometimes the best gifts come from the heart.

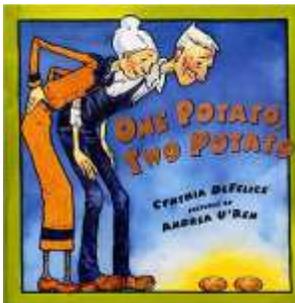


Uncle Willie and the Soup Kitchen Ages 4-8 \$8.00

A gentle and age-appropriate introduction to two key issues of our time—hunger and homelessness—from a kid's point of view. This empathy-building book is good for sharing at home or in a classroom.

“Based on the actual volunteer experience of the author, this picture book provides a look into the soup kitchen without an overly sentimental view of the hungry or a dose of pessimism for the reader. With a note about soup kitchens introducing the story, this is informative and new, but not scary,” praised *Booklist*.

“A boy wonders about the people he sees on his city’s streets until he goes to the soup kitchen where his uncle works. The varied needs of the individuals there become clear to the young narrator. The watercolors use earthtones and careful detail to illustrate aptly the warm, friendly story,” according to *The Horn Book*.

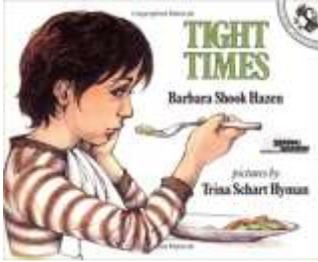


One Potato, Two Potatoes Ages 4-8 \$20.00

Mr. and Mrs. O'Grady are so poor they have just one of everything to share – one potato a day, one chair, one blanket full of holes, and one gold coin for a rainy day. After digging up the last potato in their patch, Mr. O'Grady comes upon a big black object. It's a pot – no ordinary pot, for what they soon discover is that whatever goes into it comes out doubled! Suddenly the O'Gradys aren't destitute anymore. But what they really long for is one friend apiece. Can the magic pot give them that?

This retelling of a Chinese folktale pays tribute to the author's Irish heritage, and to the joys of an old marriage, new friendships, and the impulse to share. Using pen and gouache, the artist shows the "simple" characters in all their winning complexity.

One Potato, Two Potatoes is a 2007 Bank Street - Best Children's Book of the Year.



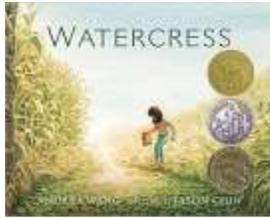
Tight times Ages 4-9 \$6.00

A small boy, not allowed to have a dog because times are tight, finds a starving kitten in a trash can on the same day his father loses his job.



One Hen Ages 8-12 \$11.00

Inspired by true events, *One Hen* tells the story of Kojo, a boy from Ghana who turns a small loan into a thriving farm and a livelihood for many. After his father died, Kojo had to quit school to help his mother collect firewood to sell at the market. When his mother receives a loan from some village families, she gives a little money to her son. With this tiny loan, Kojo buys a hen. A year later, Kojo has built up a flock of 25 hens. With his earnings Kojo is able to return to school. Soon Kojo's farm grows to become the largest in the region. Kojo's story is inspired by the life of Kwabena Darko, who as a boy started a tiny poultry farm just like Kojo's, which later grew to be the largest in Ghana, and one of the largest in west Africa. Kwabena also started a trust that gives out small loans to people who cannot get a loan from a bank. *One Hen* shows what happens when a little help makes a big difference. The final pages of *One Hen* explain the microloan system and include a list of relevant organizations for children to explore. *One Hen* is part of CitizenKid: A collection of books that inform children about the world and inspire them to be better global citizens.



Watercress Ages 4-8 \$16.00

Caldecott Medal Winner

Newbery Honor Book

APALA Award Winner

Gathering watercress by the side of the road brings a girl closer to her family's Chinese Heritage.

New England Book Award Winner

A *New York Times* Best Children's Book of the Year

A Boston Globe-Horn Book Honor Book

Driving through Ohio in an old Pontiac, a young girl's parents stop suddenly when they spot watercress growing wild in a ditch by the side of the road. Grabbing an old paper bag and some rusty scissors, the whole family wades into the muck to collect as much of the muddy, snail covered watercress as they can.

At first, she's embarrassed. Why can't her family get food from the grocery store? But when her mother shares a story of her family's time in China, the girl learns to appreciate the fresh food they foraged. Together, they make a new memory of watercress.

Andrea Wang tells a moving autobiographical story of a child of immigrants discovering and connecting with her heritage, illustrated by award winning author and artist Jason Chin, working in an entirely new style, inspired by Chinese painting techniques. An author's note in the back shares Andrea's childhood experience with her parents.

A *Wall Street Journal* Best Children's Book of the Year

A *Boston Globe* Best Children's Book of the Year

A *Washington Post* Best Children's Book of the Year

A New York Public Library Best Book of the Year

A Chicago Public Library Best Book of the Year

An ALSC Notable Children's Book

Named a best book of the year by *Publishers Weekly*, *BookPage*, *School Library Journal*, *Kirkus Reviews*, *Publishers Lunch*, *Shelf Awareness*, and more!

An NPR 'Book We Love!'

A *Horn Book* Fanfare Title

A *Mighty Girl* Best Book of the Year

A Floyd's Pick Honor Book

A CSMCL Best Multicultural Children's Book of the Year

A Junior Library Guild Gold Standard Selection!

Here is a list that was prepared for The Food Bank of Western MA.

Children's Books on Food Security/Scarcity Compiled by Hilltown Families www.HilltownFamilies.org

Do you have a favorite children's book that touches on the topic of food security/scarcity you care to share? Hilltown Families is collaborating with The Food Bank of Western MA on compiling a list of kids books that have to do with fighting hunger, soup kitchens, food banks, etc. for their Youth Action Hunger program.

Tight Times. Written by Barbara Shook Hazen. Illustrated by Trina Schart Hyman.

A Chair for My Mother. Written and illustrated by Vera B. Williams.

Meet Kit (American Girls Collection: Kit 1934). Written by Valerie Trip. Illustrated by Walter Rane. - "The Kit series from American Girl is about a girl living through the depression. It shows lots of economic insecurity. I cannot remember if it specifically deals with food scarcity. This is a chapter book series not a picture book. But I think it does a great job of teaching about the Great Depression."

Out of the Dust. Written by Karen Hesse.

The Good Garden: How One Family Went from Hunger to Having Enough. Written by Katie Smith Milway. Illustrated by Sylvie Daigneault.

The Mighty Miss Malone. Written by Christopher Paul Curtis.

December. Written by Eve Bunting. Illustrated by David Diaz.

Lu and the Swamp Ghost. Written by James Carville & Patricia McKissack. Illustrated by David Catrow. - "A story about a friendship between a hungry runaway boy and a girl with a family. Beautiful, funny, consoling with really enthralling moments.

Gettin' Through Thursday. Written by Melrose Cooper. Illustrated by Nineka Bennett.

Stone Soup. Written/illustrated by many different authors/illustrators.

Stone Soup. Illustrated by Jon J. Muth. "We read different versions of Stone Soup, and then make stone soup as part of our kindergarten curriculum.

How Do You Feed a Hungry Giant?: A Munch-and-Sip Pop-Up Book. Written by Caitlin Friedman. Illustrated by Shawn Nielsen

Mama Panya's Pancakes. Written by Mary & Richard Chamberlin. Illustrated by Julia Cairns.

Uncle Willie and the Soup Kitchen. By Dyanne Disalvo-Ryan. & A Kids' Guide to Hunger & Homelessness::