

### SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL LEARNING

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#### Summer Reading with SEL Connections

From June to August, 2019, Open Circle posted the following literature recommendations on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#). We hope parents and caregivers were able to find time to engage their children's hearts and minds with these children's literature recommendations that connect to social and emotional skill development.



#### **Away**

Emil Sher, Qin Ling (ill.)  
A little girl has second thoughts about going away to summer camp.  
(Groundwood Books)



#### **Firebird**

Misty Copeland, Christopher Myers (ill.)  
A professional ballerina shares words of encouragement with a young dancer.  
(G.P. Putnam's Sons)



#### **Front Desk**

Kelly Yang  
Living and working in a motel exposes ten year-old Mia and her immigrant family to multiple cases of injustice which Mia confronts with courage and empathy. (Arthur A. Levine Books)



#### **Her Right Foot**

Dave Eggers, Shawn Harris (ill.)  
This nonfiction book reminds us of the important symbolism of the Statue of Liberty, including her right foot.  
(Chronicle Books)



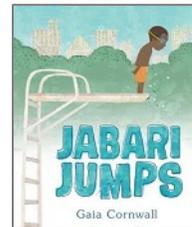
#### **Hey, Wall: A Story of Art and Community**

Susan Verde, John Parra (ill.)  
A community works together to use art to transform a community. (Simon & Schuster)



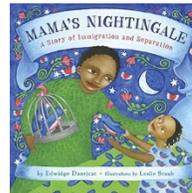
#### **Imagine**

Juan Felipe Herrera, Lauren Castillo (ill.)  
Juan Felipe Herrera, named U.S. poet laureate in 2015, uses his life story to inspire readers to consider their own possibilities. (Candlewick) 2018



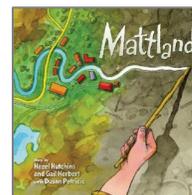
#### **Jabari Jumps**

Gaia Cornwall  
With his dad's support, Jabari finds the courage to take a daunting plunge!  
(Candlewick Press)



#### **Mama's Nightingale: A Story of Immigration and Separation**

Edwidge Danticat, Leslie Staub (ill.)  
Saya, the young daughter of an undocumented immigrant, uses the power of words to advocate for the release of her mother from a detention center. (Dial Books)



#### **MattLand**

Hazel Hutchins, Dusan Petricic (ill.)  
When Matt starts building an imaginary village he attracts new friends and collaborators. (Annick Press)

For more children's literature suggestions visit our website at [www.open-circle.org](http://www.open-circle.org) and look under **RESOURCES/children's literature**.



**Maybe Something Beautiful: How Art Transformed a Neighborhood**

F. Isabel Campoy, Theresa Howell, Rafael Lopez (ill.)

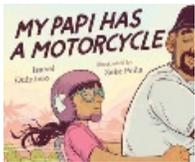
Based on actual events in San Diego, California, this book describes how a diverse group of volunteers used art to make their neighborhood a better place to live. (HMH Books for Young Readers)



**Merci Suárez Changes Gears**

Meg Medina

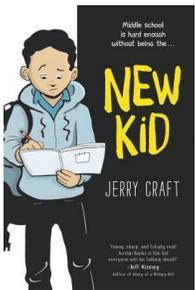
Merci's resilience and strong ties to family and friends help her deal with challenges at home and at middle school. (Candlewick Press)



**My Papi Has a Motorcycle**

Isabel Quintero, Zeke Peña (ill.)

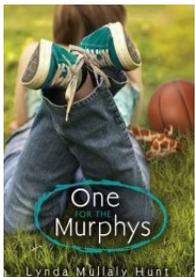
A motorcycle ride with her dad around their neighborhood reminds Daisy of the strong community she belongs to. (Kokila)



**New Kid**

Jerry Craft

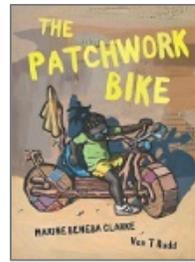
This graphic novel tracks the social challenges of Jordan Banks, a new student of color in a mostly white private school. (Harper Collins)



**One for the Murphys**

Lynda Mullaly Hunt

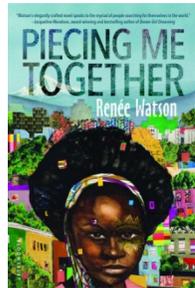
Carly's foster family has to work hard to make her feel like she is part of a family. (Nancy Paulsen Books – Penguin Group)



**The Patchwork Bike**

Maxine Beneba Clarke, Van Thanh Rudd (ill.)

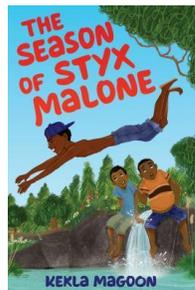
A bike built from tin cans, branches, and wood-cut wheels becomes the “best thing of all to play with.” (Candlewick Press)



**Piecing Me Together**

Renee Watson.

Jade confronts the challenging issues of race and class as she straddles two worlds: her mostly minority neighborhood and her predominately white private school. (Bloomsbury)



**The Season of Styx Malone**

Kekla Magoon

When Caleb and his brother join forces with the irresistible Styx Malone, they learn about loyalty, honesty, and pushing boundaries. (Wendy Lamb Books)



**Thank you, Omu!**

Oge Mora.

Omu shares her delicious stew with her diverse group of neighbors. (Little Brown Books for Young Readers)

*Children's literature provides both mirrors and windows<sup>i</sup> for readers. Some books are mirrors, reflecting children's experiences, feelings, and cultures. Other books are windows, giving children an opportunity to see the world through others' eyes. Reading books that reflect our diverse population enhances children's social and emotional development, especially the ability to take the perspective of and empathize with others.*

<sup>i</sup> Style, Emily. "Curriculum as Window and Mirror," *Listening for All Voices*, Oak Knoll School monograph. Summit, NJ, 1988.