

Chapter 1 : Countries Around the World - Reading A-Z

I thought I would share some of our favorites children's books with you -- ones that not only highlight something about other countries but will also fuel a child's desire to learn more about cultures and traditions.

Even though the chaos and noise of a hot, crowded city has grown on them over the years, there are certain things that continue to fascinate them. Particularly, when kids dash past with backpacks and lunch totes while schools back home are closed for summer. But what amuses them most is seeing how children actually get to school. While some walk chattily with friends, some others are huddled inside an auto-rickshaw like in the picture below, which we clicked last summer. Sometimes a maid walks a bunch, and sometimes kids whisk by on scooters and motorcycles. I can definitely relate to their wonder. Raising my own children after migrating to the U. S as an adult and navigating the school system here for the first time, I have a learning curve myself. With back to school season upon us in the U. It also includes a great book about first day experiences from around the world. And of course, every book we review has a multicultural angle. So, even if you are in the thick of a school term in your corner of the world, I assure you, these still make fantastic reads! By Yangsook Choi *Ages: A whole lot*, especially if you are a little girl in a new school from a different country. Sometimes, Unhei wishes she was an Amanda or a Laura. Feeling awkward about sharing her Korean name in the classroom, Unhei decides to go nameless for a week, until she can pick out a better one. Meanwhile, her classmate Joey, who is trying to get to know her better, worries and wonders what Unhei will choose. But on the day Unhei has to decide, the name jar disappears. So what name does Unhei finally decide to go with? Find out for yourself in this wonderful book by award winning author-illustrator Yangsook Choi who, like Unhei, moved to New York City from Korea, and later studied art. Imagine if there had to be several such first days. But that was the norm for our hero, Chico, who belongs to a migrant family that picks fruits and vegetables all over California for a living. Chico is filled with habitual reluctance on the morning of his first day for fear of being picked on and called names. To make matters worse, even the bus driver seems hostile. But there is a silver liningâ€” Ms. Sprinkled with common Spanish words, the story is engaging and well narrated. By Jeanette Winter *Ages: They took away her parents and an education*, because girls like her were not allowed to go to school. A traumatized Nasreen stayed home and cringed in pain and loneliness. Still, Nasreen did not break her silence. Winter passed and one day, when the school re-opened, Nasreen finally spoke. But what made her open up? What did Nasreen discover at school? How did the school continue to teach girls secretly in spite of soldiers banging on the doors for random checks? But I did not have to hold back anything else in the narration. It was easy and appropriate, just like the art. However, it still seemed tricky to come up with an age recommendation. My four-year-old son liked it and wanted me to read it again. I wondered and asked him a few questions to see if he had grasped anything. We also talked about wars, friendships and Islam. The ending is optimistic and I think it helps kids digest a story like this, while still giving them a peek into the harsh realities in distance places. More than anything, we get a sense of how special, education isâ€” both important and a privilege. The story teaches and inspires in many ways. Imagine a double-page spread, one for each country. Apt illustrations loaded with details surround the text on both pages. An informative and entertaining anthology of children going to school in different parts of the world, this book was a big hit with my kids! There were many wows and oohs and little fingers frequently pointed to the illustrations as we read. What makes it a worthy read is the diversity of experiencesâ€”particulars of seasons, school timings, playground games, classroom resources, eating habits and many more. More multicultural, school-related books to read:

Chapter 2 : Read Around the World | Delightful Children's Books

Children's Books from Other Countries is a complete and current guide to international children's literature. The concept of a bibliography of international children's literature is not new. The concept of a bibliography of international children's literature is not new.

What are the best books about countries for children? November 12, By Larry Sanger As I explained in an earlier post , my older son age 5 and I are reading through books about most of the countries of the world. I gave him the option, not long ago, of stopping this and going back simply to reading through more general introductions to world geography, and reading separate books only about the really big, important countries. He was quite adamant that we should continue reading about individual countries. These remarks are based only on a few examples in each series. They are well-written, which is rare among geography books. They feature many excellent photographs, as you would expect from National Geographic. The presence of not just one or two, but several maps of each country physical, vegetation, historical, etc. They also, unlike so many other series, do not follow a cookie-cutter outline. They are not always a great pleasure to read, but they tend to make the most of the sort of material that elementary school curricula apparently require. The only problem I have with these books is that they are short. This makes them more readable, to be sure, but they do leave out quite a few salient facts. Frequently, they are the only books in my local library system about certain countries. My star rating below is based on reading a chapter and skimming of several volumes, so it is tentative. Continent in the Balance. I skimmed one book, but what I saw, I liked. Definitely worth a look for more advanced elementary and middle school readers. On the good side, the books feature lots and lots of nice, big pictures. More space is devoted to pictures than to words. On the bad side, the writing is generally uninspired. I understand that the authors have to work with limited vocabulary, and low word count, but still. They are brief introductions, comparable in content and grade level to True Books. There are many pictures, of a large size, so that is a strength. There are quite a few books in the series. At least the volume I have actually has relatively few pictures compared to many others in reviewed here, and I noticed that about one or two others in the series I saw at the library. The worst aspect of the book is its organization. On the plus side, the pictures are plentiful and pretty good, and the book does contain a fair bit of information. It features the typical boring sort of writing of library geography books. But there are some good pictures, and in these respects, they are similar to Rookie Read-About books. It is a fun, safe, and interesting place to visit. The pictures are fine.

Chapter 3 : 30 Kids Picture Books about Countries Around the World - Edventures with Kids

Children's Books from Other Countries is a complete and current guide to international children's literature. The concept of a bibliography of international children's literature is not new. In the past, many books have accomplished this task.

TED Amazon Ann Morgan considered herself well read "until she discovered the "massive blindspot" on her bookshelf. Amid a multitude of English and American authors, there were very few books from beyond the English-speaking world. So she set an ambitious goal: Watch her full TED Talk: See more at Ted. Born in Algeria, his life was once devoted to Sundays with his mother, family reunions, pious sobriety, and devout Islamism. And for a sex life free of prohibitions! Thus his adventures begin. Unfortunately for him, but to the delight of the reader, his story is filtered through a rather unsympathetic female narrator who refuses to show our hero the attention he feels he deserves. Aguilar, an unemployed literature professor who has resorted to selling dog food for a living, returns home from a short trip to discover that his wife, Agustina, has gone mad. After two separate catastrophes, two very different families leave the country for the bright lights of Perth. The Pickleses are gamblers, boozers, fractious, and unlikely landlords. Change, hardship, and the war force them to swallow their dignity and share a great, breathing, shuddering house called Cloudstreet. Living in restrictive Riyadh but traveling all over the globe, these modern Saudi women literally and figuratively shed traditional garb as they search for love, fulfillment, and their place somewhere in between Western society and their Islamic home. Her new relationship with a married man "the antithesis of Rei" has brought her life to a numbing stasis, and her relationships with her mother and daughter have spilled into routine, day after day. Kei begins making repeated trips to the seaside town of Manazuru, a place that jogs her memory to a moment in time she can never quite locate. Her time there by the water encompasses years of unsteady footing and a developing urgency to find something. Through a poetic style embracing the surreal and grotesque, a quiet tenderness emerges from these dark moments. Manazuru is a meditation on memory "a profound, precisely delineated exploration of the relationships between lovers and family members. Both startlingly restless and immaculately compact, Manazuru paints the portrait of a woman on the brink of her own memories and future. Tolkien and, most of all, finding love. But Oscar may never get what he wants. Encapsulating Dominican-American history, The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao opens our eyes to an astonishing vision of the contemporary American experience and explores the endless human capacity to persevere "and risk it all "in the name of love. The author, born in Addis Ababa and now living in New York, tells the story in unforgettable detail: Author of some pieces of fiction that have been compared to the works of Poe, Kipling, and Jack London, Quiroga experienced a life that surpassed in morbidity and horror many of the inventions of his fevered mind His stories are infused with death, too, but they span a wide range of short fiction genres: Shafak effortlessly blends East and West, past and present, to create a dramatic, compelling, and exuberant tale about how love works in the world. In this extraordinary tale, Tor Baz, the young boy descended from both chiefs and outlaws who becomes the Wandering Falcon, moves between the tribes of Pakistan and Afghanistan and their uncertain worlds full of brutality, humanity, deep love, honor, poverty, and grace. The wild area he travels -- the Federally Administered Tribal Area -- has become a political quagmire known for terrorism and inaccessibility. Yet in these pages, eighty-year-old debut author Jamil Ahmad lyrically and insightfully reveals the people who populate those lands, their tribes and traditions, and their older, timeless ways in the face of sometimes ruthless modernity. This story is an essential glimpse into a hidden world, one that has enormous geopolitical significance today and still remains largely a mystery to us. Written in English, the novel tells the story of Tsomo, a young Bhutanese woman who embarks on the difficult and lonely journey of life. All the while, Tsomo seeks to find herself and a life partner, and grows as a person and a woman. The text of this unusual work is enriched by detailed descriptions of ritual life in Bhutan. The brief narrative, written as an extended letter, is a sequence of reminiscences "some wistful, some bitter "recounted by recently widowed Senegalese schoolteacher Ramatoulaye Fall. This semi-autobiographical account is a perceptive testimony to the plight of educated and articulate Muslim women. Angered by the traditions that allow polygyny, they inhabit a social milieu dominated by attitudes and values that deny them status equal to

men. The classic love story takes place on the De la Garza ranch, as the tyrannical owner, Mama Elena, chops onions at the kitchen table in her final days of pregnancy. This early encounter with food soon becomes a way of life, and Tita grows up to be a master chef. She shares special points of her favorite preparations with listeners throughout the story. Nobel Prize for Literature. Guatemalan diplomat and writer Miguel Angel Asturias began this award-winning work while still a law student. It is a story of ruthless dictator and his schemes to dispose of a political adversary in an unnamed Latin American country usually identified as Guatemala. The book has been acclaimed for portraying both a totalitarian government and its damaging psychological effects. In turns, it is shallow, profound, didactic, moving and instructive. In its original Slovenian, it was a bestseller, capturing both the ailments and strengths of a world that seems to have turned upside down our normal desires and expectations. Walking and writing, journey and journal, mirror one another to produce a calligraphic, magical work: A young man arrives at the church of a small African village and starts whistling so beautifully that the priest is left in tears. As his weeklong stay continues, the whistler finds himself affected by the colorful inhabitants of the village as they all become bewitched and surrender to the moods of his melodies. Piracy in the Gulf threatens global maritime trade routes while the Wahabbi strain of Islam is conquering followers town by town across the region. At the center of it all lies a priceless Indian sword, a gift from the British monarch to the Egyptian Pasha. But Erhama bin Jaber, a historical figure and one of the most notorious pirates in the Gulf, has his own agenda and his own vendettas. With *The Patience Stone*, Atiq Rahimi gives face and voice to one unforgettable woman—and, one could argue, offers her as a proxy for the grievances of millions—it is a rich read, part allegory, part a tale of retribution, part an exploration of honor, love, sex, marriage, war. It is without doubt an important and courageous book. He discovers that the only way forward is through bribery. Confronted with the stark irony of having to do something illegal to become legal he finds he must make a choice. This is a novel that explores the nature of class and identity in the post-colonial world through a narrative rich in imagery and wrought in a confident, graceful prose. For the young shepherd boy Dshurukuwaa, the confrontation comes in stages. His despairing questions to the Heavenly Blue Sky are answered only by the silence of the wind. The first and only member of the Tuvans to use written language to tell stories, Galsan Tschinag chronicles their traditions in this fascinating, bittersweet novel. Over the next four years, Balakian would bear witness to a seemingly endless caravan of blood, surviving to recount his miraculous escape and expose the atrocities that led to over a million deaths. An actress, performer, and artist as well as a writer, she only published one novel during her lifetime. She committed suicide in *A young refugee wants to box her way straight off the boat to the top of the sport*. Old friends talk all night after meeting up by chance. She imagines their future together *Stories about people who have lost out in life and in love, and about their hopes for one really big win, the chance to make something of their lives*. In silent apartments, desolate warehouses, prisons and down by the river, Meyer strikes the tone of our harsh times, and finds the grace notes, the bright lights shining in the dark. Kelin II "Daniel A. Kelin II preserves the qualities of oral storytelling in fifty stories recorded from eighteen storytellers on eight islands and atolls. This lively collection includes something for everyone: Profiles of the storytellers, a glossary, and a pronunciation guide enrich the collection. Locked in a closet every night, Hugo hears Mariana at work and disappears into dreams and visions about his family and friends. These students endeavour through various ways to adapt to new landscapes and environments. In this new place, they find themselves strangers, a minority in the midst of a sea of dimdimes who act strangely, whose values, practices etc. His stories are animated with Laotian virtues of simplicity, compassion, respect for age, and other village mores; they breathe with a gentleness that is fresh and distinctive. Outhine is interested in his own memories, in how to behave with compassion, and in the chain of life among men and women that reaches into the earth. In prose that is both raw and compelling, it tells the story of Beth Heke, a Maori woman struggling to keep her family from falling apart, despite the squalor and violence of the housing projects in which they live. Conveying both the rich textures of Maori tradition and the wounds left by its absence, *Once Were Warriors* is a masterpiece of unblinking realism, irresistible energy, and great sorrow. The Taos face exile with stoicism and teach their son to embrace reeducation wholeheartedly. Is this simple pragmatism, an attempt to protect the boy and ensure his future? Or do the banished cadres really cling to their belief in their leaders and the

ideals of the Revolution? These questions remain tantalizingly unanswered in this prize-winning first novel. In the dying days of a brutal civil war in Bangladesh, Sohail Haque stumbles upon an abandoned building. Inside he finds a young woman whose story will haunt him for a lifetime to come. While Maya has stuck to her revolutionary ideals, Sohail has shunned his old life to become a charismatic religious leader. And when Sohail decides to send his son to a madrasa, the conflict between brother and sister comes to a devastating climax. *The Good Muslim* is an epic story about faith, family, the rise of religious fundamentalism, and the long shadow of war from prizewinning Bangladeshi novelist Tahmima Anam. Thus, *Kava in the Blood* is also an intriguing story of hurricanes, haunted houses and copious kava consumption, set within the dramatic landscapes and vibrant cultures of the Fiji Islands. The book is original, terrifying, complete. It invents its own history, eases in and out of nightmare as it mingles dream and fact. *Kassandra and the Wolf* is a short, muscular novel with an absolute sense of craft. The language throughout is merciless and crisp. Dempsey is out of the ring for seventeen seconds, but is allowed by the US referee to get back in. In the second round, Dempsey knocks Firpo out. *Seconds Out* is a powerful reflection on memory and national identity. Poetry and mystery go hand in hand in this transcendent novel about mankind, as never before imagined. Join Adam and Eve as they discover the world for themselves, feel their confusion and panic when they face punishment, and observe in awe as they experience the power to give life and, eventually, the ability to take it away to survive. From internationally acclaimed poet and author Gioconda Belli comes a beguiling and soulfully rewarding novel—a parable that captures our own time and our own uncertain future.

Chapter 4 : Childrens Books

It is a great children's book about how a community came together to save the hippos in the Budapest Zoo one cold winter. I love the idea of children reading around the world. Thanks for this great list of books.

Yousafzai, Malala and Patricia McCormick. Ages 12 and Older Australia: Picture Books Baker, Jeannie. Ages 6 - 10 Belton, Robyn. Ages 5 - 8 Lester, Alison. Sophie Scott Goes South. The Lines We Cross. Age 12 and older Clarke, Judith. Ages Clarke, Judith. One Whole and Perfect Day. Age 13 and older Crowley, Cath. A Little Wanting Song. Ages 13 and older Crowley, Cath. Age 13 and older De Goldi, Kate. Ages 11 - 14 Dubosarsky, Ursula. Age 14 and older Fraillon, Zana. Stripes of the Sidestep Wolf. Ages 14 and older Hartnett, Sonya. Ages 14 and older Howell, Simone. Ages 14 and Older Moriarty, Jaelyn. The Year of Secret Assignments. Ages Murphy, Sally. Pearl Verses the World. Illustrated by Heather Potter. Ages Pung, Alice. Age 13 and older Europe: Picture Books Banks, Kate. Illustrated by Georg Hallensleben. Ages Bunting, Eve. Illustrated by Emily Arnold McCully. King of the Sky. Illustrated by Laura Carlin. Ages Hole, Stian. Translated by Translated from the Norwegian by Don Bartlett. Ages Macaulay, David. Ages 6 - 10 Radunsky, Vladimir. Ages 4 - 8 Rogers, Gregory. The Hero of Little Street. Age 15 and older Berry, Julie. The Passion of Dolssa. Age 14 and older Bondoux, Anne-Laure. A Time of Miracles. Maudet from the French. Age 13 and older Boyce, Frank Cottrell. Ages Chotjewitz, David. Translated by Doris Orgel. Between Earth and Sky. Translated by Translated from the French by Sarah Ardizzone. Ages 13 and Older Donnelly, Jennifer. Ages 14 and older Dowd, Siobhan. The London Eye Mystery. Ages Dowd, Siobhan. Age 14 and older Erlings, Fridrik. Fish in the Sky. Translated by Translated from the Icelandic by the author. Ages Erlings, Fridrik. Boy on the Edge. Ages 14 and Older Gidwitz, Adam. Illustrated by Hatem Aly. Ages Hof, Marjolijn. Translated by Johanna H. Prins and Johanna W. Prins, from the Dutch. Ages 9 - 12 Lindelauf, Benny. Translated by John Nieuwenhuizen from the Dutch. Ages Marsden, Carolyn. Age 12 and older Nesbet, Anne. The Day of the Pelican. Ages 10 - 14 Preus, Margi. West of the Moon. Age 11 and older Sepetys, Ruta. Between Shades of Gray. Age 14 and older Wung-Sung, Jesper. Translated by Lindy Falk van Rooyen. Ages Yelchin, Eugene. The War to End All Wars: Ages 12 and older Kyuchukov, Hristo and Ian Hancock. A History of the Romani People. Boyds Mills Press, Ages McCully, Emily Arnold. Farrar Straus Giroux, Growing Up Behind the Iron Curtain. Age 9 and older Middle East: Picture Books Addasi, Maha. Illustrated by Ned Gannon. Ages 6 - 10 Balouch, Kristen. Ages Charara, Hayan. Illustrated by Sara Kahn. Ages 6 - 10 Garland, Sarah. Illustrated by Ted Lewin. Ages Roth, Susan L.. Hands Around the Library: A Story of Baghdad. Ages Winter, Jeanette. The Librarian of Basra: A True Story from Iraq. Ages Middle East: Where the Streets Had a Name. Ages 12 and older Amir,.

Chapter 5 : Children's Books about Places Around the World - Edventures with Kids

18 Classic Children's Books From Around The World. since the illustrator/writer was Swedish-Finnish and the book was an instant classic in both countries. But only Finland can boast of a.

This is a must-start-with book! Africa Is Not A Country does a wonderful job of explaining the uniqueness of various countries on the continent. So many kids think that Africa is a country so this book will really be a wealth of knowledge. Ages 4 - 10 years. Kids will love to see how much of the ancient culture the pyramids and Valley of the Kings still remains in Cairo today. Plus, learn some basic Arabic and hieroglyphics too! Ages 3 - 9 years. There are so many wonderful books in this series -- you can see them all in our other book list of Wonderful Book Series that Take Kids Around the World! Mirror is a great read that showcases the day-in-the-life of a child in Morocco and in Australia mirror images. Kids will enjoy seeing the similarities and differences that take place during everyday life in two countries. See the similarities and differences as you compare school in Tanzania with school in your own country. Ages 3 - 8 years. Children will love to learn more about how traditions change across countries. Kojo, a young boy, receives a loan to buy one hen in order to start his own business. That invest goes on to benefit a whole village. This is a great book for kids of all ages -- even teens! Are We There Yet? Follow 8-year-old Grace and her family across the continent as we learn about the wonderful diversity of the country. Enjoy the layout of the story which is more like a family photo album and map. And since Australia is both a country and a continent, I thought it deserved two choices ; D is for Down Under: An Australia Alphabet shares all the wonderful things about the country and continent of Australia. This is part of a book series that has titles for many countries. I really like the breadth of the content which covers some of the history, geography, animals and natural formations of the country. I Live in Tokyo was one of my favorite reads mainly because the book is set up to review the fun and festivities throughout the year. Read about the experiences of Mimiko, a 7-year-old, as she introduces us to some of the food, celebrations and traditions of Tokyo. Ages 3 - 10 years. A True Story from Iraq. Based on the true story of a librarian who worked to save a priceless collection of books in a war-torn country, this story shows a peek into some of the culture, values and traditions of Iraq and its people. Ages 5 - 12 years. Four Feet, Two Sandals is a wonderful story of sharing. When one pair of sandals is sent to a refugee camp in Pakistan, two girls each find one of the shoes. Lina and Feroza decide to share the sandals as they both wait for their chance to go to America. A very good insight into the experiences of refugee children. Ages 5 - 11 years. An award-winning book, Finders Keepers? There are some wonderful introductions to various cultural traditions from the country. Gorgeous illustrations and some wonderful details about the customs make this a great read! Ages 3 - 11 years. Readers will enjoy learning about the daily activities and events of the family along with some native words that are interspersed throughout the text. Ages 3 - 7 years. A Native Girl from Southeast Alaska highlights the culture and modern tribal traditions of young girl living in an Alaskan village. I love the glimpse we get into this remote area and the text is very descriptive, teaching the reader quite a bit about the area. Ages 6 - 11 years. Be sure to let us know what books you love to use for armchair travels in the comments.

Chapter 6 : What are the best books about countries for children? – Larry Sanger Blog

Children's Books from Other Countries is a complete and current guide to international children's literature for librarians, teachers, and others who are involved in the education of children.

Posted on February 28, by Amy Broadmoore Here are ten captivating books about children from around the world. For those of you Reading Around the World , these are great books to start with to get your children excited about learning more. Emphasizes the similarities between children from around the world. The artful layout and spare text of the board book edition of this book make the board book edition more striking than the full length edition. Celebrates the variety of ways children around the world eat breakfast, travel to school, and engage in other everyday activities. The highlight of One World, One Day is the wonderful images of children from around the world. Describes scenes from around the world happening at the same time that the child narrator is going to bed. My kids were fascinated to learn that the time of day changes as you travel around the globe. The first in a series of adorable books about two best friends: Puddle the homebody and Toot the world traveler. In Toot and Puddle, Toot travels the world and sends postcards home to Puddle sharing his adventures. Full of facts to satisfy trivia-loving children. Readers will learn about the longest river in the world, the tallest mountain, and the highest waterfall. A young girl named Amelia imagines building an airplane and traveling around the globe in one day, touching down in various countries along the way. I love the whimsical adventure depicted in this book. An excellent book for getting children excited about other countries. This cookbook is sufficiently entertaining that my six-year-old reads it for fun when we have no plans to cook. The recipes are easy-to-make and generally appealing to young children. Contains two-page spreads each describing a child from somewhere in the world. Children Just Like Me is not a book that can be read in one sitting. Instead, I first choose a part of the world to learn about and then let my children pick children to read about one at a time. Invites readers to explore amazing and unique houses from around the world. For each house, a photograph of the outside of the house is paired with a detailed illustration of the inside of the house. The captions of the illustrations point out little details about each house – a bed with long legs that keeps people cool while sleeping, beans and chili peppers drying on a roof, pointed rooves where the gods are said to live, etc. Contains a sentence or two for each country explaining what happens when children in that country lose their teeth. I give my tooth to my mother. She will have it made into a charm, set in gold or silver, so I can wear it as a necklace or an earring.

Chapter 7 : 7 Children's Books About Food Around the World - I'm Not the Nanny

Books on this list offer young travelers a great opportunity to explore new cultures through a colorful world of illustrated stories and fairytales. These books will introduce your children to the rich cultural heritage and traditions of your international destinations.

Chapter 8 : Popular Other Countries Books

For Parents and Teachers – A collection of excellent resources for teaching kids about other countries, including a pretend passport template, the best source for free printable flags, a kids' multicultural cookbook and much more.

Chapter 9 : 49 Incredible Books From 49 Different Countries | HuffPost

Emphasizes the similarities between children from around the world. According to Ajmera and Ivanko, "To be a kid means " spending time with family, going to school, singing, dancing, and more. The artful layout and spare text of the board book edition of this book make the board book edition more striking than the full length edition.