

**September 8 is International Literacy Day—  
an opportunity for adults to use books to teach  
children about new cultures, points of views  
and ways of living.**

Having distributed 24 million books across 16 countries and created titles in 32 languages, Room to Read has witnessed the beautiful ways books can bring the world together. That's why we created this child-friendly list to help us all both be and raise global citizens.



## AGES 0-3

### ***The Skin You Live In* by Michael Tyler**

This lively story delivers an important message of social acceptance to young readers, while offering adults a wonderful way to discuss critical social concepts with children.

### ***Once Upon a World (series)* by Chloe Perkins**

*Once Upon a World* offers a brand-new way to look at classic fairy tales. By placing beloved characters in different cultures, and using illustrators who identify with those cultural backgrounds, this series offers a fresh spin on tales readers know and love.

## AGES 3-6

### ***This is How We Do It* by Matt Lamoth (non-fiction)**

This book follows the real lives of seven kids from Italy, Japan, Iran, India, Peru, Uganda and Russia, showcasing the reality that while we may lead different lives and play in different ways, we're still united by common experiences.

### ***Be Kind* by Pat Zietlow Miller**

From asking the new girl to play to standing up for someone being bullied, this moving story explores what kindness is, and how any act, big or small, can make a difference — or at least help a friend.

## AGES 5-8

### ***She Persisted: Around the World* by Chelsea Clinton (non-fiction)**

Chelsea Clinton introduces tiny feminists to thirteen inspirational women who never took no for an answer, and who always, without fail, persisted.

### ***Drum Dream Girl* by Margarita Engle**

Inspired by the childhood of Millo Castro Zaldarriaga, a Chinese-African-Cuban girl who broke Cuba's traditional taboo against female drummers, *Drum Dream Girl* tells an inspiring true story for dreamers everywhere.

## AGES 8-12

### ***Women in Science: 50 Fearless Pioneers Who Changed the World* by Rachel Igonotfsky (non-fiction)**

*Women in Science* highlights the contributions fifty noteworthy women made to the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), inspiring us all to be trailblazers in our own lives.

### ***Brown Girl Dreaming* by Jacqueline Woodson**

In vivid poems, author Jacqueline Woodson shares what it was like to grow up as an African American in the 1960s and 1970s, living with the remnants of Jim Crow and her growing awareness of the civil rights movement.

### ***Inside Out & Back Again* by Thanhha Lai**

This is the moving story of one girl's year of change, dreams, grief and healing as she journeys from Vietnam to America.

### ***George* by Alex Gino**

When people look at George, they think they see a boy. But she knows she's not a boy. She knows she's a girl. When George's teacher announces that their class play is going to be *Charlotte's Web*, George and her best friend hatch a plan to not only allow George to be Charlotte in the play, but for George to be herself 24/7.

## AGES 12 AND UP

### ***Akata Witch* by Nnedi Okorafor**

Affectionately dubbed "the Nigerian Harry Potter," Akata Witch weaves together a heart-pounding tale of magic, mystery, and finding one's place in the world.

### ***Flying Lessons & Other Stories***

#### **Edited by Ellen Oh**

This anthology, published in partnership with We Need Diverse Books, presents 10 short stories from a stellar list of authors: Kwame Alexander, Matt de la Peña, Jacqueline

Woodson, Soman Chainani, Grace Lin, Walter Dean Myers, Tim Federle, Meg Medina, Tim Tingle and Kelly Baptist. Each tale offers realistic and fully developed characters with whom a wide range of readers can identify with long after the last page is turned.

### ***Revolution is Not a Dinner Party* by Ying Chang Compestine**

Told from the view point of nine-year-old Ling, *Revolution is Not a Dinner Party*, traces Ling's life from the start of 1972, through the oppressive rule of Chairman Mao and China's cultural revolution. The book is ultimately a tale of survival, based on the author's experiences and fight for freedom and justice.

### ***The Surrender Tree* by Margarita Engle**

In *The Surrender Tree: Poems of Cuba's Struggle for Freedom*, Engle portrays the life of Rosario Castellanos, known as Rosa la Bayamesa, who grows from a slave and "witch-child" to an iconic herbalist war nurse who treated anyone — friend or enemy — and never asked for money.

### ***The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind: Creating Currents of Electricity and Hope* by William Kamkwamba and Bryan Mealer (non-fiction)**

This is a remarkable true story about human inventiveness and the power to overcome crippling adversity. With a small pile of once-forgotten science textbooks, some scrap metal and an armory of determination, William Kamkwamba embarked on a daring plan to forge an unlikely contraption and small miracle that would change the lives around him and inspire us all.

## Like these picks?

Check out our list for grown-ups at: [www.roomtoread.org/literacy](http://www.roomtoread.org/literacy)