



March 2009

Update to the March 2006 Booklist

Picture books for young children
featuring Francophone cultures.

Ah! belle cité! = A Beautiful City: ABC by Stéphane Poulin (1985) Ages 2-10
A bilingual alphabet book set in Montréal, with a detailed bilingual index of each picture.

Chloë's Birthday...and Me by Giselle Potter (2004) Ages 5-9
In this autobiographical story, Giselle tells us what it's like to envy—and very nearly spoil—her 5-year-old sister's special day. Set in France with cultural details and French words throughout.

Circles of Hope by Karen Lynn Williams (2005) Ages 4-8
After many futile attempts to plant a tree in honor of his new baby sister, a Haitian* boy discovers that the perfect solution involves a bit of ingenuity and a lot of hope. Includes a glossary of Creole words and an author's note.

Feliciana Meets d'Loup Garou by Tynia Thomassie, illus. Cat Bowman Smith (1998) Ages 4-8
Cranky Feliciana confronts the werewolf in the swamp and they commiserate about how they just can't help being bad—then they howl their feelings out together. Written in dialect.

Josias, Hold the Book by Jennifer Riesmeyer Elvgren, illus. by Nicole Tadjell (2006) Ages 5-9
Josias is too busy with his family's garden to join his friend Chrislove at school, but when Teacher sends a book to help him save the crop, it's time for him to "hold the book."

Painted Dreams by Karen Lynn Williams (1998) Ages 5-9
Ti Marie uses the remnants of discarded paint tubes to create a beautiful scene that draws customers to her family's market stall. Includes a glossary of Creole words and an author's note.

Petite Rouge: A Cajun Red Riding Hood by Mike Artell, illus. by Jim Harris (2001) Ages 4-8
In this version of the tale, the villain is a gator. TeJean the cat saves the day with a secret weapon: hot sauce! Written in rhyming dialect; includes a glossary and note on the Cajun people.

Please, Malese! by Amy McDonald, illus. by Emily Lisker (2002) Ages 4-8
In this trickster tale, Malese cheats all his neighbors as he tries to get a new pair of shoes. Listen to a group of actors performing this story at <http://mainehumanities.org/podcast/archives/274>

Sélavi, That is Life : A Haitian Story of Hope by Youmé (2004) Ages 4-8
A Haitian child loses his family and then his orphanage, but his community gives him hope.

* Haiti is not a "Francophone culture" because Haitians speak Creole, but there are so many good Haitian stories that we've snuck them onto this list.