



Monthly Booklist

August 2006

Picture books featuring migrant labor
and the people who do it.

Amelia's Road by Linda Jacobs Altman. Pictures by Enrique O. Sanchez. (1993) Ages 4-8
Tired of moving around so much, Amelia dreams of a stable home. During one apple harvest, a kindly teacher helps her find a special spot to store some of her prized possessions. Includes an author's note about migrant farm work.

Calling the Doves by Juan Felipe Herrera. Pictures by Elly Simmons. (1995) Ages 4-10
Herrera, a Mexican-American poet, tells his story in both Spanish and English. His metaphorical language evokes the shifting landscapes of his childhood; paintings bring the words to life.

A Day's Work by Eve Bunting. Pictures by Ronald Himler. (1994) Ages 4-10
When Francisco, a Mexican-American boy, tries to help his grandfather find work, he discovers that while the old man cannot speak English, he has something even more valuable to offer.

First Day in Grapes by L. King Perez. Pictures by Robert Casilla. (2002) Ages 6-10
On his first day of third grade in a new town, where his family is picking grapes, Chico uses his quick wit to outsmart bullies. This book's realistic illustrations won a Pura Belpré honor.

The Hard-Times Jar by Ethel Footman Smothers. Pictures by John Holyfield. (2003) Ages 5-9
Emma is eight and passionate about reading. Her family moves around a lot, and she dreams of having her own books. In spite of breaking the library rules, she finally gets a book of her own.

Harvest by George Ancona. (2001) Ages 8-14
An honest book about migrant farm workers and labor conditions. This book is not appropriate for young children, but the photographs of actual workers and crops can be used in conversations about where food comes from and who grows it. Includes a glossary of Spanish words.

Harvesting Hope by Kathleen Krull. Pictures by Yuyi Morales. (2003) Ages 6-12
A picture book biography of the labor rights leader Cesar Chavez, covering his childhood as a migrant worker and the nonviolent protest that led to the first farm workers' contract.

Tomás and the Library Lady by Pat Mora. Pictures by Raul Colon. (2000) Ages 4-8
The true story of Tomás Rivera, who grew up in a migrant family, blossomed as a reader under the tutelage of a librarian in Iowa, and eventually became a university chancellor.