
Type of Literature: Realistic Fiction

K-2

Bunting, Eve. ONE GREEN APPLE. Clarion, 2006. On her second day in American school, a Muslim immigrant girl goes on a class field trip to an apple orchard. Her narration describes her discomfort and her desire to do the right thing. The addition of her green apple to the cider press symbolizes the mixing of the many diverse children and cultures.

Cruise, Robin. LITTLE MAMÁ FORGETS. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2006. Exuberant Lucy describes the many things her grandmother forgets, each one paired with something remembered. Every page bubbles over with family love and Mexican-American tradition.

3-4

Mills, Claudia. TRADING PLACES. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2006. Amy and Todd are twins, but opposites, nicknamed “the poet” and “the engineer.” An unemployed father, harried mother, and empty cupboards bring family stress. At school, Todd uncharacteristically falls short, and Amy gets dumped by her friends. The family’s roles evolve and change.

Grimes, Nikki. THE ROAD TO PARIS. G.P. Putnam’s Sons, 2006. A biracial child, Paris is distrustful and reticent, having suffered hurt at the hands of her alcoholic mother and a previous abusive foster home. Now she’s with a new foster family, and their straightforward love slowly wins Paris over, helping her open her heart and mind to new possibilities.

5-6

Hobbs, Will. CROSSING THE WIRE. HarperCollins, 2006. 15-year-old Victor learns that no matter how hard he works, the price of the corn crop in Mexico cannot pay enough to support his family. He decides to make the dangerous journey to America without benefit of money or a coyote. Several failed attempts, three different traveling companions, and the harsh and deadly terrain create suspense. Issues of illegal immigration are described with compassion.

Lord, Cynthia. RULES. Scholastic, 2006. With her days filled with too much responsibility for her autistic younger brother, Catherine longs for a normal life. She writes rules for her brother, David, to teach social skills and avoid hurt. Her growing friendship with another disabled boy, Jason, leads to some surprising self-discovery. Jason shows her that her own rules can be excuses.