
Point of View

K-2

Reiser, Lynn. *My Way = A Mi Manera*. Greenwillow, 2007. This is the story of Margaret and Margarita, two friends from two cultures. Parallel text in Spanish and English tells of the girl's activities as they mirror one another, demonstrating both their individuality and friendship.

Perkins, Lynne Rae. *Pictures from Our Vacation*. Greenwillow, 2007. This story gives an honest look at the way family trips make memories. Given a camera that takes and prints small pictures, a young girl records her vacation, yet she and her brother quickly discover that what is recorded on film has little in common with what they actually experienced. Expectations and perspectives of each family member give the story multiple layers of understanding, with each person coming away with memories that are like "pictures in your mind".

3-4

Davies, Jacqueline. *The Lemonade War*. Houghton Mifflin, 2007. At the end of summer, Evan discovers that his younger sister, Jessie, who has just skipped third grade, will be in his fourth-grade classroom. Normally buddies, they find themselves at odds and become increasingly determined to earn more money at their respective lemonade stands than the other before school starts. Entrepreneurial schemes and dirty tricks find their way into the competition before Evan and Jessie fess up to the concerns that are really worrying them. The author does a good job of showing the siblings' strengths, flaws, and points of view.

Lin, Grace. *The Year of the Rat*. Little, Brown and Co., 2008. Pacy is not the same girl in this book as she was in *The Year of the Dog*. She has had to grow up a little. This book deals with change, both pleasant and unpleasant; her best friend's move, her dreams of becoming a writer and illustrator (semi biographical), and her dealing with a new neighbor boy who doesn't speak English. First person perspective and her parent's insightful stories give a realistic view of being a present-day Taiwanese American.

5-6

Gorman, Carol. *Games*. Harper Collins, 2007. With strong characterization, memorable scenes, and right-on description of middle-school culture, Carol Gorman captures the mind-set of two boys, Mick Sullivan and Boot Quinn, who have a long history of fighting. Instead of giving them suspensions the new middle-school principal wants them to play board games. In alternating chapters, each protagonist tells part of the story. While there are no simple solutions and the story ends with only a glimmer of hope that Mick and Boot can be friends, the boys each mature as they discover that they are both trying to cope with alcoholic and abusive fathers.

Miller, Sarah. *Miss Spitfire*. Atheneum, 2007. This is the story of Helen Keller's teacher, Annie Sullivan, as she struggles to teach a girl who cannot hear, see, nor speak. Almost everyone knows this story, but hearing it from the teacher's point of view is a really unique insight. Fueled by truth, determination, and introspection, this is not only about teaching Helen how to spell "doll" or "water," but about reaching her. Annie wanted Helen to really know what she was spelling - to honestly communicate - to fully understand.