

Picturing Diversity and Community: The Art of American Children's Books

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Today's Content

- Why diversity is important in America
- Support through picture book awards
- Four inspirational American picture books
- Q&A



DIVERSITY IN CHILDREN'S BOOKS 2018

Percentage of books depicting characters from diverse backgrounds based on the 2018 publishing statistics compiled by the Cooperative Children's Book Center, School of Education, University of Wisconsin-Madison:
ccbc.education.wisc.edu/books/pcstats.asp



Illustration by David Huyck, in consultation with Sarah Park Dahlen
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The CCBC inventory includes 3,134 books published in 2018. This graphic would not have been possible without the statistics compiled by the CCBC, and the review and feedback we received from Edith Campbell, Molly Beth Griffin, K. T. Horning, Debbie Reese, Ebony Elizabeth Thomas, and Madeline Tyner. Many thanks.

Windows == see other's stories

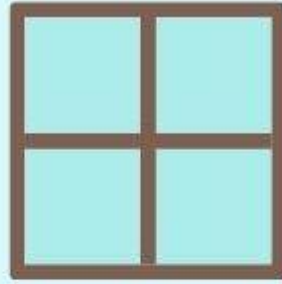
Mirror == reflects their own culture and helps them build identity

Sliding Door == allows the children to enter the story and become a part of the world

(citation: Dr. Rudine Sims Bishop)



Books as
Mirrors



Books as
Windows



Books as
Doors

American Library Association and Affiliates Awards for Children's Books and More!

Support brings readers/sales
Other groups with different
goals/emphases create awards
More diverse books are made

Ezra Jack Keats Award

New York Times Book Review

Society of Illustrators Medals

National Council of Teachers of English awards

Randolph Caldecott Medal

Arab American Book Award

Schneider Family Book Award

Dolly Gray Children's Literature Award

Pura Belpre Award

Junior Library Guild

Consortium of Latin American Studies Programs

(CLASP) Américas Award

California Book Award

John Steptoe New Talent Illustrator Award

National Public Radio

Stonewall Book Awards

Asian/Pacific American Award for Literature

Jane Addams Children's Book Award

Sydney Taylor Book Award

E.B. White Read-Aloud Award

(originally Shirley Kravitz Children's Book Award)

Coretta Scott King Book Awards

South Asia Book Award

School Library Journal Best Book

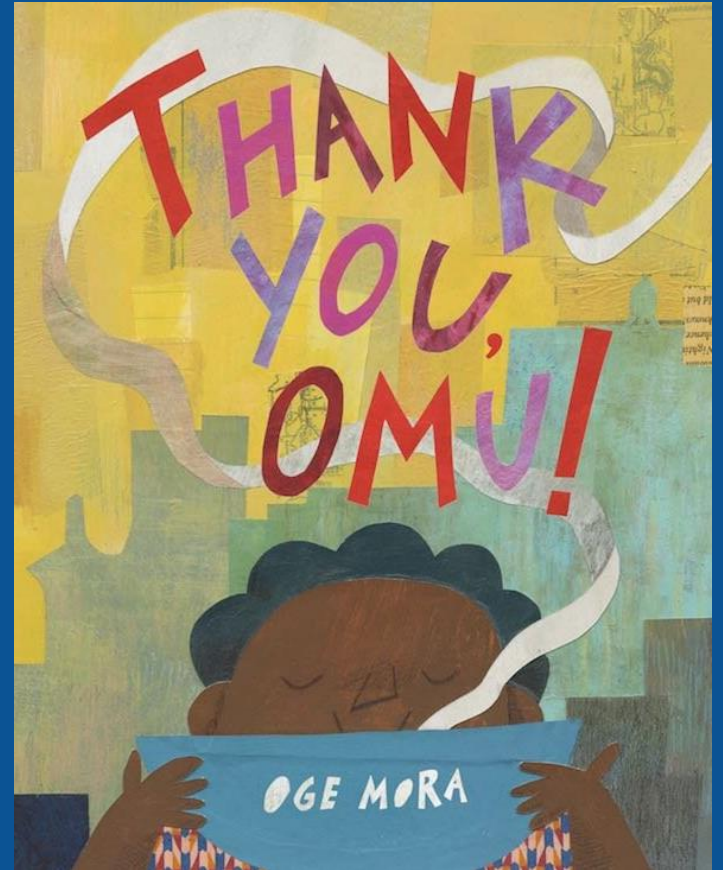
American Indian Youth Literature Award

ALA/ALSC Notable Children's Book



THANK
YOU
OMU

Inspirational picture
books: learn how to be
part of a community



An illustration of a woman with dark skin, wearing a white chef's hat and a yellow apron over a brown top. She is smiling and looking down at a large black pot filled with a red, floral-patterned stew. She is holding a wooden spoon. In the foreground, there is a green and white striped tablecloth with a small metal can, a red tomato, and a red pepper. A small sign on the table reads "a WHOLE n... Count 4". The background is a textured pink wall with a window showing a green landscape. The title "Thank You, Omu!" is written in large white letters across the center.

Thank You, Omu!

Oge Mora 作/繪

ON THE CORNER of First Street and Long Street, on the very top floor, Omu was cooking a thick red stew in a big fat pot for a nice evening meal. She seasoned and stirred it and took a small taste.

“What a delicious stew!” Omu said. “Tonight’s dinner will surely be the best I have ever had.”


Omu thought for a moment. She was saving her stew for dinner, but she *had* made quite a bit. It would not hurt to share. "Would you like some?"

The little boy nodded.

And so Omu spooned out some thick red stew from the big fat pot for her nice evening meal.

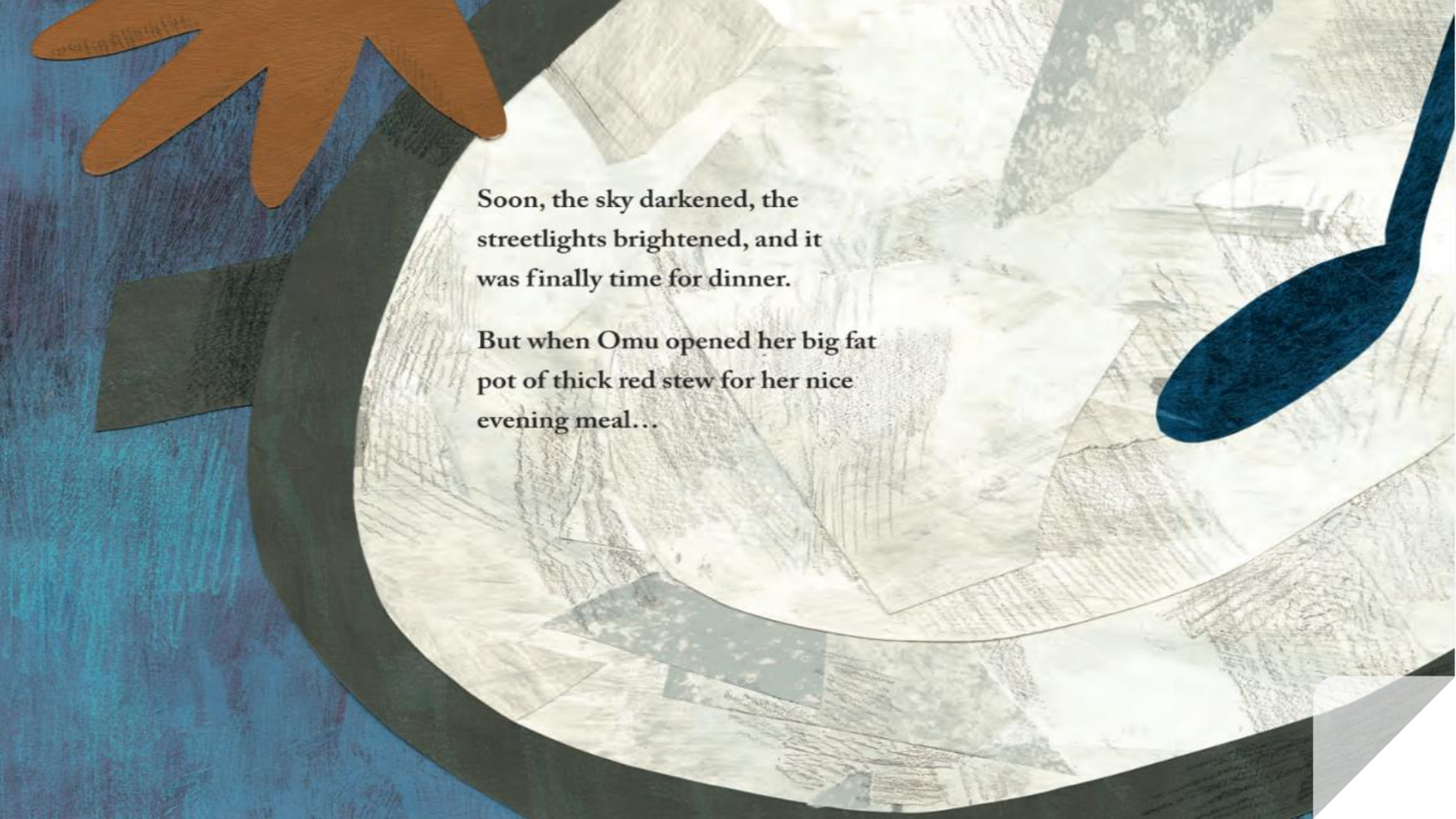
"THANK YOU, OMU!" the little boy said, and went on his way.





Throughout the day, people from all across the neighborhood knocked on Omu's door. She fed a shop owner, a cab driver, a doctor, an actor, a lawyer, a dancer, a baker, an artist, a singer, an athlete, a bus driver, a construction worker... Even the mayor stopped by!

And each time they knocked, Omu shared.



Soon, the sky darkened, the
streetlights brightened, and it
was finally time for dinner.

But when Omu opened her big fat
pot of thick red stew for her nice
evening meal...



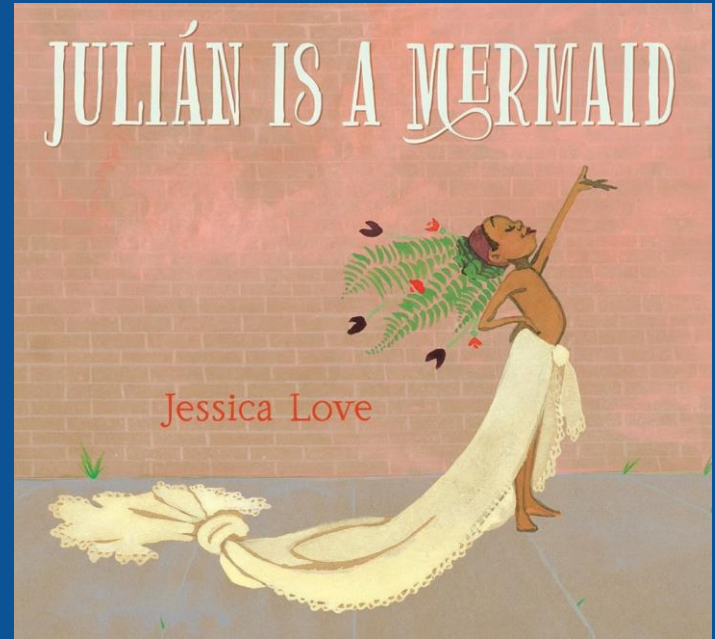
The police officer carried in a fresh salad. The mayor entered with a roast chicken. The baker brought a collection of sweet goodies. Even the little boy presented Omu with something special in a shiny red envelope.

Everyone who had knocked on Omu's door that day squeezed inside her tiny apartment, and together they ate, danced, and celebrated. While Omu's big fat pot of thick red stew was empty, her heart was full of happiness and love.

Julián is a Mermaid

Jessica Love 作/繪

Inspirational picture books: a celebration of the courage to tell the world who you are -- the hope you'll be accepted



A photograph of two women dressed as mermaids on a parade float. They are wearing bright pink wigs, pink halter-neck tops, and green sequined skirts. They are holding small, colorful fish-shaped objects. The float is decorated with large, colorful, bubbly structures. In the background, there is a chain-link fence and a building.

Coney Island Mermaid Parade

© Anthony Catalano, 2011







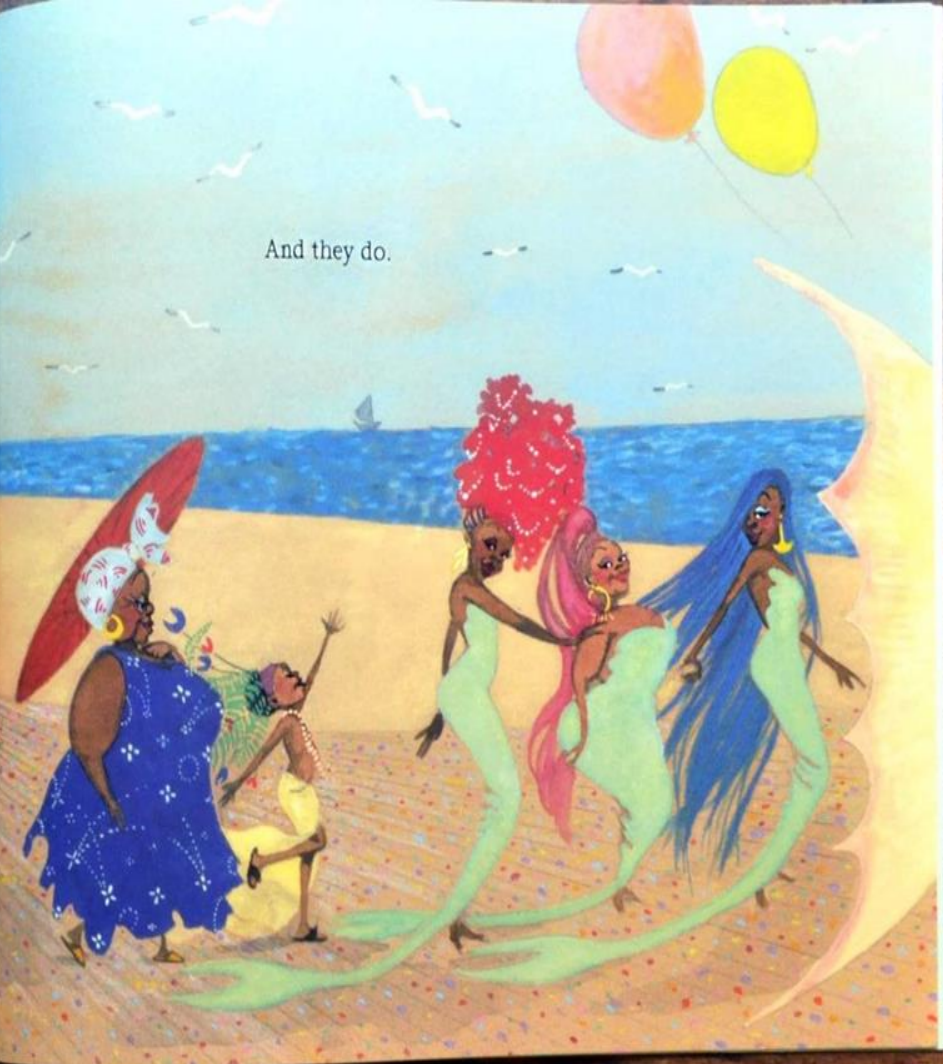


"Mermaids," whispers Jullán.





And they do.

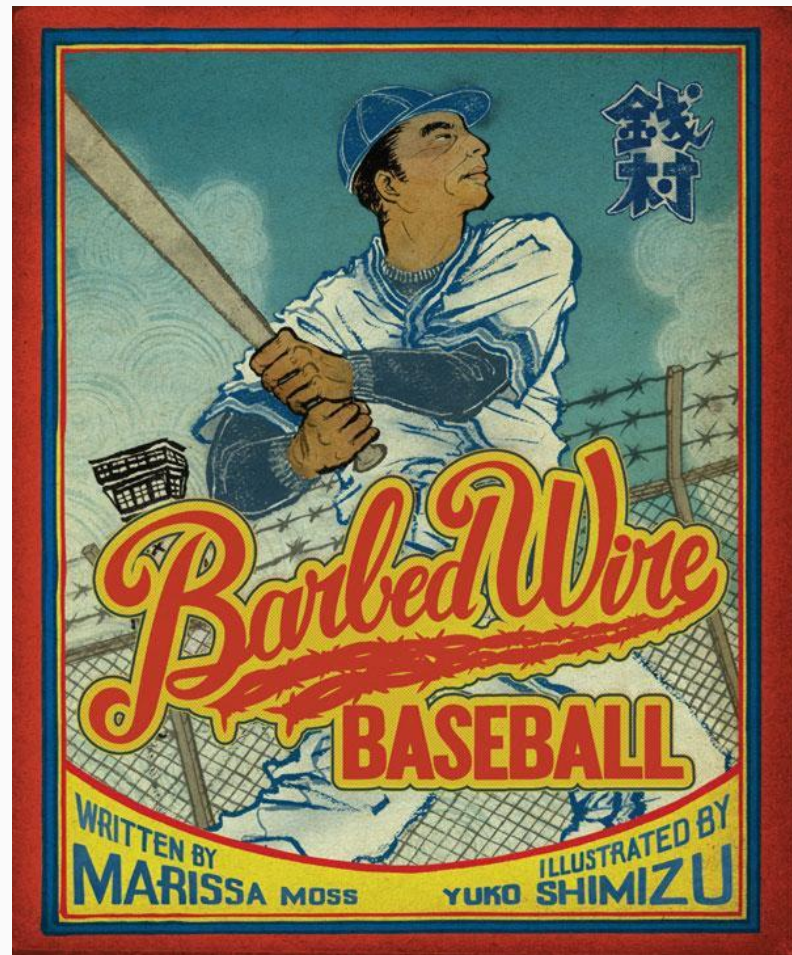
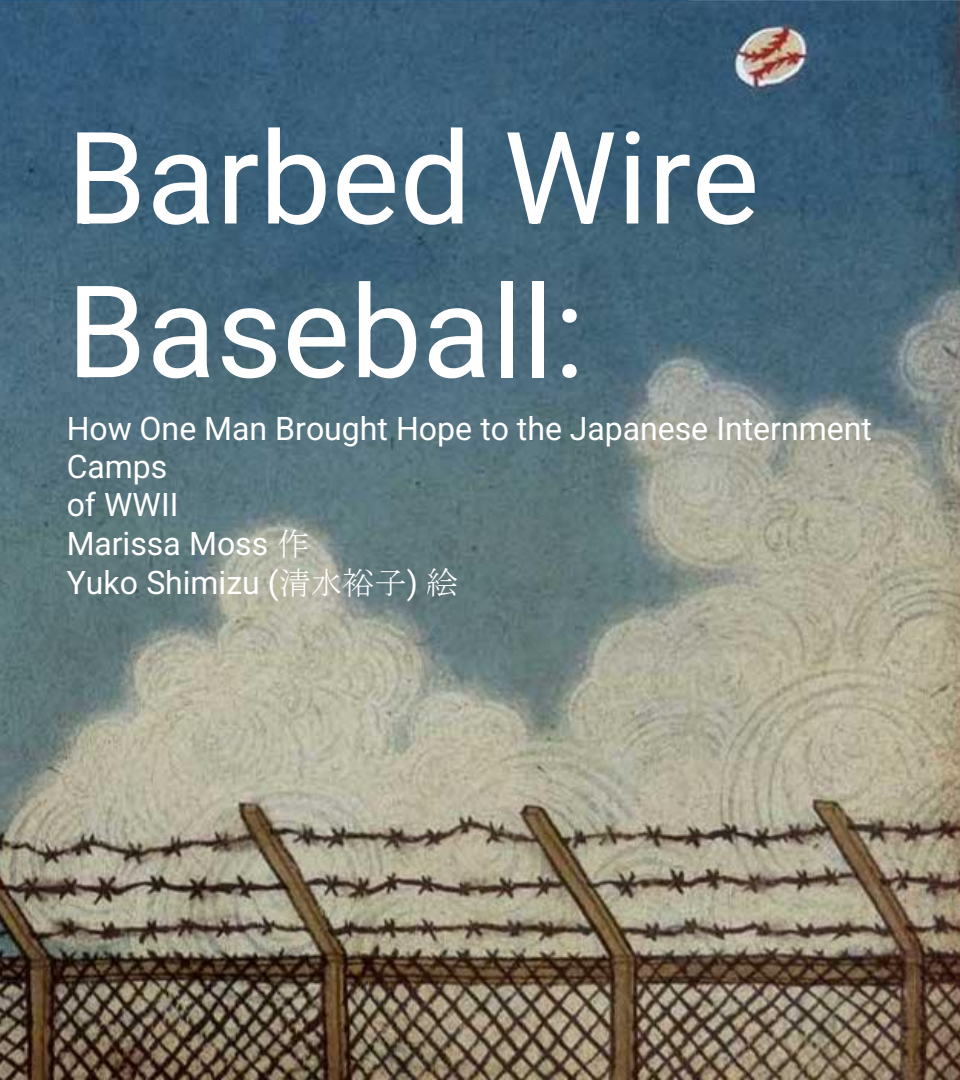


Barbed Wire Baseball:

How One Man Brought Hope to the Japanese Internment
Camps of WWII

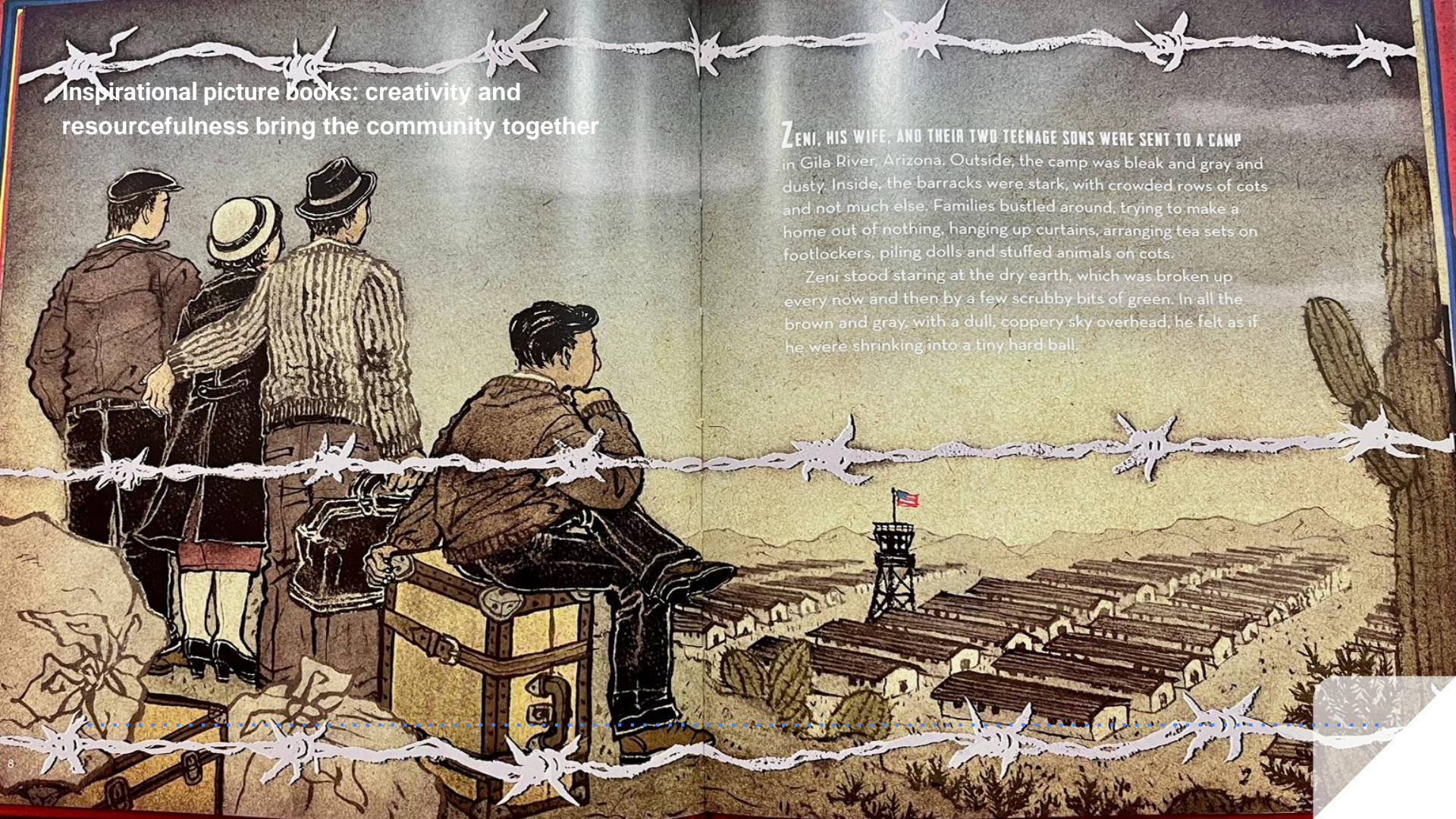
Marissa Moss 作

Yuko Shimizu (清水裕子) 絵





Yuko Shimizu, Drawing for "Barbed Wire Baseball"



Inspirational picture books: creativity and resourcefulness bring the community together

ZENI, HIS WIFE, AND THEIR TWO TEENAGE SONS WERE SENT TO A CAMP in Gila River, Arizona. Outside, the camp was bleak and gray and dusty. Inside, the barracks were stark, with crowded rows of cots and not much else. Families bustled around, trying to make a home out of nothing, hanging up curtains, arranging tea sets on footlockers, piling dolls and stuffed animals on cots.

Zeni stood staring at the dry earth, which was broken up every now and then by a few scrubby bits of green. In all the brown and gray, with a dull, coppery sky overhead, he felt as if he were shrinking into a tiny hard ball.



Gila River War Relocation Center
Site in Arizona, U.S.

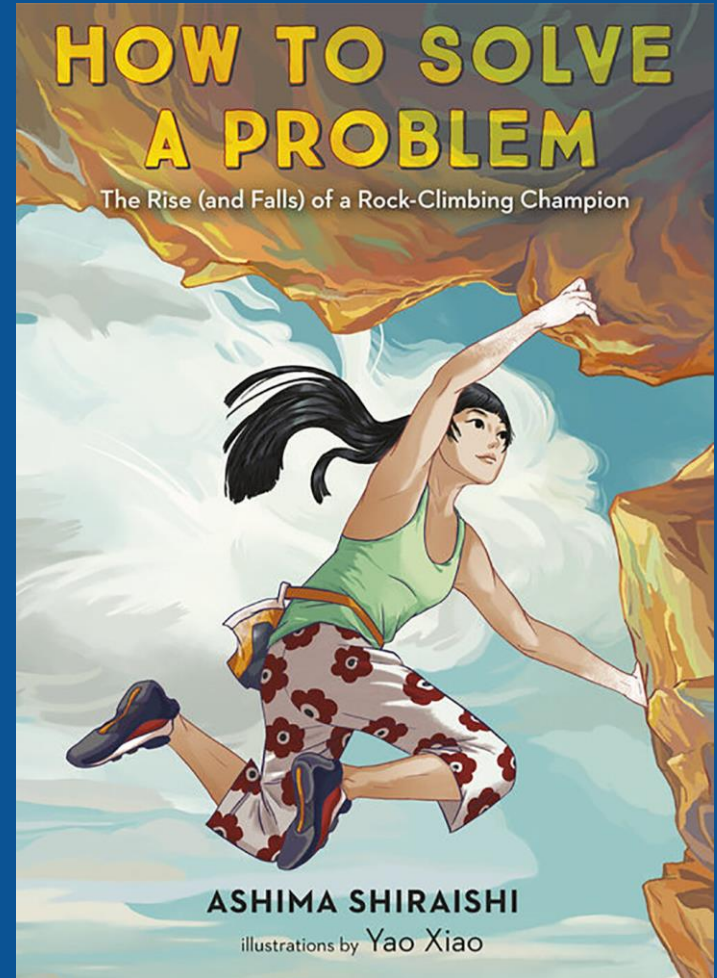








Inspirational picture books: young Ashima Shiraishi shows that learning from failure empowers any person facing a problem



How to Solve a Problem:

A vibrant illustration of a young girl with black hair in a ponytail, wearing a purple t-shirt and colorful polka-dot shorts, climbing a large, dark grey rock. She is reaching up with her right hand. The background features a city skyline with various buildings, green hills, and pink cherry blossoms. A squirrel is perched on a rock to the left, and two small birds are on the ground below. The scene is set in a park-like environment with a blue sky and soft clouds.

The Rise (and Falls) of a Rock-Climbing Champion

Ashima Shiraishi (白石阿島) 作

Yao Xiao 繪

I am Ashima.
What I do is climb.
What I do is solve problems,
which is to say, I make them mine.

Realistic portrayal with comic book style



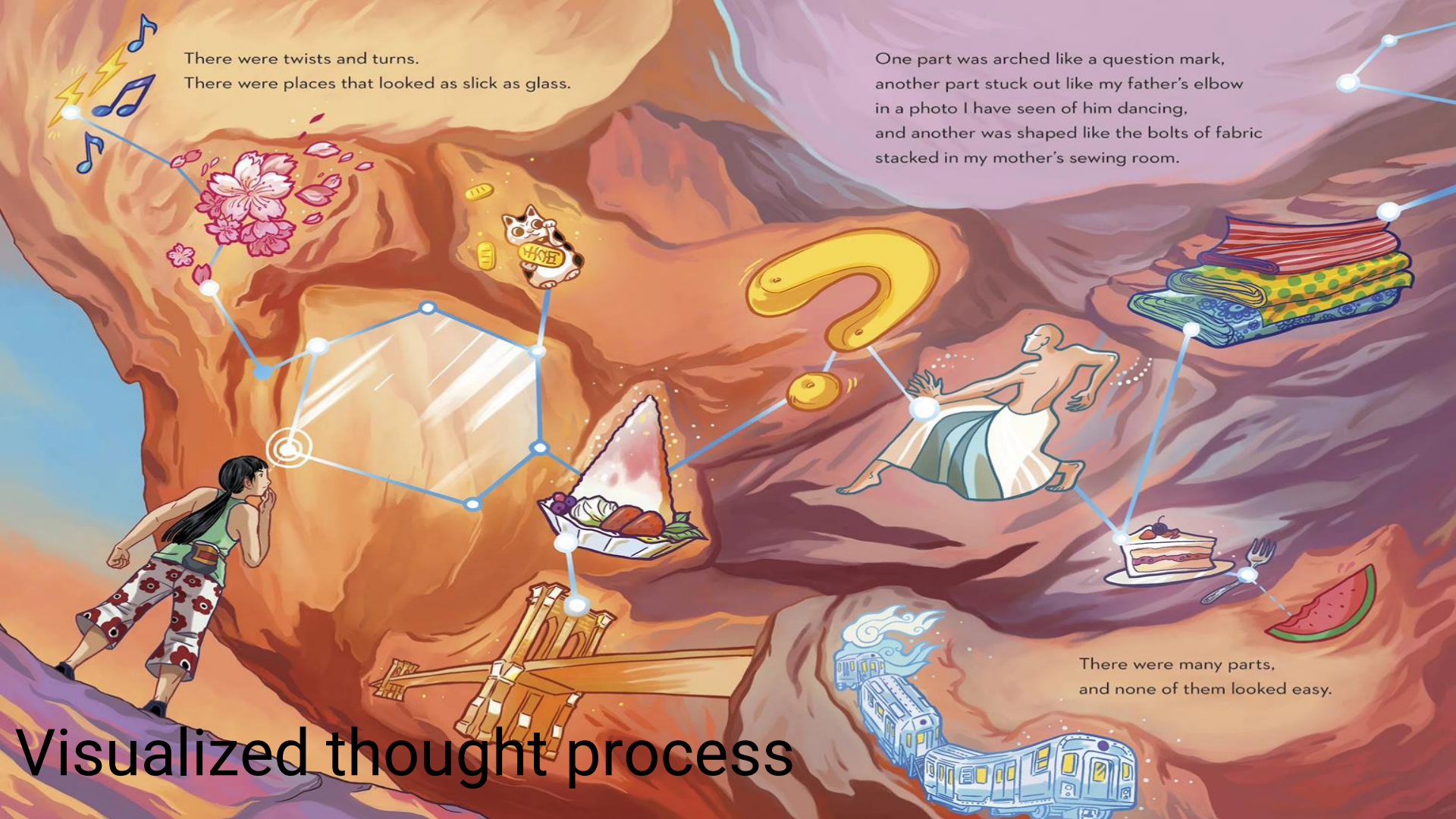
Simon Legner (User:simon04), CC [BY-SA 4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/), via Wikimedia Commons

There were twists and turns.
There were places that looked as slick as glass.

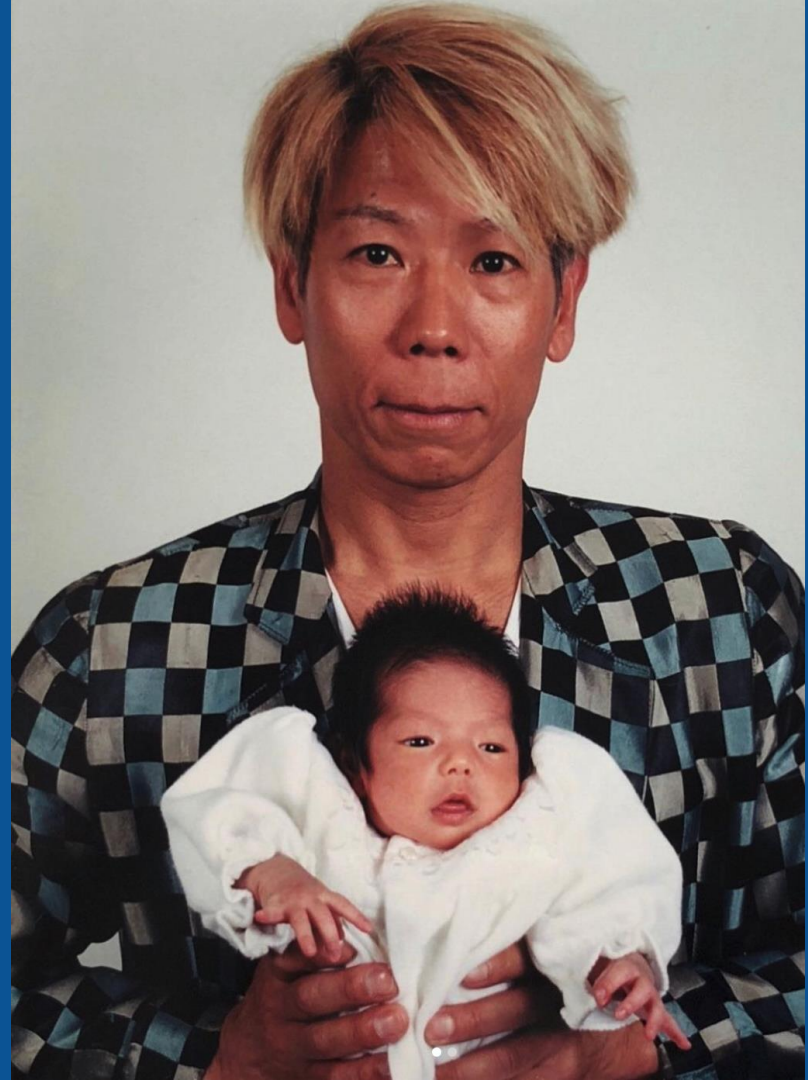
One part was arched like a question mark,
another part stuck out like my father's elbow
in a photo I have seen of him dancing,
and another was shaped like the bolts of fabric
stacked in my mother's sewing room.

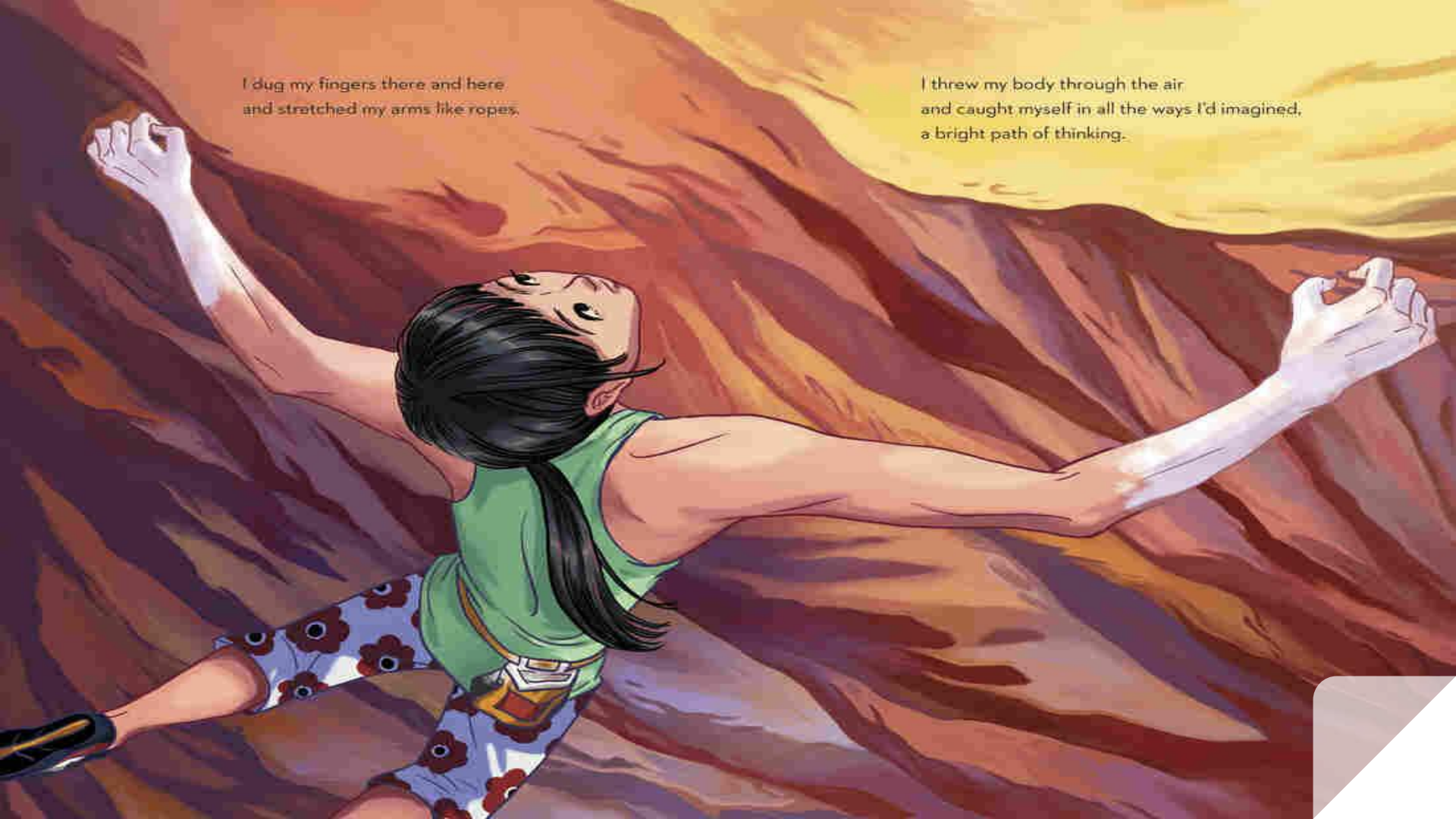
There were many parts,
and none of them looked easy.

Visualized thought process



So I dusted myself off.
Dad asked how I was feeling.
He passed me a peanut butter and jelly sandwich,
and for a while we just sat there.



An illustration of a young girl with long black hair, wearing a green tank top and blue floral shorts, falling through a deep canyon. She is viewed from above, with her arms outstretched and hands clenched into fists. The canyon walls are layered in shades of brown and orange, and the sky above is a bright yellow. The overall style is painterly and expressive.

I dug my fingers there and here
and stretched my arms like ropes.

I threw my body through the air
and caught myself in all the ways I'd imagined,
a bright path of thinking.

紹介した本の情報

題名	作家	出版	ISBN	その他
Thank You, Omu!	Oge Mora	Little, Brown and Company / USA / 2018	9780916431248	http://www.ogemora.com/books
Julián Is A Mermaid	Jessica Love	Candlewick Press / USA / 2018	9780763690458	https://jesslove.format.com/julian-is-a-mermaid
Barbed Wire Baseball	Marissa Moss 作 Yuko Shimizu 絵	Abrams Books for Young Readers / USA / 2013	9781419705212	https://yukoart.com/work/barbed-wire-baseball-book/
How to Solve a Problem: The Rise (and Falls) of a Rock-Climbing Champion	Ashima Shiraishi (白石阿島) 作 Yao Xiao 絵	Make Me a World, an imprint of Random House Children's Books / USA / 2020	9781524773274	http://www.yao.nyc/how-to-solve-a-problem