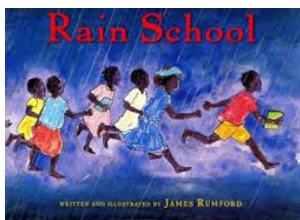


Back to School: Different Perspectives

For students of all ages, “Back to School” is a phrase that evokes a wide range of emotions based on very different experiences. Some students enter school with excitement and hope, others cope with anxiety and dread. Depending on where in the world a child lives, a classroom could be full of chairs, tables, pencils and books, or a classroom could be a tent with a mud floor. The following books provide opportunities for children to talk about similarities and differences connected to their experiences in school.

Books such as *The Kissing Hand*, *Chrysanthemum*, *Will I Have a Friend?*, *I’m Absolutely Too Small for School*, and *First Day Jitters*, address universal worries about separation and making new friends. A book such as *Ready and Waiting for You*, by Judi Moreillon, reassures readers that school is a welcoming place where adults do their parts to create a safe and caring school community.

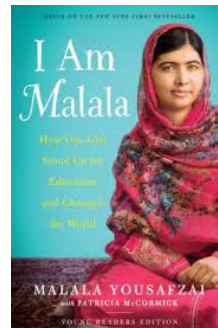
Other books offer a more global view and raise questions such as: “What if I had to build my school on the first day of classes? What if going to school wasn’t allowed in my country?”



Rain School, by James Rumford (grades K-2)

In a village in Chad, children arrive on the first day of school to find a teacher, but no school

building. Everyone works together to repair what’s left of last year’s school structure after it was washed away in the rainy season.

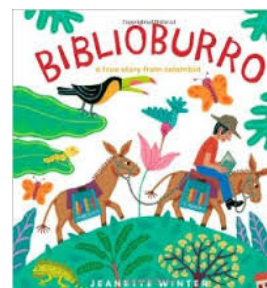
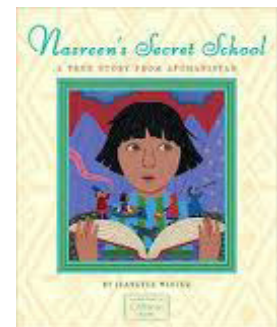


I Am Malala: How One Girl Stood Up for Education and Changed the World (Young Readers Edition), by Malala Yousafzai (grades 5 and up)

The story of a young girl who was willing to risk her life to get an education.

Nasreen’s Secret School: A True Story from Afghanistan, by Jeannette Winter (grades 2–4)

Nasreen begins to recover from personal tragedy when she becomes part of a secret school for girls in Afghanistan.



Biblioburro: A True Story from Columbia, by Jeanette Winter (grades k-2)

A non-fiction selection that describes how a teacher in Columbia used two burros to carry books to children in the mountains. Waiting

for the Biblioburro, by Monica Brown provides a fiction version of this topic.