

CYRM Resource Book
Picture Books for Older Readers
(Grade 4 and up)
Nominees 2011-2012

Goal!

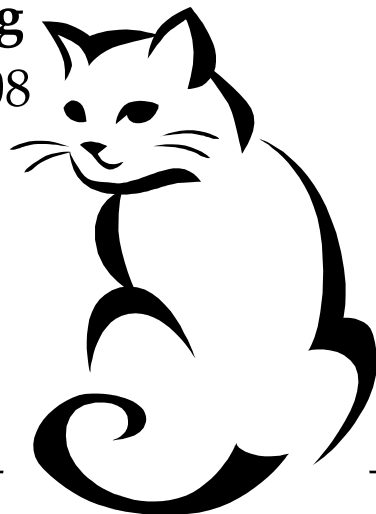
by Mina Javaherbin
illustrated by A.G. Ford
Candlewick Press, 2010

Henry's Freedom Box

by Ellen Levine
illustrated by Kadir Nelson
Scholastic Press, 2007

Wabi Sabi

by Mark Reibstein
illustrated by Ed Young
Little, Brown & Co., 2008



California Young Reader Medal
**Picture Books for Older
Readers Ballot**
2011-2012

_____ *Goal!*

_____ *Henry's Freedom Box*

_____ *Wabi Sabi*

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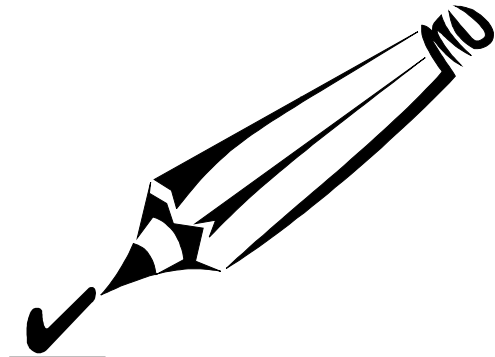
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Goal!

by Mina Javaherbin
illustrated by A.G. Ford



Synopsis

Ajani just won a federation-size soccer ball and he is excited to play a game with his friends. He knows that the streets of their South African town are dangerous, but the boys draw sticks and the loser takes the first guard duty on the roof. They are so involved with their game that it is almost too late to save the new ball from the bullies that arrive and surround them. Through some quick thinking and over a few stressful minutes the boys are able to save the new ball and continue their soccer game.

Hooks

- What is your favorite sport?
- Is it safe to be outside in your neighborhood?
- Do you know anyone who is a bully?
- Have you every been the victim of a bully?
- What would you do if a group of bullies tried to take something from you?

Meet the Author – Mina Javaherbin

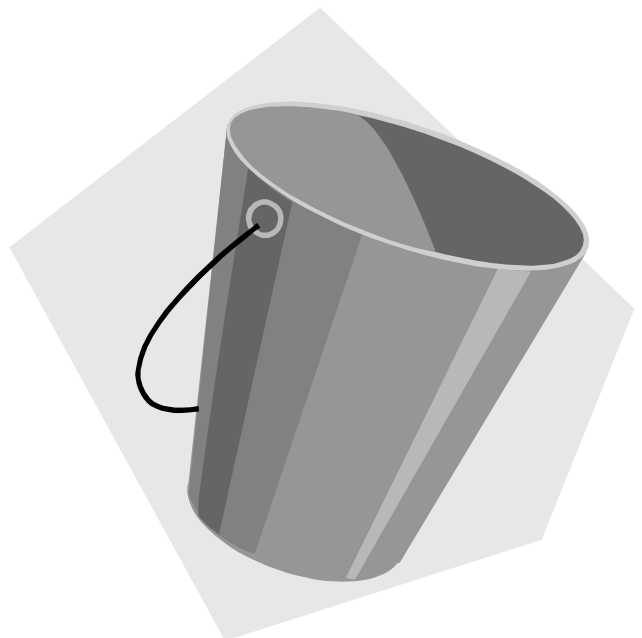


Mina Javaherbin was born in Iran and immigrated to the United States. She has always enjoyed telling stories. In addition to authoring books, Mina is also a practicing architect. *Goal!* is her debut picture book. About *Goal!*, she says, “Football is magic to me. Where there is a ball, there’s hope, laughter, and strength.” Mina lives in Southern California with her husband and two children.

Meet the Illustrator – A.G. Ford



A.G. Ford is the illustrator of *Barack* by Jonah Winter and *Michelle* by Deborah Hopkinson. He attended the Columbus College of Art and Design where he majored in illustration. A.G. Ford makes his home in Dallas, Texas.





Aardama, Verna. *The Vingananee and the Tree Toad*. Viking Juvenile, 1989.

Anderson, Hans Christian, retold by Stephen Mitchell. *The Ugly Duckling*.
Illustrated by Steve Johnson and Lou Fancher. Candlewick Press, 2008.

Clements, Andrew. *Jake Drake, Bully Buster*. Illustrated by Janet Pedersen.
Atheneum, 2008.

Gutman, Dan. *The Million Dollar Kick*. Hyperion Books For Children, 2001.

Herrera, Juan Felipe. *Featherless/Desplumado*. Illustrated by Ernesto Cuevas Jr.
Children's Book Press; Bilingual edition, 2004.

McNaughton, Colin. *Preston's Goal*. Harcourt, 2001.

Morrison, Toni and Slade Morrison. *The Lion or the Mouse*. Illustrated by Pascal
Lemaitre. Scribner, 2003.

Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds. *The Boy with the Helium Head*. Yearling, 1998.

Polacco, Patricia. *Mr. Lincoln's Way*. Philomel, 2001.

Thayer, Mike. *The Bully from the Black Lagoon*. Illustrated by Jared Lee.
Scholastic, 2008.

Center Activities for *Goal!*



Art Activities

- Mina Javaherbin is an architect. Look at the houses in *Goal!* Imagine you are an architect and design new homes for the boys in the story. Make them houses that would fit into the neighborhood.
- Make a poster that describes “the spirit of soccer” that Mina Javaherbin writes about in the Author’s Note at the end of the book.

Literature Activity

- Write the story from the point of view of the bullies.

Social Studies Activities

- This story takes place in South Africa. Find it on a map.
- Do some research to find out about the culture, history, climate, animals, products, etc. of South Africa. Choose one of your topics and write a report.
- Share your report with the class. Put everyone’s report into a book about South Africa and put it in the class library.
- South Africa has eleven official languages, including English. Research them and try to learn some words.
- Draw a picture of the flag of South Africa. Research it to find out the significance of its many colors.
- Have a class discussion about bullying and what can be done about it.

Math Activity

- Make a graph of activities the class likes to do with their friends.

Physical Education Activity

- Play soccer.



Writing Prompts/Discussion Questions for *Goal!*



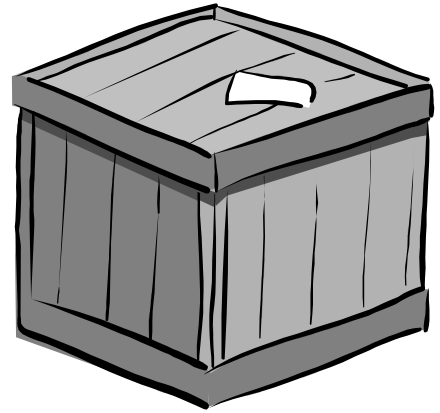
- It is not safe to play soccer on the streets of this South African town. Why?
- Entitled *Goal!*, you can guess that the book has to do with Soccer. Are there other goals in the story that the boys try to accomplish?
- Do the illustrations in this book make you feel like you were part of the game? What kinds of motions are drawn to make you think that characters are moving?
- Everyday items can be important and meaningful to people. Like Ajani and his federation-size soccer ball, is there something you would not want to be without?



Henry's Freedom Box

by Ellen Levine

illustrated by Kadir Nelson



Synopsis

This book is based upon the true story of Henry Brown, a slave, who eventually found freedom. Henry had always dreamed of being free, but only pursued that dream when his wife and children were sold and left the area. It was then that Henry planned his escape, in a box mailed to abolitionists in Pennsylvania, a free state.

Hooks

- What do you know about slavery in the United States before the Civil War?
- What would you do if your family were suddenly taken away?
- Could you be boarded up in a box for 27 hours without moving or making any noise?
- How much would you risk to follow your dreams?

Meet the Author – Ellen Levine



Ellen Levine was born in New York City and has worked in film and television, in addition to authoring books. She has written more than twenty books for young people. She has earned the Jane Addams Peace Award and the ALA Best Book for Young Adults for *Freedom's Children* and the ALA Best Book for Young Adults for *Darkness Over Denmark*. *Henry's Freedom Box* is also a Caldecott Honor Book. Ms. Levine lives in New York City and Salem, New York.



Meet the Illustrator – Kadir Nelson

Kadir Nelson is an award-winning artist and illustrator. Some of the books he has illustrated are *Ellington Was Not a Street*, *Dancing in the Wings*, *Salt in His Shoes*, and *Moses: When Harriet Tubman Led Her People to Freedom*, for which he won a Coretta Scott King Illustrator Award, a Caldecott Honor Award and an NAACP Image Award. Nelson's artwork can be found in galleries and museums throughout the country as well as overseas. He states, "My focus is to create images of people who demonstrate a sense of hope and nobility. I want to show the strength and integrity of the human being and the human spirit." Mr. Nelson lives in San Diego, California with his wife and two daughters.



Curtis, Christopher Paul. *Elijah of Buxton*. Scholastic, 2007.

Fradin, Dennis B. *Bound for the North Star: True stories of Fugitive Slaves*. Clarion, 2000.

Hamilton, Virginia. *The People Could Fly: The Picture Book*. Illustrated by Leo Dillon and Diane Dillon. Knopf, 2004.

Hopkinson, Deborah. *Sweet Clara and the Freedom Quilt*. Illustrated by James Ransome. Knopf, 1993.

McCully, Emily Arnold. *The Escape of Oney Judge: Martha Washington's Slave Finds Freedom*. Farrar Straus Giroux, 2007.

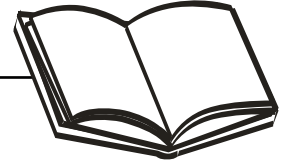
Nelson, Vaunda Micheaux and Colin Bootman. *Almost to Freedom*. Carolrhoda, 2003.

Ringgold, Faith. *Aunt Harriet's Underground Railroad in the Sky*. Dragonfly Books, 1995.

Tingle, Tim. *Crossing Bok Chitto: A Choctaw Tale of Friendship & Freedom*. Illustrated by Jeanne Rorex Bridges. Cinco Puntos Press, 2006.

Weatherford, Carole Boston. *Moses: When Harriet Tubman Led Her People to Freedom*. Illustrated by Kadir Nelson. Hyperion/Jump at the Sun, 2006.

Winter, Jeanette. *Follow the Drinking Gourd*. Knopf, 1989.



Art Activities

- Kadir Nelson says that his paintings for this story were “inspired by an antique lithograph of Henry “Box” Brown.” Research the term ‘lithograph’ to find out how pictures were made in the 1800’s.
- Find examples of crosshatching in the illustrations. Make a picture using cross-hatching and water colors in the style of Mr. Nelson.
- This book is a Caldecott Honor Book. Research this award.

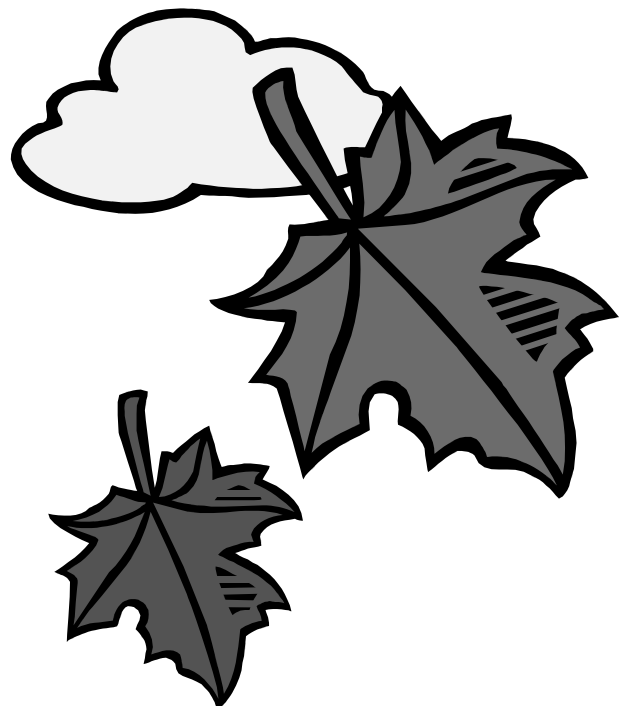
Social Studies Activities

- Research the history of slavery in the early United States. Choose a topic from what you have learned and write about it. Share your report with the class. Make a class book of everyone’s reports for your classroom library.
- Research the Underground Railroad. Choose a topic from what you have learned and write about it. Share your report with the class. Make a class book of everyone’s reports for your classroom library.
- Research the Civil War. Choose a topic from what you have learned and write about it. Share your report with the class. Make a class book of everyone’s reports for your classroom library.
- Track Henry’s trip from Richmond, Virginia to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on a map.
- Discuss how it would feel to be a slave, to belong to someone, and to have no rights.
- Discuss how it would be to have your whole family taken away from you.
- Discuss how it would feel to be enclosed in a box, unable to move, for 27 hours. See how long you can stay in a position like Henry’s.

Writing Prompts/Discussion Questions for *Henry's Freedom Box*



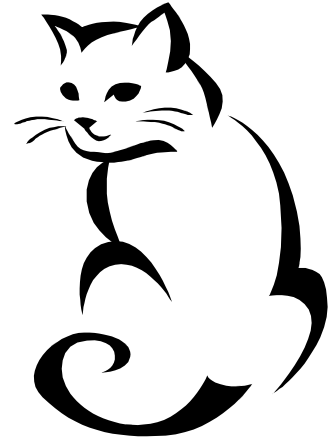
- There are many sad moments in Henry's life. What are some of the happy ones?
- If you had to travel inside a box for 27 hours, what items do you think you'd need and why? How would that be different if you were traveling in a car, a train, a plane or on foot?
- Early on in the story, Henry's mother says that leaves blowing in the wind are like slave children torn from their families. Why do you think she uses leaves in her example?
- Henry's birthday was picked for his first day of freedom. If you didn't know what your birthday was, what day would you pick? Think of significant days in your life as inspiration.



Wabi Sabi

by Mark Reibstein

illustrated by Ed Young



Synopsis

Wabi Sabi, a cat, wants nothing more than to find out what her name means. As she travels across the county of Japan in search of her name's meaning, the reader is exposed to beautiful pictures made from combinations of collages. Told vertically, the story unfolds in narrative, highlighted by haiku written by Basho and Shiki (both famous Japanese poets).

HOOKS

- Have you ever found out the meaning of your name? Did you agree?
- What do you know of the Tao and Buddhist religions?
- "Simple things are beautiful." What does that mean to you?

Meet the Author – Mark Reibstein



Mark Reibstein is an English teacher and writer. He has lived in New York, Hawaii, Japan and Thailand, and now lives near San Francisco California with his daughter and cat, Arlo.

Meet the Illustrator – Ed Young



Ed Young is an award-winning illustrator. He has been awarded the Caldecott Medal for *Lon Po Po* and Caldecott Honors for *Seven Blind Mice* and *The Emperor and the Kite*. Ed Young has illustrated over 70 books, four of which he has also written. Born in China, he came to the United States as a young man on a student visa. He currently lives in New York.



Demi. *Buddha Stories*. Henry Holt, 1997.

Demi, comp. *In the Eyes of the Cat: Japanese Poetry For All Seasons*. Translated by Tze-si Huang. Henry Holt, 1992.

Haseley, Dennis. *Twenty Heartbeats*. Illustrated by Ed Young. Roaring Brook, 2008.

Hodges, Margaret. *The Boy Who Drew Cats*. Illustrated by Aki Sogabe. Holiday House, 2002.

Muth, Jon J. *Zen Shorts*. Scholastic, 2008.

Myers, Tim. *Basho and the River Stones*. Illustrated by Oki S. Han. Marshall Cavendish, 2004.

Prelutsky, Jack. *If Not For the Cat*. Paintings by Ted Rand. Greenwillow, 2004.

Spivak, Dawnine. *Grass Sandals: The Travels of Basho*. Illustrated by Demi. Atheneum, 1997.

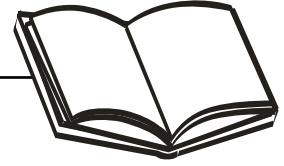
Young, Ed. *Beyond the Great Mountains: A Visual Poem About China*. Chronicle, 2005.

Young, Ed. *Cat and Rat: The Legend of the Chinese Zodiac*. Henry Holt, 1995.

Young, Ed. *Lon Po Po: A Red-Riding Hood Story From China*. Philomel, 1989.

Young, Ed. *Seven Blind Mice*. Philomel Books, 1992.

Center Activities for *Wabi Sabi*



Art Activities

- Study the artwork by Ed Young in this book. This technique is called collage.
- See if you can identify some of the materials he used to make his pictures.
- Collect an assortment of materials and make a collage.

Literature Activities

- Find out the meaning of your name.
- Haiku is an ancient Japanese form of poetry. It consists of three lines. The first line contains five syllables, the second line contains seven syllables, and the third line contains five syllables. Choose a topic and write a haiku.
- Read about the haiku masters at the end of the story.

Social Studies Activities

- Find Japan on the map.
- Learn some Japanese words.
- Learn how to write some words in Japanese.
- Learn about the Japanese Tea Ceremony.
- Learn how to eat with chopsticks.
- Learn about Ginkakuji, the “Silver Temple.”



Writing Prompts/Discussion Questions for *Wabi Sabi*



- Before reading the book, try to guess what Wabi Sabi means. Then after reading it, describe what Wabi Sabi means and whether you were close in your guess.
- Does your name mean something? If so, what does it mean? If it doesn't mean anything, what would you like it to mean?
- Do you know what a haiku is? There are haikus used through this story. Write a haiku that you could add to the story about Wabi Sabi's adventure.
- The images in the book aren't drawings. They are collages made of different materials placed on top of each other. Pick a page and describe what materials make up the collage.

