

## Kira Kira By Cynthia Kadohata Ronindo

CRACKER IS ONE OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY'S MOST VALUABLE WEAPONS: a German shepherd trained to sniff out bombs, traps, and the enemy. The fate of entire platoons rests on her keen sense of smell. She's a Big Deal, and she likes it that way. Sometimes Cracker remembers when she was younger, and her previous owner would feed her hot dogs and let her sleep in his bed. That was

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nice, too. Rick Hanski is headed to Vietnam. There, he's going to whip the world and prove to his family and his sergeant -- and everyone else who didn't think he was cut out for war -- wrong. But sometimes Rick can't help but wonder that maybe everyone else is right. Maybe he should have just stayed at home and worked in his dad's hardware store. When Cracker is paired with Rick, she isn't so sure about this new owner. He's going to have to prove himself to her before she's going to prove herself to him. They need to be friends before they can be a team, and they have to be a team if they

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want to get home alive. Told in part through the uncanny point of view of a German shepherd, Cracker! is an action-packed glimpse into the Vietnam War as seen through the eyes of a dog and her handler. It's an utterly unique powerhouse of a book by the Newbery Medal-winning author of Kira-Kira.

This biography introduces readers to Cynthia Kadohata, the Newbery Medal winning author of Kira-Kira. She is also the author of A Million Shades of Gray, Outside Beauty, Weedflower, Cracker! The Best Dog in Vietnam, and other young adult and

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adult novels. Readers will learn about Kadohata's early life in the South, the influence of her Japanese heritage, her struggle to get short stories published in magazines, her switch to young adult fiction, and the inspiration for her award-winning books. Easy-to-read text and full-color photos highlight Kadohata's childhood, family, education, and life as an author. Checkerboard Library is an imprint of ABDO Publishing Company.

This novel explores human relationships in a Los Angeles of the future, where rich and poor are deeply polarized and where water, food, gas and

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education cannot be taken for granted.

A GREAT GROUP READS Selection of the Women's National Book Association and National Reading Group Month A GOODREADS Best of the Month Selection "A powerful, poignant novel." —In Touch, Grade A From the internationally bestselling author of *The Orphan Collector* comes a beautifully written and moving tale of family secrets and the importance of a mother's love—and how it can shape a life—even in the most shocking ways. A painful saga of strength and reinvention perfect for fans of Jojo Moyes and Lisa Wingate—set in two

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different times, as two young women come of age and uncover the mysteries of their families, and find their own ways in the world... On a summer evening in 1931, Lilly Blackwood glimpses circus lights from the grimy window of her attic bedroom. Lilly isn't allowed to explore the meadows around Blackwood Manor. She's never even ventured beyond her narrow room. Momma insists it's for Lilly's own protection, that people would be afraid if they saw her. But on this unforgettable night, Lilly is taken outside for the first time—and sold to the circus sideshow. More than two decades later,

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nineteen-year-old Julia Blackwood has inherited her parents' estate and horse farm. For Julia, home was an unhappy place full of strict rules and forbidden rooms, and she hopes that returning might erase those painful memories. Instead, she becomes immersed in a mystery involving a hidden attic room and photos of circus scenes featuring a striking young girl. At first, The Barlow Brothers' Circus is just another prison for Lilly. But in this rag-tag, sometimes brutal world, Lilly discovers strength, friendship, and a rare affinity for animals. Soon, thanks to elephants Pepper and Jojo and their

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handler, Cole, Lilly is no longer a sideshow spectacle but the circus's biggest attraction...until tragedy and cruelty collide. It will fall to Julia to learn the truth about Lilly's fate and her family's shocking betrayal, and find a way to make Blackwood Manor into a place of healing at last. Moving between Julia and Lilly's stories, Ellen Marie Wiseman portrays two extraordinary, very different women in a novel that, while tender and heartbreaking, offers moments of joy and indomitable hope. "Perfect for book clubs and readers who admired Sara Gruen's *Like Water for*



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Elephants.” —Library Journal, STARRED REVIEW “A vibrant maze of desires.” —ForeWord Reviews  
“Seamlessly blends mystery and history with compelling and well-researched details.” —The Historical Novels Review “Vividly drawn and complex...Fans of Karen White and Sara Gruen will be drawn in by the drama and mystery of Wiseman’s novel.” —BookPage

A Study Guide

Cracker!

Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy

Rediscovering Children’s Literature at the Newbery

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Centennial

Kira-Kira

A Prince and a Pauper Jemmy, once a poor boy living on the streets, now lives in a castle. As the whipping boy, he bears the punishment when Prince Brat misbehaves, for it is forbidden to spank, thrash, or whack the heir to the throne. The two boys have nothing in common and even less reason to like one another. But when they find themselves taken hostage after running away, they are left with no choice but to trust each other.

The Newbery Honor Book and New York Times Bestseller that is historical fiction with a hint of mystery

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about living at Alcatraz not as a prisoner, but as a kid meeting some of the most famous criminals in our history. Al Capone Does My Shirts has become an instant classic for all kids to read! Today I moved to Alcatraz, a twelve-acre rock covered with cement, topped with bird turd and surrounded by water. I'm not the only kid who lives here. There are twenty-three other kids who live on the island because their dads work as guards or cooks or doctors or electricians for the prison, like my dad does. And then there are a ton of murderers, rapists, hit men, con men, stickup men, embezzlers, connivers, burglars, kidnappers and maybe even an innocent man or two, though I doubt it. The convicts we

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have are the kind other prisons don't want. I never knew prisons could be picky, but I guess they can. You get to Alcatraz by being the worst of the worst. Unless you're me. I came here because my mother said I had to. A Newbery Honor Book A New York Times Bestseller A People magazine "Best kid's Book" An ALA Book for Young Adults An ALA Notable Book A School Library Journal Best Book of the Year A Krikus Reviews Editor's Choice A San Francisco Chronicle Best Book of the Year A Publishers Weekly Best Book of the Year A Parents' Choice Silver Honor Book A New York Public Library "100 Titles for Reading and Sharing" Selection A New York Public Library Best Book for the Teen Age

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\*"Choldenko's pacing is exquisite. . . . [A] great read."—Kirkus Reviews, starred review \*"Exceptionally atmospheric, fast-paced and memorable!"—Publishers Weekly, starred review \*"The story, told with humor and skill, will fascinate readers."—School Library Journal, starred review "AI is the perfect novel for a young guy or moll who digs books by Gordon Korman, or Louis Sachar."—Time Out New York for Kids "Funny situations and plot twists abound!"—People magazine "Heartstopping in some places, heartrending in others, and most of all, it is heartwarming."—San Francisco Chronicle

Starting high school is never easy. Seniors take your

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lunch money. Girls you've known forever are suddenly beautiful and unattainable. The guys you grew up with are drifting away. And you can never get enough sleep. Could there be a worse time for Scott's mother to announce she's pregnant? Scott decides high school would be a lot less overwhelming if it came with a survival manual, so he begins to write down tips for his new sibling. Scott's chronicle of his first year of bullies, romance, honors classes, and brotherhood is both laugh-out-loud funny and touchingly wise.

Dragons. Right. Teenage girls don't believe in fairy tales, and sixteen-year old Elena Watkins was no different.

Until the night a fairy tale killed her father. Now Elena's in

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a new world, and a new school. The cutest guy around may be an evil dragon, a Prince wants Elena's heart, and a long dead sorcerer may be waking up to kill her. Oh. And the only way Elena's going to graduate is on the back of a dragon of her own. Teenage girls don't believe in fairy tales. Now it's time for Elena to believe – in herself.

A Study Guide for Cynthia Kadohata's "Kira-Kira"

A Million Shades of Gray

A Place to Belong

Cynthia Kadohata

A Novel in Dialogue

***Una familia compuesta por un matrimonio de***

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***japoneses y sus tres hijos (dos chicas y un chico norteamericanos que se llevan cuatro años entre sí), vivieron en Iowa del trabajo de él como veterinario inseminador de aves de corral y del de ella como encargada de su propio negocio de ultramarinos. Decidieron aceptar la propuesta del hermano de él para trasladarse a su ciudad de Georgia donde él podía trabajar en el criadero y ella en la planta de tratamiento de los pollos y así estar juntos , aunque a los hijos no les hace mucha gracia, pues tienen su vida hecha allí. De hecho, su vida y condiciones cambiarán considerablemente... Novela costumbrista narrada en tiempo pasado por la***



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***segunda en edad de las dos hermanas. Con un tono medio y una velocidad narrativa lenta, cuenta con las reflexiones de la narradora, apoyadas por unos diálogos, todo ello jalonado por páginas intercaladas del diario de su hermana mayor. En la novela, muy bien escrita, abundan las miradas y escuchas, los gestos y cortesías, siempre entre los japoneses y de ellos hacia los norteamericanos, amabilidad que no suele tener la debida correspondencia.***

***"This reproducible study guide to use in conjunction with the novel Kira-Kira consists of lessons for guided reading. Written in chapter-by-chapter format, the guide contains a synopsis, pre-reading***

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***activities, vocabulary and comprehension exercises, as well as extension activities to be used as follow-up to the novel."--For the Teacher***

***From Newbery Medalist and National Book***

***Award-winning author Cynthia Kadohata comes an irrepressible and heartwarming story about a girl and her ever-growing pig, Saucy—perfect for fans of The One and Only Ivan and Flora & Ulysses! Being a quadruplet can make it hard to stand out from the crowd. Becca's three brothers all have something that makes them...them. Jake has his music and dancing, Jammer plays hockey, and K.C. thinks they're all living in a simulation and doesn't see the***

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***point of doing much of anything. Becca is the only one with nothing to make her special. But when she finds a tiny, sick piglet on the side of the road, Becca knows this is it. This is her thing. She names the piglet Saucy and between her own pleading and Saucy's sweet, pink face, Becca convinces her family to take her in. Soon, Saucy is as big a part of the family as anyone else—and getting bigger. With each pound Saucy gains, the more capable she becomes of destroying the house and landing Becca in trouble. Some tough decisions need to be made about Becca's pet, and her search for solutions brings to light exactly where Saucy came from.***

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***Turns out, there are a lot more scared piglets out there, and saving them may take Becca and her brothers finally doing something together.***

***A boy and his elephant escape into the jungle when the Viet Cong attack his village immediately after the Vietnam war.***

***The Glass Mountains***

***Weedflower***

***A Moving and Emotional Saga of Family and Resilient Women***

***Al Capone Does My Shirts  
Checked***

Kira-Kira Simon and Schuster

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Katie Takeshima's sister, Lynn, makes everything seem glittering and shining. But when Lynn becomes desperately ill, and the whole family begins to fall apart, it is up to Katie to find a way to remind them all that there is always something glittering in the future.

Ever since Tin can remember he's wanted to be an elephant trainer. At twelve years old, he's the youngest - and in his eyes the best - elephant handler in his village. Tin can think of nothing he'd rather do than spend all day with his elephant, Lady, looking after her and playing together. But Tin's peaceful, idyllic life is changed dramatically when the Viet Cong attack his village and he finds himself held hostage by the terrifying soldiers who

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don't care if he lives or dies. Can Tin find the courage to escape from his captors and save not only his own life, but his precious elephants too?

When gambling debts and greed enter into the Butler household, Pierce Butler decides to host a slave auction and breaks his promise by selling Emma, his most-valued slave and caretaker of his children--a decision that brings about unthinkable consequences

Kira-Kira [by] Cynthia Kadohata

The Floating World

Wherever Nina Lies

Bento Box in the Heartland

Tales from Silver Lands

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KIRKUS called this heart-pounding YA mystery "gripping...Sibling loyalty, quirky characters, misplaced trust and the very questionable kindness of a stranger guarantee a riveting read."Nina was beautiful, wild & adored by her younger sister, Ellie. But, one day, Nina disappeared. 2 years later, everyone has given up hope that Nina will return, but Ellie knows her sister is out there. If only Ellie had a clue where to look.Then she gets one, in the

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form of a mysterious drawing. Determined to find Nina, Ellie takes off on a crazy, sexy, cross-country road trip with the only person who believes she's got a chance - her hot, adventurous new crush. Along the way, Ellie finds a few things she wasn't planning on. Like love. Lies. And the most shocking thing of all: the truth. "Maks the debut of a luminious new voice in fiction." THE NEW YORK TIMES  
Olivia, the young narrator of this



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beautiful novel, and her Japanese-American family are constantly on the road, looking for a home in the 1950s. Then traveling becomes a kind of home, a place for her parents to work out their difficulties, in towns that barely linger in memory, hanging in the air among them as the part of a family history that reaches further back than they care to recall, but can't help remembering....

kira-kira (kee' ra kee' ra):

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glittering; shining Glittering. That's how Katie Takeshima's sister, Lynn, makes everything seem. The sky is kira-kira because its color is deep but see-through at the same time. The sea is kira-kira for the same reason. And so are people's eyes. When Katie and her family move from a Japanese community in Iowa to the Deep South of Georgia, it's Lynn who explains to her why people stop them on the street to stare. And it's Lynn who, with her

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special way of viewing the world, teaches Katie to look beyond tomorrow. But when Lynn becomes desperately ill, and the whole family begins to fall apart, it is up to Katie to find a way to remind them all that there is always something glittering -- kira-kira -- in the future. Luminous in its persistence of love and hope, Kira-Kira is Cynthia Kadohata's stunning debut in middle-grade fiction.

Mariska could not be happier. Living an

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almost fairy-tale life, she is popular, adored by her parents, and is engaged to be married to the most attractive man in her village. But her world is torn when war approaches the peaceful village of Bakshami. Mariska risks everything she has in order to search for her parents who left to negotiate and find peace. With a young warrior as her companion, she travels beyond the safety of her village. Together they search for Mariska's parents and peace

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for their village in a time of terrible uncertainty.

The Best Dog in Vietnam

A Story of Angel Island

Crispin: The Cross of Lead - Literature

Kit Gr. 7-8

A Study Guide for Cynthia Kadohata's  
"Kira-Kira"

The Zabime Sisters

"Elizabeth Dulemba seamlessly melds a coming-of-age story to the reality of life in a single-industry town. This is a book that sings." - Betsy Bird, School Library Journal

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blog A Fuse #8 Production Living in Coppertown is like living on the moon. Everything is bare-there are no trees, no birds, no signs of nature at all. And while Jack loves his town, he hates the dangerous mines that have ruined the land with years of pollution. When the miners go on strike and the mines are forced to close, Jack's life-long wish comes true: the land has the chance to heal. But not everyone in town is happy about the change. Without the mines, Jack's dad is out of work and the family might have to leave Coppertown. Just when new life begins to creep back into town, Jack might lose his friends, his home, and everything he's ever known. Dulemba paints a vivid picture of life in the Appalachia in this beautiful

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story about a boy looking for new beginnings while struggling to hold on to the things he loves most. In this State Standards-aligned Literature Kit™, we divide the novel by chapters or sections and feature reading comprehension and vocabulary questions. In every chapter, we include Before You Read and After You Read questions. The Before You Read activities prepare students for reading by setting a purpose for reading. They stimulate background knowledge and experience, and guide students to make connections between what they know and what they will learn. The After You Read activities check students' comprehension and extend their learning. Students are asked to give

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thoughtful consideration of the text through creative and evaluative short-answer questions and journal prompts. Also included are writing tasks, graphic organizers, comprehension quiz, test prep, word search, and crossword to further develop students' critical thinking and writing skills, and analysis of the text. About the Novel: Crispin: The Cross of Lead is the Newbery Medal winning story of a young boy hiding from the law. Set in 14th Century England, the young boy, only known as Crispin, finds himself on the run from Lord Furnival and his evil steward, John Aycliffe. When Crispin overhears the private conversation of Aycliffe and another man in the forest, he becomes the object of a massive hunt.



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Crispin then flees from the area after his only allies, his mother and Father Quinel, are dead. Crispin soon meets up with Bear, a travelling entertainer, who trains him in the arts of the mummer. Bear is not what he seems however, and Crispin is thrown into a life full of dangerous adventures that lead to a dramatic ending where the secret of Crispin ' s heritage is revealed. All of our content is aligned to your State Standards and are written to Bloom's Taxonomy.

When eleven-year-old Becca, a quadruplet, finds a sick piglet on the side of the road, her life is changed forever. "My mother had four daughters by four different men." There's only one way Shelby and her sisters can

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describe their mother: She's a sexpot. Helen Kimura collects men (and loans, spending money, and gifts of all kinds) from all over the country. Sure, she's not your typical role model, but she's also not just a pretty face and nail polish. She is confident and brave; she lives life on her own terms, and her four daughters simply adore her. These girls have been raised outside the traditional boundaries. They know how to take the back exit. They know how to dodge crazed lovers in highway car chases. They do not, however, know how to function without one another. Then suddenly they must. A late-night phone call unexpectedly shreds the family apart, catapulting the girls across the country to live with their respective

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fathers. But these strong-willed sisters are, like their mother, determined to live life on their own terms, and what they do to pull their family back together is nothing short of beautiful. At turns wickedly funny and insistently thought-provoking, *Outside Beauty* showcases Cynthia Kadohata's unerring ability to explore the bonds that bind.

The Life She Was Given

The Whipping Boy

A Bird on Water Street

Dust Off the Gold Medal

Day of Tears

Did you want to go to America? Pop: Sure. I didn't

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have a choice. My father said I had to go. So I went. Were you sad when you left your village?

Pop: Maybe a little . . . well, maybe a lot. Ten-year-old Gim Lew Yep knows that he must leave his home in China and travel to America with the father who is a stranger to him. Gim Lew doesn't want to leave behind everything that he's ever known. But he is even more scared of disappointing his father. He uses his left hand, rather than the "correct" right hand; he stutters; and most of all, he worries about not passing the strict immigration test administered at Angel Island. The Dragon's Child is a touching portrait of a father and son and

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their unforgettable journey from China to the land of the Golden Mountain. It is based on actual conversations between two-time Newbery Honor author Laurence Yep and his father and on research on his family's immigration history by his niece, Dr. Kathleen S. Yep.

A kid who considers himself an epic fail discovers the transformative power of love when he deals with adoption in this novel from Cynthia Kadohata, winner of the Newbery Medal (*Kira-Kira*) and the National Book Award (*The Thing About Luck*). Eleven-year-old Jaden is adopted, and he knows he 's an "epic fail." That 's why his family is

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traveling to Kazakhstan to adopt a new baby—to replace him, he ' s sure. And he gets it. He is incapable of stopping his stealing, hoarding, lighting fires, aggressive running, and obsession with electricity. He knows his parents love him, but he feels...nothing. When they get to Kazakhstan, it turns out the infant they ' ve traveled for has already been adopted, and literally within minutes are faced with having to choose from six other babies. While his parents agonize, Jaden is more interested in the toddlers. One, a little guy named Dimash, spies Jaden and barrels over to him every time he sees him. Jaden finds himself increasingly

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intrigued by and worried about Dimash. Already three years old and barely able to speak, Dimash will soon age out of the orphanage, and then his life will be as hopeless as Jaden feels now. For the first time in his life, Jaden actually feels something that isn't pure blinding fury, and there's no way to control it, or its power. From camels rooting through garbage like raccoons, to eagles being trained like hunting dogs, to streets that are more pothole than pavement, the vivid depictions in *Half a World Away* create "an inspiring story that celebrates hope and second chances" (Publishers Weekly, starred review).

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Atmospheric woodcuts illustrate this Newbery Award-winning collection of 19 South American folktales. Fables of talking animals, witches, giants, and ordinary people in supernatural settings provide insights into regional values and culture. A NEW YORK TIMES Notable Book of the Year. "Magical...THE FLOATING WORLD is about families, coming of age, guilt, memory...It is also about being Japanese-American in the United States in the 1950's." --NEW YORK TIMES BOOK REVIEW.

My Japanese Girlhood in Whitebread America  
Outside Beauty



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A Million Shades of Grey

The Thing About Luck

**'Kouun is "good luck" in Japanese, and one year my family had none of it.' Just when Summer thinks nothing else can possibly go wrong, an emergency whisks her parents away to Japan, right before harvest season. But the mortgage has to be paid, and so Summer's grandparents are going to help with harvest instead - taking Summer, her little brother Jaz and their dog Thunder with them. Obaachan and Jiichan are... well, they're old fashioned, and demanding. Between helping Obaachan cook for the workers, covering for her when her back pain worsens, and worrying about her little brother, who can't seem to make any friends, Summer has her hands full. Then one of the boys who Summer has known forever starts paying extra attention to**

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**her. But what begins as a welcome distraction from the hard work soon turns into a mess of its own... and once again Summer ends up disappointing Obaachan. But that's the thing about luck - bad luck can always get worse. And when that happens, Summer has to figure out how to change it and save her family, even if it means further displeasing Obaachan. Surely kouun is coming soon...?**

**The syndicated food columnist blends childhood memories, food, and cultural identity in a memoir revealing what life was like in the 1960s for the only Asian American family living in the farming community of Versailles, Indiana.**

**Twelve-year-old Hanako and her family, reeling from their confinement in an internment camp, renounce their American citizenship to move to Hiroshima, a city devastated by the**

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**atomic bomb dropped by Americans.**

**A Study Guide for Cynthia Kadohata's "Kira-Kira," excerpted from Gale's acclaimed Literary Newsmakers for Students. This concise study guide includes plot summary; character analysis; author biography; study questions; historical context; suggestions for further reading; and much more. For any literature project, trust Literary Newsmakers for Students for all of your research needs.**

**Saucy**

**Sleeping Freshmen Never Lie**

**The Dragon's Child**

**Firebolt**

**In the Heart of the Valley of Love**

**Just when twelve-year-old Summer thinks**

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nothing else can possibly go wrong in a year of bad luck, an emergency takes her parents to Japan, leaving Summer to care for her little brother while helping her grandmother cook and do laundry for harvest workers.

The oldest and most prestigious children's literature award, the Newbery Medal has since 1922 been granted annually by the American Library Association to the children's book it deems "most distinguished."

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Medal books enjoy an outsized influence on American children's literature, figuring perennially on publishers' lists, on library and bookstore shelves, and in school curricula. As such, they offer a compelling window into the history of US children's literature and publishing, as well as into changing societal attitudes about which books are "best" for America's schoolchildren. Yet literary scholars have disproportionately ignored the

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Medal winners in their research. This volume provides a critically- and historically-grounded scholarly analysis of representative but understudied Newbery Medal books from the 1920s through the 2010s, interrogating the disjunction between the books' omnipresence and influence, on the one hand, and the critical silence surrounding them, on the other. *Dust Off the Gold Medal* makes a case for closing these scholarly gaps by

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revealing neglected texts' insights into the politics of children's literature prizing and by demonstrating how neglected titles illuminate critical debates currently central to the field of children's literature. In particular, the essays shed light on the hidden elements of diversity apparent in the neglected Newbery canon while illustrating how the books respond—sometimes in quite subtle ways—to contemporaneous concerns around

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race, class, gender, disability, nationalism, and globalism.

Turner Buckminster hates his new home of Phippsburg, Maine, but things improve when he meets Lizzie Bright Griffin, a girl from a poor island community founded by slaves that the town fathers want to change into a tourist spot.

Twelve-year-old Sumiko feels her life has been made up of two parts: before Pearl Harbor and after it. The good



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part and the bad part. Raised on a flower farm in California, Sumiko is used to being the only Japanese girl in her class. Even when the other kids tease her, she always has had her flowers and family to go home to. That all changes after the horrific events of Pearl Harbor. Other Americans start to suspect that all Japanese people are spies for the emperor, even if, like Sumiko, they were born in the United States! As suspicions grow, Sumiko and

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her family find themselves being shipped to an internment camp in one of the hottest deserts in the United States. The vivid color of her previous life is gone forever, and now dust storms regularly choke the sky and seep into every crack of the military barrack that is her new "home." Sumiko soon discovers that the camp is on an Indian reservation and that the Japanese are as unwanted there as they'd been at home. But then she meets

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a young Mohave boy who might just become her first real friend...if he can ever stop being angry about the fact that the internment camp is on his tribe's land. With searing insight and clarity, Newbery Medal-winning author Cynthia Kadohata explores an important and painful topic through the eyes of a young girl who yearns to belong. Weedflower is the story of the rewards and challenges of a friendship across the racial divide, as well as the based-

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on-real-life story of how the meeting of Japanese Americans and Native Americans changed the future of both.  
Half a World Away

On the first day of summer vacation, teenaged sisters M'Rose, Elle, and Céline step out into the tropical heat of their island home and continue their headlong tumble toward adulthood. Boys, schoolyard fights, petty thievery, and even illicit alcohol make for a heady mix, as The Zabime Sisters indulge in a little summertime freedom. The dramatic backdrop of a Caribbean island provides a study of contrasts--a world that is both lush and wild, yet strangely small and intimate--which echoes the contrasts of the sisters

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themselves, who are at once worldly and wonderfully naïve. Master storyteller Aristophane's *The Zabime Sisters* takes a keen look at some of the universal experiences of children on the cusp of growing up, in the fascinating setting of Guadeloupe. Aristophane's bold, graphic brushwork weaves a wild texture through this gentle, clear-eyed tale.

“Kadohata’s slapshot is the heart-swelling narrative of a father and son... Truly powerful.” —Jason Reynolds “A deeply poignant story about a boy sorting out his priorities.”

—Publishers Weekly (starred review) “A vivid, memorable portrayal of a boy within his family, his sport, and his gradually broadening world.” —Booklist (starred review) From Newbery Medalist Cynthia Kadohata comes a brilliantly-realized novel about a hockey player who must discover who

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he is without the sport that defines him. Hockey is Conor's life. His whole life. He'll say it himself, he's a hockey beast. It's his dad's whole life too—and Conor is sure that's why his stepmom, Jenny, left. There are very few things Conor and his dad love more than the game, and one of those things is their Doberman, Sinbad. When Sinbad is diagnosed with cancer, Conor chooses to put his hockey lessons and practices on hold so they can pay for Sinbad's chemotherapy. But without hockey to distract him, Conor begins to notice more. Like his dad's crying bouts, and his friend's difficult family life. And then Conor notices one more thing: Without hockey, the one thing that makes him feel special, is he really special at all?