

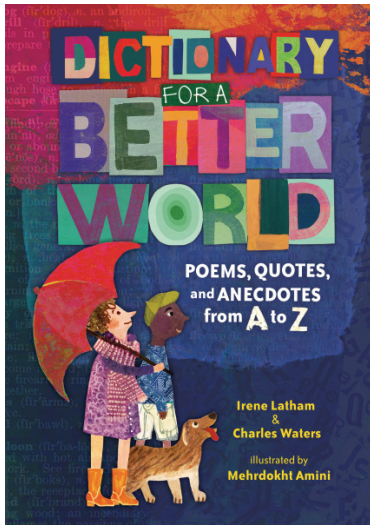
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...because we all want to make the world a better place!

Hooray! Today marks the release of [DICTIONARY FOR A BETTER WORLD: Poems, Quotes, and Anecdotes from A to Z](#), co-written with [Charles Waters](#), (amazing!) illustrations by [Mehrdokht Amini](#). Big thanks to the whole team at [Lerner Publishing](#) for helping make this book a reality!

Friends, this was one of the toughest projects I've ever worked on! Which is why it's especially gratifying to see it in its final form. I'm so proud of our work. :)

[Get Your DICTIONARY Today!](#)

Reviews

"Forms range from the aubade to the villanelle, each explained in a brief caption. Latham and Water's personal stories are plainspoken and relatable, and the suggested actions, accessible." - [Publisher's Weekly](#) STARRED

"this inclusive, thought-provoking anthology offers a number of entry points for exploring concepts and issues related to identity, social justice, and making a difference." Recommended. - [School Library Journal](#)

"A creative and inspirational resource suitable for a broad range of ages and uses." - [Kirkus](#)

Resources

[DICTIONARY Discussion Guide](#), created by Zestlan Simmons, 2019 Alabama Teacher of the Year

[Q & A about DICTIONARY](#) with Irene Latham & Charles Waters

In other news, I selected [RED](#) as my 2020 [One Little Word](#). Join me in celebrating the color red each Poetry Friday when I share a fresh red poem inspired by art as part of my [2020 ARTSPEAK! Red](#).

I've got lots of travel, school visits, and book events coming up! I look forward

to seeing many of you very soon.

- Feb. 9 [Birmingham Arts Journal](#) reading/reception (Homewood, AL)
Feb. 23 Highland Lake Reading Series, featuring poet/author/teacher [Tina Mozelle Braziel](#)
Feb. 26-27 Shelby County Instructional Services PD (Alabaster, AL)
Feb. 27 Cahaba Heights Elementary (Vestavia, AL) – with Charles Waters
Feb. 28 Berry Middle School (Hoover, AL) - with Charles Waters
Mar. 2 Blount County Retired Teachers, 4:30 pm (Cleveland, AL)
Mar. 5 Mt. Laurel Elementary School (Birmingham, AL)
Mar. 7 [Monroeville Literary Festival](#) (Monroeville, AL)
Mar. 13-14 [SCBWI Southern Breeze](#) Writing & Illustrating for Kids (Homewood, AL)
Mar. 18 Appalachian High School (Oneonta, AL)
Mar. 20-21 [Southern Kentucky Book Festival](#) (Bowling Green, KY)
Mar. 23-24 [Texas Library Assoc.](#) 16th Annual Poetry Roundup with Sylvia Vardell (Houston, TX)
Mar. 31 Stone County Schools (Wiggins, MS)
Apr. 1-3 [Fay B. Kaigler Children's Book Festival](#) (Hattiesburg, MS)

G is for GIVEAWAY!

Good news: I've got 3 copies of *DICTIONARY FOR A BETTER WORLD* to pass along *for e-newsletter subscribers only!* Please use the button below to enter! One of the options for entry includes replying to this email by 12 pm CST Feb. 13 with a word you'd like to add to our book! **Must be a word not already included in the book!*

To help you out, here are the words included in our *DICTIONARY*: ***Acceptance, Ally, Belonging, Compassion, Courage, Create, Dialogue, Diversity, Dream, Empathy, Equality, Exercise, Experiment, Forgiveness, Freedom, Fuel, Gratitude, (Epitaph for) Hate, Hope, Humility, Intention, Justice, Kindness, Laughter, Listen, Love, Mindfulness, Nature, Netiquette, Open, Pause, Peace, Question, Reach, Release, Respect, Service, Shero, Team, Tenacity, Upstander, Vulnerable, Voice, (Bear) Witness, Wonder, Xenial, Yes, Zest***

I look forward to your additions!! *Good luck!*

[Enter the Giveaway!](#)

Thank you so much for celebrating with me! And remember: "Precious jewel, you glow, you shine, reflecting all the good things in the world. Just look at yourself." - *Maya Angelou*

I'll be back in April to share about [THE CAT MAN OF ALEPPO](#), a Junior Library Guild selection which has received 2 STARRED reviews so far. Yay!

with love and gratitude,
Irene

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