

## **Books on Human Trafficking for Elementary and Middle School-Aged Children**

### **Threads, 2016 by Ami Polonsky (for ages 8-12)**

Twelve-year-old Clara, still reeling from the death of her adopted sister, finds a desperate note written by thirteen-year-old Yuming half a world away and forced to sew in the pale pink factory outside of Beijing probably forever. Clara grows convinced that she was meant to find Yuming's note but how can she talk her parents, who are also in mourning, into going on a trip to China? The lives of two girls--one American, and one Chinese--intersect like two soaring kites in this story about loss, hope, and recovery.

### **Sold, 2008 by Patricia McCormick (for ages 12-14)**

Lakshmi is a thirteen-year-old Nepalese girl whose life, although desperately poor, is full of simple pleasures. But when the harsh Himalayan monsoons wash away all that remains of the family's crops, Lakshmi's stepfather says she must leave home and take a job to support her family. Glad to be able to help, and believing she will find work as a maid, Lakshmi journeys to India with a glamorous stranger and arrives at "Happiness House" full of hope. She soon learns the unthinkable truth: she has been sold into prostitution. Living a nightmare she cannot escape, Lakshmi lives by her mother's words--*Simply to endure is to triumph*--and gradually. Then the day comes when she must make a decision--will she risk everything for a chance to reclaim her life? Written in spare and evocative vignettes, this powerful novel renders a world that is as unimaginable as it is real, and a girl who not only survives but triumphs.

### **Queen of Water, 2012 by Laura Resau (for ages 12-14)**

Born in an Andean village in Ecuador, Virginia lives with her large family in a small, earthen-walled dwelling. In her village of indígenas, it is not uncommon for children to work in the fields all day and to be denigrated by members of the ruling class of mestizos, or Spanish descendants. When seven-year-old Virginia is taken from her village to be a servant to a mestizo couple, she has no idea what the future holds. Based on a true story, acclaimed author Laura Resau recounts one girl's unforgettable journey to self-discovery. Virginia's story will speak to anyone who has ever struggled to find his or her place in the world. It will make you laugh and cry, and ultimately, it will fill you with hope.

### **Amal Unbound, 2018 by Aisha Saeed (for ages 9-11)**

Life is quiet in Amal's Pakistani village but she had no complaints, she's busy pursuing her dream of becoming a teacher. Her dreams are temporarily dashed when--as the eldest daughter--she must stay home from school to take care of her siblings. Then the unimaginable happens--after an accidental run-in with the son of her village's corrupt landlord, Amal must work as his family's servant to pay off her own family's debt. Life at the opulent Khan estate is full of heartbreak and struggle for Amal but most troubling is Amal's growing awareness of the Khans' nefarious dealings. When it becomes clear just how far they will go to protect their interests, Amal realizes she will have to find a way to work with others if they are ever to exact change in a cruel status quo, and if Amal is ever to achieve her dreams.