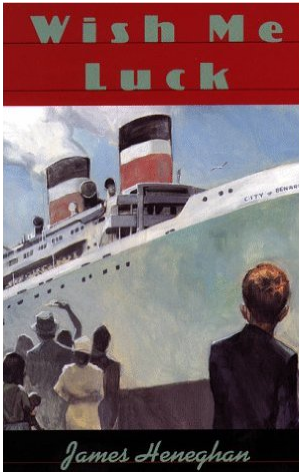


2017 Phoenix Award Winner

***Wish Me Luck* by James Heneghan**

Farrar Straus Giroux, 1997

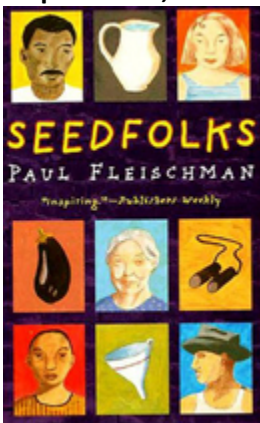


James Heneghan's *Wish Me Luck* tells the compelling story of a tragic historical event too often ignored: the sinking by the Germans of a ship carrying children whose families had chosen to send them away from the horrors and dangers of war at home in England to the safety of Canada. Told through the eyes of Jamie Monaghan, a sympathetic character who leaves his family and the excitement of war only reluctantly, the novel also introduces Tom Bleeker and his little sister Elsie, neighbors of the Monaghans. Bleeker, as Jamie calls him, is a new arrival from Northern Ireland; his fight with "Stinky" Corcoran, the biggest, toughest kid at St. Oswald's School in Liverpool, provides a fittingly violent opening to the book. Humor, raw language, and authentic dialect balance the horrors of living close to danger in the daily lives of children, their families, and friends. Heneghan provides a unique perspective on WWII, as he chronicles the children's lives before, during, and after their experiences aboard the SS City of Benares.

2017 Phoenix Honor Books

***Seedfolks* by Paul Fleischman**

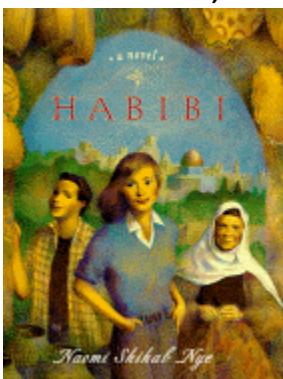
HarperCollins, 1997



Seedfolks, the spare, multi-layered story of a community garden in Cleveland, shows that one positive act by a child can make a difference to the lives of many. The novel's appeal to readers of all ages illustrates just how artificial the boundaries of "children's literature" can be. Nine-year-old Kim's simple memorial to her dead father grows into a garden not just of vegetables, but of diverse people growing vegetables together, a vivid expression of the "salad" metaphor that better represents American culture than the melting pot. Fleischman explores multiple voices and perspectives in this virtuoso performance of his craft. A large cast of characters, young, old, and ethnically diverse, each beautifully rendered, come together as neighbors with new connections and angles of vision. And a child plants the first seed that makes this village whole.

***Habibi* by Naomi Shihab Nye**

Simon & Schuster, 1997



Nye's semi-autobiographical account of an Arab American family's move from St. Louis to Jerusalem gives Palestinian perspectives a sympathetic depth rarely presented. A bomb killing Jewish civilians sets off retaliation, dramatizing how difficult it is to break the cycle of revenge and constant turmoil. *Habibi* elegantly translates myriad cultural details through delectable flavors, pungent smells, varied textures, and minute observations of locale. Sensory impressions are matched by Nye's directness about Palestinians' treatment as second-class citizens. In contrast to the brutal insensitivity of Israeli soldiers and police, 14-year-old Liyana's friendship with a Jewish youth named Omer offers hope. Nye never whitewashes the harshness experienced by an old style West Bank extended family that honors traditions of place. Yet the affection of Liyana and Omer creates a thin melody heard above the din of

violence that threatens the young people's possibility for a shared home.