

# 50 Multicultural Books Every Child Should Know

"Multicultural" literature is defined as books by and about people of color and First/Native Nations individuals: African and African Americans, American Indians, Asian/Pacific and Asian Pacific Americans, and Latinos.

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## Preschool

Ada, Alma Flor. [I Love Saturdays y domingos](#). Illustrated by Elivia Savadier. Atheneum, 2002. 32 pages. Ages 4 - 8

Cumpiano, Ina. [Quinito's Neighborhood = El Vecindario de Quinito](#). Illustrated by José Ramírez. Children's Book Press, 2005. 22 pages. Ages 3-5

Flett, Julie. [Wild Berries](#). Translated by Earl N. Cook (Cree words). Simple Read, 2013. 32 pages. Ages 3-6

Hughes, Langston. [My People](#). Photographed by Charles R. Smith, Jr.. Ginny Seo Books / Atheneum, 2009. 32 pages. Age 3 and older

Morales, Yuyi. [Niño Wrestles the World](#). A Neal Porter Book / Roaring Brook Press, 2013. 36 pages. Ages 2-5

Slier, Debby. [Cradle Me](#). Star Bright Books, 2012. 10 pages. Ages birth - 3

Step toe, John. [Baby Says](#). Lothrop, Lee & Shepard, 1988. 23 pages. Ages 1-3

Thong, Rosanne. [Round Is a Mooncake: A Book of Shapes](#). Illustrated by Grace Lin. Chronicle, 2000. 32 pages. Ages 3-5

Williams, Vera B.. [More, More, More, Said the Baby: Three Love Stories](#). Greenwillow, 1990. 32 pages. Ages 9months - 3 years

Woodson, Jacqueline. [Pecan Pie Baby](#). Illustrated by Sophie Blackall. Putnam, 2010. 32 pages. Ages 3 - 6

Yum, Hyewon. [The Twins' Blanket](#). Frances Foster Books / Farrar Straus Giroux, 2011. 32 pages. Ages 3-6

## Ages 5-7

Argueta, Jorge. [Sopa de frijoles: un poema para cocinar = Bean Soup: A Cooking Poem](#). Illustrated by Rafael Yockteng. Greenwood Books, 2009. 32 pages. Ages 4 - 8

Atinuke, . [Anna Hibiscus](#). Illustrated by Lauren Tobia. U.S. edition: Kane/Miller, 2010. 112 pages. Ages 4-8

Elya, Susan Middleton. [Little Roja Riding Hood](#). Illustrated by Susan Guevara. Putnam, 2014. 32 pages. Ages 4-8

Greenfield, Eloise. [Honey, I Love, and Other Poems](#). Illustrated by Leo & Dianne Dillon. Harper, 1978.

Harjo, Joy. [The Good Luck Cat](#). Illustrated by Paul Lee. Harcourt, 2000. 32 pages. Ages 4 - 7

Look, Lenore. [Uncle Peter's Amazing Chinese Wedding](#). Illustrated by Yumi Heo. Anne Schwartz / Atheneum, 2006. 32 pages. Ages 3-7

Meshon, Aaron. [Take Me Out to the Yakyu](#). Athenium, 2013. 36 pages. Ages 3-6

Morales, Yuyi. [Just a Minute: A Trickster Tale and Counting Book](#). Chronicle, 2003. 28 pages. Ages 4 - 7

Pinkney, Sandra L. [Shades of Black: A Celebration of Our Children](#). Illustrated by Myles Pinkney. Scholastic, 2000. 28 pages. Ages 3 - 11

Smith, Cynthia Leitich. [Jingle Dancer](#). Illustrated by Cornelius Van Wright and Ying-Hwa Hu. Morrow/HarperCollins, 2000. 32 pages. Ages 5 - 8

Tafolla, Carmen. [What Can You Do With a Paleta?](#). Illustrated by Magaly Morales. Tricycle Press, 2009. 32 pages. Ages 3 - 6

Uegacki, Chieri. [Hana Hashimoto, Sixth Violin](#). Illustrated by Qin Leng. Kids Can Press, 2014. 32 pages. Ages 4-8

Waboose, Jan Bourdeau. [Morning on the Lake](#). Illustrated by Karen Reczuch. Kids Can Press, 1998. 32 pages. Ages 5 - 8

Woodson, Jacqueline. [Each Kindness](#). Illustrated by E. B. Lewis. Putnam, 2012. 32 pages. Ages 5-9

#### **Ages 7-9**

Ada, Alma Flor. [My Name Is Maria Isabel](#). Illustrated by K. Dyble Thompson. Atheneum, 1993. 57 pages. Ages 7-9

Campbell, Nicola I. [Shin-chi's Canoe](#). Illustrated by Kim LaFave. Greenwood Books / House Anansi Press, 2008. 40 pages. Ages 7-10

Cheng, Andrea. [The Year of the Book](#). Illustrated by Abigail Halpin. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2012. 160 pages. Ages 7-9

Compestine, Ying Chang. [Crouching Tiger](#). Illustrated by Yan Nascimbene. Candlewick Press, 2011. 40 pages. Ages 4-8

Hamilton, Virginia. [The People Could Fly: American Black Folktales](#). Illustrated by Leo and Diane Dillon. Knopf, 1985.

Lo, Ginnie. [Auntie Yang's Great Soybean Picnic](#). Illustrated by Beth Lo. Lee and Low, 2012. 32 pages. Ages 7-10

Myers, Christopher. [H.O.R.S.E.: A Game of Basketball and Imagination](#). Egmont, 2012. 32 pages. Ages 5–10

Myers, Christopher. [Wings](#). Scholastic Press, 2000. 40 pages. Ages 5 - 11

Myers, Walter Dean. [Looking Like Me](#). Illustrated by Christopher Myers. Egmont, 2009. 32 pages. Ages 5 - 9

Perkins, Mitali. [Rickshaw Girl](#). Illustrated by Jamie Hogan. Charlesbridge, 2007. 91 pages. Ages 8-10

Ringgold, Faith. [Tar Beach](#). Crown, 1991. 32 pages. Ages 5 - 11

Smith, Cynthia Leitich. [Indian Shoes](#). Illustrated by Jim Madsen. HarperCollins, 2002. 66 pages. Ages 6 - 9

Tonatiuh, Duncan. [Diego Rivera: His World and Ours](#). Abrams, 2011. 32 pages. Ages 6-9

## Ages 9-12

- Alexander, Kwame. [Crossover](#). Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2014. 237 pages. Ages 10-13
- Curtis, Christopher Paul. [The Watsons Go to Birmingham -- 1963](#). Delacorte, 1995. 210 pages. Ages 10 - 14
- Erdrich, Louise. [The Birchbark House](#). Hyperion, 1999. 235 pages. Ages 8 - 12
- Grace, Catherine O'Neill and Margaret M. Bruchac, with Plimoth Plantation . [1621: A New Look at Thanksgiving](#). Photographed by Sisse Brimberg and Cotton Coulson. National Geographic Society, 2001. 48 pages. Ages 7 - 14
- Lai, Thanhha. [Inside Out & Back Again](#). Harper/HarperCollins, 2011. 262 pages. Ages 10-13
- Lin, Grace. [Where the Mountain Meets the Moon](#). Little, Brown, 2009. 278 pages. Ages 8 - 11
- Marcantonio, Patricia Santos. [Red Ridin' in the Hood and Other Cuentos](#). Illustrated by Renato Alarcão. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2005. 185 pages. Ages 8-12
- Parker Rhodes, Jewell. [Ninth Ward](#). Little, Brown, 2010. 224 pages. Ages 9 - 13
- Resau, Laura. [Star in the Forest](#). Delacorte Press, 2010. 149 pages. Ages 8-11
- Sheth, Kashmira. [Boys without Names](#). Balzer & Bray/HarperCollins, 2010. 320 pages. Ages 9-13
- Skarmeta, Antonio. [The Composition](#). Illustrated by Alfonso Ruano. U.S. edition: A Groundwood Book/Douglas & McIntyre, 2000. 36 pages. Ages 9 - 16
- Tingle, Tim. [How I Became a Ghost: A Choctaw Trail of Tears Story](#). Roadrunner Press, 2013. 141 pages. Ages 10-13
- Williams-Garcia, Rita. [One Crazy Summer](#). Amistad / HarperCollins, 2010. 218 pages. Ages 8-12

## Multicultural Books for Teens

Alexie, Sherman. [\*\*The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian\*\*](#). Illustrated by Ellen Fournay. Litte, Brown, 2007. 240 pages. Ages 13-16

Bruchac, Joseph. [\*\*Our Stories Remember: American Indian History, Culture and Values through Storytelling\*\*](#). Fulcrum, 2003. 192 pages. Age 16 and older

Cofer, Judith Ortiz. [\*\*An Island Like You: Stories of the Barrio\*\*](#). Melanie Kroupa/Orchard, 1995. 165 pages. Ages 12 - 16

Engle, Margarita. [\*\*The Surrender Tree: Poems of Cuba's Struggle for Freedom\*\*](#). Henry Holt, 2008. 176 pages. Age 12 and older

Flake, Sharon. [\*\*Money Hungry\*\*](#). Jump at the Sun/Hyperion, 2001. 187 pages. Ages 12 - 16

Gansworth, Eric. [\*\*If I Ever Get Out of Here\*\*](#). Arthur A. Levine Books / Scholastic, 2013. 359 pages. Age 11 and older

Hamilton, Virginia. [\*\*Sweet Whispers, Brother Rush\*\*](#). Philomel, 1982. 215 pages. Age 11 and older

Jaramillo, Ann. [\*\*La Línea\*\*](#). Deborah Brodie Book / Roaring Brook Press, 2006. 131 pages. Age 13 and older

Jiang, Ji-Li. [\*\*Red Scarf Girl: A Memoir of the Cultural Revolution\*\*](#). HarperCollins, 1997. 285 pages. Age 12 and older

Jimenez, Francisco. [\*\*The Circuit: Stories from the Life of a Migrant Child\*\*](#). Houghton Mifflin, 1999. 116 pages. Age 12 and older

Johnson, Angela. [\*\*The First Part Last\*\*](#). Simon & Schuster, 2003. 144 pages. Ages 13 - 18

Kadohata, Cynthia. [\*\*Kira-Kira\*\*](#). Atheneum, 2004. 244 pages. Ages 10-14

Magoon, Kekla. [\*\*How It Went Down\*\*](#). Henry Holt, 2014. 326 pages. Age 14 and older

Medina, Meg. [\*\*Yaqui Delgado Wants to Kick Your Ass\*\*](#). Candlewick Press, 2013. 272 pages. Age 13 and older

Myers, Walter Dean. [\*\*Monster\*\*](#). Illustrated by Christopher Myers. HarperCollins, 1999. 199 pages. Ages 13 and older

Na, An. [\*\*A Step From Heaven\*\*](#). Front Street, 2001. 156 pages. Age 13 and older

Nelson, Marilyn. [\*\*A Wreath for Emmett Till\*\*](#). Illustrated by Philippe Lardy. Houghton Mifflin, 2005. 40 pages. Age 14 and older

Nelson, Vaunda Micheaux. [\*\*No Crystal Stair\*\*](#). Illustrated by R. Gregory Christie. Carolrhoda LAB, 2012. 188 pages. Age 12 and older

Nelson, Kadir. [\*\*Heart and Soul: The Story of America and African Americans\*\*](#). Balzer + Bray / HarperCollins, 2011. 108 pages. Ages 8-14

Park, Linda Sue. [\*\*When My Name Was Keoko: A Novel of Korea in World War II\*\*](#). Clarion, 2002. 199 pages. Ages 11 - 14

Quintero, Isabel. [\*\*Gabi: A Girl in Pieces\*\*](#). Cinco Puntos Press, 2014. 284 pages. Age 14 and older

Reynolds, Jason. [When I Was the Greatest](#). Atheneum, 2014. 231 pages. Age 13 and older

Reynolds, Jason and Brendan Kiely . [All American Boys](#). Atheneum, 2015. 320 pages. Age 13 and older

Sáenz, Benjamin Alire. [Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe](#). Simon & Schuster, 2012. 359 pages. Age 14 and older

Say, Allen. [Drawing from Memory](#). Scholastic Press, 2011. 64 pages. Age 10 and older

Sheth, Kashmira. [Koyal Dark, Mango Sweet](#). Hyperion, 2006. 25 pages. Age 12 and older

Stork, Francisco X.. [The Last Summer of the Death Warriors](#). Arthur A. Levine Books/Scholastic, Inc., 2010. 344 pages. Ages 14 and older

Tingle, Tim. [House of Purple Cedar](#). Cinco Puntos Press, 2014 (c2013). 336 pages. Age 14 and older

Woodson, Jacqueline. [Brown Girl Dreaming](#). Nancy Paulsen Books / Penguin, 2014. 336 pages. Age 10 and older

Yang, Gene Luen. [American Born Chinese](#). First Second, 2006. 233 pages. Age 13 and older

#### **Other:**

[Salt in His Shoe: Michael Jordan in Pursuit of a Dream.](#)

[Marvelous Me: Inside & Out](#)

[The Toothpaste Millionaire](#)

[Dog Day \( The Carver Chronicles\) by Karen English](#)

*I'm Judging You*, by Luvvie Ajayi

[Teens Gloria Clark and Sydni Moore are the proud authors of the new book, "Anything I Wanna Be."](#)

[The Perfect Present by Morgan Billingsly, Jackie Lee and Gabrielle Simone](#)

[Ish by Peter Reynolds](#)

[One Crazy Summer Rita Williams-Garcia](#)

Booked and He Said She Said, Both by Kwame Alexander.