

Multicultural Books in Juvenile Fiction

Nagda, Anna Whitehead **Dear whiskers** Jenny is discouraged when her 2nd grade penpal turns out to be a new student from Saudi Arabia who does not speak English very well, but as she works with her they slowly become friends.

Namioka, Lensey **Half and half** At Seattle's annual Folk Fest, 12 year-old Fiona and her older brother are torn between trying to please their Chinese grandmother & their Scottish grandparents.

Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds **Eating enchiladas** A sleepover inspires Sarah, who likes to do things differently, to choose Mexico for her "Countries of the World" presentation.

Ogaz, Nancy **Buster & the amazing Daisy** When Daisy, who has autism, joins a mainstreamed class and trains Buster the rabbit for a pet show, she faces new challenges and makes new friends.

Parry, Roseanne **Heart of a shepherd** Ignatius Alderman promises to help his grandparents keep the family's Oregon ranch the same while his brothers are away and his father is deployed to Iraq.

Reedy, Trent **Words in the dust** Zulaikha, a girl in Afghanistan, faces a series of changes in her life as she defies her father & secretly meets with an old woman who teaches her to read, & American troops offer her surgery to fix her cleft lip.

Resau, Laura **Star in the forest** After Zitlally's father is deported to Mexico, she takes refuge in her trailer park's forest of rusted car parts, where she befriends a spunky neighbor & finds a stray dog .

Rubel, Nicole **It's hot and cold in Miami** Rachel always feel invisible next to her intelligent twin sister until she learns to appreciate her own special talents.

Sanchez, Alex **So hard to say** A Mexican American girl who has just moved to California from Wisconsin, quickly become close friends with Frederick, but when Xio starts thinking of him as her boyfriend, he must confront his feelings of confusion and face that he might be gay.

Sheng, Wendy Wan-Long **The great wall of Lucy Wu** Lucy is excited about finally having her own bedroom, until she learns that her great-aunt is coming to visit & will have to share a room for several months.

Sheth, Kashmira **Blue jasmine** Seema moves from India to Iowa City and struggles to learn a new culture. When her grandmother falls ill & she visits India again, she begins to understand the meaning of "home".

Smith, Hope Anita **Keeping the night watch** An African-American boy chronicles what happens to his family when his father, who temporarily left, returns home and they all must deal with their feelings of anger, hope, abandonment, and fear.

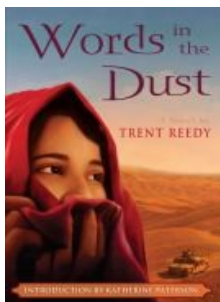
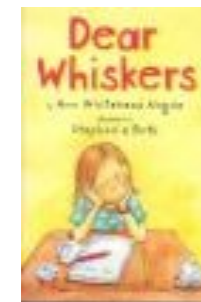
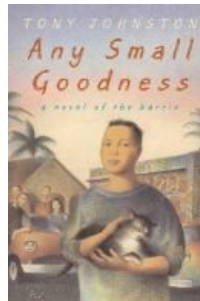
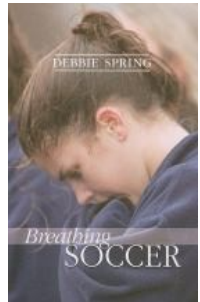
Sneve, Virginia **Driving Hawk Lana's Lakota moons** Lakota Indian cousins who have a close but competitive relationship, learn about their heritage and culture throughout the year, & when a Laotian-Hmong girl comes to their school, they make friends with her.

Spring, Debbie **Breathing soccer** Lisa is forbidden to play soccer because of her asthma. With the encouragement of a camp counselor & her new asthma doctor, she finds the inner strength necessary to rise above her own obstacles.

Williams, Laura E. **Slant** A Korean-American adoptee, is tired of being called "slant" & "gook," & longs to have plastic surgery on her eyes, but when her father finds out about her wish, she starts to question some of her own assumptions.

Woodson, Jacqueline **Peace, Locomotion** Through letters to his little sister, who is living in a different foster home, 6th grader Lonnie keeps a record of their lives while they are apart including his foster brother who returns home after losing a leg in the Iraq War.

Zucker, Naomi **Callie's rules** Callie Jones tries to keep track of all the rules for fitting in that other middle schoolers seem to know, but when the town decides to replace Halloween with an Autumn Festival, Callie leads her large family in an unusual protest.



Recommended books for experiencing cultural and ethnic diversity.



These books are located in the Juvenile Fiction section under the author's last name. This booklist is only a beginning. Ask the Youth Services Librarians to suggest other titles.

Ada, Alma Flor **Dancing home** When Margie's cousin Lupe comes from Mexico to live in California with Margie's family, Lupe must adapt to America, while Margie, finds that she is embarrassed by her in school and jealous of her at home.

Agell, Charlotte **Accidental adventures of India McAllister** India, living in small-town Maine, has adventures which bring her closer to her mother, strengthen her friendship with a neighbor boy & help her accept the man for whom her father moved away.

Alvarez, Julia **Return to sender** After his family hires migrant Mexican workers to help save their Vermont farm from foreclosure, 11 year-old Tyler befriends the oldest daughter.

Applegate, Katherine **Home of the brave** Kek, an African refugee, is confronted by many strange things at the Minneapolis home of his aunt and cousin, & longs for his missing mother, but finds comfort in the company of a cow & her owner.

Baskin, Nora Raleigh **The truth about my Bat Mitzvah** After her beloved grandmother dies, non-religious Caroline becomes curious about her mother's Jewish ancestry.

Bruchac, Joseph **The heart of a chief** An Indian boy living on a reservation faces his father's alcoholism, controversy surrounding plans for a casino on a tribal island, & insensitivity toward Native Americans in his school.

Cameron, Ann **Colibri** Kidnapped when she was very young, a 12 year-old Mayan girl endures an abusive life, always wishing she could return to the parents she can hardly remember.

Cheng, Andrea **The key collection** A 10 year-old boy misses his Chinese grandmother who always lived next door until her health caused her to move.

Clinton, Cathryn **Simeon's fire** Simeon, an Amish boy, begins to make some decisions about his future after witnessing arsonists set fire to his family's barn.

Cruz, Maria Colleen **Border crossing : a novel** Cesi knows all about her mother's Cherokee & Irish family but little about her father's Mexican heritage, & when she finds no answers at home in California, she sets out alone for Tijuana.

Dorris, Michael **Window** When Rayona's Native American mother enters a treatment facility, her estranged father, a Black man, finally introduces her to his side of the family, who are not at all what she expected.

Ellis, Deborah **Jakeman** Jake & his older sister, along with a busload of kids, visit their mother in prison regularly. But this time the journey turns into misadventures, & the kids find themselves on their own, hatching a plan to find the Governor & plead with him to pardon their moms.

Fitzmaurice, Kathryn **The year the swallows came early** After her father is sent to jail, Groovy Robinson must decide if she can forgive the failings of someone she loves.

Fleming, Candace **Lowji discovers America** An East Indian boy tries to adjust to his new life in suburban America.

Flood, Pansie Hart **It's test day, Tiger Turcotte** Worried about the big 2nd grade test, 7 year-old Tiger Turcotte, whose parents are African American, Meherrin Indian, and Hispanic, gets stuck on the question about race.

Frazier, Sundee T. **The other half of my heart** Twin daughters of interracial parents have very different skin tones & personalities, & it is not until their grandmother enters them in the Miss Black Pearl competition in North Carolina that they realize what life in their small town in the Pacific Northwest has been like for the darker-skinned sister.

Houts, Michelle **Beef Princess of Practical County** The daughter of an Indiana cattle farmer, raises 2 calves in hopes of winning the annual steer competition at the county fair, but fails to follow her father's warning about developing a bond with the animals.

Johnston, Tony **Any small goodness : a novel of the barrio** Arturo's family & friends share all kinds of experiences living in the barrio of East Los Angeles.

Kehret, Peg **My brother made me do it** In letters to an elderly pen pal, Julie describes how her mischievous younger brother is always getting her in trouble, & how she is dealing with painful juvenile rheumatoid arthritis.

Kline, Suzy **Song Lee and the "I hate you" notes** Song Lee is upset when she receives hateful notes in class, but she finds an appropriate and positive way to deal with them.

Konigsbur, E.L. **The view from Saturday** 4 students develop a special bond & attract the attention of their teacher, a paraplegic, who chooses them to represent their 6th grade class in the Academic Bowl.

Krishnaswami, Uma **Naming Maya** When Maya accompanies her mother to India to sell her grandfather's house, she uncovers family history relating to her parents divorce.

Lombard, Jenny **Drita, my homegirl** When a family of refugees from Kosovo move to New York, Drita is teased about not speaking English well, & a popular student must learn about Kosovo as punishment.

Lord, Cynthia **Rules** Frustrated at life with an autistic brother, Catherine longs for a normal existence but her world is further complicated by a friendship with a young paraplegic.

Magoon, Kekla **Camo girl** A poignant novel about a biracial girl living in the suburbs of Las Vegas examines the friendships that grow out of, and despite, her race.

Marsden, Carolyn **Bird springs** When drought and his father's absence force them to leave the Navajo reservation at Bird Springs, 10 year-old Gregory, his mother, & sister move to a motel in Tucson, Arizona.

Myers, Walter Dean **The Cruisers** Friends Zander, Kambui, LaShonda, and Bobbi, caught in the middle of a mock Civil War at DaVinci Academy, learn the true cost of freedom of speech when they use their alternative newspaper, The Cruiser, to try to make peace.