

Multicultural Literature

These books, both fiction and nonfiction, represent a mix of literature from different races, ethnic groups, or cultures. Reading levels range from middle school through adult. The books are listed in alphabetical order with comments in parentheses on the subject, main character, or author. It might prove interesting to select a title that emphasizes a culture different from your own and have fun discussing both unfamiliar and similar cultural mores and behaviors with others in your class.

See also List 142, *Heroes: Black* (African American); List 144, *Heroines: Black* (African American); List 148, *Asian Literature*; List 149, *Black* (African American) *Literature*; List 150, *Indian* (Native American) *Authors*; List 151, *Indian* (Native American) *Literature*; List 152, *Indian/White Relations: Westerns*; List 153, *Latino Literature: Beginnings*; and List 154, *Latino Writers: 20th Century*.

- The Adventures of Augie March*—Saul Bellow (Jewish man)
Albuquerque—Rudolfo Anaya (Mexican/Anglo boy)
The Always Prayer Shawl—Sheldon Oberman (Russian boy)
American Indian Ballerinas—Lili Cockerville Livingstone (Native American)
American Indian Tribes—Marion E. Gridley (Native American tribal information for younger readers)
America Street: A Multicultural Anthology of Stories—Anne Mazer (Ed.) (story collection by Latino authors)
Among the Volcanoes—Omar Castañeda (Mayan culture)
Anthony's Big Surprise—Wade Hudson (black boy)
Argentina—Ethel Caro Gofen (Argentinian culture)
The Aztecs—Barbara Beck (Aztec culture)
Barrio Boy—Ernesto Galarza (Hispanic memoir)
Beacon Hill Boys—Ken Mochizuki (Japanese American boy)
The Birchbark House—Louise Erdrich (Native American/White relations)
Bless Me, Ultima—Rudolfo Anaya (Mexican/Indian/Anglo clash)
Blood Brothers—Stephen Kinzer (Nicaraguan experiences)
Blood Secrets—Carolina Garcia-Aguilera (Latino novel)
Bounce Back—Sheryl Swoopes with Greg Brown (Black Olympian basketball player)
The Brotherhood of the Dolphins—Ricardo Means Ybarra (Latino)
Buried Onions—Gary Soto (Mexican American boy)
The Burning Season—Andrew Revkin (Brazilian environmentalist)
The Captive, Ajeemah and His Son—Joyce Hansen (black boy)
Carlitos' Way—Edwin Torres (Latino fiction)
Carriers of the Dream Wheel: Contemporary Native American Poetry—Duane Niatum (Ed.) (Native American poetry collection)
La Causa: The Migrant Farm Workers Story—Dana Catherine DeRuiz (Latino workers in United States)
Chernowitz!—Fran Arrick (Jewish boy)
Child of the Owl—Laurence Yep (Chinese-American girl)
Children of the River—Linda Crew (Cambodian girl)

- The Chinese of America*—Jack Chen (Chinese-Americans)
- The Chosen*—Chaim Potok (Jewish boy)
- Clover*—Dori Sanders (mixed race family)
- The Cuban Americans*—Renee Gernand (Cuban Americans in U.S.)
- Dancing Tepees: Poems of American Indian Youth*—Virginia Driving Hawk Sneve (Ed.) (Native American poetry collection)
- Darnell Rock Reporting*—Walter Dean Myers (black boy)
- Davita's Harp*—Herman Wouk (Jewish characters)
- Days of Grace*—Arthur Ashe and Arnold Rampersad (African American)
- A Different Beat*—Candy Dawson Boys (black sixth-grade girl)
- A Distant Enemy*—Deb Vanasse (Eskimo/white boy in Alaska)
- Down These Mean Streets*—John Peter ("Piri") Thomas (Latino)
- Dreaming in Cuban*—Cristina Garcia (Cuban novel)
- Drown*—Junot Diaz (Latino story collection)
- Dust from Old Bones*—Sandra Forrester (black-white heritage)
- Earth Power Coming: Short Fiction in Native American Literature*—Simon Ortiz (Ed.) (Native American short story collection)
- Eyes on the Prize: America's Civil Rights Years, 1954–65*—Juan Williams (African American gains)
- Farewell to Manzanar*—Jeanne Wakatsuki (Japanese girl)
- Fast Talk on a Slow Track*—Rita Williams-Garcia (African American)
- Fear the Condor*—David Nelson Blair (Bolivian girl)
- F Is for Fabuloso*—Marie G. Lee (Asian-American girl)
- The Fixer*—Bernard Malamud (Jewish fiction by American writer)
- Forty Acres and Maybe a Mule*—Harriette Gillem Robinet (two black emancipated slave boys)
- The Fourteen Sisters of Emilio Montes O'Brien*—Oscar Hijuelos (Cuban-Irish experiences in Pennsylvania)
- Freedom Crossing*—Margaret Goff Clark (Mexican)
- The Friendship*—Mildred D. Taylor (black/white relations)
- From the Notebooks of Melanin Sun*—Jacqueline Woodson (black/white relationship)
- Ganesh*—Malcolm J. Bosse (boy from India)
- The General in His Labyrinth*—Gabriel Márquez García (about Simon Bolivar)
- The Ghost in the Tokaido Inn*—Dorothy Hoobler and Thomas Hoobler (Japanese historical fiction)
- Going Under*—Virgil Suarez (Latino fiction)
- Grace in the Wilderness*—Aranka Siegal (Jewish girl)
- Growing Up Chicana/o*—Tiffany Lopez (Chicana/o collection)
- Happily May I Walk: American Indians and Alaska Natives Today*—Arlene B. Hirschfelder (for younger readers)
- Heaven*—Anglela Johnson (black girl)
- The Hiding Place*—Corrie Ten Boom (Nazi persecution of Jews)
- The Hispanic Americans*—Milton Meltzer (Puerto Ricans, Mexicans, and Cubans in the United States)
- Hispanic, Female and Young: An Anthology*—Phyllis Tashlik (Ed.) (Hispanic women)
- The Honorable Prison*—Lyll Becerra de Jenkins (Latino family)

- House of the Spirits*—Isabel Allende (Chilean family)
- The House on Mango Street*—Sandra Cisneros (poetry by Latino)
- How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accent*—Julia Álvarez (Dominican American sisters)
- A Hunger for Memory; The Education of Richard Rodriguez; Conversations with My Mexican Father*—Richard Rodriguez (Latino autobiographies)
- If You Come Softly*—Jacqueline Woodson (black/white relationship)
- The Image and Other Stories*—Isaac Bashevis Singer (Yiddish stories by Polish/American writer)
- Indian Chiefs*—Russell Freedman (biographies for younger readers)
- Indian Summer*—Barbara Girion (Native American/white relations)
- In Nueva York*—Nicholasa Mohr (Latino novel)
- In the Shade of the Nispero Tree*—Carmen R. Bernier-Grand (Puerto Rican)
- In the Time of the Butterflies*—Julia Álvarez (Latino sisters)
- Invisible Men: Life in Baseball's Negro Leagues*—Donn Rogosin (African American contributions)
- An Island Like You*—Judith Ortiz Cofer (short stories for younger readers set in a Puerto Rican barrio in New Jersey)
- Italian Americans*—Rebecca Aldridge (Italian heritage)
- I Thought My Soul Would Rise and Fly: The Diary of Patsy, a Freed Girl*—Joyce Hansen (black slave girl)
- A Jar of Dreams*—Yoshiko Uchida (Japanese-American heritage)
- Jesse*—Gary Soto (California Chicano brothers)
- The Journal of Joshua Loper: A Black Cowboy, the Chisolm Trail, 1871*—Walter Dean Myers (black teen cowboy)
- The Journey*—Sheila Hamanaka (Japanese-American relations)
- Journey of the Sparrows*—Fran Leeper Buss and Daisy Cubias (El Salvadorian girl and brother)
- Jubilee Journey*—Carolyn Meyer (mixed race girl)
- Kaffir Boy: The True Story of a Black Youth's Coming of Age in Apartheid South Africa*—Mark Mathabane (racial barriers)
- The Kiss of the Spider Woman*—Manuel Puig (Argentinian prison experience)
- The Kitchen God's Wife*—Amy Tan (Chinese-American heritage)
- The Labyrinth*—Enrique Laguerre (Puerto Rican fiction)
- Lakota Woman*—Mary Crow Dog and Richard Erdoes (Native Americans)
- La Raza: The Mexican Americans*—Stan Steiner (Cesar Chavez et al.)
- Latinos: A Biography of a People*—Earl Shorris (Latino experiences)
- The Legend of the Kite: A Story of China*—Chen Jiang Hong (Chinese culture)
- Letters from a Slave Girl: The Story of Harriet Jacobs*—Mary E. Lyons (black slave girl)
- Life Riddles*—Melrose Cooper (young black girl)
- Like Water for Chocolate*—Laura Ewquível (Mexican family)
- Local News*—Gary Soto (Hispanic-American stories for younger readers)
- The Longest Ride*—Denise Lewis Patrick (black/Indian relations)

- The Mambo Kings Play Songs of Love*—Oscar Hijuelos (Cuban musicians)
- The Man to Send Rain Clouds*—Kenneth Rosen (Ed.) (Native American short story collection)
- Mexican Voices/American Dreams: An Oral History*—Marilyn Davis (compiler) (Mexican migrants)
- Migrant Farm Workers: Temporary People*—Linda Jacobs Altman (Latino laborers in United States)
- Millennium: Tribal Wisdom and the Modern World*—David Maybury-Lewis (several tribal cultures)
- The Moon Lady*—Amy Tan (Chinese girl)
- Motherland*—Vinetta Vijayaraghaven (Indian/American girl)
- Mother Tongue*—Demetria Martinez (El Salvadorian refugee)
- Mountain Light*—Laurence Yep (Chinese boy)
- My Grandmother Is a Singing Yaya*—Karen Scourby D'Arc (Greek girl)
- My Home Is Over Jordan*—Sandra Forrester (black family during Civil War)
- My Name Is Asher Lev*—Chaim Potok (Jewish boy)
- Necessary Roughness*—Marie G. Lee (Asian-American relationships)
- Night, Dawn, The Accident: Three Tales*—Elie Wiesel (American writer of Jewish stories)
- An Ocean Apart, a World Away*—Lensey Namioka (Korean historical fiction)
- The Orange Tree*—Carlos Fuentes (five novellas by Mexican author)
- The Park Bench*—Fumiko Takeshita (Japanese heritage)
- Q & A*—Edwin Torres (Latino fiction)
- The Rain Dance People: The Pueblo Indians, Their Past and Present*—Richard Erdoes (Pueblo Indian history)
- Rain of God*—Victor Villasenor (Mexican experiences in California)
- Rebel: A Tibetan Odyssey*—Cheryl Aylward Whitesel (Tibetan historical fiction)
- The Remembered Earth*—Geary Hobson (Ed.) (Native American fiction/nonfiction collection)
- Rescue: The Story of How Gentiles Saved the Jews in the Holocaust*—Milton Meltzer (Jewish-white relations)
- Revolutions of the Heart*—Marsha Qualey (Native American/white relationship)
- Rio Grande Stories*—Carolyn Meyer (varied heritages in New Mexico)
- Roots*—Alex Haley (tracing African heritage)
- Schindler's List*—T. Keneally (Jewish Holocaust)
- Seesaw Girl*—Linda Sue Park (Korean girl)
- Shabanu: Daughter of the Wind*—Suzanne Fisher Staples (Pakistani girl)
- The Shadow Brothers*—A. E. Cannon (Navajo teen)
- Silent Thunder: A Civil War Story*—Andrea Davis Pinkney (young black slave boy)
- Smoke and Ashes: The Story of the Holocaust*—Barbara Rogasky (Jewish-white relations)
- Soledad*—Angie Cruz (Latino fiction)
- Spikes*—Pedro Juan Soto (Puerto Rican fiction)
- Star Fisher*—Laurence Yep (Chinese family)
- The Story of Squanto, First Friend to the Pilgrims*—Cathy East Dubowski (biography of Squanto for younger readers)
- The Storyteller*—Mario Vargas Llosa (Peruvian in Italy)

- Storyteller's Beads*—Jane Kurtz (Christian/Jewish girls interaction)
- Sweet Fifteen*—Diane Gonzales Bertrand (Latino family)
- Sweetgrass*—Jan Hudson (Blackfoot girl)
- Territorio Libre*—Luis Ricardo Alonso (Latino novel)
- Teve the Dairyman and the Railroad Stories*—Sholom Aleichem (Yiddish short story collection by Russian writer)
- That's What She Said*—Rayna Green (Ed.) (Native American women's fiction and poetry)
- The Third Woman: Minority Women Writers of the United States*—Dexter Fisher (Ed.) (collection of Native American women's writings)
- To a Widow with Children*—Lionel García (humorous story of Mexican Revolutionary in Texas)
- To Destroy You Is No Loss: The Odyssey of a Cambodian Family*—Jan D. Criddle and Teeda Butt Mam (true story of Cambodian family)
- Treemonisha: From the Opera by Scott Joplin*—Angela Shelf Medearis (nonmusical version of black opera by Pulitzer Prize winner)
- The Wall*—John Hersey (Jewish fiction by American writer)
- Wandering Warrior*—Da Chen (Chinese historical fiction)
- Water Sky*—Jean Craighead George (whaling in the Eskimo culture)
- We the People: An Atlas of America's Ethnic Diversity*—James P. Allen and Eugene J. Turner (map of American ethnic groups)
- We Were There, Too!*—Phillip Hoose (multicultural contributions)
- Whale Talk*—Chris Crutcher (multiethnic boy)
- What Are You? Voices of Mixed-Race Young People*—Pearl Gaskins (Ed.) (teens of mixed heritage)
- When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit*—Judith Kerr (persecution of Jews)
- When I Was Puerto Rican*—Esmeralda Santiago (true Puerto Rican experiences in New York)
- Who Was Who in Native American History*—Carl Waldman (Native American history, 1492–1900)
- A Woman of Her Tribe*—Margaret A. Robinson (Nootka/white girl)
- The World of Daughter McGuire*—Sharon Dennis Wyeth (mixed race girl)
- The Yellow Canary Whose Eye Is So Black*—Cheli Duran (Ed.) (Latino poetry collection)
- Y No Se Lo Trago La Tierra*—Tomás Rivera (bilingual story of migrant worker's life)
- Zack*—William Bell (biracial boy)
- Zapata Rose in 1992*—Gary D. Keller (Latino story collection)
- Zoot-Suit Murders*—Edwin Torres (Latino fiction)