

# 50 multicultural books every child should read

This list of must-have multicultural books was compiled by the Cooperative Children's Book Center, School of Education, University of Wisconsin-Madison, and is reprinted here with their permission.

## Preschool

- **What a Wonderful World** by George David Weiss and Bob Thiele, illustrated by Ashley Bryan. Atheneum, 1995.(Multi-ethnic)
- **One Afternoon** by Yumi Heo. Orchard, 1994. (Asian Pacific American)
- **Grandmother's Nursery Rhymes/Las Nanas de Abuelita** by Nelly Palacio Jaramillo, illustrated by Elivia. Holt, 1994. (Latino)
- **Margaret and Margarita/Margarita y Margaret** by Lynn Reiser. Greenwillow, 1993. (Latino)
- **Baby Says** by John Steptoe. Lothrop, 1988 (African American)
- **I Love My Hair!** by Natasha Anastasia Tarpley, illustrated by E. B. Lewis. Little Brown, 1998. (African American)
- **Baby Rattlesnake** by Te Ata, illustrated by Mira Reisberg. Children's Book Press, 1989. (American Indian)
- **You Are My Perfect Baby** by Johce Carol Thomas, illustrated by Nneka Bennett. HarperCollins, 1999. (African American)
- **Round Is a Mooncake: A Book of Shapes** by Rosanne Thong, illustrated by Grace Lin. Chronicle, 2000. (Asian Pacific American)
- **Where Did You Get Your Moccasins?** by Bernelda Wheeler, illustrated by Herman Bekkering. Peguis, 1986. (American Indian)
- **More, More, More, Said the Baby: Three Love Stories** by Vera B. Williams. Greenwillow, 1990. (Multi-ethnic)
- **Do You Know What I'll Do?** by Charlotte Zolotow, illustrated by Javaka Steptoe. HarperCollins, 2000. (African American)

## Ages 5-7

- **Drumbeat... Heartbeat: A Celebration of the Powwow** by Susan Braine. Lerner, 1995. (American Indian)
- **Grandfather Counts** by Andrea Cheng, illustrated by Ange Zhang. Lee & Low, 2000. (Asian Pacific American)
- **Halmoni and the Picnic** by Sook Nyul Choi, illustrated by Karen M. Dugan. Houghton Mifflin, 1993. (Asian Pacific American)
- **Hairs/Pelitos** by Sandra Cisneros, illustrated by Terry Ybáñez. Knopf, 1994. (Latino)
- **Abuela** by Arthur Dorros, illustrated by Elisa Kleven. Dutton, 1991.(Latino)
- **Honey, I Love, and Other Poems** by Eloise Greenfield, illustrated by Leo and Diane Dillon. Harper, 1978. (African American)
- **The Good Luck Cat** by Joy Harjo, illustrated by Paul Lee. Harcourt, 2000. (American Indian)
- **Celebrating Families** by Rosemarie Hausherr. Scholastic, 1997. (Multi-ethnic) **Mirandy and Brother Wind** by Patricia McKissack, illustrated by Jerry Pinkney. Knopf, 1988. (African American)
- **Shades of Black: A Celebration of Our Children** by Sandra L. Pinkney, photographs by Myles C. Pinkney. Scholastic, 2000. (African American)
- **Giving Thanks: A Native American Good Morning Message** by Jake Swamp, illustrated by Erwin Printup, Jr. Lee & Low, 1995. (American Indian)
- **Morning on the Lake** by Jean Bourdeau Waboose, illustrated by Karen Reczuch. Kids Can Press, 1998. (American Indian)

## Ages 7-9

- **My Name Is Maria Isabel** by Alma Flor Ada. Atheneum, 1993. (Latino)
- **From the Bellybutton of the Moon, and Other Summer Poems/Del Ombligo de la Luna, y Otros Poemas de Verano** by Francisco X. Alarcon, illustrated by Maya Christina Gonzalez. Children's Book Press, 1998. (Latino)
- **Golden Tales: Myths, Legends and Folktales from Latin America** by Lulu Delacre. Scholastic, 1996. (Latino)
- **The People Could Fly: American Black Folktales** by Virginia Hamilton, illustrated by Leo and Diane Dillon. Knopf, 1985. (African American)
- **Maples in the Mist: Poems for Children from the Tang Dynasty** by Minfong Ho, illustrated by Jean and Mou-sien Tseng. Lothrop, 1996. (Asian Pacific)
- **John Henry** by Julius Lester, illustrated by Jerry Pinkney. Dial, 1994. (African American)
- **Baseball Saved Us** by Ken Mochizuki, illustrated by Dom Lee. Lee & Low, 1993. (Asian Pacific American)
- **Wings** by Christopher Myers. Scholastic, 2000. (African American)
- **The People Shall Continue** by Simon Ortiz, illustrated by Sharol Graves. Children's Book Press, 1988. (American Indian)
- **Tar Beach** by Faith Ringgold. Crown, 1991. (African American)
- **What's the Most Beautiful Thing You Know about Horses?** by Richard Van Camp, illustrated by George Littlechild. Children's Book Press, 1998. (American Indian)
- **Justin and the Best Biscuits in the World** by Mildred Pitts Walter. Lothrop, 1998. (African American)

## Ages 9-12

- **Through My Eyes** by Ruby Bridges. Scholastic, 1999. (African American)
- **American Indian Animal Stories** by Joseph Bruchac. Fulcrum, 1992. (American Indian)
- **Bud, Not Buddy** by Christopher Paul Curtis. Delacorte, 1999. (African American)
- **The Birchbark House** by Louise Erdrich. Hyperion, 1999. (American Indian)
- **The Journey: Japanese Americans, Racism and Renewal** by Sheila Hamanaka. Orchard, 1990. (Asian Pacific American)
- **Oh, Freedom! Kids Talk About the Civil Rights Movement with the People Who Made It Happen** by Casey King and Linda Barrett Osborne. Knopf, 1997 (Multi-ethnic)
- **Family Pictures/Cuadros de Familia** by Carmen Lomas Garza. Children's Book Press, 1990. (Latino)
- **Now Is Your Time! The African-American Struggle for Freedom** by Walter Dean Myers. HarperCollins, 1992. (African American)
- **The Tree Is Older Than You Are** by Naomi Shihab Nye. Simon & Schuster, 1995. (Latino)
- **Esperanza Rising** by Pam Munoz Ryan. Scholastic, 2000. (Latino)
- **Quilted Landscape: Conversations with Young Immigrants** by Yale Strom. Simon & Schuster, 1996. (Multi-ethnic)
- **Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry** by Mildred D. Taylor. Dial, 1976. (African American)
- **The Rainbow People** by Lawrence Yep. HarperCollins, 1989. (Asian Pacific American)
- **The Friends** by Kazumi Yumoto. Farrar Straus Giroux, 1996. (Asian Pacific)

Please visit the Cooperative Children's Book Center, at <http://www.education.wisc.edu/ccbc/> for a multitude of information and resources about children's literature.