

Diverse Children's Books

Lee & Low Books is dedicated to serving the needs of today's educators and students. Our diversity book collections both satisfy the requirements of national standards with the thematic and linguistic rigor necessary for academic success and provide texts that all students can identify with and enjoy. Students can explore the extensive collections of contemporary authors, characters, and historic figures of color; Educators can feel confident that our award-winning books offer the complexity, quality, and range of each grade level necessary to prepare students as scholars and citizens. <https://www.leeandlow.com/collections>

500+ Multicultural Children's Books by Age & Ethnicity

<https://coloursofus.com/multicultural-childrens-books-lists/>

1363 Books of Multicultural Fiction by category, ethnicity and age at A Mighty Girl

<https://www.amightygirl.com/books/fiction/multicultural-fiction>

Coretta Scott King Award winners

<https://www.commonensemedia.org/lists/coretta-scott-king-book-award-winners>

Pura Belpré Award, established in 1996, is presented to a Latino/Latina writer and illustrator whose work best portrays, affirms, and celebrates the Latino cultural experience.

https://guides.lib.campbell.edu/childrens_literature/pura-belpre-award-winners

Books with Latino Characters for Kids and Teens. <https://www.commonensemedia.org/lists/latinx-books;>

<https://www.thoughtco.com/hispanic-and-latino-heritage-in-books-627003>

Books for Activist Children, bilingual children's books with social justice themes from Hard Ball Press.

<http://www.hardballpress.com/little-heroes.html>

10-17-21 40 Filipino American Books for Children & Teenagers

<https://coloursofus.com/40-filipino-american-books-for-children-teenagers/>

Books with Asian, Asian American, Desi, and Pacific Islander Characters. From Japan to Pakistan, from the Phillipines to New Zealand, from California to Alabama, this list of more than 100 books covers a lot of geographical ground. Age 2-13+

<https://www.commonensemedia.org/lists/books-with-asian-asian-american-desi-and-pacific-islander-characters>

Books for kids in transracial adoptions or fostercare. Ages 2-16

<https://creatingafamily.org/adoption/adoptionsuggestedbooks/books-kids-transracial-black/>

3-23-22 'Give the Children the Poems and Stories of Their Own People' A reading list of African American children's writing before *Brown v. Board of Education*.

<https://www.nytimes.com/article/childrens-books-black-authors.html>

The People Could Fly: American Black Folktales Virginia Hamilton [1985].

Children's books to support conversations on race, racism and resistance.

<https://www.embracerace.org/resources/childrens-books>

The Schneider Family Book Award honors an author or illustrator for a book that embodies an artistic expression of the disability experience for child and adolescent audiences.

https://guides.lib.campbell.edu/childrens_literature/schneider-family-book-award-winners

1363 Multicultural Fiction books at A Mighty Girl by category and age
<https://www.amightygirl.com/books/fiction/multicultural-fiction>

Scholastic Diversity Titles <https://shop.scholastic.com/teachers-ecommerce/teacher/subject/diversity.html>

Children's Books with Middle Eastern

themes.<https://www.middleeastbooks.com/collections/childrens-books/childrens-books>;
<https://www.muslimkidsbooknook.com/>

Young Reader's versions of adult diverse history books <https://www.zinnedproject.org/collection/young-readers/>

16 Children's Picture Books about Refugees <https://humaneeducation.org/14-childrens-books-refugees/>

5 Children's Picture Books Celebrating Identity

<https://humaneeducation.org/fridayfeature-5-childrens-picture-books-celebrating-identity/>

11 Children's Picture Books That Shatter Gender Stereotypes

<https://humaneeducation.org/11-childrens-picture-books-shatter-gender-stereotypes/>

12 Children's Picture Books That Challenge Traditional Gender Roles

<https://humaneeducation.org/12-childrens-picture-books-that-challenge-traditional-gender-roles>

12 Children's Picture Books about Human Rights Issues

<https://humaneeducation.org/12-childrens-picture-books-human-rights-issues>

12 Children's Picture Books About Access to Education

<https://humaneeducation.org/12-childrens-picture-books-access-education>

13 Children's Picture Books about Bullying <https://humaneeducation.org/13-childrens-picture-books-bullying>

9 Resources for Finding Multicultural Books for Children

<https://humaneeducation.org/9-resources-finding-multicultural-books-children>

14 Children's Picture Books Exploring Race and Racism

<https://humaneeducation.org/14-childrens-picture-books-exploring-race-racism>

13 Children's Picture Books Whose Characters Have Special Needs

<https://humaneeducation.org/13-childrens-picture-books-featuring-characters-disabilities>

Cultivating Compassionate Kids: 10 Children's Picture Books

<https://humaneeducation.org/cultivating-compassionate-kids-10-childrens-picture-books>

Books from my personal collection [\[except for those with *\]](#)

Global Babies by [Global Fund for Children](#), [Keren Su](#), and [Frans Lemmens](#) - a photo board book

My Aunt Came Back by Pat Cummings, a Black aunt returns from travels around the world with gifts for her niece -a rhyming board book

Edward Anderson's Goodbye. Lucille Clifton, Ann Grifalconi, Illus. (1983, NY: The Trumpet Club, 20p) A book about death

Let's Talk About Race- Julius Lester

Black Is Brown Is Tan by Arnold Adoff, illustrator, Emily Arnold McCully. 40 pages, 1973, the first children's book to feature an interracial family. Age Range: 4 - 8 years, Grade Level: Preschool – 3;

Everybody Bakes Bread and ***Everybody Cooks Rice***. Norah Dooley. Peter J. Thorton, illus. includes recipes (1996, Minn., MN: Carolrhoda Books, Inc. 36p)

This Place is Cold. Vicki Cobb, Barbara Lavalley, illus. The Imagine Living Here Series. (1989, NY: Walker Publishing Co., 30p)

“Grandpa, Is Everything Black Bad?” by Sandy Lynne Holman 1998. Montsho comes to his grandfather to find out: “Is everything black bad?” Montsho mentions “black cat,” “black sheep,” “black eye,” and black villains on TV as evidence. Montsho’s grandfather shows him why black is “one of the most beautiful colors in the world” by telling him about his African heritage. Grades 1-4.

Pink and Say by Patricia Polacco. A book about two young Union soldiers, one Black and wounded, one white, in Confederate territory during the Civil War. 48p, Grades 3-5.

Phoebe the Spy. Judith Berry Griffin, Margot Tomes, illus. [13 year old black girl spies for George Washington] (1997, NY: Scholastic, Inc., 48p) RL4

We Are America. A Tribute from the Heart. and ***Harlem***. Walter Dean Myers. Christopher Myers, illus. (2011, NY: Harper, 38p)

Bonjour Lonnie, by Faith Ringgold, (edited by Elizabeth Gordon), Hyperion Press, New York 1996 is a family history that is inextricably bound with the history of a century and the history of several cultures: African American, French, Jewish. Beginning with a grandfather who fought in World War I with the French in the exclusive regiment known as the Harlem Hell Fighters through the Harlem Renaissance and the blossoming of African American culture to the darker times of World War II, Lonnie traces his family tree and comes to know all the people who gave him their talents, their strengths, and their love.

The Other Mozart. The Life of the famous Chevalier de Saint-George. (1745-99). [Celebrated Black swordsman, violinist-composer and conductor, and later commander of a colored regiment in the French Revolution] Hugh Brewster, Eric Valasquez. Ills. (2007, NY: Abrams Books for Young Children, 48p.)

The Amazing Travels of Ibn Battuta by Fatima Sharafeddine illustrated by Intelaq Mohammed Ali In 1325, when Ibn Battuta was just 21, he bid farewell to his parents in Tangier, Morocco, and embarked on a pilgrimage to Mecca. It was 30 years before he returned home, having seen the Middle East, Africa, Europe and Asia. Ibn Battuta kept a diary of his travels, and even though he lost it many times and had to recall and rewrite what he had seen, he kept a remarkable record of his years away. He recalls his amazing journey and the fascinating people, cultures, and places he encountered. His meticulous observations, retold here and beautifully illustrated, give us a remarkable picture of what it was like to be a traveler nearly 700 years ago.;

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/the-amazing-travels-of-ibn-battuta-fatima-sharafeddine/1116842612>

Saladin. The Muslim Warrior Who Defended His People. Flora Geyer (2006, Washington, DC: National Geographic, 64p) j Biography 956.014 Saladin 2006

Off to Class. Incredible and Unusual Schools around the World. Susan Hughes. (2011, Toronto: Owlkids Books, Inc. 64p) J371 H8946o 2011

Pennies to Dollars. The story of Maggie Lena Walker. [1867-1934. Black elite educator, businesswoman, & activist who started a Black savings bank, department store, in Richmond, VA during Jim Crow] jB W153b 1997

The Harlem Hellfighters. by author Max Brooks with illustrations by Caanan White. [graphic novel about the WWI African American 369th Infantry Regiment]

Harlem Hellfighters. J. Patrick Lewis, Gary Kelley, illus. (2014, Mankato, MN: Creative Editions, 28p) J940.5403 L6744h 2014

Standing Up Against Hate. How Black Women in the Army Helped Change the Course of WWII. Mary Cronk Farrell. (2019, NY: Abrams Books for Young Readers, 196p)

The school the Aztec Eagles built : The school the Aztec Eagles built : A Tribute to Mexico's World War II air fighters. by Dorinda Makanaonalani Nicholson [We asked Mexico for help during WWII. They sent us a squadron.] (2016 NY: Lee & Low Books, 40p) J940.5449 N625s 2016

Imprisoned. The Betrayal of Japanese Americans during World War II. Martin W. Sandler. (2013, NY: Walker Books for Young Readers, 176p)

The Journey. Japanese Americans, Racism and Renewal. Sheila Hamanaka, Steve Frederick, designer. (1990, NY: Orchard Paperbacks, 40p)

They Called Us Enemy *George Takei, Justin Eisinger, Steven Scott (2019)* Powerful graphic memoir of actor's internment as a child.

***Be Bold! Be Brave! 11 Latinas who made U.S. History** by *Naibe Reynoso*

***An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States for Young People** Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz

***Stolen Justice. The Struggle for African American Voting Rights.** [Goldstone, Lawrence](#), Book 2020.y 324.62 G6248s 2020

***Freedom Summer for young People** Bruce Watson, adapted by Rebecca Stefoff

* **Ruth and the Green Book** by [Calvin Alexander Ramsey](#), [Gwen Strauss](#), [Floyd Cooper \(Illustrator\)](#) Hardcover, (2010 Published by Carolrhoda Books, 32 pages)

Lies My Teacher Told Me: Everything Your American History Textbook Got Wrong by James W. Loewen, adapted by Rebecca Stefoff

The Fierce 44 Black Americans Who Shook up the World ESPN's TheUndeated.com Book – 2019 j 920.00929 F465 2020

Forgotten Bones. Uncovering a Slave Cemetery. Lois Miner Huey. (2015, Minn., MN: Millbrook Press, 56p) J306.362 H888f 2015

Emperor Qin's Terracotta Army. Unearthing Ancient Worlds. Michael Capek. (2008, Minn., MN: Twenty-First Century Books, 80p) J931.04 CAP

Lang Jie. The Inventor of Chinese Characters. A Story in English and Chinese. Li Jian, Yijn Wert, trans. (2016, NY: Better Link Press, 40p)

The Dream Keeper and other poems. Langston Hughes, Brian Pinkney, illus. (1994, NY: Knopf, 83p)

ego tripping and other poems for young people. nikki giovanni, george ford, illus. (1973, NY: Lawrence Hill & Co., 37p)

Sholom's Treasure. How Sholom Aleichem Became a Writer. Erica Silverman, Mordicai Gerstein, illus. [Fiddler on the Roof is based upon his stories] (2005, NY: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 38p)

My Name is Gabrito. The Life of Gabriel Garcia Marquez. Monica Brown, John Parra, illus. (2007, Flagstaff, AZ: Rising Moon, 30p)

My Name is Gabriela. The Life of Gabriela Mistral. Monica Brown, Raul Colon, illus. [bilingual] (2005, Flagstaff, AZ: Luna Rising, 28p)

The Color of My Words. Lynn Joseph. (2002 NY: Harper Trophy, 138p)J Joseph 2002

Great African Americans in Literature. Pat Rediger. (1996, NY: Crabtree Publ. Co., 64p)

Jake Makes A World: Jacob Lawrence, A Young Artist in Harlem. Sharifa Rhodes-Pitts, Christopher Myers, illus. (2015, NY: MOMA, 28p)

Henry Ossawa Tanner. His Boyhood Dream Comes True. Faith Ringgold. (2011, Piermont, NH: Bunker Hill Publ., 31p) J59.13092 T1667r 2011

Faith Ringgold. Mike Venezia. (2008, NY: Scholastic, Children's Press, 32p)

Lang Jie. The Inventor of Chinese Characters. A Story in English and Chinese. Li Jian, Yijn Wert, trans. (2016, NY: Better Link Press, 40p)

Zen Ghosts. Jon Muth. (2010, NY: Scholastic Press, 24p) JE Holiday Muth 2010

Zen Shorts. Jon Muth. (2010, NY: Scholastic Press,

The Journey. Francesca Sanna.

We Came to America. Faith Ringgold. [Anything written by her]

Snowflakes Fall. Patricia MacLaughlan.

What Do You Do with a Problem. Kobi Yamada.

Spirit Child. A Story of the Nativity. John Bierhorst, trans. from the Aztec. [1500s], Barbara Cooney, illus. (1984, NY: SeaStar Books, 26p)

The Night Before Christmas in Africa. Jesse, Hannah, and Carroll Foster, Jean Christodoulou, illus. (2004, 2010, Gretna, LA: Pelican, 30p)

The Harlem Nutcracker. Donald Byrd & Susan Kuklin. (2001, NY: Hyperion Books for Children, 46p.) Byrd transformed the role of Clara from a little white girl to a black matriarch on the first Christmas without her beloved husband. <https://www.nytimes.com/1996/12/08/arts/the-nutcracker-gets-a-chance-to-swing.html>; The premier of the FULL production will be performed in Seattle in December 2022.

<https://spectrumdance.org/company/2020-21-season/the-harlem-nutcracker/>. **Stage 3 of 4 Workshops will be performed Dec 9-12, 2021.** <https://spectrumdance.org/company/2021-22-season/the-harlem-nutcracker/>

Selected Authors

Andrea Davis Pinkney 70+books for children and YA,
<https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/teaching-tools/articles/authors/andrea-davis-pinkney.html>

Cynthia Leitich Smith 2021 NSK Neustadt Laureate, best-selling, award-winning children's-YA Native-centered author and curator of Heartdrum, a Native-focused imprint at HarperCollins Children's Books
<https://cynthialeitichsmith.com/>

Faith Ringgold, artist and author <https://www.publishersweekly.com/pw/authorpage/faith-ringgold.html>

Jacqueline Woodson, award winning author of picture, middle grade and YA books, 2020 MacArthur Fellow, <https://www.jacquelinewoodson.com/>

Kwame Alexander, Newbery Medal and Coretta Scott King Award-winner
<https://kwamealexander.com/product/f/BIBLIOGRAPHY/>

Martellus Bennett, <https://www.theimaginationagency.com/product-category/books/>;
<https://www.bostonherald.com/2016/06/18/patriots-martellus-bennett-authors-a-series-of-childrens-books/>

Pat Cummings https://aalbc.com/authors/author.php?author_name=Pat+Cummings

Patricia Polacco Storyteller, award winning author, and illustrator of over 115 books for children. Polacco's picture books, most of which are based on family and childhood experiences, emphasize diversity, a reflection of both her own multicultural family <http://www.patriciapolacco.com/index.html>;
<https://www.thoughtco.com/author-and-illustrator-patricia-polacco-626859>

Raul the Third MexicanAmerican Author and illustrator of children's books
<https://www.raulthethird.com/new-page>

Rebecca Steffoff, author and adaptor of a ton of books for young readers. http://rebeccasteffoff.com/?page_id=211

Walter Dean Myers prolific, award winning author who served as the Library of Congress' National Ambassador for Young People's Literature <https://walterdeanmyers.net/complete-bibliography/>