



DIVERSITY ROCKS THE BOOK
Holland Human Relations Department

2019 SUGGESTED TITLES Grades 4-8

The Diversity Rocks the Book project team, comprised of local educators and librarians, has identified the following children's books as those that present a main character that represent our diverse cultural heritage. Our goal is to put diverse books such as these in front of and into the hands of our children, to begin to create for them a world in which all children can see themselves in the pages of a book. We encourage parents, childcare providers, and teachers to consider these titles for grades 4-8 when selecting books for the home or classroom. A book list for grades PreK-5 is also available.

Latin-American

Grades 3-6 ***The First Rule of Punk*** by Celia Pérez
Grades 3-7 ***Esperanza Rising*** by Pam Muñoz Ryan
Grades 3-7 ***Ghosts*** by Raina Telgemeier
Grades 3-7 ***Stef Soto, Taco Queen*** by Jennifer Torres
Grades 3-7 ***Gabby Garcia's Ultimate Playbook*** by Iva-Marie Palmer
Grades 4-7 ***Merci Suárez Changes Gears*** by Meg Medina
Grades 4-7 ***The First Rule of Punk*** by Celia C. Pérez
Grades 4-7 ***Becoming Naomi León*** by Pam Munoz Ryan
Grades 5-7 ***The Epic Fail of Arturo Zamora*** by Kate Messner
Grades 5-8 ***Gabby, Lost and Found*** by Angela Cervantes
Grades 5-8 ***Awkward (Berrybrook Middle School)*** by Svetlana Chmakova
Grades 5-8 ***Us, In Progress: Short Stories About Young Latinos*** by Lulu Delacre
Grades 5-8 ***Ask My Mood Ring How I Feel*** by Diana Lopez
Grades 5-9 ***Zombie Baseball Beatdown*** by Paolo Bacigalupi
Grades 7-9 ***Under the Mesquite*** by Guadalupe Garcia McCall
Grades 7-9 ***The Tequilla Worm*** by Viola Canales

African American

Grades 3-7 ***Zoe in Wonderland*** by Brenda Woods
Grades 3-7 ***Planet Middle School*** by Nikki Grimes
Grades 3-7 ***One Crazy Summer*** by Rita Williams-Garcia
Grades 3-7 ***Love Double Dutch!*** By Doreen Spicer-Dannelly
Grades 3-7 ***P.S. Be Eleven*** by Rita Williams-Garcia
Grades 4-7 ***Princess: Save Yourself*** by Jeremy Whitley
Grades 4-7 ***Brown Girl Dreaming*** by Jacqueline Woodson
Grades 4-7 ***Blended*** by Sharon M. Draper

Grades 4-7 ***The Parker Inheritance*** by Varian Johnson
Grades 5-7 ***The Crossover*** by Kwame Alexander
Grades 5-7 ***Ghost*** by Jason Reynolds
Grades 5-8 ***As Brave As You*** by Jason Reynolds
Grades 5-8 ***Ghost Boys*** by Jewell Parker Rhodes
Grades 5-8 ***The Stars Beneath Our Feet*** by David Barclay Moore
Grades 5-8 ***Tight*** by Torrey Maldonado
Grades 7-8 ***Piecing Me Together*** by Renee Watson
Grades 7-8 ***Yummy: The Last Days of a Southside Shorty*** by G. Neiri

Asian-American

Grades 3-7 ***The Year of the Dog*** by Grace Lin
Grades 3-7 ***Aru Shah and the End of Time*** by Roshani Chokshi
Grades 3-7 ***The House that Lou Built*** by Mae Respicio
Grades 3-7 ***Inside Out and Back Again*** by Thanhha Lai
Grades 3-7 ***Listen Slowly*** by Thanhha Lai
Grades 4-6 ***Pashmina*** by Nidhi Chanani
Grades 4-6 ***The Science of Breakable Things*** by Tae Keller
Grades 4-8 ***This is Just a Test*** by Madelyn Rosenberg & Wendy Wan-Long Shanag
Grades 5-7 ***Homeless Bird*** by Gloria Whelan
Grades 5-8 ***Summerlost*** by Ally Condie
Grades 7-8 ***Under the Blood-Red Sun*** by Graham Salisbury
Grades 7-8 ***A Time to Dance*** by Padma Venkatraman
Grades 7-8 ***American Born Chinese*** by Gene Luen Yang

Muslim-American

Grades 3-7 ***Amina's Voice*** by Hena Khan
Grades 3-7 ***The Gauntlet*** by Karuna Riazi
Grades 4-7 ***Furthermore*** by Tahereh Mafi
Grades 4-8 ***The Red Pencil*** by Andrea Davis Pinkney
Grades 7-9 ***Down and Across*** by Arvin Ahmadi
Grades 7-9 ***Does My Head Look Big in This?*** By Randa Abdel-Fattah

Native First Nation

Grades 3-7 ***The Birchbark House*** by Louise Erdrich
Grades 4-6 ***Walk Two Moons*** by Sharon Creech
Grades 4-7 ***Skeleton Man*** by Joseph Bruchac
Grades 5-9 ***In the Footsteps of Crazy Horse*** by Joseph Marshall
Grades 5-7 ***Apple in the Middle*** by Dawn Quigley
Grades 6-8 ***The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*** by Sherman Alexie
Grades 6-8 ***If I Ever Get Out of Here*** by Eric Gansworth

LBGT / Gender Nonconforming

Grades 3-6 ***The Misadventures of the Family Fletcher*** by Dana Alison Levy

Grades 3-7 ***George*** by Alex Gino

Grades 4-7 ***The Best Man*** by Richard Peck

Grades 4-7 ***Ivy Aberdeen's Letter to the World*** by Ashley Herring Blake

Grades 4-8 ***The Pants Project*** by Cat Clarke

Grades 5-8 ***Ashes to Asheville*** by Sarah Dooley

Grades 5-8 ***Better Nate Than Ever*** by Tim Federle (1st book in a series)

Grades 5-8 ***Drum Roll, Please*** by Lisa Jenn Bigelow

Grades 5-8 ***The Other Boy*** by M.G. Hennessey

Grades 5-8 ***Lily and Dunkin*** by Donna Gephart

Multicultural Families

Grades 3-5 ***Bobby the Brave (Sometimes)*** by Lisa Yee

Grades 3-7 ***Unusual Chickens for the Exceptional Poultry Farmer*** by Kelly Jones

Grades 3-7 ***The Blossoming Universe of Violet Diamond*** by Brenda Woods

Grades 4-6 ***Brendan Buckley's Universe and Everything in It*** by Sundee T. Frazier

Grades 4-7 ***Flying Lessons & Other Stories*** by Ellen Oh (editor)

Grades 4-7 ***The Whole Story of Half a Girl*** by Veera Hiranandani

Grades 4-7 ***The Misadventures of the Family Fletcher*** by Dana Alison Levy

Grades 4-8 ***Full Cicado Moon*** by Marilyn Hilton

Grades 4-8 ***My Basmati Bat Mitzvah*** by Paula J Freedman

Grades 5-8 ***Camo Girl*** Kekla Magoon

Grades 5-9 ***Half a World Away*** by Cynthia Kadohata

Grades 7-9 ***What the Moon Saw*** by Laura Resau

Immigrant/ Migrant/ Refugee

Grades 3-7 ***Return to Sender*** by Julie Alvarez

Grades 3-7 ***Illegal*** by Eoin Colfer, Andrew Donkin, and Giovanni Rigano

Grades 3-5 ***90 Miles to Havana*** by Enrique Flores-Galbis

Grades 4-7 ***A Long Pitch Home*** by Natalie Dias Lorenzi

Grades 4-8 ***Nowhere Boy*** by Katherine Marsh

Grades 4-8 ***Wishtree*** By Katherine Applegate

Grades 5-7 ***Lucky Broken Girl*** by Ruth Behar

Grades 5-7 ***Refugee*** by Alan Gratz

Grades 5-8 ***Harbor Me*** by Jaqueline Woodson

Grades 7-9 ***Anya's Ghost*** by Vera Brosgol

Disabilities

Grades 3-7 *El Deafo* by CeCe Bell

Grades 3-7 *Hello, Universe* by Erin Entrada Kelly

Grades 3-7 *The Truth as Told by Mason Buttle* by Leslie Connor

Grades 4-6 *Fish in a Tree* by Lynda Mullaly Hunt

Grades 4-6 *Rain Reign* by Ann Martin

Grades 4-7 *The War That Saved My Life* by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley

Grades 5-7 *Out of My Mind* by Sharon M. Draper

Grades 5-7 *Joey Pizza Swallowed the Key* by Jack Gantos

Grades 5-9 *Counting by 7s* by Holly Goldberg Sloan

Poverty and Homelessness

Grades 3-4 *Those Shoes* Maribeth Boelts

Grades 3-4 *The Hundred Dresses* by Eleanor Estes

Grades 3-4 *Maddi's Fridge* by Lois Brandt

Grades 4-7 *Paper Things* by Jennifer Richard Jacobson

Grades 4-7 *Hold Fast* by Blue Balliet

Grades 4-7 *Crenshaw* by Katherine Applegate

Grades 5-7 *The Exact Location of Home* by Pablo Cartaya

Grades 5-9 *Mangus Chase and the Gods of Asgard (Book 1)* by Rick Riordan