

52 CONTEMPORARY Children's and Teen Fiction Books featuring People of Color
Recommended by Authors Who Write Children's and Teen Fiction Books
featuring People of Color
(and this is the longest title for a book list ever!)

YOUNG READERS

- THE BEST EID EVER by Asma Mobin-Uddin (Boyd's Mills Press , 2007), Picture Book
- MY NANA AND ME by Irene Smalls (Little, Brown BFYR, 2005), Picture Book
- MY FRIEND MAYA LOVES TO DANCE by Cheryl Hudson (Abrams BFYR, 2010), Picture Book
- ROSES IN MY CARPET by Rukhsana Khan (Fitzhenry and Whiteside, 2004), Picture Book
- CAN I HAVE A PET? by Gwendolyn Hooks (Bebop Books), 2002, Easy Reader
- THE MYSTERY OF THE MISSING DOG by Gwendolyn Hooks (Teaching Resources, 2004), Easy Reader
- THREE'S A CROWD by Gwendolyn Hooks (Teaching Resources, 2004), Easy Reader
- ALVIN HO: ALLERGIC TO GIRLS, SCHOOL AND OTHER SCARY THINGS by Lenore Look, (Schwartz & Wade, 2008), Realistic Fiction, Chapter Book Series
- RUBY AND THE BOOKER BOYS by Derrick Barnes (Scholastic Paperbacks, 2008) Chapter Book Series
- JACKSON JONES AND MISSION GREENTOP by Mary Quattlebaum, (Delacorte, 2004), Realistic Fiction, Chapter Book Series
- ZAPATO POWER: FREDDIE RAMOS TAKES OFF by Jacqueline Jules (Albert Whitman & Company, 2010) Humorous Adventure, Chapter Book Series

MIDDLE GRADE

- BECOMING NAOMI LEON by Pam Munoz Ryan, (Perfection Learning, 2005), Realistic Fiction
- THE BROKEN BIKE BOY AND THE QUEEN OF 33RD STREET by Sharon Flake, (Hyperion, 2007), Realistic Fiction
- CONFETTI GIRL by Diana Lopez, (Little, Brown BFYR, 2009), Realistic Fiction
- EIGHTH GRADE SUPERZERO by Olugbemisola Rhuday-Perkovich, (Arthur A. Levine Books, 2010), Realistic Fiction
- THE GREAT WALL OF LUCY WU by Wendy Shang, (Scholastic Press, 2011), Realistic Fiction
- HOW LAMAR'S BAD PRANK WON A BUBBA-SIZED TROPHY by Crystal Allen, (Balzer + Bray, 2011), Realistic Fiction
- MILLICENT MIN, GIRL GENIUS by Lisa Yee, (Arthur A. Levine Books, 2003) Humorous Realistic Fiction
- OPERATION REDWOOD by S. Terrell French, (Amulet Books, 2009), Adventure
- PARIS PAN TAKES THE DARE by Cynthea Liu, (Putnam Juvenile, 2009), Humorous Mystery
- RICKSHAW GIRL by Mitali Perkins, (Charlesbridge Publishing, 2007), Realistic Fiction
- SHOOTING KABUL by N.H. Senzai, (Simon & Schuster/Paula Wiseman Books), 2010, Realistic Fiction
- TANEESHA NEVER DISPARAGING by LaVora Perry, (Wisdom Publications, 2008), Realistic Fiction
- TORTILLA SUN by Jennifer Cervantes, (Chronicle Books, 2010), Magical Realism
- THE TROUBLE WITH HALF A MOON by Danette Vigilante, (Putnam Juvenile, 2011), Realistic Fiction
- YEAR OF THE DOG by Grace Lin, (Little, Brown BFYR, 2007), Realistic Fiction

YOUNG ADULT

- THE ABSOLUTELY TRUE DIARY OF A PART-TIME INDIAN by Sherman Alexie, (Little, Brown BFYR), 2007, Realistic Fiction
- BAMBOO PEOPLE by Mitali Perkins, (Charlesbridge Publishing, 2010), Realistic Fiction
- BESTEST. RAMADAN. EVER. by Medeia Sharif, (Flux, 2011), Humorous Realistic Fiction
- DOES MY HEAD LOOK BIG IN THIS? by Randel Abdul Fattah, (Orchard Books, 2007), Humorous Realistic Fiction
- EXCLUSIVELY CHLOE by J.A. Yang, (Speak, 2009), Humorous Fiction
- THE GREAT CALL OF CHINA by Cynthea Liu, (Speak, 2009), Realistic Fiction
- FAT HOOCHIE PROM QUEEN by Nico Medina, (Simon Pulse, 2008), Humorous Realistic Fiction
- HALF WORLD by Hiromi Goto, (Viking Juvenile, 2010), Fantasy
- HATERS by Alisa Valdes-Rodriguez, (Little, Brown BFYR, 2006), Psychic Realism
- THE KINDRED (Book 1 of 3): THE TEMPTATION OF TRAVIS HARTWELL by Alisa Valdes-Rodriguez, (HarperCollins, 2011), Supernatural Romance
- GIRL OVERBOARD by Justina Chen Headley, (Little, Brown BFYR, 2008), Realistic Fiction
- GOOD ENOUGH Paula Yoo, (HarperTeen, 2008), Humorous Realistic Fiction
- ILLEGAL by Bettina Restrepo, (Katherine Tegen Books, 2011), Realistic Fiction
- MONSOON SUMMER by Mitali Perkins, (Laurel Leaf, 2006), Realistic Fiction
- MY LIFE AS A RHOMBUS by Varian Johnson, (Flux, 2008), Realistic Fiction
- NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH (AND A FEW WHITE LIES) by Justina Chen Headley, (Little, Brown BFYR, 2006), Realistic Fiction
- SECRET SATURDAYS by Torrey Maldonado, (Putnam Juvenile, 2010), Realistic Fiction
- SELLOUT by Ebony Joy Wilkins, (Scholastic Press, 2010), Realistic Fiction
- SHINE, COCONUT MOON by Neesha Meminger, (McElderry, 2009), Realistic Fiction
- SOMETHING LIKE HOPE by Shawn Goodman, (Delacorte, 2010), Realistic Fiction
- SOPHOMORE UNDERCOVER by Ben Esch, (Hyperion, 2009), Humorous Mystery
- A STEP FROM HEAVEN by An Na, (Speak, 2003), Realistic Fiction
- STOP ME IF YOU'VE HEARD THIS ONE BEFORE by David Yoo, (Hyperion, 2009), Realistic Fiction
- TELL US WE'RE HOME by Marina Budhos, (Atheneum, 2009), Realistic Fiction
- TYRELL by Coe Booth, (Push, 2006), Realistic Fiction
- YUMMY by G. Neri, (Lee & Low Books, 2010), Realistic Fiction

About this List

- This list was compiled by Cynthea Liu, author of middle grade novel *Paris Pan Takes the Dare* and young adult novel *The Great Call of China*, in preparation for her talk on “diversity within diversity” and the importance of contemporary children’s literature at the Chicago Teachers-Librarian Association Breakfast on September 25, 2010.
- This list is not an exhaustive list. It is list of recommendations from a sample of current authors of contemporary children’s and teen books featuring people of color. You may distribute this list freely without permission. This list is also available for download as a PDF at www.cynthealiu.com/booklists.
- Books must feature a person of color (POC) as a main character.
- These books are not solely about racial, cultural and ethnic heritage. These books may also deal with other issues that today’s children and teens face, ranging from the serious to the light-hearted.
- Books must have been published within the last ten years or is forthcoming in 2010 and 2011.
- Books are set in current day times, or even in the future, so long as the character is from current day times (i.e. contemporary main character).
- Books do not have to be award-winners or well-known. They just have to be winning books to the authors who recommended them