



100 Years, 100 Middle Grade Books to Encourage Empathy

When We Need Diverse Books got its start in 2014, our team had one vision in mind -- to create a world in which all kids can see themselves in the pages of a book. That's why we're thankful to the CBC for this opportunity to share 3 lists of diverse children's books that our team has

carefully curated. Historically these types of lists have ignored work by content creators from the margins, relegating wonderful books to the shadows. Those books don't get an opportunity to make it to every child's bookshelf and into every child's heart -- and we are striving to change that. We warmly invite you to check out our recommendations!

We Need Diverse Books is a non-profit that advocates for increased diversity in children's literature. WNDB got its start in 2014 as a viral Twitter hashtag and has since grown into a 501(c)(3) organization with 11 groundbreaking initiatives and a team that spans the globe.

Learn more at
DiverseBooks.org

- *The Crossover* by Kwame Alexander
- *The Track series* by Jason Reynolds
- *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* by Mildred D. Taylor
- *Dactyl Hill Squad series* by Daniel José Older
- *After Tupac and D Foster* by Jacqueline Woodson
- *The Watsons Go to Birmingham* by Christopher Paul Curtis
- *Bud, Not Buddy* by Christopher Paul Curtis
- *One Crazy Summer* by Rita Williams-Garcia
- *The Parker Inheritance* by Varian Johnson
- *Gone Crazy in Alabama* by Rita Williams-Garcia
- *A Long Walk to Water: Based on a True Story* by Linda Sue Park
- *The Jumbies series* by Tracey Baptiste
- *Look Both Ways* by Jason Reynolds, illustrated by Alexander Nabaum
- *Two Naomis* by Olugbemisola Rhuday-Perkovich and Audrey Vernick
- *Clayton Byrd Goes Underground* by Rita Williams-Garcia, illustrated by Frank Morrison
- *Unusual Chickens for the Exceptional Poultry Farmer* by Kelly Jones, illustrated by Katie Kath
- *Let the Circle Be Unbroken* by Mildred D. Taylor
- *Betty Before X* by Ilyasah Shabazz & Renée Watson
- *Midnight Without a Moon* by Linda Williams Jackson
- *Hurricane Child* by Kacen Callender
- *Ghost Boys* by Jewell Parker Rhodes

- *The Iron Trial* by Holly Black & Cassandra Clare
- *The Inquisitor's Apprentice* by Chris Moriarty
- *The Night Diary* by Veera Hiranandani
- *You Don't Know Everything, Jilly P* by Alex Gino
- *The House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros
- *They Call Me Guero: A Border Kid's Poems* by David Bowles
- *Merci Suárez Changes Gears* by Meg Medina
- *Zeely* by Virginia Hamilton, illustrated by Symeon Shimin
- *Tristan Strong Punches a Hole In the Sky* by Kwame Mbalia
- *The People Could Fly: American Black Folktales* by Virginia Hamilton, illustrated by Leo and Diane Dillon
- *Cilla Lee-Jenkins: Future Author Extraordinaire* by Susan Tan, illustrated by Dana Wulfekotte
- *Enchanted Air: Two Cultures, Two Wings: A Memoir* by Margarita Engle
- *My Life as an Ice Cream Sandwich* by Ibi Zoboi
- *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon* by Grace Lin
- *Magnus Chase and the Gods of Asgard: The Sword of Summer* by Rick Riordan
- *The First Rule of Punk* by Celia C. Pérez
- *The Epic Fail of Arturo Zamora* by Pablo Cartaya
- *The Bridge Home* by Padma Venkatraman
- *Other Words for Home* by Jasmine Warga
- *A Good Kind of Trouble* by Lisa Moore Ramée
- *Genesis Begins Again* by Alicia D. Williams
- *Jazmin's Notebook* by Nikki Grimes
- *Some Places More Than Others* by Renée Watson
- *Turtles of Oman* by Naomi Shihab Nye
- *Just South of Home* by Karen Strong
- *The Emporer's Riddle* by Kat Zhang
- *Bayou Magic* by Jewell Parker Rhodes
- *The Birchback House* by Louise Erdich
- *The Stormrunner* by J.C. Cervantes
- *Race to the Sun* by Rebecca Roanhorse
- *Kinda Like Brothers* by Coe Booth

- *Forest World* by Margarita Engle
- *George* by Alex Gino
- *Dragon Pearl* by Yoon Ha Lee
- *Amal Unbound* by Aisha Saeed
- *New Kid* by Jerry Craft
- *The Gauntlet* by Karuna Riazi
- *Amina's Voice* by Hena Khan
- *Habibi* by Naomi Shihab Nye
- *Front Desk* by Kelly Yang
- *The Real Boy* by Anne Ursu
- *Frazzeled series* by Booki Vivat
- *Shooting Kabul* by N. H. Senzai
- *Cousins* by Virginia Hamilton
- *Blended* by Sharon M. Draper
- *Spirit Hunters* by Ellen Oh
- *Pashmina* by Nidhi Chanani
- *Greenglass House* by Kate Milford
- *Hoodoo* by Ronald L. Smith
- *Roller Girl* by Victoria Jamieson

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- *Ivy Aberdeen's Letter to the World* by Ashley Herring Blake
 - *Stella Diaz Has Something to Say* by Angela Dominguez
 - *The Serpent's Secret* by Sayantani DasGupta
 - *Save Me Seat* by Sarah Weeks & Gita Varadarajan
 - *Stella by Starlight* by Sharon M. Draper
 - *Hello, Universe* by Erin Kelly Entrada
 - *Flying Lessons & Other Stories* by edited by Ellen Oh
 - *Indian Shoes* by Cynthia Leitich Smith
 - *What Momma Left Me* by Renée Watson
 - *Geeks, Girls, and Secret Identities* by Mike Jung
 - *The Lightning Queen* by Laura Resau
 - *Stormy Seas: Stories of Young Boat Refugees* by Mary Beth Leatherdale and Eleanor Shakespeare

- *Stanley Will Probably Be Fine* by Sally J. Pla, illustrated by Steve Wolfhard
- *How I Became a Ghost: A Choctaw Trail of Tears Story* by Tim Tingle
- *Speaking Our Truth: A Journey to Reconciliation* by Monique Gray Smith
- *In the Footsteps of Crazy Horse* by Joseph Marshall III
- *Lowriders in Space* by Cathy Camper, illustrated by Raul the Third
- *The Hero Next Door* by edited Olugbemisola Rhuday-Perkovich
- *The Season of Styx Malone* by Kekla Magoon
- *Love Like Sky* by Leslie C. Youngblood
- *Aru Shah and the End of Time* by Roshani Chokshi
- *Love Sugar Magic series* by Anna Meriano, illustrated by Mirelle Ortega
- *The Last Last-Day-of-Summer* by Lamar Giles, illustrated by Dapo Adeola
- *The Red Pencil* by Andrea Davis Pinkney, illustrated by Shane W. Evans
- *Sal and Gabi Break the Universe* by Carlos Hernandez
- *Brown Girl Dreaming* by Jacqueline Woodson
- *Chains* (Seeds of America series) by Laurie Halse Anderson
- *The Skin I'm In* by Sharon G. Flake
- *Dymonde Daniels series* by Nikki Grimes



Read Diverse Books!