

Finding Diverse Books for Children and Teens

Below is a list of places to find award-winning and/or recommended titles that celebrate and reflect the diverse experiences of children and teens from many backgrounds. This list, although long, is not comprehensive; there are many other blogs, articles, and social media accounts that offer more ideas! The hope is that this will give you a place to start exploring and introduce you to some of the authors, illustrators, and publishers that are creating amazing work for young people.

ALA-SPONSORED AWARD LISTS

These books have been honored by award committees connected with the American Library Association.

American Indian Youth Literature Award

Awarded biennially, the AIYLA identifies and honors the very best writing and illustrations by Native Americans and Indigenous peoples of North America. Books selected to receive the award present Indigenous North American peoples in the fullness of their humanity.

<https://ailanet.org/activities/american-indian-youth-literature-award/>

Asian/Pacific American Award for Literature

The goal is to honor and recognize individual works of Asian/Pacific American experiences (either historical or contemporary) or Asian/Pacific American cultures by Asian/Pacific Islander American authors and illustrators.

<https://www.apalaweb.org/awards/literature-awards/>

Coretta Scott King Book Award

The Coretta Scott King Book Awards are given annually to outstanding African American authors and illustrators of books for children and young adults that demonstrate an appreciation of African American culture and universal human values.

<http://www.ala.org/rt/emiert/ckbookawards/coretta-scott-king-book-awards-all-recipients-1970-present>

Pura Belpré Award

The Pura Belpré Award, established in 1996, is presented annually to a Latino/Latina writer and illustrator whose work best portrays, affirms, and celebrates the Latino cultural experience in an outstanding work of literature for children and youth.

<http://www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia/belpremedal/belprepast>

Schneider Family Book Award

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

http://www.ala.org/awardsgrants/awards/1/all_years

Stonewall Book Awards

These awards are given for exceptional merit relating to the gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgender experience.

<http://www.ala.org/rt/rrt/award/stonewall/honored>

Sydney Taylor Book Award

The Sydney Taylor Book Award is presented annually to outstanding books for children and teens that authentically portray the Jewish experience.

https://jewishlibraries.org/Sydney_Taylor_Book_Award

ADDITIONAL BOOK AWARDS

Américas Award

Consortium of Latin American Studies Programs presents the Américas Award to encourage and commend authors, illustrators and publishers who produce quality children's and young adult books that portray Latin America, the Caribbean, or Latinx in the United States.

<http://claspprograms.org/pages/detail/68/Award-Winners>

Arab American Book Awards

The Arab American Book Awards is a literary program created by the Arab American National Museum to honor books written by and about Arab Americans.

<https://arabamericanmuseum.org/book-awards/>

Carter G. Woodson Book Award

The National Council for the Social Studies presents the Carter G. Woodson Book Award to the most distinguished young reader non-fiction books depicting ethnicity in the United States.

<https://www.socialstudies.org/get-involved/carter-g-woodson-book-award-and-honor-winners>

Children's Africana Book Awards

The Children's Africana Book Awards (CABA) are presented annually to the authors and illustrators of the best children's and young adult books on Africa published or republished in the U.S. The awards are presented by Africa Access and the Outreach Council of the African Studies Association.

<http://africaaccessreview.org/childrens-africana-book-awards/caba-past-winners/>

Ezra Jack Keats Award

The EJK Award is given to a new writer for a picture book written in the tradition of Ezra Jack Keats that highlights the universal qualities of childhood and the strength of the family and reflects the multicultural nature of our world.

<https://www.ezra-jack-keats.org/ejk-awards/>

Jane Addams Children's Book Award

The Jane Addams Children's Book Award annually recognizes children's books of literary and aesthetic excellence that effectively engage children in thinking about peace, social justice, global community, and equity for all people.

<https://www.janeaddamschildrensbookaward.org/all-books/>

Lambda Literary Awards

The Lambda Literary Awards recognize the best LGBTQ books published in a given year across dozens of categories.

https://www.lambdaliterary.org/previous-winners-3/?a_search=&award_year=&award_classifications=childrens-young-adult&award_status=&award_categories (This links to the Children's/Young Adult category.)

Middle East Book Award

The Middle East Outreach Council established the Middle East Book Award to recognize books for children and young adults that contribute meaningfully to understanding of the Middle East.

<http://www.meoc.us/book-awards.html>

New Voices Award

The New Voices Award is given annually by children's book publisher Lee & Low Books for a children's picture book manuscript by a writer of color or Native/Indigenous writer.

<https://www.leeandlow.com/collections/new-voices-award-winners-honors-collection>

Scholastic Asian Book Award

The AFCC Scholastic Asian Book Award (SABA) is the joint initiative of Scholastic Asia and Singapore Book Council (SBC). SABA will recognize children's writers of Asian origin who are taking the experiences of life, spirit, and thinking in different parts of Asia to the world at large.

<https://scholastic.asia/en/series/saba>

South Asia Book Awards

To encourage and commend authors and publishers who produce books that portray South Asia or South Asians living abroad, the South Asia National Outreach Consortium (SANOC) will offer a yearly book award to call attention to outstanding works on South Asia.

<https://southasiabookaward.wisc.edu/past-awards/>

Tomás Rivera Book Award

Texas State University College of Education developed the Tomás Rivera Mexican American Children's Book Award to honor authors and illustrators who create literature that depicts the Mexican American experience.

<https://www.education.txstate.edu/ci/riverabookaward/book-award-winners.html>

Walter Awards

The annual Walter Dean Myers Awards for Outstanding Children's Literature recognize diverse authors (or co-authors) whose works feature diverse main characters and address diversity in a meaningful way.

<https://diversebooks.org/our-programs/walter-award/>

OTHER SOURCES FOR RECOMMENDED BOOKS

African-American Literature Book Club - Recommended African-American Children's Books

<https://aalbc.com/books/children.php>

1000 Black Girl Books Resource Guide

<https://grassrootscommunityfoundation.org/1000-black-girl-books-resource-guide/>

Resources from Cynthia Leitich Smith

- Contemporary Native American Children's and Young Adult Books:
<https://cynthialeitichsmith.com/lit-resources/read/diversity/native-am/native-now/>
- Historical Native American Children's and Young Adult Books:
<https://cynthialeitichsmith.com/lit-resources/read/diversity/native-am/native-then/>
- Native American Authors and Illustrators in Children's and Young Adult Books:
<https://cynthialeitichsmith.com/lit-resources/read/diversity/native-am/nat-lit/>

PJ Library (Jewish children's books for ages 0-8)

<https://pjlibrary.org/books-and-music/books>

PJ Our Way (Jewish children's books for ages 9-12)

<https://pjourway.org/story-central>

Rainbow Book List (highlighting books with significant GLBTQ content)

<https://glbtrt.ala.org/rainbowbooks/rainbow-books-lists>

Colorín Colorado – (booklists representing a wide range of cultures and languages)

<https://www.colorincolorado.org/books-authors>

Latinxs in Kid Lit

<https://latinosinkidlit.com/>

Kitaabworld (South Asian children's literature)

<https://kitaabworld.com/>

We Need Diverse Books – OurStory tool

<https://diversebooks.org/our-programs/ourstory/>