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Recommended Reading

Multicultural Books Every Child Should Know

This list of must-have multicultural books was compiled by the California School Library Association, November 2011. It is reprinted here by permission.

Preschool - Grade 2

Arroz con Leche/Rice Pudding by Jorge Argueta. Groundwood, 2010. (Latino, poetry, Americas Award Commended Title)
Boris Ate a Thesaurus by Neil Klayman. Rainbow Bridge, 2007. (CA RAA Theme Book)
Gathering Sparks by Howard Schwartz. Roaring Book Press, 2010. (Jewish, Sydney Taylor Book Award)
Ling & Ting: Not Exactly the Same by Grace Lin. Little, Brown, 2011. (Chinese-American, Theodor Seuss Geisel Honor)
The Pirate of Kindergarten by George Ella Lyon. Atheneum, 2010. (Disabilities, Schneider Family Book Award)

Grades 3 - 5

Coyote Solstice Tale by Thomas King. Groundwood, 2009. (Native American Folktale, American Indian Youth Literature Award)
Dave the Potter: Artist, Poet, Slave by Laban Carrick Hill; illus. by Bryan Collier. (African-American, Coretta Scott King Illustrator Award, Caldecott Honor)
Gabby and Gator by James Burks. Yen Press, 2010. (CA RAA Theme Book)
Jimi Sounds Like a Rainbow: A Story of the Young Jimi Hendrix by Gary Golio; illus. by Javaka Steptoe. Clarion, 2010. (African-American, Coretta Scott King Illustrator Honor)
Olé! Flamenco by George Ancona. Lee & Low, 2010. (Latino, Pura Belpre Honor)
You Never Heard of Sandy Koufax? by Jonah Winter. Random House, 2009. (Jewish/Base-ball, Sydney Taylor Award)

Grades 6 - 8

César Chávez: A Photographic Essay by Ilan Stavans. Cinco Puntos, 2010. (Latino, Americas Award Commended Title)
Cracker: The Best Dog in Vietnam by Cynthia Kadohata. Atheneum, 2008. (Asian; CA Young Reader Medal)
The Dreamer by Pam Muñoz Ryan. Scholastic, 2010. (Latino, Biography, Pura Belpre Award)
Heart of a Samurai by Margi Preus. Amulet, 2010. (Asian historical fiction, Newbery Honor)
One Crazy Summer by Rita Williams-Garcia. Harper-Collins, 2010. (African-American, Coretta Scott King Award, Scott O'Dell Award for Historical Fiction)

Grades 9 - 12

Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian by Sherman Alexie. Little Brown, 2006. (Native American, Amer. Indian Library Assn. Award, National Book Award, CA Young Reader Medal)
Bait by Alex Sanchez. Simon & Schuster, 2010. (Latino, Tomas Rivera Award)
Dizzy in Your Eyes by Pat Mora. Knopf, 2010. (Latino, poetry, Americas Award Commended Title)
Spies of Mississippi: The True Story of the Spy Network that Tried to Destroy the Civil Rights Movement by Rick Bowers. National Geographic Soc., 2010. (African-American, YALSA Award for Young Adult Nonfiction)
The Things a Brother Knows by Dana Reinhardt. Random House, 2010. (Jewish, Sydney Taylor Book Award)

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