AHS Library
April 25, 2023

Finding Diverse Books

Use these resources to help you identify books for your independent reading project. If you have resources to add, let us know!

Where can you get your books?

Check the AHS Library Catalog to see if the book you are interested in is here in print.

Check Sora to find out whether it's here as an e-book or audiobook. If you need help, ask Ms. Kitsis!

Check Robbins Library for even more selection.

Where can you look for book ideas?

> Note: The new Massachusetts Teen Choice Book Awards nominees are a very diverse group!

This list of book awards, adapted from We Need Diverse Books, is a great place to start. It is not exhaustive, so if you have other lists or sites to recommend, please share them.

Note: Pay attention to the target audiences as some of these sites and awards recognize children's, young adult, and adult books.

AFRICAN & AFRICAN AMERICAN

- Africa Access Review
- African American Literature Book Club
- Marley Dias's 1000 Black Girl Books
- The Brown Bookshelf
- The Dark Fantastic

AMERICAN INDIAN

- American Indians in Children's Literature
- A Critical Bibliography of North American Indian for K-12
- Teacher and Librarian Resources for Native American Children's and YA Books via Cynthia Leitich Smith

ASIAN & ASIAN AMERICAN

- KiBooka
- Asian/Pacific American Award for Literature
- KitaabWorld

BOOK AWARDS

- The American Indian Youth Literature Awards
- Americas Book Awards
- Arab American Book Award
- Asian/Pacific American Award for Literature
- Carter G. Woodson Book Award ("most distinguished books appropriate for young readers that depict ethnicity in the United States")
- Children's Africana Book Awards
- Coretta Scott King Book Awards ("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")
- Lambda Literary Award (LGBTQI literature)
- Middle East Book Awards
- NAACP Image Awards for Outstanding Children's Literature
- Pura Belpre Award ("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")
- The Scholastic Asian Book Award
- South Asia Book Award
- Schneider Family Book Award ("book that embodies an artistic expression of the disability experience for child and adolescent audiences")
- Stonewall Book Awards ("first and most enduring award for LGBTQIA+ books")
- Sydney Taylor Book Award ("outstanding books for children and teens that authentically portray the Jewish experience")
- Tomas Rivera Book Award ("authors and illustrators who create literature that depicts the Mexican American experience")
- The Walter Dean Myers Award for Outstanding Children's Literature ("recognize diverse authors whose works feature diverse main characters and address diversity in a meaningful way")

DISABILITIES

- Disability in Kidlit
- Schneider Family Book Award
- YA Disability Database

ISLAM

- SLJ's Islam in the Classroom
- Muslim Children's Books

JEWISH

- Association of Jewish Libraries
- Jewish Book Council
- PJ Library

LGBTQIA

- ALA's Rainbow List
- Great Gay Teen Books

- I'm Queer I'm Here, What the Hell Do I Read?
- SLJ's LGBTQ Book List
- YA Pride

LATINX

- Colorin Colorado
- Latin@s in Kid Lit
- Latinx in Publishing
- SLJ's Gateway Latino Books
- Tapioca Stories
- Vamos a Leer

MULTICULTURAL AND GENERAL DIVERSITY RESOURCES

- Brightly
- CCBC Multicultural Literature List
- Children's Peace and Anti-Bias Library of Cabrillo Community College
- Colours of Us
- Crazy QuiltEdi
- Crystal Brunelle's recommendations
- Cynthia Leitich Smith's Cynsations Blog
- Cynthia Leitich Smith's Children's and Young Adult Book Resources
- Diverse Book Finder
- Diversity in YA
- Elizabeth Bluemle's A World Full of Color
- The Guardian: List of 50 Best Culturally Diverse Children's Books
- Here Wee Read
- I'm Your Neighbor
- KQED Mindshift Book List
- Notable Books for a Global Society
- OurStory by We Need Diverse Books
- The Pirate Tree
- Reading in Color
- Rich in Color
- Room to Read's Peace & Equality Book Collection
- SLJ: Betsy Bird's Casual Diversity Book List
- SLJ's Culturally Diverse Book List
- SLJ's Tales of Child Refugees and Safe Havens
- Smithsonian BookDragon
- We Read Too

SOCIAL JUSTICE

- Social Justice Books' "See What We See"

Source: Adapted from We Need Diverse Books

What other resources are available?

Novelist is a database available from Robbins Library. You will need a Robbins Library card to access it (or come see Ms. Kitsis and we can search together!).

You can use Novelist to search for fiction with specific parameters including facets of identity, audience age, genre, and more.

From the main page, look for this button:



Sites like Book Riot also have curated book lists and recommendations.