

Canadian Multicultural-themed Books for Kids & Teens

The Canadian Children's Book Centre has compiled a list of great Canadian Multicultural-themed books for kids of all ages. This list includes just some of the Multicultural-themed picture books, novels and non-fiction that have been published in Canada.



The Canadian Children's Book Centre
www.bookcentre.ca

Picture Books

Abby's Birds

Written by **Ellen Schwartz**
Illustrated by **Sima Elizabeth Shefrin**
Tradewind Books, 2006
ISBN 978-1896580869
Grades 2-3 / Ages 5-8
Japanese

Awakening the Dragon: The Dragon Boat Festival

Written by **Arlene Chan**
Illustrated by **Song Nan Zhang**
Tundra Books, 2004
ISBN 978-0887768057
Grades 1-4 / Ages 6-9
Chinese

Bagels From Benny

Written by **Aubrey Davis**
Illustrated by **Dušan Petričić**
Kids Can Press, 2003
ISBN 978-1553374176
Kindergarten-Grade 3 / Ages 5-8
Jewish

Breaking Free: The Story of William Kurelek

Written by **May Ebbitt Cutler**
Art by **William Kurelek**
Tundra Books, 2002
ISBN 978-0887766176
Grades 5-7 / Ages 10-12
Ukrainian

The Chinese Violin

Written by **Madeleine Thien**
Illustrated by **Joe Chang**
Whitecap Books, 2001
ISBN 978-1552852057
Preschool-Grade 3 / Ages 4-8
Chinese

Courage to Fly

Written by **Troon Harrison**
Illustrated by **Zhong-Yang Huang**
Red Deer Press, 2002
ISBN 978-0889953611
Preschool-Grade 4 / Ages 4-9
Caribbean – Chinese

The Day I Became a Canadian: A Citizenship Scrapbook

Written by **Jo Bannatyne-Cugnet**
Illustrated by **Song Nan Zhang**
Tundra Books, 2008 ©2000
ISBN 978-0887768927
Grades 2-3 / Ages 4-10
Chinese

Dead Man's Gold and Other Stories

Written by **Paul Yee**
Illustrated by **Harvey Chan**
Groundwood Books, 2002
ISBN 978-0888994752
Grades 6 and up / Ages 11 and up
Chinese

Emma's Story

Written by **Deborah Hodge**
Illustrated by **Song Nan Zhang**
Tundra Books, 2003
ISBN 978-0887766329
Kindergarten-Grade 2 / Ages 5-7
Chinese

The Fragrant Garden

Written by **Day's Lee**
Illustrated by **Josée Bellemare**
Napoleon Publishing, 2005
ISBN 978-1894917261
Kindergarten-Grade 4 / Ages 5-9
Chinese

Indian Tales: A Barefoot Collection

Written by **Shenaaz Nanji**
Illustrated by **Christopher Corr**
Barefoot Books, 2007
ISBN 978-1846860836
Kindergarten-Grade 4 / Ages 5-9
Indian

Lights for Gita

Written by **Rachna Gilmore**
Illustrated by **Alice Priestley**
Second Story Press, 1994
ISBN 978-0929005614
Kindergarten-Grade 3 / Ages 4-8
Indian

Maggie's Chopsticks

Written by **Alan Woo**
Illustrated by **Isabelle Malenfant**
Kids Can Press, 2012
ISBN 978-1554536191
Grades 2 / Ages 4-7
Chinese

Marja's Skis

Written by **Jean E. Pendziwol**
Illustrated by **Jirina Marton**
Groundwood Books, 2007
ISBN 978-0888996749
Grades 3-4 / Ages 7-11
Finnish

Motherbridge of Love

Written by **Anonymous**
Illustrated by **Josée Masse**
Barefoot Books, 2007
ISBN 978-1846860478
Preschool-Grade 1 / Ages 3-6
Chinese

Migrant

Written by **Maxine Trottier**
Illustrated by **Isabelle Arsenault**
Groundwood Books, 2011
ISBN 978-0888999757
Grades 2-3 / Ages 4-7
Mexican

My Mom Loves Me More Than Sushi

Written by **Filomena Gomes**
Illustrated by **Ashley Spires**
Second Story Press, 2006
ISBN 978-1897187098
Kindergarten-Grade 2 / Ages 5-7
Multicultural

Red Land, Yellow River: A Story From the Cultural Revolution

Written and illustrated by **Ange Zhang**
Groundwood Books, 2004
ISBN 978-0888994899
Grades 6-8 / Ages 11-13
Chinese

The Sakura Tree

Written by **Carolyn McTigue**
Illustrated by **Karen Brownlee**
Red Deer Press, 2007
ISBN 978-0889953543
Grades 2-3 / Ages 7-11
Japanese

Ten Old Men and a Mouse

Written by **Cary Fagan**
Illustrated by **Gary Clement**
Tundra Books, 2007
ISBN 978-0887767166
Preschool-Grade 2 / Ages 4-7
Jewish

Zoe and the Fawn

Written by **Catherine Jameson**
Illustrated by **Julie Flett**
Theytus Books, 2006.
ISBN 978-1894778435
Grades 1-2 / Ages 5-6
First Nations

Novels

After Peaches

(Orca Young Readers)
Written by **Michelle Mulder**
Orca Book Publishers, 2009
ISBN 978-1554691760
Grades 5-7 / Ages 9-13
Mexican

Between Sisters

Written by **Adwoa Badoe**
Groundwood Books, 2010
ISBN 978-0888999979
Grade 8 / Ages 14 and up
African

Bifocal

Written by **Deborah Ellis** and
Eric Walters
Fitzhenry & Whiteside, 2007
ISBN 978-1554550623
Grades 7-10 / Ages 12-15
Muslims – Race Relations

Break on Through

Written by **Jill Murray**
Doubleday Canada, 2007
ISBN 978-0385664905
Grades 7-10 / Ages 12-15
Multicultural

Elijah of Buxton

Written by **Christopher Paul Curtis**
Scholastic Canada 2007
ISBN 978-0439936477
Grades 4-7 / Ages 9-12
African

Naomi's Road

Written by **Joy Kogawa**
Illustrated by **Ruth Ohi**
Fitzhenry and Whiteside, 2005
ISBN 978-1550051155
Grades 4-6 / Ages 9-11
Japanese

Feast of Lights:

A Young Adult Novel
Written by **Ellen S. Jaffe**
Sumach Press, 2006
ISBN 978-1894549608
Grades 5-7 / Ages 10-12
Jewish

A Hare in the Elephant's Trunk

Written by **Jan L. Coates**
Red Deer Press, 2010
ISBN 978-08889954519
Grades 6 / Ages 12 and up
African

Home is Beyond the Mountains

Written by **Celia Barker Lottridge**
Groundwood Books, 2010
ISBN 978-0888999498
Grades 5-6 / Ages 10 and up
Iranian

Illegally Blonde

Written by **Nelsa Roberto**
Groundwood Books, 2010
ISBN 978-1894283977
Grade 9 / Ages 14 and up
Portuguese

Kalyna's Song

Written by **Lisa Grekul**
Coteau Books, 2003
ISBN 978-1550503555
Grades 8 and up / Ages 13 and up
Ukrainian

Kobzar's Children: A Century of Untold Ukrainian Stories

Edited by **Marsha Forchuk Skrypuch**
Fitzhenry & Whiteside, 2006
ISBN 978-1550419979
Grades 8 and up / Ages 13 and up
Ukrainian

Many Windows: Six Kids Five Faiths One Community

Written by **Rukhsana Kahn** with **Elisa Carbone** and **Uma Krishnaswami**
Illustrated by **Patty Gallinger**
Napoleon Publishing, 2008
ISBN 978-1894917568
Grades 3-5 / Ages 8-10
Buddhism – Islam – Hinduism – Judaism – Christianity – Canada

Me and the Blondes

Written by **Teresa Toten**
Puffin Canada, 2006
ISBN 978-0143053071
Grades 8-11 / Ages 13-16
Bulgarian

Midnight at the Dragon Café

Written by **Judy Fong Bates**
McClelland & Stewart, 2004.
ISBN 978-0771010972
Grades 11 and up / Ages 16 and up
Chinese

Money Boy

Written by **Paul Yee**
Groundwood Books, 2011
ISBN 978-1554980932
Grades 7-9 / Ages 14 and up
Chinese

My Name is Number 4: A True Story

Written by **Ting-Xing Ye**
Doubleday Canada, 2007
ISBN 978-0385663052
Grades 9 and up / Ages 14 and up
Chinese

The Mystery of the Frozen Brains
(Marty Chan Mystery)
Written by **Marty Chan**
ThistleDown Press, 2004
ISBN 978-1894345712
Grades 3-7 / Ages 8-12
Chinese

A New Life
Written by **Rukhsana Khan**
Illustrated by **Nasrin Khosravi**
Groundwood Books, 2009
ISBN 978-0888999306
Grades 4-6 / Ages 9-11
Pakistani

No Ordinary Day
Written by **Deborah Ellis**
Groundwood Books, 2011
ISBN 978-1554981342
Grades 4-6 / Ages 9-12
Indian

An Ocean Apart: The Gold Mountain Diary of Chin Mei-Ling
(Dear Canada)
Written by **Gillian Chan**
Scholastic Canada, 2004
ISBN 978-0779113538
Grades 4-9 / Ages 9-14
Chinese

Shine, Coconut Moon
Written by **Neesha Meminger**
Margaret K. McElderry Books, 2009
ISBN 978-1442403055
Grades 9-10 / Ages 14 and up
Sikhs

Skim
Written by **Mariko Tamaki**
Illustrated by **Jillian Tamaki**
Groundwood Books, 2008
ISBN 978-0-88899-753-1
Grades 9 and up / Ages 14 and up
Japanese

Wanting Mor
Written by **Rukhsana Khan**
Groundwood Books, 2009
ISBN 978-0888998620
Grades 7-8 / Ages 12 and up
Afghan

What Happened This Summer
Written by **Paul Yee**
Tradewind Books, 2006
ISBN 978-1896580883
Grades 10 and up / Ages 15 and up
Chinese

Zoe's Extraordinary Holiday Adventures
Written by **Christina Minaki**
Second Story Press, 2007
ISBN 978-1897187265
Grades 4-7 / Ages 9-12
Multicultural Holidays

Non-Fiction

Being Muslim
(Groundwork Guides)
Written by **Haroon Siddiqui**
Groundwood Books, 2006
ISBN 978-0888997869
Grades 9 and up / Ages 14 and up
Muslims – Islam

It's Not All Black and White: Multiracial Youth Speak Out
Written by **St. Stephen's Community House**
Annick Press, 2012
ISBN 978-1554513802
Grade 8 / Ages 13 and up
Mixed-Race Relations

Kids of Kabul: Living Bravely Through a Never-Ending War
Written by **Deborah Ellis**
Groundwood Books, 2012
ISBN 978-1554981816
Grade 7 / Ages 14 and up
Afghan

Lighting Our World: A Year of Celebrations
Written by **Catherine Rondina**
Illustrated by **Jacqui Oakley**
Kids Can Press, 2012
ISBN 978-1554535941
Grades 3-5 / Ages 7-10
Multicultural Celebrations

One Step at a Time: A Vietnamese Child Finds Her Way
Written by **Marsha Forchuk Skrypuch**
Pajama Press, 2012
ISBN 978-1927485026
Grade 4 / Ages 8-12
Vietnamese

Oscar: The Life and Music of Oscar Peterson
Written by **Reva Marin**
Groundwood Books, 2003
ISBN 978-0888995377
Grades 5-8 / Ages 10-13
African



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