

Multicultural Fiction: American Teens from Different Cultural Backgrounds

[The Afterlife](#)

Soto, Gary

A senior at East Fresno High School lives on as a ghost after his brutal murder in the restroom of a club where he had gone to dance.

[American Eyes: New Asian American Short Stories for Young Adults](#)

Carlson, Lori M. (ed.)

Ten stories which reflect the conflict Asian Americans face in balancing an ancient heritage and an unknown future. Stories feature American characters from all different Asian backgrounds, including those of Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Filipino, and Vietnamese heritage.

[Baseball in April](#)

Soto, Gary

A collection of eleven short stories focusing on the everyday adventures of Hispanic young people growing up in Fresno, California.

[Born Confused](#)

Desai Hidier, Tanuja

Seventeen-year-old Dimple, whose family is from India, discovers that she is not Indian enough for the Indians and not American enough for the Americans, as she sees her hypnotically beautiful, manipulative best friend taking possession of both her heritage and the boy she likes.

[The Brave](#); [The Chief](#); [Warrior Angel](#)

Lipsyte, Robert

Having left the Indian reservation for the streets of New York, seventeen-year-old boxer Sonny Bear tries to harness his inner rage by training as a boxer in *The Brave*. In *The Chief*, Sonny has a shot at the heavyweight boxing championship, but he's struggling with conflicting loyalties as trouble erupts on his reservation over the construction of a new gambling casino. Finally, Sonny's on a rapid downhill slide and needs serious help to get him back in top boxing form in *Warrior Angel*.

[Bronx Masquerade](#)

Grimes, Nikki

While studying the Harlem Renaissance, students at a Bronx high school read aloud poems they've written, revealing their innermost thoughts and fears to their formerly clueless classmates.

[Buried Onions](#)

Soto, Gary

When nineteen-year-old Eddie drops out of college, he struggles to find a place for himself as a Mexican American living in a violence-infested neighborhood of Fresno, California.

[CrashBoomLove](#)

Herrera, Juan Felipe

After his father leaves home, sixteen-year-old Cesar Garcia lives with his mother and struggles through the painful experiences of growing up as a Mexican American high school student.

[Cuba 15](#)

Osa, Nancy

Violet Paz, a Chicago high school student, reluctantly prepares for her upcoming "quince," a Spanish nickname for a quinceñera, the celebration of a Hispanic girl's fifteenth birthday.

[Face Relations: Eleven Stories about Seeing Beyond Color](#)

Singer, Marilyn (ed.)

Eleven short stories featuring teens of varying ethnic and cultural backgrounds forming connections and talking about their differences.

[Finding My Hat](#)

Son, John

Jin-Han experiences teenage life in America through the eyes of his Korean immigrant family, moving around the country until finally settling in Houston.

[The First Part Last](#)

Johnson, Angela

Bobby's carefree teenage life changes forever when he becomes a father and must care for his adored baby daughter.

[Gathering of Pearls](#)

Choi, Sook Nyul

Sookan struggles to balance her new life as a college freshman in the United States with expectations from her family at home in Korea.

[A Group of One](#)

Gilmore, Rachna

Learning from her grandmother that her family was active in the Quit India movement of 1942, a rebellion against nearly two centuries of British occupation, gives fifteen-year-old Tara new pride in her heritage, but she still objects when her teacher implies she is not a "regular Canadian."

[Habibi](#)

Nye, Naomi Shihab

When fourteen-year-old Liyane Abboud, her younger brother, and her parents move from St. Louis to a new home between Jerusalem and the Palestinian village where her father was born, they face many changes and must deal with the tensions between Jews and Palestinians.

[House on Mango Street](#)

Cisneros, Sandra

Esperanza Cordero is growing up in the Latino neighborhood in Chicago, but wants to break free of the low expectations the world has for her and her neighborhood.

[If You Come Softly](#)

Woodson, Jacqueline

After meeting at their private school in New York, fifteen-year-old Jeremiah, who is black and whose parents are separated, and Ellie, who is white and whose mother has twice abandoned her, fall in love and then try to cope with people's reactions.

[Imani All Mine](#)

Porter, Connie Rose

Fifteen-year-old Tasha, who lives in a rough neighborhood in Buffalo, New York, deals with being a teenage mother and the responsibilities that come with her newborn daughter, Imani.

[Join In: Multi-ethnic Short Stories by Outstanding Writers for Young Adults](#)

Gallo, Donald (ed.)

Seventeen original short stories that reflect teens' views on friendships and prejudice, expectations and disappointments, and connections and confrontations.

[Life Is Funny](#)

Frank, ER

The lives of a number of young people of different races, economic backgrounds, and family situations living in Brooklyn, New York, become intertwined over a seven year period.

[Like Sisters on the Homefront](#)

Williams-Garcia, Rita

Troubled African American teenage mother Gayle is sent down South to live with her uncle and aunt, where her life begins to change as she experiences the healing power of the family.

[Make Lemonade; True Believer](#)

Euwer-Wolff, Virginia

Fourteen-year-old LaVaughn babysits for a teenage mother in order to earn money for college in *Make Lemonade*. The story continues in *True Believer*, where fifteen-year-old LaVaughn is living in the inner city amidst guns and poverty, learning that life is what you make it.

[Money Hungry; Begging for Change](#)

Flake, Sharon

In *Money Hungry*, all thirteen-year-old Raspberry Hill can think of is making money so that she and her mother never have to worry about living on the streets again. In *Begging for Change*, Raspberry tries to sort out her confused feelings of disgust, shame, and love for her homeless, drug addicted father and worries that she may have inherited his lying and stealing ways.

[Monsoon Summer](#)

Perkins, Mitali

Secretly in love with her best friend and business partner Steve, fifteen-year-old Jazz must spend the summer away from him when her family goes to India during that country's rainy season to help set up a clinic.

[Monster](#)

Myers, Walter Dean

While on trial as an accomplice to murder, sixteen-year-old Steve Harmon records his experiences in prison and in the courtroom in the form of a film script as he tries to come to terms with the course his life has taken.

[Motherland](#)

Vijayaraghavan, Vineeta

Maya hasn't been to her native India in three years. As a teenager, she wants to spend the summer with her New York friends, but her mother wants her to return home to India, so home she goes - there to feel like a stranger between two cultures.

[Necessary Roughness](#)

Lee, Marie G.

Sixteen-year-old Korean American Chan moves from Los Angeles to a small town in Minnesota, where he must cope not only with racism on the football team but also with the tensions in his relationship with his strict father.

[No Laughter Here](#)

Williams-Garcia, Rita

In Queens, New York, Akilah is determined to find out why her closest friend Victoria is silent and withdrawn after returning from a trip to her homeland, Nigeria.

[Offsides](#)

Esckilsen, Erik E.

Soccer star Tom Grey sees the opposing team's Warrior Indian mascot as a denigrating cultural stereotype, but when his family moves and he is forced to join the Warriors, he must make the toughest decision of his life: stand by his beliefs or play the sport he loves?

[Parrot in the Oven: Mi Vida](#)

Martinez, Victor

Manny relates his coming of age experiences as a member of a poor Mexican American family in which the alcoholic father only adds to everyone's struggle.

[Rain is Not My Indian Name](#)

Smith, Cynthia Leitich

Tired of staying in seclusion since the death of her best friend, a fourteen-year-old Native American girl takes on a photographic assignment with her local newspaper to cover events at the Native American summer youth camp.

[Romiette & Julio](#)

Draper, Sharon M.

Romiette, an African-American girl, and Julio, a Hispanic boy, discover that they attend the same high school after falling in love on the Internet, but are harassed by a gang whose members object to their interracial dating.

[The Skin I'm In](#)

Flake, Sharon

Thirteen-year-old Maleeka, uncomfortable because her skin is extremely dark, meets a new teacher with a birthmark on her face and makes some discoveries about how to love who she is and what she looks like.

[Split Image](#)

Glenn, Mel

In this series of poems, Tower High School students and staff reflect on their thoughts and feelings about Laura Li, the daughter of a Chinese immigrant family, whose secret life is finally unveiled.

[A Step from Heaven](#)

Na, An

A young Korean girl and her family find it difficult to learn English and adjust to life in America.

[Tangled Threads: A Hmong Girl's Story](#)

Shea, Pegi Deitz

After ten years in a refugee camp in Thailand, thirteen-year-old Mai Yang travels to Providence, Rhode Island, where her Americanized cousins introduce her to pizza, shopping, and beer, while her grandmother and new friends keep her connected to her Hmong heritage.

[Whale Talk](#)

Crutcher, Chris

Intellectually and athletically gifted, TJ, a multiracial, adopted teenager, shuns organized sports and the gung-ho athletes at his high school until he agrees to form a swimming team and recruits some of the school's less popular students.