



Multicultural Books Donated to Lenawee Elementary Public and Private Schools 1998-2003

1. A bad case of the Stripes. Shannon, D. (1998). New York: Blue Sky Press. Diverse Ages: 4-8
Camilla Cream loves lima beans, but she never eats them. Why? Because the other kids in the school don't eat them. And Camilla is very, very worried about what other people think of her. In fact, she is so worried that she's about to break out in...A bad case of stripes.
2. Almond cookies and dragon well tea. Chin-Lee, C. (1993). Chicago: Polychrome Books. Chinese-American Ages 3-8
Erica visits the home of Nancy, her Chinese American friend. Together the girls learn that the more they share, the more each of them has.
3. Amelia's road. Altman, L. J. (1993). New York: Lee and Low Book, Inc. Hispanic Ages 4-8
Summary: Tired of moving around so much, Amelia, the daughter of migrant farm workers, and dreams of a stable home.
4. An American Face. Czech, J. M. (2000) Child Welfare League of America. Asian/Korean Ages 4-8
What will my new face look like?" Jessie wondered excitedly. He stood on the plastic stool by the sink and traced his eyes with his finger. Jessie, adopted from Korea, eagerly waits for the day he will get his American citizenship and, he thinks, and American face. The big day brings more surprises than Jessie expects.
5. Amazing Grace. Hoffman, M. (1993). New York: Penguin/Putnam African American Ages 4-8.
Grace loves stories, whether they're from books, movies, or the kind her grandmother tells. So when she gets a chance to play a part in Peter Pan, she knows exactly who she wants to be. Remarkable watercolor illustrations give full expression to Grace's high-flying imagination
6. Ashok by any other name. Yamate, S. (1992). Chicago: Polychrome Publishing. American Indian Ages 4-8
Ashok is the story of Ashok, an Indian American boy who wishes that he had a less ethnic, more "American" name. After much experimentation, he finally discovers just the right name for himself.
7. Baseball saved us. Mochizuki, K. (1993). New York: Lee and Low Book, Inc. Japanese American Ages 4-8
Japanese American boy learns to play baseball when he and his family are forced to live in an internment camp during W.W.II, and his ability to play helps him when the war is over.
8. Big enough/Bastante grande. Lachtman, O.D. (1998). Houston: Piñata Books. Hispanic Ages 3-7
When a treasured piñata is stolen, Lupita discovers that she is big enough to help get it back.
9. Carlos and the squash plant. Romero-Stevens, J. (1993). San Francisco: Children's Book Press. Mexican-American Grades 2-up
In this humorous story Carlos learns the importance of listening and taking a bath.
10. Class President. Hurwitz, J. (1991) New York: Scholastic Books. Hispanic 5th grade
Julio hides his own leadership ambitions to help another student win the nomination for class president.

11. Eagle Song. Bruchac, J. (1997). New York: Dial Books for Young Readers. American Indian Grades: 4-up

After moving from a Mohawk Reservation to Brooklyn, New York, fourth grader Danny Bigtree encounters stereotypes about his Native American heritage.

12. First day in grapes. Perez, L. K. (2002). New York: Lee and Low Books. Mexican American Grade 3

Chico's family moves up and down the state of California to pick fruits and vegetables. Every September, Chico starts at a new school. Often, the other kids pick on him — maybe because he's always new, or maybe because he speaks Spanish sometimes. But third grade promises to be different. He likes his teacher, and she recognizes his excellent abilities in math — he may even get to go to the math fair! When some fourth-grade bullies tease him, he surprises them with strengths of his own.

13. Giving thanks: A Native American good morning message. Swamp, J. (1995). New York: Lee & Low Books. American Indian Ages 4-8

Based on an ancient message of peace and appreciation of Mother Earth and all her inhabitants. The words come from The Native people known as the Iroquois or six Nations—Mohawk, Oneida, Cayuga, Onondaga, Seneca, and Tuscarora.

14. Gracias, the Thanksgiving turkey. Crowley, J. (1996). New York: Scholastic. Puerto Rican Ages 4-8

Trouble ensues when Papa gets Miguel a turkey to fatten up for Thanksgiving, and Miguel develops an attachment to it.

15. Grandfather counts. Cheng, A. (2000). New York: Lee and Low Books. Chinese American Ages 4-8

An intergenerational story, Grandfather Counts highlights the universality of the love shared between grandparent and grandchild, a love that helps them cross the boundaries of language and culture.

16. How my parents learned to eat. Friedman, I. R. (1984). New York: Houghton Mifflin. Bi-racial Ages 4-8

An American sailor courts a Japanese girl and each tries in secret, to learn the other's way of eating.

17. Knots on a counting rope. Martin, Bill Jr. & Archambault, John. (1987). New York: Henry Holt Co.. American Indian Grades K-up

Boy-Strength-of-Blue-Horses and his grandfather reminisce about the young boy's birth, his first horse, and an exciting horse race.

18. La Mariposa. (Bilingual). Jimenez, R. (1998). New York: Houghton Mifflin Books. Hispanic Ages 4-8.

In his first year of school, Francisco understands little of what his teacher says. But he is drawn to the silent, slow-moving caterpillar in the jar next to his desk. He knows caterpillars turn into butterflies, but just how do they do it? To find out, he studies the words in a butterfly book so many times that he can close his eyes and sees the black letters, but he still can't understand their meaning.

19. Magda's tortillas. (Bilingual). Chairez, B.C. & A. Vega. (2000). Houston: Pinata Books. Hispanic Ages 4-8

Magda is excited about her seventh birthday; her *abuela* is showing her how to make tortillas. But no matter how hard Magda tries to roll the dough into round spheres, she can't. Stars, hearts, and birds appear out of the dough,

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but no circles. The warmth and affection between Magda and her grandmother will resonate with children who have similar relationships.

20. Mice and Beans. Ryan, P. Munoz. (2001). New York: Scholastic Books. Generic Ages 6 -up

Rosa Maria loves to cook big meals for her big family, and she's determined to make her youngest grandchild's birthday party special. But when important items start to disappear from her kitchen, she doesn't know what to think.

21. Mrs. Katz and Tush. Polacco, P. (1992). Boston: Bantam Books. Jewish American/Black Ages 4 - 8

A long-lasting friendship develops between Larnel, a young African American, and Mrs. Katz, a lonely, Jewish widow, when Larnel presents Mrs. Katz with a scrawny kitten without a tail.

22. My dog is lost. Keats, E. J. and P. Carr. (1960). New York: Penguin Group. Puerto Rican Ages 4-8

A Puerto Rican boy, who speaks only Spanish, loses his dog. As he searches throughout the neighborhood he is able to get his message across to the English-speaking children.

23. Little Firefly, an Algonquian legend. Cohlene, T. (1990). Watermill Press. American Indian Ages 9-12

A retelling of the Algonquian Indian legend of how a young girl, badly mistreated by her sisters, becomes the bride of the great hunter known as the Invisible One. Includes information on the history and customs of the Algonquian Indians.

24. Peddler's dream. Schafelman, J. (1999). Austin: Aakin Press. Lebanese American Ages 4-8

A young Lebanese comes to America in search of his fortune, suffers setbacks, but reaches his dream.

25. Pepita takes time. Lachtman, O. (2002) TX: Arte Publico Press. Hispanic Ages 3-7

Sometimes recently it seems that Pepita just can't stop dawdling, dragging her heels, poking around, staring off in space, and--well, just plain taking time. But so what if she's a little late to breakfast... late to school... even late getting back home again? After all, Pepita thinks, that doesn't hurt anything, does it? But eventually Pepita learns from her best friend Sonya that "taking time" can also mean taking time away from other people and cheating herself.

26. Pepita speaks twice. (Spanish/English). Lachtman, O. (1995). Houston: Pinata Books Hispanic Ages 3-8

Pepita, a little girl who can converse in Spanish and English, decides not to "speak twice" until unanticipated problems cause her to think twice about her decision.

27. Pink and Say. Polacco, P. (1994). New York: Scholastic Books, Inc. Black/White Ages 5-9

Drawing from the rich store of Civil War reminiscences handed down in her family, acclaimed author/illustrator Polacco tells the true story of a remarkable wartime friendship between a young white Union soldier and a young black Union soldier who are captured by Confederate soldiers and sent to Andersonville Prison.

28. Play Lady (La Señora Juguetona). Hoffman, E. (1999). St. Paul: Red leaf Press. Diverse Ages 4-6.

Miguel's next-door neighbor is Jane Kurosawa, but everyone calls her Play Lady. When Play Lady is the victim of a hate crime, the children figure out how to help their friend and heal their neighborhood.

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29. Sam and the lucky money. Chinn, K. (1995). New York: Lee and Low Books. Chinese American
Ages 4-8
Sam must decide how to spend the lucky money he's received for Chinese New Year.
30. Say hola to Spanish at the circus. Elya, S. M. (2000). New York: Lee and Low. Ages 4-8.
Introduces children to some Spanish language vocabulary. Contains a glossary of Spanish/English, with phonetic pronunciation.
31. Sitti's secret. Nye, N.S. (1997). New York: Aladdin Picture Books. Middle Eastern/American Ages 5-8
When Sitti, an American girl, goes to visit her grandmother in her small Middle Eastern village on the other side of the world, they don't need words to understand each other's heart.
32. Sweet Clara and the freedom quilt. Hopkinson, D. (1993). New York: Alfred A. Knopf. Black Ages 4-8
A young slave stitches a quilt with a map pattern, that guides to freedom in the North.
33. Tall Boy's journey. Kraus, J. (1992). Carolrhoda Books, Inc. American Indian Upper elementary.
When Kim Moo Young, Korean orphan boy, is adopted by an American couple and makes the long journey by plane to their house, he finds it a strange and terrifying experience, until he begins to adjust to his new way of life
34. The bus ride. Miller, W. (1998). New York: Lee & Low Books. African American Grades 1-up
An African-American girl discovers how a child can make a difference when she refuses to sit in the back of the bus.
35. The First strawberries, a Cherokee story. Bruchac, J. (1993). New York: Penguin Putnam.
American Indian Ages 4-8
A quarrel between the first man and the first woman is reconciled when the Sun causes strawberries to grow out of the earth.
36. The hundred-penny box. Math, S. B. (1996). New York: Houghton Mifflin. African American Ages 4-8
Michael counts the 100 pennies with Aunt Dew that she has saved, each one represents a year of her life.
37. The invisible princess. Ringgold, F. (1999). New York: Crown Publishers. African American Ages 4-8
Mama and Papa Love have a child, the Invisible Princess, who saves them and the other plantation slaves from their cruel master so that they can all find happiness in the Invisible Village of Peace, Freedom and Love.
38. The legend of Freedom Hill. Altman, L. J. (2000). New York: Lee and Low.. Jewish/Black Ages 9-12
During the California gold rush Rosabel, an African American, and Sophie, a Jew, team up and search for gold to buy Rosabel's mother her freedom from a slave catcher.
39. The patchwork quilt. Fournoy, F. (1985). New York: Penguin Books. Black Ages 4-8
Using scraps cut from the family's old clothing, Tanya helps her grandmother make a beautiful quilt

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that tells the story of her family's life.

40. The piano. Miller, W. (2000). New York: Lee & Low Books. Black/White Grades 1-up

A young black girl's love of music leads her to a job in the home of an older white woman who not only teaches her to play the piano but also about caring for others.

41. The two Mrs. Gibsons. Igus, T. (1996). San Francisco: Children's Book Press. Multi-racial. Ages 4-8

The biracial daughter of an African American father and a Japanese mother fondly recalls growing up with her mother and her father's mother, two very different but equally loving women.

42. The story of Ruby Bridges. Coles, R. (1995). New York: Scholastic Press. African American Ages 4-8

For months, six-year-old Ruby Bridges must confront the hostility of segregationists when she becomes the first African American girl to integrate Frantz Elementary School in New Orleans in 1960.

43. Tomas and the library lady. Mora, P. (2000). New York: Alfred Knopf. Mexican American Ages 4-8

While helping his family in their work as migrant laborers far from their home, Tomas finds an entire world to explore in the books at the local public library.

44. Too many tamales. Soto, G. (1993). New York: Penguin Putnam. Mexican American Ages 4-8

Maria tries on her mother's wedding ring while helping make tamales for a Christmas family get-together. Panic ensues when hours later, she realizes the ring is missing.

45. Singing with Momma Lou. Altman, L.J. (2002). New York: Lee and Low Books. African American Ages 9-up

Tamika Jordan dreads visiting her grandmother at the nursing home. Momma Lou has Alzheimer's and always forgets who Tamika is. But when Tamika's father shows her Momma Lou's scrapbooks, the young girl gets the idea of jogging Momma Lou's memory. During each visit, she shows her grandmother memorabilia from the scrapbook: Momma Lou dressing Tamika like an angel for a Christmas pageant, marching in a civil rights demonstration, and singing "We Shall Overcome" with other jailed protesters.

46. The Color of us. Katz, K. (1999). New York: Henry Holt, Publisher Diverse Grades K – 3rd

After seven-year-old Lena claims that "brown is brown," her mother, an artist, walks her around their diverse neighborhood to show her that brown skin, like Lena's own, comes in many shades. That afternoon, Lena paints her neighbors' portraits using "delicious" brown hues like cinnamon, chocolate, and honey. Mixed-media illustrations of these jazzy urbanites joyfully bring the message.

47. The Stars in My Geddoh's Sky. Matze, C. S. (2002). Morton Grove, IL: Albert Whitman. Middle Eastern/American Ages 4-8

Maitze offers a touching story for any grandchild and grandparent who are separated by distance. "Geddoh" means grandfather in Arabic, and Alex's Geddoh has come to America from the Middle East for a long-awaited visit. Geddoh shares many stories about his homeland and he and Alex grow close. So when it's time for Geddoh to leave, he shows Alex something in the night sky that they can share even when they're apart—a beautiful constellation.

48. We are different, we're are the same. Kates, B.J. (1992). New York: Random House. Diverse Ages: 3-up

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Who better to teach young children about racial harmony than the colorful crew from Sesame Street? Rhyming text celebrates the racial rainbow, without which the world would be so much less interesting and wonderful.

49. White Socks Only. Coleman, E. (1996). Morton Grove: Albert Whitman & Co. Black Ages 4-8

On a hot Mississippi day, a young girl innocently drinks from the "whites only" fountain, thinking it meant only that she had to do so while standing in her white socks, only to come face to face with the harsh realities of racism.

50. Why am I different? Simon, N. (1976). Morton Grove, IL: Albert Whitman and Company. Ages 3-7

Some people can't eat chocolate, and some are good at whistling. Some people are tall, some are short. People want different things for their birthdays. If we were all the same, it would be like seeing every- thing in gray-- boring.

These books were donated to 25 private and public elementary schools in Lenawee County between 1998 and 2003, by Cambios, Inc. Most of the County's public libraries have also received book donations from Cambios, Inc. The Intermediate School District has received over 250 books and other resources for use by county educators.

For more information about Cambios visit www.cambios.org or call (517) 266-9707.

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