

# Multicultural Fiction

A Booklist for Middle Readers

for  
Middle Readers  
9-12 years old

## **The Birchbark House** *by Louise Erdrich*

A young Native American girl tells about the challenges of each season as she lives on an island near Lake Superior with her Ojibwa tribe in the mid-nineteenth century.

## **The Buddha's Diamonds** *by Carolyn Marsden*

A ferocious storm hits Tinh's Vietnamese village and he is expected to secure the family boat, but instead he runs away in fear. Now he must try to recover the boat and regain the confidence of his family.

## **The Circuit: Stories From the Life of a Migrant Child** *by Francisco Jimenez*

Panchito tells of his family's move from Mexico to California and their work in the fields through a series of short stories set in the 1940s.

## **Dancing Home** *by Alma Flor Ada*

Although initially embarrassed by her visiting Mexican cousin, Lupe, American-born Margie comes to accept her cousin and enjoys having her as a friend.

## **The Day of the Pelican** *by Katherine Paterson*

Meli tells of her life with her Albanian Muslim family living in Kosovo in the 1990s and their journey as they flee that country and become refugees.

## **The Dreamer** *by Pam Munoz Ryan*

Neftali is growing up in a small town in Chile and is easily distracted by the beauty of the natural world as his father nags him to be more practical.

*(This is a fictional story of poet Pablo Neruda.)*

## **Esperanza Rising** *by Pam Munoz Ryan*

Fourteen-year-old Esperanza flees Mexico with her Mama after her father is killed by bandits and they lose their house and property. They start a new life working on the agricultural farms in California just before the Great Depression.

## **Extra Credit** *by Andrew Clements*

An American girl living in Illinois becomes a pen pal with a boy living in Afghanistan and learns about the many differences in their lifestyles.

## **The Great Wall of Lucy Wu** *by Wendy Wan-Long Shang*

Lucy is excited to finally have her own room when she is told that her great-aunt is coming to visit for a few months from China and will be sharing her room.

## **Inside Out and Back Again** *by Thanhha Lai*

A young girl tells about her family's departure from Vietnam in 1975 and their new life in Alabama.

## **Letters from Rifka** *by Karen Hesse*

A young Jewish girl tells about her separation from family when they all flee Russia enroute to the United States in 1919, and she is left behind in Belgium until her health improves.

## **Listening for Lions** *by Gloria Whelan*

After losing both of her parents to the influenza epidemic in British East Africa in 1919, Rachel is forced to go to England and assume the identity of a girl who recently died.

## **A Long Walk to Water: A Novel** *by Linda Sue Park*

A young Sudanese boy named Salva becomes separated from his family and travels with many refugees across Africa with hopes of a new life.

## **Parade of Shadows** *by Gloria Whelan*

A sixteen-year-old British girl leaves her homeland to travel to the Middle East with her father in 1907 and experiences dangerous adventures.

## **Small Acts of Amazing Courage** *by Gloria Whelan*

Rosalind lives in India with her English parents in the early twentieth century, where her father feels she is getting involved with the wrong crowd and insists she go to boarding school in England.

## **The Star Maker** *by Laurence Yep*

Artie, a Chinese American boy living in Chinatown in San Francisco in 1953, brags that he can get fireworks for everyone for Chinese New Year and then struggles to actually make that happen.

## **Tofu Quilt** *by Ching Yeung Russell*

Yeung Ying tells about her life in Hong Kong in the 1960's and about her strong love of reading and books as she longs to be a writer.

## **Weedflower** *by Cynthia Kadohata*

A twelve-year-old Japanese-American girl and her family are sent to an internment camp on an Indian reservation in Arizona where she meets and befriends a Mojave boy.

## **When Heaven Fell** *by Carolyn Marsden*

Nine-year-old Binh lives a simple life in Vietnam and dreams of a better life when her grandmother reveals that Binh's aunt is coming for a visit from America.

## **Where the Mountain Meets the Moon** *by Grace Lin*

After many years of listening to the imaginative stories her father tells, a poor Chinese girl goes on a quest to discover a better life for her family.

## **Words in the Dust** *by Trent Reedy*

Zulaikha is born with a cleft lip and is seen as having little value in her village in Afghanistan, but her life changes when she secretly learns to read and American soldiers arrive offering hope that her cleft lip can be repaired.

## **Year of Impossible Goodbyes** *by Sook Nyul Choi*

Sookan and her family live in a turbulent North Korea during and after World War II with hopes of escaping to a free South Korea, which is protected by the United States.

## **The Year of the Dog** *by Grace Lin*

Pacy makes a new friend who shares her Taiwanese-American heritage while also trying a lot of new activities with hopes of finding her talent.