

We've uncovered the following nine common messages conveyed by multicultural books. Messages matter and should be considered when selecting a book. We encourage you to make sure no one message dominates your bookshelf, as each can support social and emotional growth.

Category	Description	Example Books
Any Child	Stories depicting characters of color which do not make race, ethnicity, or culture part of the plot. Any Child books can be identified as books whose characters' race could be changed without changing the story line.	<i>Lola Reads to Leo</i> (Charlesbridge) by Anna McQuinn
Cross Group: Interactions Across Race and Culture	Stories that portray interactions of named characters across racial or cultural difference, including those depicting same-age and cross-age friendships; the interactions depicted can be positive, negative, hostile or ambiguous.	<i>My Friend Jamal</i> (Annick Press) by Anna McQuinn
Beautiful Life: A Focus on Culture	Stories about a particular racial or cultural group experience, taking readers into the everyday world of characters in countries around the world, with specific cultural components such as language, food, celebrations, and traditions.	<i>Hana Hashimoto, Sixth Violin</i> (Kids Can Press) by Chieri Uegaki <i>Red Kite, Blue Kite</i> (Disney-Hyperion) by Ji-li Jiang
Race/Culture Concepts: Examining Difference and Commonalities	Books that explore and compare specific aspects of human difference, inviting children to consider new perspectives related to racial, ethnic, or cultural identity.	<i>Going to Mecca</i> (Frances Lincoln) by Na'ima Robert <i>Shades of People</i> (Holiday House) by Shelley Rotner
Oppression: Struggle, Resistance, and Triumph	Stories of prejudice, mistreatment and discrimination based on race, ethnicity or culture, such as stories focused on slavery, the civil rights movement or internment.	<i>Hope's Gift</i> (G.P. Putnam's Sons) by Kelly Starling Lyons
Folklore: Myths, Legends and Traditional Stories	Myths, legends, folk and fairy tales that are set in a particular cultural context, introducing readers to traditions, activities, languages and values.	<i>Beauty and the Beast</i> (HarperCollins) by H. Chuku Lee
Biography: Real People, Real Lives	Nonfiction presentations, narrative or non-narrative, about the life of a particular person or group of people from a historical or contemporary perspective.	<i>Side by Side: The Story of Dolores Huerta and Cesar Chavez</i> (Rayo) by Monica Brown
Incidental: Ensemble or Background Characters of Color	Stories that depict a diverse group of non-primary characters, or books with a White protagonist and a diverse cast of background characters.	<i>12 Days of New York</i> (Harry N. Abrams) by Tonya Bolden <i>Read All About It!</i> (HarperCollins) by Laura Bush and Jenna Bush Hager
Informational: Factual Content Unrelated to Race or Culture	Nonfiction books presenting factual information, with or without a storyline; may be encyclopedic. Diverse communities are depicted, but race/culture is not always central to the content.	<i>The Good Garden: How One Family Went from Hunger to Having Enough</i> (Kids Can Press) by Katie Smith Milway