A selective annotated bibliography of multiethnic books, which were published in 1975 or 1976, is presented. Section one, books for preschool and beginning readers, contains 13 fiction and five nonfiction entries. These stress self-concept and understanding of Mexican and American Indian cultures. Section two contains 20 fiction and 13 nonfiction books for the middle grades. The fiction materials include stories about Jews, American Indians, Vietnamese orphans, blacks, Quakers, and Scandinavians. Many of the nonfiction books relate life stories of famous people such as Muhammad Ali, Walt Frazier, and Paul Robeson. Twenty-one fiction and 16 nonfiction works are included in the section for young adults, age 12 and up. Many of the fiction stories describe the problems of ethnic group adolescents in modern or colonial times. Life styles of American Indians and Amish groups are described in several of the nonfiction books. A section of Spanish-language, bilingual, and translated books contains six resources which may be helpful in teaching or learning Spanish or English at any grade level. All entries in the bibliography give information on title, author, illustrator, publisher, date, pages, specific grade level, and annotations. (AV)
AMERICAN POTPOURRI:
Multi-ethnic Books for Children and Young Adults
A Bibliography Based on the Acquisitions of the Educational Materials Center

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Office of Education
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The books in this bibliography have been selected from the children's book collection of the Educational Materials Center (EMC). The collection consists of review copies of books received from participating publishers. Paperback books are not included, nor are books about ethnic groups outside the United States. The fact that a book is listed does not mean that it is endorsed by the U.S. Office of Education.

The EMC distributes only materials published by the U.S. Office of Education. Readers wishing to obtain materials listed here should do so through the usual channels or from the publishers directly.
PREFACE

We Americans are a multi-ethnic society, a potpourri of peoples of different backgrounds, cultures, beliefs, heritages. We coexist successfully as a nation because we are able to function as a whole while still preserving our separate ethnic identities. To preserve them it is important that we respect them. And this we do. But it is also important that we understand them.

This bibliography has been compiled to help children and young adults achieve this understanding. As America is a potpourri of multi-ethnic peoples, this compilation is a potpourri of multi-ethnic books. The books deal with some facet of one or more ethnic groups. For example, a book may have been included because it describes some group’s lifestyles or because it reflects how an ethnic group is represented in our literature.

Except for section IV, the compilers have included only those books which have been favorably reviewed in at least two major professional journals. The review journals used by the EMC in this selection process are:

* Booklist. Published by the American Library Association, Chicago. Semimonthly, September through July; one issue in August.

Considered for inclusion were (1) those books received in the EMC between July 1, 1975, and October 31, 1976, or (2) titles from one of the following annual lists of select children’s books:


The titles are organized by grade groups with, roughly, “Preschool and Beginning Readers” containing books for children in preschool (PreS) or kindergarten (K) through second grade (ages 4 to 7), “Middle Grades” for third through sixth grade (ages 8 to 11), and “Young Adults” for seventh grade (age 12) and up. Books for a very wide range of age groups, such as reference books, have been included in the lowest appropriate grade group.
BOOKS FOR PRESCHOOL AND BEGINNING READERS

Fiction

A song without music and with the enthusiasm of a marching band tells big sister and little brother to know and be proud of who they are. (PreS-Grade 1)

Rudy Soto looks at the sky over Santos Mountain and longs to soar there with the birds, but his ambitions are satisfied only after he frees the hawk he has taken to live with him as his brother. Parnell’s line drawings enhance the theme of freedom and feeling of flight. (K-Grade 2)

Optimistic young Shawn of *Shawn Goes to School* discovers that determination and work are required to earn something he really wants, but then also learns the pleasure of pride of ownership. (PreS-Grade 2)

In a rhyming story, Everett Anderson, hero of other Clifton books, expresses his thoughts about the Mexican girl who moves in next door and who comes to the rescue when he loses his key. With free flowing pen and ink drawings. (K-Grade 2)

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In this retelling of a touching, ancient Inuit legend, respect and compassion for the spirits of the dead are taught to hungry tribesmen, represented in the haunting ice-blue, purple, and white illustrations. (Grades 1-5)

Adan Riera had never seen the country where his parents were born until his uncle invites them all to visit Puerto Rico. There Adan discovers why rainy days are wonderful yagua days. Spanish word list appended. (K-Grade 2)

By watching and listening to her grandmother, Angelica learns about preparing Mexican food, about making jewelry and dolls from corn, and about the importance of corn to the Mexican people. The story is seasoned with a liberal sprinkling of insight into Chicano culture. Includes recipes for enchiladas and tacos. (K-Grade 4)

A young boy describes in black dialect the activities he sees in the morning on his way to school: cars speeding by, the fruit man with a “black umbrella of flies” following him, and the street cleaner washing chalk marks from the sidewalk. Illustrated with free-form line drawings washed with muted colors. (K-Grade 2)
Uchida, Yoshiko. *The Birthday Visitor*. Illus. by Charles Robinson. New York: Scribner, 1975. Unpaged. Seven-year-old Emi, a Japanese-American girl, is unhappy at the prospect of having a visitor from Japan spoil her birthday celebration with her friends, but it turns out to be her nicest birthday ever. The soft blue and brown water-color illustrations capture the quiet feeling of the story. (Grades 1-4)

**Nonfiction**


Clymer, Theodore. *Four Corners of the Sky: Poems, Chants and Oratory*. Illus. by Marc Brown. Boston: Little, 1975. 47 p. These collected short songs, chants, and sayings from various tribes of American Indians are set among bold pictures of bears, birds, wolves, fish, and other creatures important to Indian life as revealed in these ancient lines. (K-Grade 4)

Miles, Betty. *Around and Around--Love*. Illus. with photographs. New York: Knopf, 1975. 42 p. This simple poetic text is surrounded by warm, moving, black and white photographs that express every kind of love among people from many ethnic backgrounds. For example, young children are shown expressing love for parents, grandparents, pets, and other children. (Grades 2-6)


**Books for the Middle Grades**

Fiction

Anker, Charlotte. *Last Night I Saw Andromeda*. Illus. by Ingrid Fetz. New York: Walck, 1975. 126 p. Jenny tells the story of her attempts to reestablish a meaningful relationship with her father and of how she, a white girl, and her friend Toby, a black boy, work together to accomplish their mutual goals. (Grades 4-6)

Chandler, Edna Walker. *Indian Paintbrush*. Illus. by Lee Fitzgerrel-Smith. Chicago: Whitman, 1975. 128 p. Young Maria Lopez, who is part Sioux and part Mexican, finds it difficult to adjust to life on an Indian reservation until she receives help from a Spanish-speaking teacher. Maria's story is told on an easy-to-read level that may be suitable for reluctant readers. (Grades 4-7)

Childress, Alice. *When the Rattlesnake Sounds*. Drawings by Charles Lilly. New York: Coward, 1975. 32 p. The courage and strength of pre-abolition Underground Railroad conductors and other former slaves are movingly depicted in this fictionalized short play about a summer in the life of Harriet Tubman as she works for money needed to help free slaves. (Grades 5-12)

Clark, Ann Nolan. *All This Wild Land*. New York: Viking, 1975. 180 p. Maiju, an immigrant from Finland, finds life in frontier Minnesota rugged after the crops are lost and her father dies, leaving her and her mother to survive alone. (Grades 4-7)

Cohen, Barbara. *Bitter Herbs and Honey*. New York: Lothrop, 1976. 160 p. Becky, a teenager from a tradition-bound Jewish family, growing up in a small Jewish neighborhood in the early 1900's, experiences many conflicts as she tries to reconcile her heritage with her nontraditional views of modern society. (Grades 5-7)
Straight Arrow, a young Navajo, is captured and sold to the Spaniards in New Mexico, has his name changed to Niño, and is forced to endure four years of hard work. This experience turns him against the white man, but his negative feelings are altered by his interactions with his master’s son and nephew. Throughout his ordeal he maintains his pride in his Indian heritage. Eventually he escapes and returns to his canyon home. (Grades 5-7)

David Williams, hero of other Graham books, has become a doctor and wishes to practice in his home town, but faces many of the same prejudices that had driven his family north years earlier. (Grades 6-9)

Kano, an Indian boy growing up in the Alaskan village of Anuik in 1838, fails to prove his manhood by overcoming his fear of hunting alone in the dark forest. Kano is given a second chance to exhibit his bravery by fetching the smallpox vaccine for his people. (Grades 3-7)

This suspenseful story, based on a true incident, takes place in Fredericksburg, Texas, in 1846. It tells how settlers try to make peace with Apache and Comanche Indians and describes one family’s part in the negotiations and their ultimate fate. (Grades 1-4)

Views Pacific Northwest Indian life through six legendary tales about the kindly, supernatural “narnauk” (sometimes mouse, sometimes woman, but always very “proper”), and tells how she helps rescue stolen princesses. For reading alone or aloud. (Grade 4-up)

The turning point in 13-year-old Hannah Brand’s life is when her family moves from a Jewish neighborhood in the Bronx in 1938 to a suburban area where pro-Nazism and anti-Semitism thrive. Hannah is not included in her classmates’ social activities, and her brother, the best basketball player in school, is turned down by the team. (Grades 4-8)

Her mother’s decision to adopt a Vietnamese orphan is not the only upset in Bernie’s otherwise nonroutine life, what with an inconstant stepfather, a recently remarried grandmother, and a father-with-new-family in California, but she manages to weather all storms with considerable aplomb. (Grades 5-8)

A completely new edition of *Nine Tales of Raven*, this volume retells several northwest coastal Indian legends about magical semihuman Raven and his efforts to help his people. With introduction and list of sources. For reading aloud to earlier grades. (Grades 4-6)

The box that contains one penny for each year of Aunt Dew’s life also holds her memories, and stories for her to relate to Michael, who feels the special importance of keeping the box when his mother wants to replace it. (Grades 3-6)

Raided and persecuted by both Tory loyalists and Yankee rebels during the Revolutionary War, Zenas and the others of his Quaker community struggle to maintain their pacifist way of life on Nantucket Island. (Grades 3-5)

Zia, an orphaned young Indian girl, displays courage and tenacity in her attempts to rescue her aunt (Karana, of O’Dell’s 1960 Newbery winner, *Island of the Blue Dolphins*) from a life of isolation and inherits from Karana love and a free spirit. (Grades 5-8)

Donald Chen, a poor Chinese-American boy living in New York, finds it necessary to escape from the real world through Wingman, a Chinese superman-type comic book character. A teacher helps Donald back to reality and persuades him to express his fantasies about Wingman and China through art. (Grades 3-6)
Recorded in great detail more than a hundred years ago by an anonymous missionary, these legends of boy-hero Yoo-lah-teen of the Pacific Northwest tribe are faithfully recreated and illustrated in the same spirit of reverence and wonder in which they were in all probability told when they were passed along from generation to generation. (Grades 3-6)

Backgrounds clash when Talatu, a young Cherokee

Nonfiction

This biography of world heavyweight boxing champion Muhammad Ali concentrates on Ali's career from Olympic gold medal winner to the champion he is today. With action-packed photographs and text in large print. (Grades 2-5)

A factual, easy-to-read biography of a great black athlete, this addition to the Sports Star series follows the life and career of the man known as "the best thief in pro basketball." (Grades 2-5)

The trip from Panama to Pittsburgh for this Pirates baseball hero could not be measured in miles alone; there were also sorrows and smiles, language barriers and religious reformation for the subject of this Sports Shelf biography. (Grades 5-9)

This craft book shows the nature of Eskimo art, including the way it was developed from natural materials, such as fur, wood, and leather. Includes black and white illustrations and photographs, step-by-step directions and a list of materials needed for each activity. Glossary, bibliography, and list of craft supply stores are appended. (Grades 4-6)

A historical look at American blacks, their roles in and contributions to the Revolutionary War effort, and their early beliefs in the War as a first step to freedom for all persons, this account gives credit to these previously unsung heroes. (Grades 4-7)

Part of a series by Eiseman on contributions by minority groups in American history, this book covering four Jewish Americans active in humanitarian and civic services may be useful to supplement American history text material. (Grades 5-8)

As an integral part of their everyday lives, the art of the plains tribes was not as significant for its decorative value as for its importance in religion, ritual, personal relationships, and communication. (Grades 4-11)

This is the poignant and sometimes tragic story of black hero Paul Robeson's singing and acting career, his scholarship and athletic ability, and the persecution he suffered for having pride in and fighting for his ethnic heritage and for black equality. Told on an easy-to-read level. (Grades 2-5)

This biography of Rod Carew, one of baseball’s all-time greats, is part of Libby’s Sport’s Shelf series. The story follows Rod Carew’s life from the time he was a poverty-stricken boy until he won fame playing for the Minnesota Twins. (Grades 5-7)


This is an extended, enjoyable report on the history, practices, and current conditions of the Amish people, their strengths and weaknesses, joys and problems, and the threats to their continued way of life from today’s modern, technological society. (Grade 5-up)


This guidebook to places important in black American history, illustrating a recent recognition of the black contribution to the making of the United States, is organized by periods of history, beginning with “Days of Slavery” and “Abolitionists,” and ending with “Civil Rights.” With geographical index by State. (Grade 5-up)


This biography of a great black ballet star tells of his struggles for professional recognition, his determination to make careers in ballet accessible to other blacks, and his involvement with the Dance Theater of Harlem. (Grades 2-5)


The history and current conditions of this unique religious sect and its place in American history are explained by a student of the ways of the simple, hard-working Shakers. Includes bibliography on Shakers and other communal groups. (Grades 5-9)

**BOOKS FOR YOUNG ADULTS**

**Fiction**


Within the story about 14-year-old Scottish-American Alex MacLeod and his part in the American Revolution, a great deal of historical information is revealed, including how the loyalist and rebel political positions differed, how many “sides” there were in the fracas, and histories of such figures of the War as Francis Marion, the “Swamp Fox.” (Grades 7-9)


Uprooted from the stylish New York upper class in the 1940’s, Sarah Stern describes the culture shock she suffered as a Jewish adolescent when her mother’s death caused her to be transplanted to Brookline, Massachusetts, and to the rigors of dull, middle-class life. (Grades 7-12)


A story unlikely to happen anywhere but in Brooklyn! Young Tom (whose family comes from Puerto Rico via Tampa) teams up with his Italian-American friend to brave the dangers of New York City, to sing in Irish pubs, and to accomplish the first steps toward a music career. Fictionalized autobiography of the life of singer “Tom Paisley.” (Grades 6-9)


This sympathetic, factual biography of Mother Ann, one of the earliest feminists, who considered herself the “female Christ,” not only tells her life story with insight but also describes the beginnings of Shakerism and the Shaker way of life. (Grade 7-up)


The historical struggles of the American Revolution, of settlers opposing other settlers, of prejudice and slavery come to life in this fast-moving story (based on an actual incident) about young Ben Buck, who learns the meaning of freedom, independence and responsibility. (Grades 5-9)
Young Ray Siles finds the West Virginia hills a place fraught with mysterious people, legends, and events as he tries to unravel the past and preserve the future of the hill peoples’ way of life. (Grades 5-9)

The narrative carries the reader along with Trilby Frost, a Tennessee teenager in the early 1900’s, through events recorded in her diary—through her friendship with a half-Indian boy, deaths in her family, and startling discoveries about herself. (Grades 5-10)

Arilla is a 12-year-old girl growing up in a small Midwest town, seeking identity in an interracial family (her mother is black, her father is part black and part American Indian, her brother considers himself an Indian militant). Arilla learns to cope with her various heritages. (Grades 7-10)

The discrepancy between what it’s supposed to be like “to be an American” and what Skip’s life, in the Chicago of the 1950’s, is really like strikes the 13-year-old black as ironic when he considers a speech he is to deliver on citizenship in a city-wide competition. (Grades 6-10)

Ari learns that it’s hard to be different as he attempts to grow up as a faithful Orthodox Jew in Brooklyn in 1944, amid pranks and misdemeanors perpetrated by boys of his neighborhood, who claim that their lifestyle is the norm. (Grades 5-7)

More than her natural ability to sprint is needed to make Fox Running, an Apache Indian drafted for Uinta University’s track team, an Olympic champion. The extra ingredients are provided by her coach, by competitors, and especially by her close friend, a former track star. (Grades 6-9)

The essence of the struggles of many Native Americans today is crystallized and sympathetically expressed in this story of a young Chinook Indian girl on the Pacific Coast. Her parents had turned away from their Indian heritage in order to survive in the white community, only to find that lack of identity with their ethnic background had left them without roots. (Grades 6-9)

The most important thing in Laurel Ivy’s life at Snowbird Gap is the thought of moving away...until she meets Hank, an Indian boy, who helps her to see the world around her more clearly, to readjust her priorities, and to realize the value of having roots. (Grades 6-12)

Eleven stories and a short novella transport the reader back in time to New York City tenements of the 1940’s and 1950’s, where uprooted Puerto Ricans lived and struggled with the facts and feelings of life in a foreign place. (Grades 6-10)

Stuff, now 18, recalls his adventures in Harlem with Cool Clyde and Fast Sam as the three 13-year-olds shared experiences familiar to many innercity teenagers, including problems with the police, drugs, sex, parents, and school. (Grade 7-up)

The story opens with Rain Dove as a young Cherokee girl and follows her life through the period of the first invasion of North America by the European explorers who brought smallpox with them to this continent. (Grade 6-up)

A young warrior, Red Hawk, wishes to prove his manhood by performing a feat of great courage, but later discovers that devotion and loyalty are among the most challenging—and dangerous—qualities, especially when maintaining them means defying the traditions of a very superstitious people. (Grades 6-10)

In Steptoe’s first short novel, Marcia, a 14-year-old urban black, encounters and resolves a problem that faces many teenagers: the choice between sex before she feels ready for it and the possibility of losing her boyfriend. The large print may appeal to reluctant readers. Written in black dialect. (Grades 7-10)

The Logans (from Taylor’s *Song of the Trees*) struggle during the Depression to keep their land, their honor, and their family together in the midst of racial injustice and economic tragedy. (Grades 5-9)


In Connecticut in the 1830’s an orphaned French girl learns about oppression and freedom while in the care of the strict abolitionist Pastor McIves. (Grades 6-9)

Nonfiction


Ante-bellum discontent among blacks was not limited to the deep South, as revealed in this 1866 personal account (interpreted and augmented by Bacon) of William Parker, leader of a group of escaped slaves who brought the slavery question early and violently to Pennsylvania and Maryland. (Grades 6-9)


In his summary of Chicano history, Coy focuses on a Mexican-American family and explores various aspects of the Chicano culture. Includes information rarely noted in history books, such as work experience of Mexican-Americans, the role of family, religion, and tradition. (Grade 7-up)


Three men and three women taken captive by various tribes between 1676 and 1864 tell of their experiences in their own words (with explanatory notes and interpretation by the author) and reveal therein the attitudes, actions, lifestyles, and feelings of both Indians and frontier whites. With bibliography. (Grade 7-up)


DuBois’ views on social injustice and black civil rights are highlighted in these selections from his essays, speeches, and other writings, which span his lifetime. (Grade 7-up)


Many black and white photographs (most by the author) help tell the story and convey the spirit of life among Indians of the Southwest—their customs, traditions, and values. The text is honest and respectful of these ancient people and their efforts to survive in a modern world while preserving their unique heritage. (Grade 7-up)


Hirst relates the history of the Havasupai Indians, a tribe of Native Americans pushed off their land, and of how they survived on 518 acres at the bottom of a canyon in Arizona until 1975, when a law was passed returning to them rights to the plateau above the canyon. (Grade 7-up)


Holbrook’s history covers the span of years from Jacques Cartier’s first voyage to North America in 1534 to the declaration of French as the official language of Quebec in 1974. Illustrated with historic prints, maps, and photographs. (Grade 7-up)


Fourteen original accounts by people who, during the galloping growth and progress of the United States at the turn of the century, lived in poverty and were subject to exploitation. Told in the words of Polish-, Lithuanian-, Italian-, Mexican-, and Chinese-Americans, a displaced American Indian, and a black southern sharecropper. (Grades 7-12)

From the actual account by Olive Oatman, daughter of a Mormon family who were attacked by Apaches while heading toward Utah in 1851, Lampman has written a dramatized account of the captivity of two sisters in the family taken as slaves by Indians of the Southwest. (Grades 6-10)


This fictionalized biography of Peter Still, a black man kidnapped into slavery as a young boy, explores the theme of slavery and the escape from it, as Peter struggles to buy his freedom and that of his wife and children. (Grades 5-9)


The tragedy common to African slaves, Mormons, Vietnamese, Acadians, slum dwellers, and World War II Oriental-Americans—the trauma of being persecuted and forcibly relocated—is examined in this revealing account of America's involvement in displacement actions of this kind. (Grade 7-up)


How and why Jews immigrated between 1880 and 1920 are explained by Meltzer with warmth and sympathy, and with an understanding of the social, religious, and political conditions of the period. Includes photographs taken then, which provide historical evidence to support the text. With bibliography. (Grade 7-up)


Through an account of the life of 17-year-old Sam and his typical (albeit fictional) Pennsylvania Amish family of today, a close-up portrait of this unique society is painted. (Grade 7-up)


This reference book contains short, well-researched biographies and portrait photos of such influential and respected black personalities as Duke Ellington, Paul Robeson, Ann Petry, Langston Hughes, Muhammad Ali, Mary McLeod Bethune, and 25 others in the fields of science, sports, public service, and the arts. Their life stories include a description of their efforts to gain full citizenship for all black Americans. (Grade 7-up)


The legal games and technical tricks used to continue segregationist practices and to prevent blacks from obtaining their civil rights (even after laws had been passed to preserve them) are the subject of this story of the Fourteenth Amendment and the *Brown vs. Board of Education* decision. With bibliography and relevant constitutional amendments appended. (Grades 5-10)


By presenting and explaining archaeological finds and artifacts, this work reconstructs the history of the peoples that once inhabited the southwestern United States, e.g., Mogollon farmers who were the first to make pottery, the Hokom, known as expert irrigators, and other tribes. Useful as a resource book or supplementary history text. (Grade 7-up)
SPANISH-LANGUAGE, BILINGUAL, AND TRANSLATED BOOKS

Section IV, "Spanish Language, Bilingual, and Translated Books," contains books which may be helpful in teaching or learning Spanish or English. They are included here only for their value as currently available trade books which may be useful to supplement text material or to aid bilingual students. Grade ranges have not been given because a book may be useful at any level for teaching or learning Spanish or English.


This Christmas story was originally broadcast on radio in Puerto Rico in 1954. The book is designed with one half of each page in Spanish and the corresponding part of the story in English on the other half. Parts of the radio show’s music score are printed with the text.


This translation of Clifton’s 1973 picture book, The Boy Who Didn’t Believe in Spring, tells of two boys who search all over the city for spring after they hear that it’s supposed to be “just around the corner.”


Originally published in 1972, this Spanish edition is an entertaining, illustrated introduction to Spanish for beginners. The book uses various concepts (“I’m going to be...”), scenes (“Mike at the seashore”), activities (“Swimming”), and places (“In the chocolate factory”) to identify words, phrases, and sentences. Words in Spanish are followed by their English equivalents.


Originally published in English in 1971, Do You Have the Time, Lydia? is a picture book about a little girl involved in so many projects that she never has time to finish any of them.


Each of these bilingual riddles and rhymes (collected from Mexico and from Spanish-speaking areas in the United States) is accompanied by a black and white cartoon. A valuable source for easy-to-understand bilingual material.


Originally published 35 years ago, Curious George has been one of the most popular picture book characters ever created. This edition is especially written for the younger beginning student of Spanish, with idioms and difficult words translated at the bottom of the page on which they appear. With "vocabulario" appended.