This annotated bibliography provides a comprehensive list of fiction dealing with mixed ethnic heritage for children and young adults. A few nonfiction items of quality are included. The bibliography is divided into four sections to match frequently used public library divisions: (1) picture books (early childhood) (22 books); (2) juvenile and school age (30 citations); (3) young adult (31 citations); and (4) adult (25 citations). The adult titles were selected for their interest for young adults and only represent a portion of titles available for adults. (SLD)
STORIES ABOUT PEOPLE OF MIXED ETHNICITY

AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

BY DILDAR GARTENBERG

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"In all of us there is a hunger, very deep, to know our heritage. To know who we are and where we have come from. Without this enriching knowledge, there is a hollow yearning. No matter what our attainments in life, there is the most disquieting loneliness." From Alex Haley's Roots.

Today there is a growing interest in stories about people of mixed ethnicity. Many new books are being published with positive depictions of people of mixed ethnicity, just as current research is bringing to light examples of "lost" mixed-ethnic cultural heroes. This has not always been the case, however. As a result of the historical invisibility of mixed ethnicity, books on the subject can be hard to find, and library cataloging systems do not indicate the mixed-race heritage of characters in most books. This bibliography provides the most comprehensive list available of fiction dealing with mixed heritage for children and young adults.

As of this date, I have included all fictions for children and young adults which deal with mixed ethnicity that I have been able to locate. Most are fiction, though a few good non-fiction works were added. The bibliography is divided into four sections to match frequently used public library divisions: picture book, juvenile, young adult and adult. The adult titles were selected for their possible interest to mature young adults, and only represent a portion of available titles.

I solicit additional listings. Please send any comments, suggestions or requests regarding this bibliography to: Dildar Gartenberg, c/o I-Pride, P.O. Box 11811, Berkeley, CA 94712-11811. Or call 510-653-1929.

A suggested future project, for anyone interested, would be to create an anthology of the frequent accounts of mixed-race families extracted from biographies, such as Beyond Uhura, by Nichelle Nichols, or Having Our Say, by Sarah and Elizabeth Delany.
Older titles may only be available through libraries by special request. Many new books are available at Cody’s Books in Berkeley. To order, contact Ira at (510) 845-3752 and mention I-Pride. By contacting Ira and mentioning I-Pride our members receive a 20% discount.

I-Pride (Interracial/Intercultural Pride) is a non-profit group of people sharing an interest in the well-being and development of individuals and families who are of more than one racial/ethnic heritage. I-Pride is a founding chapter of the Association of MultiEthnic Americans, which links together local groups similar to I-Pride.

The bibliographer authorizes reproduction of any part of this list for non-profit uses.

This document was created and edited by Gary N. Gartenberg. Contributing editor, Vicki Nelson.

This bibliography was begun as a project for Terry Wilson's Ethnic Studies course given at U.C. Berkeley in the Fall of 1991. Since then many additions have been suggested by my fellow librarians, notably, Martha Shogren, Karen Madigan, Linda Phillips, and Maya Kennedy, as well as by my fellow I-Pride members Marilyn Drame, Jan Goodwin, and Jan Weisman.

*About the compiler of this bibliography.

My father was a Sikh born in a North Indian farming village who traveled to the United States in the 1920’s with the financial sponsorship of Sikh farmers in the California Central Valley. He met my mother, who was of English descent, from a small town in Oregon, while both of them were students at U.C. Berkeley. When I was seven my father returned to India leaving me to grow up in America. I did not meet my father again until 33 years later when I traveled to India with my husband and sons to visit him. That trip, in 1970, inspired my return to school at Berkeley to complete a BA in Art History and an MLS in Library Science. In working for these degrees I took classes in the language, art, history, and anthropology of India. The knowledge I gained from my studies of India helped me to answer many questions about my father's world. Reading about the Anglo-Indian community described in Bhowani Junction helped me to understand how my life might have been had my father taken me home to India with him. Han Suyin's autobiography made me consider what my mother's life would have been had she accompanied my father. Neither of these tales exactly mirrored the circumstances of my heritage, but by reading these accounts my comprehension of the intricate nature of racial and ethnic politics expanded, as did my sense of not being alone in facing the quandaries and challenges of mixed ethnicity.

"Once you see yourself depicted, you have a sense of your right to be in the world."


An asterisk (*) precedes books I recommend as gift selections.

Bibliography of the Literature of Mixed Ethnicity
PICTURE BOOKS/EARLY CHILDHOOD
(These books are for reading aloud to very young children.)

  A celebration of the colors of an interracial family in radiant watercolor and free verse.
  The family, a white father, black mother and their two children, mirrors Adoff's own marriage to Virginia Hamilton.

  In this tale set in England, about the first day of school, children of many different colors are depicted through illustrations. One child's family is of mixed-ethnic heritage.

  These two stories, by the same author and illustrator, are set in England and portray the life and adventures of a charming girl named Jo, who lives with her black father and white mother in a multi-ethnic community.

  A lovely, simple, picture book about a child of mixed-ethnic heritage and her sense of being "just right."

  An amusing story about Billy and Belle's day at school while their mother is in the hospital having a new baby. Illustrations show a black father and a white mother.

  Lovely illustrations include a portrait of a couple of different ethnic backgrounds with their baby- "Love is amber and ivory and ginger and sweet." The message is "children come in all of the colors of the earth and sky and sea." - Excellent Gift Book!

  A day in the family's bakery as seen through the eyes of a child. Superb illustrations depict a family that appears to be of mixed black/white race.

  Nancy is the middle child of an interracial family who learns that being in the middle is a good place to be.

  A photo picture-book for small children, aimed at demystifying visits to the doctor's office. Photographs of the mother and son show a child of Asian appearance with a white mother.

  This outstanding abstract picture book is not about children of multi-ethnic heritage but the image of color blending as a metaphor of friendship is delightful.

  A beautifully illustrated picture book with an amusing twist where a mother, attempting to put her daughters to sleep, instead falls asleep herself. The mother is Asian and the father is white.

Bibliography of the Literature of Mixed Ethnicity/Early Childhood- I
Translated from the Belgian French original, this tale depicts a biracial European family. The story plays with and provides commentary on racial characteristics. Charming illustrations portray a black mother and white father.

A funny and upbeat story that pokes fun at a conflict between black and white herds of elephants.

A girl spends the day with her two grandmothers, one native Hawaiian and one white, enjoying life in two cultures and two languages. Provides a simple language lesson.

A tale about a young girl's embarrassment over her father's preference for bright clothes with bold patterns. The watercolor illustrations depict a family with mixed racial characteristics.

An adopted Korean girl learns that the members of a family need not physically resemble one another to be strong and loving.

Charming picture books about a boy who appears to be of African ancestry with his longhaired blond father. In Home Field, father and son play baseball in their yard. In Winter Wood, they go into the forest together to cut firewood and then they carry it home. Starry Night is the story of an overnight camp out.

When this beautiful book about the marriage of a black rabbit and a white rabbit was first published, in 1958, it was controversial. Many libraries in the South refused to include it in their collections.

This Caldecott Honor Book contains three short stories, the second of which features a child of mixed-ethnic heritage. A cheerful, colorful book portraying loving families.
JUVENILE/SCHOOL AGE

(These works are generally intended for pre-teen readers.)

  John Steptoe's fine illustrations highlight the beautiful poems presented in this work, which are dedicated to the celebration of "every wonderful combination of races."

  This tale involves the problems of sibling rivalry as experienced by a brother and sister, whose father is white and mother is black. Based on Adoff's own family (his wife is Virginia Hamilton).

  An 11-year-old girl is subjected to pressure by grandparents of differing religious beliefs. This book was controversial both because of the religious issues it raises and because of the protagonist's impatience for the onset of her menses.

  A story, by the Nobel Prize winning author, about four Korean boys who are brought to the U.S. and adopted, after being abandoned by their U.S. Military fathers and Korean mothers.

  The "Indian Frontier," of the early 1800's, is the setting for this story of a Lenni Lenape tribeswoman, Mekinges, her white husband, Jesse Burton, and their two children. The family is tragically broken by societal violence and governmental injustice.

  A recently orphaned Vietnamese-American boy leaves post-war Vietnam and goes to live with his grandmother in a small New Hampshire town. Though both the town and the grandmother are full of prejudice, the young boy prevails, with his Buddhist commitment to non-violence intact.

  In this picture-book, the child of a Japanese mother and a European-American father describes how her parents met in Japan, and the two traditions of eating that her family maintains.

  A biography of the world-renowned ballerina whose father was Osage and whose mother was Scotch-Irish and Dutch. The author includes an introductory section on Osage culture and its influence on Maria.

  This book features excellent black and white photographs of a wide diversity of both traditional and alternative American families. None of these photographs show an interracial marriage but multiracial adoptive families are included.

Bibliography of the Literature of Mixed Ethnicity: Juvenile-I
Three children of mixed black/white ethnicity are orphaned and, in an effort to stay together, travel to Northern California to live on a farm with their prejudiced white grandmother. An affectionate portrait of three siblings, of differing appearance and complexion, who share deep family feeling.

A history of black slaves who escaped and were taken in by Native-American villages. The two groups intermarried and worked together to oppose white oppression.

Bernie's mother and father are divorced. Her father is Japanese-American and her mother, with whom she resides, is Jewish-American. Bernie's mother adopts a half-Vietnamese orphan, while her father and his new European-American wife have a baby. This is an upbeat enjoyable book, but the complexities of mixed racial/ethnic identities are not fully explored.

A humorous tale, set in the Oregon Territory around 1850, about the experiences of a mixed Native- and European-American boy as he attempts to come to terms with his parents' differing cultural traditions. Describes an actual mixed Native-American/European community in 19th century Oregon.

An historical account of the final battle between the Modoc Indians and the U.S. military in 1873, told from the perspective of a half-Modoc boy who experienced prejudice in the town that is now Klamath Falls and went on to fight on the side of the Modocs.

A story of reconciliation between a girl's Jewish grandfather and her father after a long period of discord over her father's marriage to her Christian mother.

The adventures of an orphan girl who discovers that she has a Cherokee grandfather and goes searching for him in the mountains of North Carolina.

Set in the 1930's, this tale is based on the historical accounts of runaway slaves who were accepted into the Seminole tribe. Beautiful illustrations.

A story about the son of a Spanish father and Native-American mother in Mexico, during the period of Spanish conquest and the search for Gold in the 'New World'.

Contemporary story of two boys, one white and one mixed-race, and how they successfully cope with racial prejudice in a Midwestern suburban town.

Bibliography of the Literature of Mixed Ethnicity Juvenile-2
A boy living in San Francisco with his African-American father learns about his European ancestry when his grandmother invites him to spend the summer in New York City.

This is the story of a young boy who discovers that he has a secret half-sister who is part Vietnamese.

A collection of short vignettes concerning a white child's experiences in the world of her black stepfather's family.

This non-fiction photographic essay portrays a diversity of multi-ethnic families and deals with issues of race, religion, and ethnicity.

The painful story of a biracial boy's search for his white father in the deep South during WW II.

A very short biography of the Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma whose mother was "Dutch-Irish" and whose father was a "full-blooded Cherokee Indian."

A black family in the American South experiences difficulties when they take in a child named Ethyl, who is half black and half white. Ethyl's stay with the family ends up being far longer than was originally expected.

A Polish-American Chippewa girl, adopted as a baby by a Jewish couple, spends the summer in Wisconsin camping, canoeing, and seeking knowledge of her Chippewa heritage.

The illustrations in this tale depict an interethnic marriage, in which the father appears to be African-American, and the mother Asian-American.

A magazine series in comic format for youth, dedicated to the telling of black history--which includes people of mixed ethnicity. See especially Volume 14, about the life history of Alexander Pushkin, the celebrated Russian poet, one of whose ancestors came originally from Africa.
YOUNG ADULT
(These works address the concerns and aspirations of teenagers.)

A collection of short autobiographical accounts by the parents, children, and adopted children who make up one mixed-race family.

A fictionalized biography of Juan de Pareja, the "half-breed" slave of the celebrated Spanish painter Diego Velasquez. This book was awarded the Newberry Medal for 1966.

Set in Northern Australia in the 1960s, this story concerns a young European-Australian Aboriginal woman who discovers and takes pride in her Tonkinese (Aboriginal) ancestry.

An amusing story of a teenage girl in the New York City suburbs, whose black father and white mother are divorced, and her adjustment to her mother's new marriage.

When an Amerasian girl in Vietnam is promised in marriage to a repellant suitor, she escapes to Ho Chi Minh City to apply to the U.S. Homecoming Program and survives on the streets until the boy she loves finds her and they return to their village together. The portrayal of Amerasians in post-war Vietnam is heart-rending.

The author interviews interracial and interethnic families about growing up as "Children of the Rainbow." The major theme of this work is that people of mixed race and/or ethnicity need and deserve positive recognition.

Issues of race identity (Native-American, black, white) are played out in the interpersonal dynamics of one mixed-ethnic family.

Non-fiction account of a multi-generational, interethnic community living in the remote hills overlooking the Ohio River. One family, the Killburns, are thought to be witches by outsiders, because of their unusual appearance. This book won the Newberry Medal.

The story of a girl growing up in the midwest with her black mother, and her quest to find her absent white drug-addict father.

Tancy is a biracial house slave in the American South at the end of the civil war. Her year-long quest for her mother exposes her to the radical changes which marked the period of reconstruction in the South. The lives of former slaves are vividly portrayed.

Bibliography of the Literature of Mixed Ethnicity Young Adult-1
Seeking information about her Japanese-American father, who died before she was born, Kim flies from New York to Sacramento to meet her Japanese relatives for the first time. There, she experiences Japanese culture and learns of the U.S. government's Japanese internment camps during WWII.

A romantic tale of a daughter of a California Indian mother and a Scottish father, who marries a Mission Indian and their life of suffering at the hands of white settlers. While the author was a great supporter of Native-American civil rights, his work is a product of the attitudes prevalent in the late 19th century and expresses certain inaccurate assumptions concerning mixed ethnicity.

A man with Native-American roots takes a magical journey back in time, through the magical powers of an Anasazi woman's song.

Alicia, whose Dominican father left when she was two, spends the weekend at the beach with her white mother. Identity, budding sexuality, and the lack of a positive role model are issues explored in this frank novel.

This South African love story reflects the pain engendered by apartheid in the lives of two young people, one who is white and one who is mixed race but can "pass" for white.

A brief history of interracial dating and marriage in the United States, with short accounts of interethnic relationships narrated by teenage and adult couples.

The longest of the three short stories in this book about freedom and love is the "Christmas Story" based on the true story of William and Ellen Craft who escaped slavery by posing as a white man and his black manservant. Lester based his tale on extensive research.

Sonny Bear lives on the margins of Moscandaga and white culture. His mixed heritage is ultimately a source of strength as he learns to channel his energy as a boxer.

A racial slur, hurled by his white stepfather, spurs Denny to take a cross-country journey in search of his roots and his father. In Chicago he meets his father's family and is introduced to elite African-American culture. In Nebraska his racist white grandmother inspires his pity and compassion. His quest ends on a very upbeat note.

Molly decides to find her unknown biological parents. She is of Asian background and adopted by non-Asians.

Bibliography of the Literature of Mixed Ethnicity/Young Adult-2
The strong central character of this story is an adopted, handicapped girl of mixed
ethnicity whose parentage is unknown. Her life is profoundly affected by the arrival of an
artist in her community, who designs a war monument and inspires her to become an artist.

Gillian's mother, who is of West Indian ancestry, dies of AIDS and Gillian goes to live with
her deceased father's white relatives. Many terrible things happen in Gillian's life, and her
mixed ethnicity is the least of her problems. Multi-cultural stories help her to cope with
the events in her life.

A compelling contemporary novel, set in Wales, about a 16-year-old girl's search for her
Haitian mother. Her discoveries are painful yet strengthening.

A fictionalized biography of Harriet Hemmings, a slave on Thomas Jefferson's plantation,
who was reputed to be one of Jefferson's own children by Sally Hemmings.

The tale begins with the departure of Annette and her widowed European mother from her
father's Nootka Indian village. Annette has been awarded a scholarship to an exclusive
private school, where she must unravel the social mysteries of an unfamiliar white world.

Biracial twin girls, growing up in a white suburban neighborhood in contemporary London,
are challenged by the reappearance of their famous black father.

A girl who is raised by her father on the Central Plains of the 1800s, in complete isolation
and ignorance of her mixed black/white ancestry, remains unaware of her unique physical
appearance until she encounters the reactions of people in the outside world.

Simon, a contemporary European/Maori New Zealander who never knew his Maori father,
visits his father's village and experiences Maori culture.

A moving account of the solidarity between impoverished black and white sharecroppers, in
the deep South of 1935, and the injustice they suffer at the hands of greedy plantation
owners.

The life story of Quanah Parker, a Comanche warrior. Quanah was the son of a great
Comanche warrior leader and Cynthia Ann Parker, a captured European settler whose story
is told in *Where the Broken Heart Still Beats* (see above).
ADULT
(This is a selection of titles dealing with more mature themes that may be of
interest to young adults.)

The inspirational and entertaining autobiography of the pilot son of Muhammed Ali's black
trainer, Bundini Brown, and a "white Jewish" mother.

An autobiographical account of the poverty and hardship endured by a mixed white and
Native-American woman in Canada. Includes significant information on peoples of mixed-
ethnic heritage in Canada.

The author of the best-selling Sally Hemmings continues the family saga with this new
novel about the girl believed to be Thomas Jefferson's daughter by his slave mistress. The
daughter, Harriet, leaves the plantation and passes for white.

Chesnutt, Charles W. The House Behind the Cedars. 1900. Reprint. New York: Penguin,
1993.
The story of how two young people of mixed African-American and European ancestry, who
can "pass" for white, attempt to deny their African heritage. The author, though himself of
mixed ethnicity, shares many of the prevailing stereotypes of his time.

Clancy, Diane and C.W. Truesdale, ed. Two Worlds Walking: Short Stories, Essays, and Poetry
A collection of writing by people of mixed heritages, mostly from the U.S.

Another Native-American historical novel by the prolific romance novelist, about a family
of mixed Scot and Cherokee heritages and their lives on the eve of the Trail of Tears.

The tragic portrayal of a family torn apart by racism. A plantation owner rejects his wife
and son when he discovers this his wife is of mixed race.

A biography of the renowned European/Maori New Zealand opera singer, who consistently
sings traditional Maori songs in her solo concerts, honoring her Maori heritage.

Black/white biracial Americans talk about race, identity and what it's like to be "caught in
the cross-fire between white and black." Their personal accounts are honest, poignant and
fascinating. Commentary by Lise Funderburg is excellent.

This text, concerned with the dynamics of the modern family, contains an excellent chapter
on interracial families and a list of organizations helpful to families.
One book in an ongoing autobiographical series by an Eurasian woman growing up in China.
In this volume, covering the tumultuous period between 1928 and 1938, she perseveres in the face of antipathy and racism and attains her dream of becoming a medical doctor.

A young woman with a Chinese-American father, and a European mother, struggles to unravel the roots of her troubled identity, which trace back from New York’s Chinatown to Shanghai.

This painful and inspiring autobiography of a mixed-race slave, from the period just before the abolition of slavery, provides insight into the attitudes of the time.

In early 1990, Katie Kelly quit her television job in New York City and flew to Saigon to teach English to Amerasian children. This is her memoir of a year spent confronting the harsh realities of life for Amerasians in Vietnam.

The author, a Russian journalist, traveled to the U.S. and Africa to research her Jewish-American and African heritages. The result is a moving account of four generations of mixed-ethnic people coming together despite tremendous obstacles.

One of several books by the same author about British colonial India, this novel deals in part with the role of Eurasians on the Indian Railways during WW II. The female protagonist is faced with a choice of three suitors of different ethnicities.

An autobiographical tapestry of three generations of Aboriginal-European Australians.

"This publication is a loudspeaker meant to expose and agitate social confines. The works celebrate self-definition, claiming space for traditionally silenced peoples."

A novel, written as the memoir of a girl searching her past for clues to understanding her Chinese/Panamanian father and German war-bride mother. Her exploration of the immigrant experience includes her Russian-immigrant lover. Thoughtful, contemplative prose.

A romance set in mid-19th century New Orleans featuring skillfully drawn biracial characters inhabiting a racially complex environment.

An excellent collection of articles by scholars, with an extensive bibliography.

Bibliography of the Literature of Mixed Ethnicity 7Adult-2
This work inspired an emotional climate that contributed to the abolition of slavery. Two characters in the novel are able to escape because of their mixed race.

This first volume of a controversial quartet, by an Indonesian author, describes Dutch colonial law in Indonesia, the remorseless discrimination against Eurasians and "native" Indonesians alike, and the forced break-up of a mixed-race family.

Pudd'nhead Wilson is the tragic, heart-wrenching, story of a "mulatto" slave woman and her child.

This autobiography describes not only the experience of growing up mixed (black/white) race in 1950s America, but provides unique insight into the contrast between life as a white person and life as a black person seen through the eyes of one man. The author's life is ultimately a triumph over the tragic effects of racism, poverty and an alcoholic father, himself of mixed race.