

Diversely Distinct

Books for Young Adults featuring non-Caucasian characters

Killer of Enemies by Joseph Bruchac.

In a world that has barely survived an apocalypse that leaves it with pre-twentieth century technology, Lozen is a monster hunter for four tyrants who are holding her family hostage.

Does My Head Look Big in This? by Randa Abdel-Fattah.

Year Eleven at an exclusive prep school in the suburbs of Melbourne, Australia, would be tough enough, but when Amahl decides to wear the hijab, the Muslim head scarf, full-time, life and her sense of style become complicated.

The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-time Indian by Sherman Alexie.

Budding cartoonist Junior leaves his troubled school on the Spokane Indian Reservation to attend an all-white farm town school where the only other Indian is the school mascot.

Pointe by Brandy Colbert.

Four years after Theo's best friend, Donovan, disappeared, he is found and brought home and Theo puts her health at risk as she decides whether to tell the truth about the abductor, knowing that it could end her dream of being a ballet dancer.

Ball Don't Lie by Matt de la Peña.

Sticky lives to play basketball at school and at Lincoln Rec Center in Los Angeles and is headed for the pros, but he is unaware of the many dangers--including his own past--that threaten his dream.

Panic by Sharon M. Draper.

As rehearsals begin for the ballet version of Peter Pan, the members of an Ohio dance troupe lose their focus when one of their own goes missing.

Fake ID by L.R. Giles.

An African-American teen in the Witness Protection Program moves to a new town and finds himself trying to solve a murder mystery when his first friend is found dead.

To All the Boys I've Loved Before by Jenny Han.

Lara Jean writes love letters to all the boys she has loved and then hides them in a hatbox until one day those letters are accidentally sent.

Every Day by David Levithan.

Every morning A wakes in a different person's body, in a different person's life, learning over the years to never get too attached, until he wakes up in the body of Justin and falls in love with Justin's girlfriend, Rhiannon.

Yaqui Delgado Wants to Kick Your Ass by Meg Medina.

After learning an unknown bully wants to beat her up because of her pale skin, good grades and lack of accent, Latin American Piddy struggles to keep up a busy work schedule and researching a father she has never met until the bully's gang forces her to confront more difficult challenges.

The Cruisers by Walter Dean Myers.

Friends Zander, Kambui, LaShonda, and Bobbi, caught in the middle of a mock Civil War at DaVinci Academy, learn the true cost of freedom of speech when they use their alternative newspaper, The Cruiser, to try to make peace.

Akata Witch by Nnedi Okorafor.

Sunny Nwazue, an American-born albino child of Nigerian parents, moves with her family back to Nigeria, where she learns that she has latent magical powers which she and three similarly gifted friends use to catch a serial killer.

Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe by Benjamin Alire Sáenz.

Ari Mendoza is an angry loner with a brother in prison, but when he meets Dante and they become friends, Ari starts to ask questions about himself, his parents, and his family that he has never asked before.

Tankborn by Karen Sandler.

Kayla and Mishalla, two genetically engineered non-human slaves (GENs), fall in love with higher-status boys, discover deep secrets about the creation of GENs, and in the process find out what it means to be human.

Orchards by Holly Thompson.

Sent to Japan for the summer after an eighth-grade classmate's suicide, half-Japanese, half-Jewish Kana Goldberg tries to fit in with relatives she barely knows and reflects on the guilt she feels over the tragedy back home.

Sag Harbor by Colson Whitehead.

Benji, one of the only black kids at an elite prep school in Manhattan, tries desperately during the school year to find a social group that will accept him, but every summer, he and his brother, Reggie, escape to the East End of Sag Harbor, where a small community of African-American professionals has built a world of its own.