# Selected Multicultural Books

In this article in *School Library Journal*, the editors bemoan the dearth of children’s books with diverse characters and authors and list some “culturally specific” books published in the last two years that they recommend for school libraries:

• *Deep in the Sahara* by Kelly Cunnane, illustrated by Hoda Hadadi (Random/Schwartz and Wade, 2013), Gr. 2-4; a positive and empowering portrayal of Muslim culture in Mauritania.

• *All Different Now: Juneteenth, the First Day of Freedom* by Angela Johnson, illustrated by E.B. Lewis (S. and S. 2014), Gr. 2 and up; the Juneteenth celebration seen through the eyes of a young girl on a southern plantation.

• *King for a Day* by Rukhsana Khan, illustrated by Christiane Kromer (Lee and Low, 2013), Pre. S-Gr. 2; a Pakistani boy confined to a wheelchair looks forward to a springtime festival and kite-flying contest.

• *Pancho Rabbit and the Coyote: A Migrant’s Tale* by Duncan Tonatiuh (Abrams, 2013), Gr. K-2; Pancho searches for his father who went north to work in the fields and didn’t return.

• *I Lived on Butterfly Hill* by Marjorie Agosin, illustrated by Lee White (S. and S./Atheneum, 2014), Gr. 6 and up; an 11-year-old Chilean girl is sent to live in Maine during a time of tumult in her country.

• *Lost Girl Found* by Leah and Laura LeLuca Bassoff (Groundwood, 2014), Gr. 8 and up; a Didinga girl is caught up in the dangers and horrors of Sudan’s civil war.

• *Serafina’s Promise* by Ann Burg (Scholastic, 2014), Gr. 4-6; a Haitian girl dreams of becoming a doctor in the aftermath of the 2010 earthquake.

• *Africa Is My Home: A Child of the Amistad* by Monica Edinger, illustrated by Robert Byrd (Candlewick, 2013), Gr. 4-8; the events surrounding the slave ship Amistad seen through the eyes of a 9-year-old girl.

• *My Basmati Bat Mitzvah* by Paula Freedman (Abrams/Amulet, 2013), Gr. 4-7; a half-Indian, half-Jewish girl learns to navigate her religious beliefs and sense of herself.

• *Written in Stone* by Rosanne Parry (Random, 2013), Gr. 5-7; in 1918, a girl from the Makah tribe in the Pacific Northwest deals with the sudden death of her father and tries to preserve the stories and ways of her people.

• *Revolution* by Deborah Wiles (Scholastic, 2014), Gr. 5 and up; the intersecting stories of a black boy and a white girl in Mississippi during the Civil Rights Movement.

• *The Blossoming Universe of Violet Diamond* by Brenda Woods (Penguin/Nancy Paulsen Books, 2014), Gr. 4-6; 11-year-old Violet, who has grown up in a mostly white environment, longs to reconnect with the African-American side of her family.

• *The Shadow Hero* by Gene Luen Yang, illustrated by Sonny Liew (First Second, 2014), Gr. 7 and up; a graphic novel about the first Asian-American superhero.

“Windows and Mirrors: Top Recent Titles That Reflect the Multicultural Experience” in *School Library Journal*, May 2014 (Vol. 60, #5, p. 25-31), [www.slj.com](http://www.slj.com/)