

Picture Books Featuring Diverse Characters:

1. **Hair Love**, written by Matthew A. Cherry, illustrated by Vashti Harrison
A little girl's daddy steps in to help her arrange her curly, coiling, wild hair into styles that allow her to be her natural, beautiful self.
2. **We Are Water Protectors**, written by Carole Lindstrom, illustrated by Michaela Goade
Inspired by the many indigenous-led movements across North America, this bold and lyrical picture book issues an urgent rallying cry to safeguard the Earth's water from harm and corruption.
3. **Sulwe** by Lupita Nyong'o
When five-year-old Sulwe's classmates make fun of her dark skin, she tries lightening herself to no avail, but her encounter with a shooting star helps her understand there is beauty in every shade.
4. **The King of Kindergarten** written by Derrick Barnes, illustrated by Vanessa Brantley-Newton
Instilled with confidence by his parents, a young boy has a great first day of kindergarten.
5. **The Name Jar** written and illustrated by Yangsook Choi
After Unhei moves from Korea to the United States, her new classmates help her decide what her name should be.
6. **My Papi Has a Motorcycle** written by Isabel Quintero, illustrated by Zeke Pena
When Daisy Ramona zooms around her neighborhood with her papi on his motorcycle, she sees the people and places she's always known. She also sees a community that is rapidly changing around her. But as the sun sets purple-blue-gold behind Daisy Ramona and her papi, she knows that the love she feels will always be there.
7. **What if...** written by Samantha Berger, illustrated by Mike Curato
A child who likes to draw and write stories imagines what would happen if there were no pencils, paper, or other tools for being creative.
8. **Lailah's Lunchbox** written by Reem Faruqi, illustrated by Lea Lyon
Now that she is ten, Lailah is delighted that she can fast during the month of Ramadan like her family and her friends in Abu Dhabi, but finding a way to explain to her teacher and classmates in Atlanta is a challenge.
9. **I am Enough**, written by Grace Byars, illustrated by Keturah A. Bobo
Shares a story of loving who you are, respecting others and being kind to one another.
10. **Frybread: A Native American Family Story**, written by Kevin Noble Maillard, illustrated by Juana Martinez-Neal
Using illustrations that show the diversity in Native America and spare poetic text that emphasizes fry bread in terms of provenance, this volume tells the story of a post-colonial food that is a shared tradition for Native American families all across the North American continent.

Middle Grade Featuring Diverse Characters:

1. **Tristan Strong Punches a Hole in the Sky** by Kwame Mbalia
Seventh-grader Tristan Strong feels anything but strong ever since he failed to save his best friend when they were in a bus accident together. All he has left of Eddie is the journal his friend wrote stories in. Tristan is dreading the month he's going to spend on his grandparents' farm. But on his first night there, a sticky creature shows up and steals Eddie's notebook. Tristan chases after it, and a tug-of-war ensues between them underneath a Bottle Tree. In a last attempt to get it away from the creature, Tristan punches the tree, accidentally ripping open a chasm into the MidPass, a volatile place with a burning sea, haunted bone ships, and iron monsters.
2. **Ghost** by Jason Reynolds
Ghost, a naturally talented runner and troublemaker, is recruited for an elite middle school track team. He must stay on track, literally and figuratively, to reach his full potential.
3. **Crossover** by Kwame Alexander

Fourteen-year-old twin basketball stars Josh and Jordan wrestle with highs and lows on and off the court as their father ignores his declining health.

4. **Clean Getaway by Nic Stone**

For the life of him, William "Scoob" Lamar can't seem to stay out of trouble--and now the run-ins at school have led to lockdown at home. So when G'ma, Scoob's favorite person on Earth, asks him to go on an impromptu road trip, he's in the RV faster than he can say FREEDOM. With G'ma's old maps and a strange pamphlet called the 'Travelers' Green Book' at their side, the pair takes off on a journey down G'ma's memory lane. But adventure quickly turns to uncertainty: G'ma keeps changing the license plate, dodging Scoob's questions, and refusing to check Dad's voice mails. And the farther they go, the more Scoob realizes that the world hasn't always been a welcoming place for kids like him, and things aren't always what they seem--G'ma included.

5. **Inside Out & Back Again by Thanhha Lai**

No one would believe me but at times I would choose wartime in Saigon over peacetime in Alabama. For all the ten years of her life, HÀ has only known Saigon: the thrills of its markets, the joy of its traditions, the warmth of her friends close by . . . and the beauty of her very own papaya tree. But now the Vietnam War has reached her home. HÀ and her family are forced to flee as Saigon falls, and they board a ship headed toward hope. In America, HÀ discovers the foreign world of Alabama: the coldness of its strangers, the dullness of its food, the strange shape of its landscape . . . and the strength of her very own family.

6. **EI Deafo by Cece Bell**

Going to school and making new friends can be tough. But going to school and making new friends while wearing a bulky hearing aid strapped to your chest? That requires superpowers! In this funny, poignant graphic novel memoir, author/illustrator Cece Bell chronicles her hearing loss at a young age and her subsequent experiences with the Phonic Ear, a very powerful--and very awkward--hearing aid.

7. **The First Rule of Punk by Celia C. Perez**

Twelve-year-old María Luisa O'Neill-Morales (who really prefers to be called Malú) reluctantly moves with her Mexican-American mother to Chicago and starts seventh grade with a bang--violating the dress code with her punk rock aesthetic and spurning the middle school's most popular girl in favor of starting a band with a group of like-minded weirdos.

8. **One Crazy Summer by Rita Williams Garcia**

In the summer of 1968, after traveling from Brooklyn to Oakland, California, to spend a month with the mother they barely know, eleven-year-old Delphine and her two younger sisters arrive to a cold welcome as they discover that their mother, a dedicated poet and printer, is resentful of the intrusion of their visit and wants them to attend a nearby Black Panther summer camp.

9. **Blackbird Fly by Erin Entrada Kelly**

Bullied at school, eighth-grader Apple, a Filipino American who loves the music of the Beatles, decides to change her life by learning how to play the guitar.

10. **Wonder by R.J. Palacio**

Ten-year-old Auggie Pullman, who was born with extreme facial abnormalities and was not expected to survive, goes from being home-schooled to entering fifth grade at a private middle school in Manhattan, which entails enduring the taunting and fear of his classmates as he struggles to be seen as just another student.

YA Featuring Diverse Characters:

1. **Children of Blood and Bone by Tomi Adeyemi**

Zélie Adebola remembers when the soil of Orísha hummed with magic. Burners ignited flames, Tiders beckoned waves, and Zélie's Reaper mother summoned forth souls. But everything changed the night magic disappeared. Under the orders of a ruthless king, maji were killed, leaving Zélie without a mother and her people without hope. Now Zélie has one chance to bring back magic and strike against the monarchy. With the help of a rogue princess, Zélie must outwit and outrun the crown prince, who is hell-bent on eradicating magic for good.

2. **Let Me Hear a Rhyme by Tiffany Jackson**
Three Brooklyn teens plot to turn their murdered friend into a major rap star by pretending he's still alive.
3. **The Reader by Traci Chee**
In a world where reading is forbidden, Sefia's father is murdered and leaves behind something she doesn't recognize. When her aunt is kidnapped Sefia will rely on the help of a stranger and the mysterious object to find her aunt.
4. **Akata Witch by Nnedi Okorafor**
Twelve-year-old 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.
5. **The Marrow Thieves by Cherie Dimaline**
In a future world ravaged by global warming, people have lost the ability to dream, and the dreamlessness has led to widespread madness. The only people still able to dream are North America's indigenous population - and it is their marrow that holds the cure for the rest of the world.
6. **Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe by Benjamin Alire Saenz**
Fifteen-year-old 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.
7. **A Game for Swallows: To die, to leave, to return, written and illustrated by Zeina Abirached, translated by Edward Gauvin**
Living in the midst of civil war in Beirut, Lebanon, Zeina and her brother face an evening of apprehension when their parents do not return from a visit to the other side of the city.
8. **March, book 1 by John Lewis, Andrew Aydin, and Nate Powell**
This graphic novel is Congressman John Lewis' first-hand account of his lifelong struggle for civil and human rights, meditating in the modern age on the distance traveled since the days of Jim Crow and segregation.
9. **If I Ever Get Out of Here by Eric L. Gansworth**
Seventh-grader Lewis "Shoe" Blake from the Tuscarora Reservation has a new friend, George Haddonfield from the local Air Force base, but in 1975 upstate New York there is a lot of tension and hatred between Native Americans and Whites--and Lewis is not sure that he can rely on friendship.
10. **Long Way Down by Jason Reynolds**
As Will, fifteen, sets out to avenge his brother Shawn's fatal shooting, seven ghosts who knew Shawn board the elevator and reveal truths Will needs to know.