

*_All underlined titles are linked to Amazon for further descriptions, reviews, and ratings.

Grade 2-3 Diverse Books List

Abilities

Bryant, Jen. ***A Splash of Red: The Life and Art of Horace Pippin.***

Wounded as a soldier, Horace Pippin lost full use of his right arm. Using his left arm to guide his right, this self-taught artist was eventually discovered by the art community.

Khan, Rukhsana. ***King for a Day.***

A boy with a disability in Pakistan has one day he rules: the day of Basunt, the kite festival.

Petrillo, Genevieve. ***Keep Your Ear on the Ball.***

Davey is blind and can do things on his own—until he tries to play kickball. Working together, the children figure out a solution that respects Davey’s unique abilities and his desire for freedom.

Uhlberg, Myron. ***Dad, Jackie, and Me.***

Based on Uhlberg's experiences growing up as a hearing child of deaf parents, a young fan eagerly anticipates the addition of Jackie Robinson to his team.

American Indian

Baylor, Bird. ***The Desert is Theirs.***

Byrd Baylor's spare, poetic text and Peter Parnall's striking illustrations lime the sky, stone and sand of the desert in this haunting book about the people and creatures who call the desert home.

Campbell, Nicola. ***Shin-chi's Canoe.***

This realistic, tender story recounts the experiences of Native siblings sent to a government-mandated, church-run boarding school.

Francis, Lee DeCora. ***Kunu's Basket: A Story from Indian Island.***

With the help of his caring and patient grandfather, Kunu overcomes his struggles to learn how to make the baskets Penobscot men have crafted for generations.

Smith, Cynthia Leitich. ***Jingle Dancer.***

The lyrical text tells the affirming story of how a contemporary Native American girl turns to her family and community to help her dance find a voice.

Sockabasin, Allen J. ***Thanks to the Animals.***

Little Zoo Sap, unnoticed, tumbles off the end of his family’s sled. The forest animals rush to protect the baby until his father returns.

African American/Black

Engle, Margarita. ***Drum Dream Girl: How One Girl's Courage Changed Music.***

Rhythmic prose and lyric illustration tell the story of a Chinese-African-Cuban girl, dauntless in her dream to be a drummer, and to open the world of drumming to other Cubanas.

Hatke, Ben. ***Little Robot.***

Hatke delivers a delightful graphic novel with a positive female role-model, fun non-humans, and a message of friendship.

Myers, Christopher. ***H.O.R.S.E.: A Game of Basketball and Imagination.***

A celebration of the sport of basketball, the art of trash-talking, and the idea that what's possible is bounded only by what you can dream.

Myers, Christopher. ***Wings.***

Ikarus Jackson, the new boy in school, is outcast because he has wings, but his resilient spirit inspires one girl to speak up for him.

Nolen, Jerdine. ***Thunder Rose.***

Thunder Rose is an African-American child with remarkable gifts, which include forming a ball out of lightning, lifting a cow over her head, squeezing the rain out of the clouds.

Ochiltree, Gail. ***Molly, by Golly!: The Legend of Molly Williams, America's First Female Firefighter.***

This legendary tale introduces young readers to Molly Williams, an African American cook for New York City's Fire Company, who is considered the first female firefighter in U.S. history.

Vernick, Audrey. ***She Loved Baseball: The Effa Manley Story.***

Effa always loved baseball. But she never dreamed she would someday own a baseball team. Or be the first—and only—woman ever inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame.

Weatherford, Carole Boston. ***Freedom in Congo Square.***

With poetic text and expressive illustrations, award-winning Freedom in Congo Square chronicles the slaves' countdown to their only time of freedom every week.

African American/Black

Woodson, Jacqueline. ***This Is the Rope: A Story from the Great Migration.***

A found piece of rope binds a family together through three generations as they journey from South Carolina to Brooklyn.

Barnes, Derrick. ***Ruby and the Booker Boys #1: Brand New School, Brave New Ruby.***
Ruby Booker's older brothers have already established themselves at school and Ruby wants to find her own way to shine.

English, Karen. ***Dog Days (The Carver Chronicles Book 1).***
Gavin's attempts to fit in are further hampered when he has to spend a week walking his great-aunt Myrtle's Pomeranian. An accessible book for emerging chapter-book readers.

Grimes, Nikki. ***Make Way for Dyamonde Daniel.***
Dyamonde, a third grader, is still coping with her parents' divorce and the subsequent move to a new neighborhood.

Thomson, Melissa. ***Keena Ford and the Secret Journal Mix-Up.***
The story is written in journal style, with Keena describing daily events. Young readers will relate to her friendship dilemma and appreciate her vibrant personality.

Americas

Ada, Alma Flor. ***My Name Is Maria Isabel.***
A third grader realizes the importance of her name in this classic story of heritage and self-identity.

Castaneda, Omar S. ***Abuela's Weave.***
In a Mexican village, Abuela makes the most beautiful weavings. The family needs the income from the weavings, young Esperanza takes to market to sell.

Diaz, David. ***Maya's Blanket / La manta de Maya.***
Color-saturated illustrations and a bilingual, rhythmic text tells the story of how a girl transforms her beloved blanket.

Asia

Chin, Jason. ***Redwoods.***
A ordinary subway trip is transformed when a young boy happens upon a book about redwood forests.

Cheng, Andrea. ***The Year of the Book.***
This novel subtly explores what it takes to make friends and what it means to be one.

Look, Lenore. ***Alvin Ho: Allergic to Girls, School, and Other Scary Things (Series)***. Alvin is so afraid of school that, while he's there, he never, ever, says a word. But at home, he's a very loud superhero, A drop-dead-funny and touching series with a truly unforgettable character. Perfect for both beginning and reluctant readers.

Peet, Mai. ***Cloud Tea Monkeys***.

Based on Chinese legend, a young girl must take over for her ill mother picking tea, with the help of some monkeys. The tale has the feel of a time-honed fable simple, elegant, and moving.

Diverse Families

González, Rigoberto. ***Antonio's Card/ La tarjeta de Antonio***.

A tender story about a boy struggling to express his love for his mother and her partner

Islam

Addasi, Maha. ***The White Nights of Ramadan***.

A look at the Arab custom of Girgian during the middle nights of Ramadan.

Bunting, Eve. ***One Green Apple***.

The sensitive text puts the reader into another child's shoes in this timely story of a young Muslim immigrant.

Faruqi, Reem. ***Lailah's Lunchbox***.

A lovely classroom-friendly introduction to the Muslim month of fasting.

Khan, Hena. ***Night of the Moon***.

A vibrantly illustrated story about a Pakistani-American's experience with Ramadan and Eid.

Multi

Hamanaka, Sheila. ***All the Colors of the Earth***.

An exquisitely illustrated story-poem about how all skin colors are "the color of love". (Also shows non-stereotypical gender, disabilities)