Please enjoy this complimentary excerpt from *Global Education Toolkit for Elementary Learners*. This list helps you find here the perfect book to accompany a lesson on different cultures.

**LEARN MORE** about this title, including Features, Table of Contents and Reviews.
**Multicultural Book List: A Few Hundred of Our Favorites**

“The world was hers for the reading.”

— Betty Smith, *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*

Like the experience of the character Francie from Betty Smith’s classic *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*, books can become our faithful friends and offer us the world. For teachers, great books can become our companions in illuminating the impact of a different climate, culture, language, or lifestyle and are a means of building empathy, curiosity, joy, and global citizenship.

Yet the choices can be overwhelming. When choosing children’s literature to increase global awareness, we look for books that are visually appealing, culturally accurate, and without stereotypes, so they aren’t lumping together distinct groups into generic or negative typecasts. Age-appropriate, engaging stories that subtly inform and showcase new traditions and people not only increase cultural awareness but also help grow kindness and respect.

We hope this Multicultural Book List can serve as a companion for your journey around the world. The list is broken into geographical categories and cultural groups used by international and multilateral organizations such as the United Nations. For example, a book about Iraq would be found in “Western Asia,” and we have included it in the section on Northern African/Western Asian. At the same time, Afghanistan is considered “Southern Asia” by the United Nations and so is included in the section on Asian/Pacific/Central and Southern Asian/Asian American. Though imperfect, these categories can help teachers and parents locate great books.

In compiling this list, we consulted librarians, educators, academics, and leaders in various ethnic communities. Although we have over 300 excellent multicultural books listed, we surely have missed some of your favorites. Please contact us via e-mail, Twitter, or Facebook and let us know which books you think should be added to future editions! We would love your input as we explore children’s literature that showcases varying perspectives and world cultures.
Lower Elementary (Grades preK-2, ages 4-8)

African/African American/African Diaspora


**American Indian/Native American/First Nations**


**Asian/Pacific/Central and Southern Asian/Asian American**


**Latino/Hispanic American/Latin American**


*Northern African/Western Asian*

Upper Elementary (Grades 3–6, ages 8–12)

African/African American/African Diaspora


**American Indian/Native American/First Nations**


**Asian/Pacific/Central and Southern Asian/Asian American**


**Latino/Hispanic American/Latin American**


**Northern African/Western Asian**


**All Elementary (Grades preK-6, ages 4-12)**

*African/African American/African Diaspora*


*American Indian/Native American/First Nations*


### Asian/Pacific/Central and Southern Asian/Asian American


### Latino/Hispanic American/Latin American


**Northern African/Western Asian**


**Multicultural/Relationships With Multiethnic Characters**


**Empathy/Respect/Diversity**


**World Religions/Holidays/Diverse Perspectives**