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#### **ABSTRACT**

This annotated bibliography provides a comprehensive list of fiction dealing with mixed ethnic heritage for children and young adults. A few nonfiction items of quality are included. The bibliography is divided into four sections to match frequently used public library divisions: (1) picture books (early childhood) (22 books); (2) juvenile and school age (30 citations); (3) young adult (31 citations); and (4) adult (25 citations). The adult titles were selected for their interest for young adults and only represent a portion of titles available for adults. (SLD)

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### STORIES ABOUT PEOPLE OF MIXED ETHNICITY

# AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY BY DILDAR GARTENBERG SEPTEMBER 1995

"In all of us there is a hunger, manow deep, to know our heritage. To know who we are and where we have come from. Without this enriching knowledge, there is a hollow yearning. No matter what our attainments in life, there is the most disquieting loneliness." From Alex Haley's Roots.

Today there is a growing interest in stories about people of mixed ethnicity. Many new books are being published with positive depictions of people of mixed ethnicity, just as current research is bringing to light examples of "lost" mixed-ethnic cultural heros. This has not always been the case, however. As a result of the historical invisibility of mixed ethnicity, books on the subject can be hard to find, and library cataloging systems do not indicate the mixed-race heritage of characters in most books. This bibliography provides the most comprehensive list available of fiction dealing with mixed heritage for characters and young adults.

As of this date, I have included all fictions for children and young adults which deal with mixed ethnicity that I have been able to locate. Most are fiction, though a few good non-fiction works were added. The bibliography is divided into four sections to match frequently used public library divisions: picture book, juvenile, young adult and adult. The adult titles were selected for their possible interest to mature young adults, and only represent a portion of available titles.

I solicit additional listings. Please send any comments, suggestions or requests regarding this bibliography to: Dildar Gartenberg, c/o I-Pride, P.O. Box 11811, Berkeley, CA 94712-11811. Or call 510-653-1929.

A suggested future project, for anyone interested, would be to create an anthology of the frequent accounts of mixed-race families extracted from biographies, such as *Beyond Uhura*, by Nichelle Nichols, or *Having Our Say*, by Sarah and Elizabeth Delany.

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Bibliography of the Literature of Mixed Ethnicity



Older titles may only be available through libraries by special request. Many new books are available at Cody's Books in Berkeley. To order, contact Ira at (510) 845-3752 and mention I-Pride. By contacting Ira and mentioning I-Pride our members receive a 20% discount.

I-Pride (Interracial/Intercultural Pride) is a non-profit goup of people sharing an interest in the well-being and development of individuals and families who are of more than one racial/ethnic heritage. I-Pride is a founding chapter of the Association of MultiEthnic Americans, which links together other local groups similar to I-Pride.

The bibliographer authorizes reproduction of any part of this list for non-profit uses.

This document was created and edited by Gary N. Gartenberg. Contributing editor, Vicki Nelson.

This bibliography was begun as a project for Terry Wilson's Ethnic Studies course given at U.C. Berkeley in the Fall of 1991. Since then many additions have been suggested by my fellow librarians, notably, Martha Shogren, Karen Madigan, Linda Phillips, and Maya Kennedy, as well as by my fellow I-Pride members Marilyn Drame, Jan Goodwin, and Jan Weisman.

\*About the compiler of this bibliography.

My father was a Sikh born in a North Indian farming village who traveled to the United States in the 1920's with the financial sponsorship of Sikh farmers in the California Central Valley. He met my mother, who was of English descent, from a small town in Oregon, while both of them were students at U. C. Berkeley. When I was seven my father returned to India leaving me to grow up in America. .I did not meet my father again until 33 years later when I traveled to India with my husband and sons to visit him. That trip, in 1970, inspired my return to school at Berkeley to complete a BA in Art History and an MLS in Library Science. In working for these degrees I took classes in the language, art, history, and anthropology of India. The knowledge I gained from my studies of India helped me to answer many questions about my father's world. Reading about the Anglo-Indian community described in Bhowani Junction helped me to understand how my life might have been had my father taken me home to India with him. Han Suyin's autobiography made me consider what my mother's life would have been had she accompanied my father. Neither of these tales exactly mirrored the circumstances of my heritage, but by reading these accounts my comprehension of the intricate nature of racial and ethnic politics expanded, as did my sense of not being alone in facing the guandaries and challenges of mixed ethnicity.

"Once you see yourself depicted, you have a sense of your right to be in the world."

-novelist Paule Marshall, in a 1992 National
Public Radio Interview

An asterisk (\*) precedes books I recommend as gift selections.



Bibliography of the Literature of Mixed Ethnicity

## PICTURE BOOKS/EARLY CHILDHOOD (These books are for reading aloud to very young children.)

- \* Adoff, Arnold. Black Is Brown Is Tan. New York: Harper and Row, 1973.

  A celebration of the colors of an interracial family in radiant watercolor and free verse. The family, a white father, black mother and their two children, mirrors Adoff's own marriage to Virginia Hamilton.
  - Ahlberg, Janet and Allan. Starting School. New York: Viking Penguin, 1988. In this tale set in England, about the first day of school, children of many different colors are depicted through illustrations. One child's family is of mixed-ethnic heritage.

  - Davol, Marguerite W. Black, White, Just Right! Morton Grove, Illinois: Albert Whitman and Co., 1993.
     A lovely, simple, picture book about a child of mixed-ethnic heritage and her sense of being "just right."
- \* Garland, Sarah. Billy and Belle. New York: Viking Penguin, 1992.

  An amusing story about Billy and Belle's day at school while their mother is in the hospital having a new baby. Illustrations show a black father and a white mother.
- \* Hananaka, Sheila. All the Colors of the Earth. New York: Morrow Junior Book, 1992. Lovely illustrations include a portrait of a couple of different ethnic backgrounds with their baby- "Love is amber and ivory and ginger and sweet." The message is "children come in all of the colors of the earth and sky and sea." - Excellent Gift Book!
- \* Heath, Amy. Sofie's Role. New York: Four Winds Books, 1992.
  A day in the family's bakery as seen through the eyes of a child. Superb illustrations depict a family that appears to be of mixed black/white race.
  - Hoffman, Mary. Nancy No-Size. New York: Oxford University Press, 1987.

    Nancy is the middle child of an interracial family who learns that being in the middle is a good place to be.
  - Kuklin, Susan. When I See My Doctor. New York: Bradbury Press, 1988.

    A photo picture-book for small children, aimed at demystifying visits to the doctor's office. Photographs of the mother and son show a child of Asian appearance with a white mother.
- \* Lionni, Leo. Little Blue and Little Yellow. New York: Obolensky, 1959.
  This outstanding abstract picture book is not about children of multi-ethnic heritage but the image of color blending as a metaphor of friendship is delightful.
- \* Loh, Morag. Tucking Mommy In. New York: Orchard Books, 1987. A beautifully illustrated picture book with an amusing twist where a mother, attempting to put her daughters to sleep, instead falls asleep herself. The mother is Asian and the father is white.

Bibliography of the Literature of Mixed Ethnicity/Early Childhood-1



- Mandelbaum, Pili. You Be Me I'll Be You. Brooklyn, New York: Kane/Miller Book Publishers, 1990.
  - Translated from the Belgian French original, this tale depicts a biracial European family. The story plays with and provides commentary on racial characteristics. Charming illustrations portray a black mother and white father.
- McKee, David. Tusk Tusk. New York: Kane/Miller Book Publishers, 1990.
  A funny and upbeat story that pokes fun at a conflict between black and white herds of elephants.
  - Mower, Nancy Alpert. I Visit My Tutu and Grandma. Kailua, Hawaii: Press Pacifica, 1984.

    A girl spends the day with her two grandmothers, one native Hawaiian and one white, enjoying life in two cultures and two languages. Provides a simple language lesson.
  - Otey, Mimi. Daddy Has a Pair of Striped Shorts. New York: Farrar Straus and Giroux, 1990. A tale about a young girl's embarrassment over her father's preference for bright clothes with bold patterns. The watercolor illustrations depict a family with mixed racial characteristics.
  - Pellegrini, Nina. Families Are Different. New York: Holiday House, 1991.

    An adopted Korean girl learns that the members of a family need not physically resemble one another to be strong and loving.
- Spohn, David. Home Field. New York: Lathrop, Lee and Shepard, 1993.

  \_\_\_\_\_\_ Starry Night. New York: Lathrop, Lee and Shepard, 1992.

  \_\_\_\_\_ Winter Wood. New York: Lathrop, Lee and Shepard, 1991.

  Charming picture books about a boy who appears to be of African ancestry with his longhaired blond father. In Home Field, father and son play baseball in their yard. In Winter Wood, they go into the forest together to cut firewood and then they carry it home. Starry Night is the story of an overnight camp out.
- \* Williams, Garth. *The Rabbits' Wedding*. New York: Harper, 1958.

  When this beautiful book about the marriage of a black rabbit and a white rabbit was first published, in 1958, it was controversial. Many libraries in the South refused to include it in their collections.
- \* Williams, Vera B. More More Said the Baby. New York, Greenwillow Books, 1990.
  This Caldecott Honor Book contains three short stories, the second of which features a child of mixed-ethnic heritage. A cheerful, colorful book portraying loving families.



### JUVENILE/SCHOOL AGE (These works are generally intended for pre-teen readers.)

- Adoff, Arnold. All Colors of the Race. New York: Lathrop, Lee and Shepard Books, 1982.

  John Steptoe's fine illustrations highlight the beautiful poems presented in this work, which are dedicated to the celebration of "every wonderful combination of races."
  - This tale involves the problems of sibling rivalry as experienced by a brother and sister, whose father is white and mother is black. Based on Adoff's own family (his wife is Virginia Hamlton).
- \* Blume, Judy. Are You There God? It's Me Margaret. New York: Dell Publishing, 1970. An 11-year-old girl is subjected to pressure by grandparents of differing religious beliefs. This book was controversial both because of the religious issues it raises and because of the protagonist's impatience for the onset of her menses.
  - Buck, Pearl S. *Matthew, Mark, Luke and John*. New York: John Day Company, 1966.

    A story, by the Nobel Prize winning author, about four Korean boys who are brought to the U.S. and adopted, after being abandoned by their U.S. Military fathers and Korean mothers.
  - Clifford, Eth. The Year of the Three-Legged Deer. Boston: Houghton Miffkin, 1972. The "Indian Frontier," of the early 1800's, is the setting for this story of a Lenni Lenape tribeswoman, Mekinges, her white husband, Jesse Burton, and their two children. The family is tragically broken by societal violence and governmental injustice.
  - Dixon, Paige. Promises to Keep. New York: Atheneum, 1974.

    A recently orphaned Vietnamese-American boy leaves post-war Vietnam and goes to live with his grandmother in a small New Hampshire town. Though both the town and the grandmother are full of prejudice, the young boy prevails, with his Buddhist commitment to non-violence intact.
- Friedman, in a R. How My Parents Leamed to Eat. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1984. In this picture-book, the child of a Japanese mother and a European-American father describes how her parents met in Japan, and the two traditions of eating that her family maintains.
  - Gridley, Marion. *Maria Tallchief, the Story of an American Indian*. Minneapolis, Minnesota: Dillon Press, 1973.
    - A biography of the world-renowned ballerina whose father was Osage and whose mother was Scotch-Irish and Dutch. The author includes an introductory section on Osage culture and its influence on Maria.
  - Jenness, Aylette. Families: A Celebration of Diversity, Commitment, and Love. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co. 1990.
    - This book features excellent black and white photographs of a wide diversity of both traditional and alternative American families. None of these photographs show an interracial marriage but multiracial adoptive families are included.



Bibliography of the Literature of Mixed Ethnicity/Juvenile-1

- Jones, Adrienne. So, Nothing is Forever. Boston, Houghton Mifflin, 1974. Three children of mixed black/white ethnicity are orphaned and, in an effort to stay together, travel to Northern California to live on a farm with their prejudiced white grandmother. An affectionate portrait of three siblings, of differing appearance and complexion, who share deep family feeling.
- Katz, William Loren. Black Indians: A Hidden Heritage. New York: Atheneum, 1986.

  A history of black slaves who escaped and were taken in by Native-American villages. The two groups inte: arried and worked together to oppose white oppression.
- York: Atheneum, 1993,
  - A collection of brief biographies of people of mixed Native-American and African ancestry.
- Klein, Norma. What It's All About. New York: Dial Press, 1975.

  Bernie's mother and father are divorced. Her father is Japanese-American and her mother, with whom she resides, is Jewish-American. Bernie's mother adopts a half-Vietnamese orphan, while her father and his new European-American wife have a baby. This is an upbeat enjoyable book, but the complexities of mixed racial/ethnic identities are not fully explored.
- Lampman, Evelyn Sibley. Half-Breed. New York: Doubleday and Company, 1967.

  A humorous tale, set in the Oregon Territory around 1850, about the experiences of a mixed Native- and European-American boy as he attempts to come to terms with his parents' differing cultural traditions. Describes an actual mixed Native-American/European community in 19th century Oregon.
  - An historical account of the final battle between the Modoc Indians and the U.S. military in 1873, told from the perspective of a half-Modoc boy who experienced prejudice in the town that is now Klamath Falls and went on to fight on the side of the Modoc.
- Little, Jean. *Kate*. New York: Harper and Row, 1971.

  A story of reconciliation between a girl's Jewish grandfather and her father after a long period of discord over her father's marriage to her Christian mother.
- Markle, Sandra. *The Fledglings*. New York: Bantam Books, 1992.

  The adventures of an orphan girl who discovers that she has a Cherokee grandfather and goes searching for him in the mountains of North Carolina
- Medearis, Angela Shelf. Dancing With the Indians. New York: Holiday House, 1991.
  Set in the 1930's, this tale is based on the historical accounts of runaway slaves who were accepted into the Seminole tribe. Beautiful illustrations.
  - Merino, Jose Maria. *The Gold of Dreams*. Translated by Helen Lane. New York: Farrar, Strauss and Giroux, 1991.

    A story about the son of a Spanish father and Native-American mother in Mexico, during

the period of Spanish conquest and the search for Gold in the 'New World'.

Miles, Betty. All It Takes Is Practice. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1976.

Contemporary story of two boys, one white and one mixed-race, and how they successfully cope with racial prejudice in a Midwestern suburban town.

Bibliography of the Literature of Mixed Ethnicity Juvenile-2



- Nichols, Joan Kane. All But the Right Folks. Owings Mills, Maryland: Stemmer House Publishers, 1985.
  - A boy living in San Francisco with his African-American father learns about his European ancestry when his grandmother invites him to spend the summer in New York City.
- Patterson, Katherine. *Park's Quest.* New York: E.P. Dutton, 1988.

  This is the story of a young boy who discovers that he has a secret half-sister who is part Vietnamese.
- \* Porte, Barbara Ann. I Only Made Up the Roses. New York: Greenwillow, 1987. A collection of short vignettes concerning a white child's experiences in the world of her black stepfather's family.
- \* Rosenberg, Maxine. Living in Two Worlds. New York: Lathrop, Lee and Shepard Books, 1986.
  This non-fiction photographic essay portrays a diversity of multi-ethnic families and deals with issues of race, religion, and ethnicity.
  - Screen, Robert Martin. With My Face to the Rising Sun. New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1977.

    The painful story of a biracial boy's search for his white father in the deep South during WW II.
- Simon, Charnan. Wilma Mankiller Chief of the Cherokee. Chicago: Children's Press, 1991.

  A very short biography of the Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma whose mother was "Dutch-Irish" and whose father was a "full-blooded Cherokee Indian."
  - Tate, Eleanora B. Just an Overnight Guest. New York: The Dial Press, 1985.

    A black family in the American South experiences difficulties when they take in a child named Ethyl, who is half black and half white. Ethyl's stay with the family ends up being far longer than was originally expected.
  - Terris, Susan. Whirling Rainbows. New York: Doubleday and Co., 1974.

    A Polish-American Chippewa girl, adopted as a baby by a Jewish couple, spends the summer in Wisconsin camping, canoeing, and seeking knowledge of her Chippewa heritage.
  - Webber, Robert. The Train. New York: Pantheon, 1972.

    The illustrations in this tale depict an interethnic marriage, in which the father appears to be African-American, and the mother Asian-American.
- \* Golden Legacy: Illustrated History Magazine. Dix Hills, New York: Fitzgerald Publishing Co., 1972.
  - A magazine series in comic format for youth, dedicated to the telling of black history-which includes people of mixed ethnicity. See especially Volume 14, about the life history of Alexander Pushkin, the celebrated Russian poet, one of whose ancestors came originally from Africa.



### YOUNG ADULT

(These works address the concerns and aspirations of teenagers.)

- Becker, J. T., ed. All Blood is Red All Shadows are Dark. Shaker Heights, Ohio: Seven Shadows Press, 1984.
  - A collection of short autobiographical accounts by the parents, children, and adopted children who make up one mixed-race family.
- Borton de Trevino, Elizabeth I. *Juan de Pareja*. Toronto, Canada: Collins Publishers, 1965.

  A fictionalized biography of Juan de Pareja, the "half-breed" slave of the celebrated Spanish painter Diego Velasquez. This book was awarded the Newberry Medal for 1966.
  - Brinsmead, H. F. *Pastures of the Blue Crane*. New York: Coward-McCann, 1966.

    Set in Northern Australia in the 1960s, this story concerns a young European-Australian Aboriginal woman who discovers and takes pride in her Tonkinese (Aboriginal) ancestry.
- \* Danziger, Paula. It's an Aardvark-Eat-Turtle World. New York: Delacorte Press, 1985.

  An amusing story of a teenage girl in the New York City suburbs, whose black father and white mother are divorced, and her adjustment to her mother's new marriage.
- \* Garland, Sherry. Song of the Buffalo Boy. New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanavich, 1992. When an Amerasian girl in Vietnam is promised in marriage to a repellent suitor, she escapes to Ho Chi Minh City to apply to the U.S. Homecoming Program and survives on the streets until the boy she loves finds her and they return to their village together. The portrayal of Amerasians in post-war Vietnam is heart-rending.
  - Gay, Kathlyn. The Rainbow Effect Interracial Families. New York: Franklin Watts, 1987. The author interviews interracial and interethnic families about growing up as "Children of the Rainbow." The major theme of this work is that people of mixed race and/or ethnicity need and deserve positive recognition.
  - Hamilton, Virginia. *Arilla Sun Down.* New York: Dell Publishing Co., 1976. Issues of race identity (Native-American, black, white) are played out in the interpersonal dynamics of one mixed-ethnic family.
  - . M. C. Higgins, The Great. New York: Collier Books, 1974.

    Non-fiction account of a multi-generational, interethnic community living in the remote hills overlooking the Ohio River. One family, the Killburns, are thought to be witches by outsiders, because of their unusual appearance. This book won the Newberry Medal.
  - \_\_\_\_\_\_. Plain City. New York: Scholastic Inc., 1993.

    The story of a girl growing up in the midwest with her black mother, and her quest to find her absent white drug-addict father.
  - Hurmence, Belinda. *Tancy*. New York: Clarion Books, 1984.

    Tancy is a biracial house slave in the American South at the end of the civil war. Her yearlong quest for her mother exposes her to the radical changes which marked the period of reconstruction in the South. The lives of former slaves are vividly portrayed.



- Irwin, Hadley. Kim/Kimi. New York: M.K. McElderry Books, 1987.
  Seeking information about her Japanese-American father, who died before she was born, Kim flies from New York to Sacramento to meet her Japanese relatives for the first time. There, she experiences Japanese culture and learns of the U.S. government's Japanese internment camps during WW II.
  - Jackson, Helen Hunt. Ramona. 1884. Reprint. New York: Signet Classics, 1984.

    A romantic tale of a daughter of a California Indian mother and a Scottish father, who marries a Mission Indian and their life of suffering at the hands of white settlers. While the author was a great supporter of Native-American civil rights, his work is a product of the attitudes prevalent in the late 19th century and expresses certain inaccurate assumptions concerning mixed ethnicity.
  - James, J. Alison. Sing for a Gentle Rain. New York: Atheneum, 1990.

    A man with Native-American roots takes a magical journey back in time, through the magical powers of an Anasazi woman's song.
  - Jones, Hettie. I Hate to Talk About Your Mother. New York: Delacorte Press, 1980.

    Alicia, whose Dominican father left when she was two, spends the weekend at the beach with her white mother. Identity, budding sexuality, and the lack of a positive role model are issues explored in this frank novel.
  - Jones, Toeckey. Skindeep. New York: Harper and Row, 1986.

    This South African love story reflects the pain engendered by apartheid in the lives of two young people, one who is white and one who is mixed race but can "pass" for white.
  - Landau, Elaine. Interracial Dating and Marriage. New York: Julian Messner, 1993.

    A brief history of interracial dating and marriage in the United States, with short accounts of interethnic relationships narrated by teenage and adult couples.
  - Lester, Julius. This Strange New Feeling. New York: Dial Press, 1982.

    The longest of the three short stories in this book about freedom and love is the "Christmas Story" based on the true story of William and Ellen Craft who escaped slavery by posing as a white man and his black manservant. Lester based his tale on extensive research.
- \* Lipsyte, Robert. The Brave. New York: Harper Collins 1991. Sonny Bear lives on the margins of Moscandaga and white culture. His mixed heritage is ultimately a source of strength as he learns to channel his energy as a boxer.
- \* Meyer, Carolyn. Denny's Tapes. New York: M.K. McElderry Books, 1987. A racial slur, hurled by his white stepfather, spurs Denny to take a cross-country journey in search of his roots and his father. In Chicago he meets his father's family and is introduced to elite African-American culture. In Nebraska his racist white grandmother inspires his pity and compassion. His quest ends on a very upbeat note.
  - - The true story of Cynthia Ann Parker, who was stolen as a child and raised by Comanche Indians. At the age of 34, she was taken by settlers and forcibly returned to her white relatives, where she longed for her Indian way of life.
  - Okimoto, Jean Davies. *Molly by Any Other Name*. New York: Scholastic Hardcover, 1990. Molly decides to find her unknown biological parents. She is of Asian background and adopted by non-Asians.
    - Bibliography of the Literature of Mixed Ethnicity/Young Adult-2



- Paulsen, Gary. The Monument. New York: Delacorte Press, 1991.

  The strong central character of this story is an adopted, handicapped girl of mixed ethnicity whose parentage is unknown. Her life is profoundly affected by the arrival of an artist in her community, who designs a war monument and inspires her to become an artist.
- Porte, Barbara Ann. Something Terrible Happened. New York: Orchard Books, 1994. Gillians mother, who is of West Indian ancestry, dies of AIDS and Gillian goes to live with her deceased father's white relatives. Many terrible things happen in Gillian's life, and her mixed ethnicity is the least of her problems. Multi-cultural stories help her to cope with the events in her life.
- Pullman, Phillip. The Broken Bridge. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1992.
   A compelling contemporary novel, set in Wales, about a 16-year-old girl's search for her Haitian mother. Her discoveries are painful yet strengthening.
- \* Rinaldi, Ann. Wolf by the Ears. New York: Scholastic Hardcover, 1991.

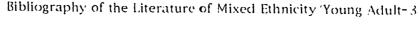
  A fictionalized biography of Harriet Hemmings, a slave on Thomas Jefferson's plantation, who was reputed to be one of Jefferson's own children by Sally Hemmings.
- \* Robinson, Margret A. A Woman of Her Tribe. New York: Fawcett Juniper Books, 1990.

  The tale begins with the departure of Annette and her widowed European mother from her father's Nootka Indian village. Annette has been awarded a scholarship to an exclusive private school, where she must unravel the social mysteries of an unfamiliar white world.
  - Roy, Jacqueline. Soul Daddy. New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1992.

    Biracial twin girls, growing up in a white suburban neighborhood in contemporary London, are challenged by the reappearance of their famous black father.
  - Rushing, Jane Gilmore. *Mary Dove*. Garden City, New York: Doubleday, 1974.

    A girl who is raised by her father on the Central Plains of the 1800s, in complete isolation and ignorance of her mixed black/white ancestry, remains unaware of her unique physical appearance until she encounters the reactions of people in the outside world.
  - Savage, Deborah. A Stranger Calls Me Home. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1992.

    Simon, a contemporary European/Maori New Zealander who never knew his Maori father, visits his father's village and experiences Maori culture.
  - Taylor, Mildred D. Let the Circle Be Unbroken. New York: Bantam Book/The Dial Press, 1981. A moving account of the solidarity between impoverished black and white sharecroppers, in the deep South of 1935, and the injustice they suffer at the hands of greedy plantation owners.
  - Wilson, Claire. Quanah Parker: Comanche Chief. New York: Chelsea House Publishers, 1992. The life story of Quanah Parker, a Comanche warrior. Quanah was the son of a great Comanche warrior leader and Cynthia Ann Parker, a captured European settler whose story is told in Where the Broken Heart Still Beats (see above).





### **ADULT**

- (This is a selection of titles dealing with more mature themes that may be of interest to young adults.)
- Brown, Drew T. You Gotta Believe! Education + Hard Work Drugs = The American Dream.

  New York: Morrow, 1991.

  The inspirational and entertaining autobiography of the pilot son of Muhammed Ali's black trainer, Bundini Brown, and a "white Jewish" mother.
- Campbell, Maria. Half-Breed. New York: Saturday Review Press, 1973.

  An autobiographical account of the poverty and hardship endured by a mixed white and Native-American woman in Canada. Includes significant information on peoples of mixed-ethnic heritage in Canada.
  - Chase-Riboud, Barbara. *The President's Daughter*. New York: Crown Publishers, 1994. The author of the best-selling *Sally Hemmings* continues the family saga with this new novel about the girl believed to be Thomas Jefferson's daughter by his slave mistress. The daughter, Harriet, leaves the plantation and passes for white.
  - Chesnutt, Charles W. The House Behind the Cedars. 1900. Reprint. New York: Penguin, 1993.

    The story of how two young people of mixed African-American and European aracestry, who can "pass" for white, attempt to deny their African heritage. The author, though himself of mixed ethnicity, shares many of the prevailing sterectypes of his time.
  - Clancy, Diane and C.W. Truesdale, ed. *Two Worlds Walking: Short Stories, Essays, and Poetry by Writers of Mixed Heriages.* Minneapolis, Minnesota: New Rivers Press, 1994. A collection of writing by people of mixed heritages, mostly from the U.S.
  - Dailey, Janet. The Proud and the Free. New York: Little, Brown and Co., 1994.

    Another Native-American historical novel by the prolific romance novelist, about a family of mixed Scot and Cherokee heritages and their lives on the eve of the Trail of Tears.
  - Faulkner, William. *Absalom, Absalom!* 1936. Reprint. New York: Vintage Books, 1990. The tragic portrayal of a family tom apart by racism. A plantation owner rejects his wife and son when he discovers this his wife is of mixed race.
  - Fingleton, David. *Kiri Te Kanawa*. New York: Atheneum, 1983.

    A biography of the renowned European/Maori New Zealand opera singer, who consistently sings traditional Maori songs in her solo concerts, honoring her Maori heritage.
- Funderburg, Lise. *Black, White, Other*. New York: William Morrow and Company, 1994.

  Black/white biracial Americans talk about race, identity and what it's like to be "caught in the cross-fire between white and black." Their personal accounts are honest, poignant and fascinating. Commentary by Lise Funderburg is excellent.
  - Gay, Kathlyn. Changing Families: Meeting Today's Challenges. Hillside, New Jersey: Enslow Publishers, 1988.

    This text, concerned with the dynamics of the modern family, contains an excellent chapter on interracial families and a list of organizations helpful to families.



Bibliography of the Literature of Mixed Ethnicity 'Adult-1

- Han, Suyin. A Mortal Flower. New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1965.

  One book in an ongoing autobiographical series by an Eurasian woman growing up in China. In this volume, covering the tumultuous period between 1928 and 1938, she perseveres in the face of antipathy and racism and attains her dream of becoming a medical doctor.
- Liu, Aimee E. Face. New York: Warner Books, 1994.

  A young woman with a Chinese-American father, and a European mother, struggles to unravel the roots of her troubled identity, which trace back from New York's Chinatown to Shanghai.
- Jacobs, Harriet. *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl.* New York: Oxford University Press, 1988. (Also published in paperback under the pseudonym Linda Brent.)

  This painful and inspiring autobiography of a mixed-race slave, from the period just before the abolition of slavery, provides insight into the attitudes of the time.
- Kelly, Katie. A Year in Saigon. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1992. In early 1990, Katie Kelly quit her television job in New York City and flew to Saigon to teach English to Amerasian children. This is her memoir of a year spent confronting the harsh realities of life for Amerasians in Vietnam.
- Khanga, Yelana. Soul to Soul: The story of a Black Russian-American Family. 1865-1992.

  New York: W.W. Norton, 1992.

  The author, a Russian journalist, traveled to the U.S. and Africa to research her Jewish-American and African heritages. The result is a moving account of four generations of mixed-ethnic people coming together despite tremendous obstacles.
- Masters, John. *Bhowani Junction*. New York: The Viking Press, 1954.

  One of several books by the same author about British colonial India, this novel deals in part with the role of Eurasians on the Indian Railways during WW II. The female protagonist is faced with a choice of three suitors of different ethnicities.
- Morgan, Sally. *My Place*. **New Y**ork, Seaver Books/Henry Holt and Company, 1988.

  An autogiographical tapestry of three generations of Aboriginal-European Australians.
  - No Collective, ed. "Voices of Identity, Rage and Deliverance.": An Anthology of Writings by People of Mixed Descent. Oakland, Calif.: No Press, 1992.

    "This publication is a loudspeaker meant to expose and agitate social confines. The works celebrate self-definition, claiming space for traditionally silenced peoples."
  - Nunez, Sigrid. A Feather on the Breath of God. New York: Harper Collins, 1995.

    A novel, written as the memoir of a girl searching her past for clues to understanding her Chinese/Panamanian father and German war-bride mother. Her exploration of the immigrant experience includes her Russian-immigrant lover. Thoughtful, contemplative prose.
  - Rice, Anne. The Feast of All Saints. New York: Ballantine Books, 1979.

    A romance set in mid-19th century New Orleans featuring skillfully drawn biracial characters inhabiting a racially complex environment.
- Root, Maria P.P., ed. *Racially Mixed People in America*. Newbury Park, California: Sage Publications, 1992.

  An excellent collection of articles by scholars, with an extensive bibliography.

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Stowe, Harriet Beecher. *Uncle Tom's Cabin.* 1852. Reprint. New York: Signet Classics, 1966.

This work inspired an emotional climate that contributed to the abolition of slavery. Two characters in the novel are able to escape because of their mixed race.

Toer, Pramoedya Ananta. This Earth of Mankind. Translated by Max Lane. New Yo.'.: Avon, 1975.

This first volume of a controversial quartet, by an Indonesian author, describes Dutch colonial law in Indonesia, the remorseless descrimination against Eurasians and "native" Indonesians alike, and the forced break-up of a mixed-race family.

Twain, Mark. *Pudd'nhead Wilson and Other Tales.* 1894. Reprint. New York: Oxford University Press, 1992. Pudd'nhead Wilson is the tragic, heart-wrenching, story of a "mulatto" slave woman and her child.

Williams, Gregory Howard. Life on the Color Line: The True Story of a White Boy Who Discovered He was Black. New York: Dutton, 1995.

This autobiography describes not only the experience of growing up mixed (black/white) race in 1950s America, but provides unique insight into the contrast between life as a white person and life as a black person seen through the eyes of one man. The author's life is ultimately a triumph over the tragic effects of racism, poverty and an alcoholic father, himself of mixed race.

