

Finding Books that have Diverse Characters

Search character appeal

Character appeal terms are a great way to search for kids and teen books where the personalities and characteristics of the individuals are really the focus of the story. See a full list in NoveList, but a few examples of character appeal terms include:

- Ability diverse
- Culturally diverse
- LGBTQIA diverse
- Religiously diverse

TRY IT

At the **Advanced Search**, enter **Culturally diverse** (or another diverse term) in the search box

Select **AP Appeal Factors** from the drop-down

Click **Search**

Use the limiters on the left to narrow the results to the right audience level or to a genre.

Real-world examples

African American characters in Historical fiction:
SU African American AND GN Historical fiction

Books about characters with disabilities and friendship:
AP Ability diverse AND SU Friendship

Character-driven books about a multiracial teenager:
AP Character-driven AND SU "Multiracial teenage"

Search subjects or genres

While appeal terms are used to describe the overall sense of characters in the story, subject and genre headings instead get at the who, what, when, and where. Want characters with specific ethnic backgrounds? Use subject and genre headings to dial in.

EXAMPLES

Subject examples: African Americans, Asian Americans, Autism, Learning Disabilities, Homosexuality, Jewish Americans, Interfaith families, interethnic relations

Genre examples: LGBTQIA fiction, Multicultural romances

Search subjects (SU) and genres (GN) using field codes, for example **GN LGBTQIA fiction**.

All kinds of...

Our *All Kinds of Lives* Recommended Reads lists provide you with ready-made lists of books that highlight the diversity of family and social situations.

TRY IT

From the Recommended Reads Lists section on the homepage, click the **Fiction** tab

Select the **Teens, Ages 9-12**, or **Ages 0-8** audience

Click the **All Kinds of Lives** or **All Kinds of Parents** links

Click on a book list link to view books on the topic

When to use:



Librarians: Need a list of books for readers of all different backgrounds?

Readers: Want to read about people who share your culture/religion/disability/sexual orientation?

Parents: Looking for a book with characters that your child can connect with?