Finding Books that have Diverse Characters

Search character appeal

character appeal terms are a great way to search for 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 describe the overall sense of characters in the story, subject and genre headings instead get at the who, what, when, and where. And themes help you dial in on recurring plot elements.

EXAMPLES

Subject examples: African Americans, Autism, Interfaith families, Interethnic relations

Genre examples: LGBTQIA fiction, Multicultural romances

Themes examples: Dealing with illness, Engendering gender, Living with invisible disability, Living with visible disability, All kinds of families

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

All kinds of...

Our All Kinds of Lives Recommended Reads lists are ready-made lists with 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, and select a list.