

CULTURAL AWARENESS

A booklist of titles about global cultural diversity
available in the NHS Library



Achebe, Chinua. ***No Longer at Ease*** - Obi Okonkwo feels separated from his African roots because of his education, and he is forced to choose between his culture's traditional values and the demands of his social class.

A Man of the People - A schoolteacher risks his life to oppose a corrupt politician in this novel by noted twentieth-century Nigerian author Chinua Achebe, in which he explores the political state of his home country preceding the 1966 coup.

Alexie, Sherman. ***The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*** - Budding cartoonist Junior leaves his troubled school on the Spokane Indian Reservation to attend an all-white farm town school where the only other Indian is the school mascot.

Alvarez, Julia. ***Before We Were Free*** - In the early 1960s in the Dominican Republic, twelve-year-old Anita learns that her family is involved in the underground movement to end the bloody rule of the dictator, General Trujillo.

Beah, Ishmael. ***A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier*** - A human rights activist offers a firsthand account of war from the perspective of a former child soldier, detailing the violent civil war that wracked his native Sierra Leone and the government forces that transformed a gentle young boy into a killer as a member of the army.

Benaron, Naomi. ***Running the Rift*** - Rwandan runner Jean Patrick Nkuba dreams of winning an Olympic gold medal and uniting his ethnically divided country, only to be driven from everyone he loves when the violence starts, after which he must find a way back to a better life.

Budhos, Marina. ***Ask Me No Questions*** - Fourteen-year-old Nadira, her sister, and their parents leave Bangladesh for New York City, but the expiration of their visas and the events of September 11, 2001, bring frustration, sorrow, and terror for the whole family.

Combres, Elisabeth. ***Broken Memory: A Novel of Rwanda*** - After hearing her mother being murdered, a young girl must find the strength to survive on her own amidst the massacres of the 1994 genocide in Rwanda.

Craig, Colleen. ***Afrika*** - Traveling to South Africa with her journalist mother, thirteen-year-old Kim explores the country's diverse and often shocking history, while trying to unlock the secret that has always kept her from knowing her father.

Dau, John Bul. ***Lost Boy, Lost Girl: Escaping Civil War in Sudan*** - Chronicles the experiences of a husband and wife who as children fled the poverty and violence of southern Sudan, describing the devastating impact of famine and war on the region while sharing memories of their efforts to adapt to American life.

Elkeles, Simone. ***Rules of Attraction*** - Carlos, who lives with his older brother Alex, a college student and ex-gang member, is not ready to give up his wild ways until he meets a shy classmate named Kiara and becomes unwillingly involved in a drug ring.

Gordimer, Nadine. ***The Conservationist*** - Mehring is rich and has the privileges and possessions that South Africa has to offer the rich, but his possessions refuse to remain objects. His wife, son, and mistress leave him; even the land rises up, as drought and flood destroy his farm.

Jones, Lloyd. ***Mister Pip*** - On a remote tropical island where villages are overrun by rebel fighting, thirteen-year-old Matilda is introduced to the Charles Dickens classic "Great Expectations" by her white school teacher and becomes enthralled with the story's main character, with whom she feels a connection.

Lahiri, Jhumpa. ***The Namesake: A Novel*** - Follows the Ganguli family from their tradition-bound life in Calcutta through their fraught transformation into Americans.

Lamarche, Una. ***Like No Other*** - Devorah, a young Hasidic Jewish woman with a strict upbringing, and Jaxon, a fun-loving, book-smart nerd, who live across the street from one another in Brooklyn and have never met are trapped together in an elevator during a hurricane and make a connection. Even though their relationship is forbidden, they continue to meet.

Libby, Megan McNeill. ***Postcards from France*** - A high school junior living abroad takes readers on an insightful, witty, and poignant journey through her year in France.

Magoon, Kekla. ***How It Went Down*** - When sixteen-year-old Tariq Johnson is shot to death, his community is thrown into an uproar because Tariq was black and the shooter, Jack Franklin, is white, and in the aftermath everyone has something to say, but no two accounts of the events agree.

Martinez, Domingo. ***The Boy Kings of Texas: A Memoir*** - Recounts the story of a border-town family in Brownsville, Texas in the 1980's, as each member of the family desperately tries to assimilate and escape life on the border to become "real" **Americans**, even at the expense of their shared family history

McCormick, Patricia. ***Purple Heart*** - While recuperating in a Baghdad hospital from a traumatic brain injury sustained during the Iraq War, eighteen-year-old soldier Matt Duffy struggles to recall what happened to him and how it relates to his ten-year-old friend, Ali.

Never Fall Down - Cambodian child soldier Arn Chorn-Pond defied the odds and used all of his courage and wits to survive the murderous regime of the Khmer Rouge.

Meyer, Carolyn. ***Where the Broken Heart Still Beats*** - Having been taken as a child and raised by Comanche Indians, Cynthia Ann Parker is forcibly returned to her white relatives, where she longs for her Indian life.

Myers, Walter Dean. ***Monster*** - While on trial as an accomplice to a murder, sixteen-year-old Steve Harmon records his experiences in prison and in the courtroom in the form of a film script as he tries to come to terms with the course his life has taken.

Sunrise Over Fallujah - Robin Perry, from Harlem, is sent to Iraq in 2003 as a member of the Civilian Affairs Battalion, and his time there profoundly changes him.

Park, Linda Sue. ***A Long Walk to Water*** - When the Sudanese civil war reaches his village in 1985, eleven-year-old Salva becomes separated from his family and must walk with other Dinka tribe members through southern Sudan, Ethiopia, and Kenya in search of safe haven.

Perkins, Mitali. ***Bamboo People: A Novel*** - Two Burmese boys, one a Karenni refugee and the other the son of an imprisoned Burmese doctor, meet in the jungle and in order to survive they must learn to trust each other.

Qamar, Amjed. ***Beneath My Mother's Feet*** - When her father is injured, fourteen-year-old Nazia is pulled away from school, her friends, and her preparations for an arranged marriage, to help her mother clean houses in a wealthy part of Karachi, Pakistan, where she finally rebels against the destiny that is planned for her.

Resau, Laura. ***The Queen of Water*** - Living in a village in Ecuador, a Quechua Indian girl is sent to work as an indentured servant for an upper class "mestizo" family.

Venkatraman, Padma. ***Island's End: A Novel*** - A young girl trains to be the new spiritual leader of her remote Andaman Island tribe, while facing increasing threats from the modern world.

Whitman, Sylvia. ***The Milk of Birds*** - When a nonprofit organization called Save the Girls pairs a fourteen-year-old Sudanese refugee with an American teenager from Richmond, Virginia, the pen pals teach each other compassion and share a bond that bridges two continents.