Books for Your Transracial
Or Transcultural Adoptive Family

Research shows that children as young as 2 years old begin to notice and differentiate people based on racial and cultural differences. Children who are trans-racially adopted often feel uncomfortable talking to their parents about being different from their families and friends, especially if they have not learned how to talk about race and racism and if they do not know what words to use. Children need to see reflections of themselves in stories so they can develop a positive racial identity. This is even more important if the family is not living in a diverse area where there is a community of others that look like the child.

Parents may feel uncomfortable bringing up the subject of race or racism. Books can be a helpful tool for parents and children, sharing stories and giving the parents and children a place to begin thinking about how they feel about the multi-racial make-up of their families. This fact sheet is just a jumping-off place for families. In addition to this listing of resources, there are several publishers that specifically produce multi-cultural books for children or books on adopting transracially or trans-culturally. These resources will be listed at the end of this fact sheet.

Books recommended for toddler through early elementary aged children that discuss race and difference. While these books may not be adoption-specific, they do discuss racial, cultural and ethnic differences and is a good place to begin talking about the ways people are the same and the ways people are different from each other.

- All the Colors We Are
  by Katie Kissinger
- Children Just Like Me
  by Susan Elizabeth Copey and Barnabas Kindersley
- Happy to Be Nappy
  by Bell Hooks
- I Love My Hair
  by Natasha Anastasia Tarpley
- It's Okay to Be Different
  by Todd Parr
- Let's Talk About Race
  by Julius Lester
- Nappy Hair
  by Caroliva Herron
- Skin Again
  by Bell Hooks
- The Color of Us
  by Karen Katz
- The Skin I'm In: A First Look at Racism
  by Pat Thomas
- The Skin You Live In
  by Michael Tyler
- We're Different, We're the Same
  by Bobbi Kates
- Whoever You Are
  by Mem Fox

To learn more about MN ADOPT and our efforts to ensure each child will have a permanent family, call 612-861-7115 or visit www.mnadopt.org
BOOKS WITH TRANSRAICAL/TRANSCULTURAL ADOPTION THEMES: TODDLER/PRESCHOOL

A Mother For Choco
by Keiko Kasza

All Families Are Special
by Norma Simon

An American Face
by Jan M. Czech

Boyra and the Burps
by Joan MacNamara

Horace
by Holly Keller

Lucy’s Family Tree
by Karen Halvorson Schreck

Rosie’s Family: An Adoption Story
by Lori Rosove

Who Are Your Real Parents?
by D.L. Fuller

Zachary’s New Home: A Story for Foster and Adopted Children
by Geraldine M. Blomquist and Paul B. Blomquist

BOOKS WITH TRANSRAICAL/TRANSCULTURAL ADOPTION THEMES: ELEMENTARY CHILDREN

Becoming Naomi Leon by Pam Munoz Ryan

How it Feels to Be Adopted by Jill Krementz

Three Names of Me by Mary Cummings

BOOKS WITH TRANSRAICAL/TRANSCULTURAL ADOPTION THEMES: TEENS

Finding Miracles by Julia Alvarez

If It Hadn’t Been For You Yoon Jun by Marie Lee

Kim/Kimi by Hadley Irwin

Kimchi and Calamari by Rose Kent

For adults, the options below range from academic texts that discuss sociological and psychological concepts of transracial and transnational adoption to practical guides that offer a wide range of helpful strategies in parenting trans-racially or trans-nationally adopted children. Some of these suggestions are not specifically adoption related but offer strategies for raising multi-racial children – helpful for those who are parenting children of mixed racial heritages or children who are a different race than you whether by birth or adoption.

— BOOKS FOR ADULTS —

TRANSRACIAL/TRANSCULTURAL ADOPTION

Adoptive Families in a Diverse Society
edited by Katarina Wegar

Birthmarks: Transracial Adoption in Contemporary America
by Sandra Patton

Beyond Good Intentions: A Mother Reflects on Raising Internationally Adopted Children
by Cheri Register

Inside Transracial Adoption
by Gail Steinberg and Beth Hall

In Their Own Voices: Transracial Adoptees Tell Their Stories
by Rita J. Simon and Rhonda M. Roorda

Outsiders Within: Writing on Transracial Adoption
by Jane Jeong Trenka, Sun Yung Shin and Julia Chinyere Oparah
Weaving a Family: Untangling Race and Adoption  
by Barbara Katz Rothman

Racial identity:

by Donna Jackson Nakasawa

I’m Chocolate, You’re Vanilla: Raising Healthy Black and Biracial Kids in a Race-Conscious World  
by Marguerite A. Wright

The First R: How Children Learn Race and Racism  
by Debra Van Ausdale and Joe Feagin

Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria  
by Beverly Daniel Tatum

Many parents naturally enjoy reading books written by adoptive parents, as the insights they provide can be like a road map for the future. In addition, however, it is strongly recommended that you read the stories and experiences of adults who were trans-racially and/or trans-nationally adopted. Although at times it may be uncomfortable - especially as these adult adoptees recount incidents of racism, misunderstandings or feelings of split loyalty with adoptive and/or birth parents, or periods of struggling with their racial identity - their words are a window into the future lives of your children as they become adults.

MEMOIRS BY ADULT TRASRACIAL ADOPTEES

A Single Square Picture: A Korean Adoptee’s Search for Her Roots  
by Katy Robinson

A Wealth of Family: An Adopted Son’s International Quest for Heritage, Reunion, and Enrichment  
by Thomas Brooks

Black Baby, White Hands: A View from the Crib  
by Jaiya John

Blending In: Crisscrossing the Lines of Race, Religion, Family, and Adoption  
by Barbara Ann Gowan

Daughter of the Ganges  
by Asha Miro

Hidden Heritage: The Story of Paul LaRoche  
by Barbara Marshak

Lucky Girl  
by Mei-Ling Hopgood

The Book of Sarahs: A Family in Parts  
by Catherine McKinley

The Language of Blood: A Memoir  
by Jane Jeong Trenka

Secret Daughter: A Mixed Race Daughter and the Mother who Gave Her Away  
by June Cross

Seeds from a Silent Tree: An Anthology by Korean Adoptees  
edited by Tonya Bishoff and Jo Rankin

Voices From Another Place  
edited by Susan Cox

Whose Child? An Adoptee’s Healing Journey From Relinquishment through Reunion . . . and Beyond  
by Kasey Hamner

Publishers that specialize in multicultural or adoption books:
• Children’s Book Press http://www.childrensbookpress.org/
• Lee and Lowe at http://www.leeandlow.com/
• Perspectives Press at http://www.perspectivespress.com
• Yeong and Yeong at http://www.yeongandyeong.com/

Recommended web sites:
• Shen’s Books at http://www.shens.com/