

Multicultural Fiction at Mount Vernon City Library

Kipling, Rudyard – *Kim*

Kim, the poor orphaned son of an Irish soldier stationed in India, searches for his identity and learns to move between the two cultures, becoming the disciple of a Tibetan monk while training as a spy for the British secret service.

Kwok, Jean – *Girl in Translation*

Emigrating with her mother from Hong Kong to Brooklyn, Kimberly Chang begins a secret double life as an exceptional schoolgirl during the day and sweatshop worker at night, an existence also marked by her first crush and the pressure to save her family from poverty.

Lahiri, Jhumpa – *The Namesake*

The immigrant experience follows the Ganguli family from their traditional life in India through their arrival in Massachusetts in the late 1960s and their difficult melding into an American way of life.

Lee, Harper – *To Kill a Mockingbird*

Scout's father defends a black man accused of raping a white woman in a small Alabama town during the 1930s.

Martel, Yann— *The Life of Pi*

Possessing encyclopedia-like intelligence, unusual zookeeper's son Pi Patel sets sail for America, but when the ship sinks, he escapes on a life boat and is lost at sea with a dwindling number of animals until only he and a hungry Bengal tiger remain.



Shafak, Elif – *The Bastard of Istanbul*

Turkish teen Asya is coming of age under the wing of her tattoo-parlor owner mother and her three aunts, befriending a cousin from America, and discovering a secret that links her family to the 1915 Armenian deportations and massacres.

Suri, Manil - *The Death of Vishnu*

This story becomes a metaphor for the social and religious divisions of contemporary India, and Vishnu's ascent of the staircase parallels the soul's progress through the various stages of existence.

Tan, Amy – *The Kitchen God's Wife*

Winnie and Helen have kept each other's worst secrets for more than fifty years. Now, because she believes she is dying, Helen wants to expose everything. And Winnie angrily determines that she must be the one to tell her daughter, Pearl, about the past—including the terrible truth even Helen does not know.

Verghese, Abraham – *Cutting for Stone*

Marion and Shiva Stone, twin brothers born from a secret love affair between an Indian nun and a British surgeon in Addis Ababa, come of age in an Ethiopia on the brink of revolution, where their love for the same woman drives them apart.

Walker, Alice – *The Color Purple*

Separated from her sister Nettie when they were young girls, Celie finds herself trapped in an abusive marriage with only her faith and letters to her sister to sustain her.



315 Snoqualmie St, Mount Vernon, WA 98273
www.mountvernonwa.gov, 360.336.6209

Multicultural literature can be described as literature that portrays racial or ethnic groups and helps to enhance cross-cultural understanding and respect for individuals. (Internet)

Adichie, Chimamanda – *Americanah*

A story of love and race centered around a young man and woman from Nigeria who face difficult choices and challenges in the countries they come to call home.

Alexie, Sherman – *Indian Killer*

Dubbed the "Indian Killer, a serial killer stalks the streets of Seattle, taking the scalps of white male victims, and thrusts the city's Native American community into turmoil and John Smith, an Indian raised by a white family, into the investigation.

Allende, Isabel – *Island Beneath the Sea*

The story of Tete a mulatta woman, a slave and concubine on the island of Saint-Domingue, determined to take control of her own destiny in a society where that would seem impossible.

Boyle, T. Coraghessan – *The Tortilla Curtain*

A wealthy suburbanite couple in Southern California accidentally meets an illegal immigrant couple from Mexico and experience life changing events.

Buck, Pearl - *The Good Earth*

Wang Lung, a Chinese peasant, rises from poverty to become a rich landowner with the aid of his patient wife in the 1920s.

Clarke, Breena – *Stand the Storm*

Even though Sewing Annie Coats and her son, Gabriel, have managed to buy their freedom, their lives are still marked by constant struggle and sacrifice as they prepare for the encroaching war between the States.

Dai, Sijie – *Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress*

From the bleakness and horror of Mao's inhumane Cultural Revolution, two boys and their little seamstress friend are forever transformed when the boys discover a secret stockpile of Western classic literature translated into Chinese.

Ellison, Ralph - *Invisible Man*

Story of a young black man's journey of self-discovery in the South and North.

Erdrich, Louise – *The Round House*

When his mother, a tribal enrollment specialist living on a reservation in North Dakota, slips into an abyss of depression after being brutally attacked, fourteen-year-old Joe Coutz sets out with his three friends to find the person that destroyed his family.

Esquivel, Laura – *Like Water for Chocolate*

As the youngest of three daughters in a turn-of-the-century Mexican family, Tita may not marry but must remain at home to care for her mother.

Ford, Jamie – *Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet*

When artifacts from Japanese families sent to internment camps during World War II are uncovered during renovations at a Seattle hotel, Henry Lee embarks on a quest that leads to memories of growing up Chinese in a city rife with anti-Japanese sentiment.

Golden, Arthur—*Memoirs of a Geisha*

The "memoirs" of one of Japan's most celebrated geishas describes how, in 1929, as a little girl, she is sold into slavery; her efforts to learn the arts of the geisha; the impact of World War II; and her struggle to reinvent herself to win the man she loves.

Guterson, David – *Snow Falling on Cedars*

In the 1950s, a Japanese American fisherman is accused of murder on a small island in the Puget Sound.

Hambly, Barbara – *Free Man of Color*

Ben January, free man of color, returns to New Orleans in 1800s, only to find that nothing has changed for African Americans, and when a woman is murdered, whites in the community want to blame him.

Haynes, Melinda – *Mother of Pearl*

Five different people search for love, security, and identity in the small town of Petal, Mississippi in the 1950s.

Hosseini, Khaled—*A Thousand Splendid Suns*

A breathtaking story set against the volatile events of Afghanistan's last thirty years—from the Soviet invasion to the reign of the Taliban to post-Taliban rebuilding that puts the violence, fear, hope and faith of this country in intimate, human terms.

Kingsolver, Barbara – *The Lacuna*

An epic journey from the Mexico City of artists Diego Rivera and Frida Kahlo to the America of Pearl Harbor, FDR, and J. Edgar Hoover. The Lacuna is a poignant story of a man pulled between two nations as they invent their modern identities.