

The Why:

Educators have a unique opportunity to provide a diverse selection of texts in their classrooms. There is a world of diverse texts available that provide multiple viewpoints of the world and allow for wider representation. Each of the books in the chart below feature protagonists and characters that are a part of underrepresented groups. There are also non-fiction texts that represent diverse voices and perspectives.

These texts will contribute to a motivating and engaging ELA classroom, driven by the standards. Incorporating texts from multiple perspectives can contribute to a classroom focused on research and lead to deep discussions that build students' abilities to analyze texts. Educators should move beyond this chart, and explore the other resources provided, to help them develop a more diverse curriculum.

The How:

The chart was designed to help educators explore diverse texts that can supplement texts traditionally found in the classroom. On the chart, there are common themes and texts taught in the secondary English Language Arts classroom. For each common theme or traditional text, there are diverse texts with similar themes. The diverse population represented in the book is also listed. In the Book Info column, the link provided leads to a summary of the book (in the case of the two short stories and one essay, the link leads to a copy of the text). The abbreviations for Genre and Grade Level are as follows:

Genre		Grade Level
Fiction (F)	Drama (D)	Middle School (MS)
Non-Fiction (NF)	Poetry (P)	High School (HS)

It is important to remember that this list is by no means exhaustive. This list of diverse texts is a good place to start, as well as exploring the resources that have been provided after the chart. Start slow – for example, pick one text to replace or supplement in one unit of the current curriculum.

****The information and texts described in this guidance document do not imply an endorsement by the Arizona Department of Education (ADE). The views and opinions expressed in any referenced resource do not necessarily reflect those of ADE.**

Diverse Texts in the Secondary ELA Classroom

Common Theme/Traditional Texts	Book Title	Author	Genre	Book Info	Diverse population represented	Grade Level
Coming of Age						
	<i>A Long Walk to Water</i>	Linda Sue Park	F/NF	Summary	Black	MS/HS
<i>Catcher in the Rye</i> by JD Salinger	<i>Damselfly</i>	Chandra Prasad	F	Summary	Asian	HS
<i>To Kill A Mockingbird</i> by Harper Lee	<i>Esperanza Rising</i>	Pam Munoz	F	Summary	Latinx	MS
<i>Lord of the Flies</i> by William Golding					Multiple	
<i>The Odyssey</i> by Homer	<i>Flying Lessons & Other Stories</i>	Edited by Ellen Oh	F	Summary	POC/LGBTQIA	MS/HS
	<i>Forged by Fire</i>	Sharon Draper	F	Summary	Black	MS/HS
					Multiple	
	<i>Fresh Ink: An Anthology</i>	Edited by Lamar Giles	F	Summary	POC/LGBTQIA	HS
	<i>Give Me Some Truth</i>	Eric Gansworth	F	Summary	Native/Indigenous	HS
	<i>I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter</i>	Erika Sanchez	F	Summary	Latinx	HS
	<i>The House on Mango Street</i>	Sandra Cisneros	F	Summary	Latinx	MS/HS
	<i>There There</i>	Tommy Orange	F	Summary	Native/Indigenous	HS
Protagonist Facing Issues Plaguing Our Society						
		Jason Reynolds and				
<i>To Kill A Mockingbird</i> by Harper Lee	<i>All American Boys</i>	Brendon Kielly	F	Summary	Black	HS
<i>The Outsiders</i> by SE Hinton	<i>American as Paneer Pie</i>	Supriya Kelkar	F	Summary	Asian	MS
	<i>Blues for Mister Charlie</i>	James Baldwin	D	Summary	Black	HS
	<i>Dear Martin</i>	Nic Stone	F	Summary	Black	HS
	<i>Ghost</i>	Jason Reynolds	F	Summary	Black	MS
	<i>Ghost Boys</i>	Jewell Parker Rhodes	F	Summary	Black	MS/HS
	<i>Harbor Me</i>	Jacqueline Woodson	F	Summary	Black	MS
	<i>How It Went Down</i>	Kekla Magoon	F	Summary	Black	HS
	<i>Just Mercy (Adapted for Young Adults): A True Story of the Fight for Justice</i>	Bryan Stevenson	NF	Summary	Black	MS

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Protagonist Facing Issues Plaguing Our Society						
<i>To Kill A Mockingbird</i> by Harper Lee <i>The Outsiders</i> by SE Hinton	<i>Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption</i>	Bryan Stevenson	NF	Summary	Black	HS
	<i>Long Way Down</i>	Jason Reynolds	F	Summary	Black	HS
	<i>Scorpions</i>	Walter Dean Myers	F	Summary	Black	MS/HS
	<i>Sing Unburied Sing</i>	Jesmyn Ward	F	Summary	Black	HS
	<i>The Hate U Give</i>	Angie Thomas	F	Summary	Black	HS
	<i>The Round House</i>	Louise Erdrich	F	Summary	Native/Indigenous	HS
	<i>The Skin I'm In</i>	Sharon G. Flake	F	Summary	Black	MS/HS
	<i>Their Eyes Were Watching God</i>	Zora Neale Hurston	F	Summary	Black	HS
	Fantasy					
<i>Lord of the Rings</i> by JRR Tolkien <i>The Harry Potter</i> series by JK Rowling	<i>Children of Blood and Bone</i>	Tomi Adeyemi	F	Summary	Black	HS
	<i>Children of Virtue and Vengeance</i>	Tomi Adeyemi	F	Summary	Black	HS
	<i>Dark and Deepest Red</i>	Anna-Marie McLemore	F	Summary	Latinx/LGBTQIA	HS
	<i>Elysium Girls</i>	Kate Pentecost	F	Summary	LGBTQIA	HS
	<i>Kingdom of Souls</i>	Rena Barron	F	Summary	Black	HS
	<i>Labyrinth Lost</i>	Zoraida Cordova	F	Summary	Latinx/LGBTQIA	HS
	<i>Mooncakes</i>	Suzanne Walker	F	Summary	Asian/ LGBTQIA	HS
	<i>Otherbound</i>	Corinne Duyvis	F	Summary	QIA	HS
	<i>Reaper of Souls</i>	Rena Barron	F	Summary	Black	HS
	<i>Scavenge the Stars</i>	Tara Sim	F	Summary	Asian/ LGBTQIA	HS
	<i>Shadowshaper</i>	Daniel Jose Older	F	Summary	Latinx	HS
	<i>The Gilded Wolves</i>	Roshani Chokshi	F	Summary	LBTQIA	HS
	<i>The Silvered Serpents</i>	Roshani Chokshi	F	Summary	LGBTQIA	HS

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Fantasy						
<i>Lord of the Rings</i> by JRR Tolkien The <i>Harry Potter</i> series by JK Rowling	<i>Witches of Ash and Ruin</i>	E. Latimer	F	Summary	LGBTQIA	HS
	<i>Wonder Woman: Warbringer</i>	Leigh Bardugo	F	Summary	Multiple POC/LGBTQIA	HS
Dystopian/Science Fiction						
<i>The Hunger Games</i> series by Suzanne Collins <i>The Giver</i> by Lois Lowry Kurt Vonnegut Ray Bradbury	"Cloud Dragon Skies"	N.K. Jemisin Ed. by Tobias S.	F	Short Story	Black Multiple	HS
	<i>Diverse Energies</i>	Buckell and Joe Monti	F	Summary	POC/LGBTQIA	HS
	<i>Internment</i>	Samira Ahmed	F	Summary	Muslim	HS
	<i>Killer of Enemies #1 - Killer of Enemies</i>	Joseph Bruchac	F	Summary	Native/Indigenous	HS
	<i>Killer of Enemies #2 - Trail of the Dead</i>	Joseph Bruchac	F	Summary	Native/Indigenous	HS
	<i>Killer of Enemies #3 - Arrow of Lightning</i>	Joseph Bruchac edited by A.M. Brown	F	Summary	Native/Indigenous	HS
	<i>Octavia's Brood [anthology]</i>	and W. Imarisha	F	Summary	Multiple POC	HS
	<i>Orleans</i>	Sherri L. Smith	F	Summary	Black	HS
	<i>Partials #1 - Partials</i>	Dan Wells	F	Summary	Multiple POC	HS
	<i>Partials #2 - Fragments</i>	Dan Wells	F	Summary	Multiple POC	HS
	<i>Partials #3 - Ruins</i>	Dan Wells	F	Summary	Multiple POC	HS
	<i>Proxy #1 - Proxy</i>	Alex London	F	Summary	LGBTQIA	HS
	<i>Proxy #2 - Guardian</i>	Alex London	F	Summary	LGBTQIA	HS
	<i>Santa Evita</i>	Tomás Eloy Martínez	F	Summary	Latinx	HS
	<i>Ship Breaker #1 - Ship Breaker</i>	Paolo Bacigalupi	F	Summary	Multiple POC	MS/HS

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Dystopian/Science Fiction						
The Hunger Games series by Suzanne Collins The Giver by Lois Lowry Kurt Vonnegut Ray Bradbury	<i>Ship Breaker #2 - The Drowned Cities</i>	Paolo Bacigalupi	F	Summary	Multiple POC	MS/HS
	<i>Ship Breaker #3 - Tool of War</i>	Paolo Bacigalupi	F	Summary	Multiple POC	MS/HS
	<i>Tankborn #1 - Tankborn</i>	Karen Sandler	F	Summary	Black	HS
	<i>Tankborn #2 - Awakening</i>	Karen Sandler	F	Summary	Black	HS
	<i>Tankborn #3 - Rebellion</i>	Karen Sandler	F	Summary	Black	HS
	<i>The Immortal Rules</i>	Julie Kagawa	F	Summary	Asian	HS
	<i>The Marrow Thieves</i>	Cherie Dimaline	F	Summary	Native/Indigenous	HS
	<i>The Summer Prince</i>	Alaya Dawn Johnson	F	Summary	Black/LGBTQIA	HS
Horror						
Edgar Allan Poe	"Ghosts of August"	Gabriel Garcia Marquez	F	Short Story	Latinx	HS
	<i>El Almohadón de Plumas' ("The Feather Pillow")</i>	Horacio Quiroga	F	Summary	Latinx	HS
	<i>His Hideous Heart: Thirteen of Edgar Allan Poe's Most Unsettling Stories Reimagined</i>	Edited by Dahlia Adler	F	Summary	Multiple POC/LGBTQIA	
	<i>House Taken Over</i>	Julio Cortazar	F	Summary	Latinx	HS
	<i>The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao</i>	Junot Diaz	F	Summary	Latinx	HS
	<i>The Dark-Thirty: Southern Tales of the Supernatural</i>	Patricia C. McKissak	F	Summary	Black	MS/HS
	Poetry					
William Shakespeare Robert Frost	<i>Brown Girl Dreaming</i>	Jacqueline Woodson	P	Summary	Black	MS

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Poetry							
William Shakespeare Robert Frost	<i>And Still I Rise</i>	Maya Angelou	P	Summary	Black	HS	
	<i>Just Give Me a Cool Drink of Water 'Fore I Diie</i>	Maya Angelou	P	Summary	Black	HS	
	<i>Locomotion</i>	Jacqueline Woodson	P	Summary	Black	MS	
	<i>Man-Making Words</i>	Nicolás Guillén	P	Summary	Latinx	HS	
	<i>Phenomenal Woman</i>	Maya Angelou	P	Summary	Black	HS	
	<i>The Poetry of Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz</i>	Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz	P	Summary	Latinx	HS	
	Shakespeare						
The plays of William Shakespeare	<i>Romeo and Juliet</i>						
	<i>Eleanor + Park</i>	Rainbow Rowell	F	Summary	Asian	HS	
	<i>If You Come Softly</i>	Jacqueline Woodson	F	Summary	Black	HS	
	<i>In the Time of Butterflies</i>	Julia Alvarez	F	Summary	Latinx	HS	
	<i>Pride</i>	Ibi Zoboi	F	Summary	Black/Latinx	HS	
	<i>Romiette and Julio</i>	Sharon Draper	F	Summary	Black/Latinx	HS	
	<i>The Book of Unknown Americans</i>	Cristina Henríquez	F	Summary	Latinx	HS	
	<i>Macbeth</i>	<i>Long Way Down</i>	Jason Reynolds	F	Summary	Black	HS
		<i>Woman at Point Zero</i>	Nawal El Saadawi	F	Summary	Black	HS
	The Great Gatsby						
<i>The Great Gatsby</i> by F. Scott Fitzgerald	<i>A Raisin in the Sun</i>	Lorraine Hansberry	D	Summary	Black	HS	
	<i>Americanah</i>	Adichie	F	Summary	Black	HS	
	<i>Fences</i>	August Wilson	F	Summary	Black	HS	
	<i>Invisible Man</i>	Ralph Ellison	F	Summary	Black	HS	
	<i>Jazz</i>	Toni Morrison	F	Summary	Black	HS	

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Finding Identity/Being an Outcast						
<i>The Scarlett Letter</i> by Nathaniel Hawthorne	"For My Indian Daughter"	Lewis Sawaquat	NF	Essay	Native/Indigenous	HS
	<i>Invisible Man</i>	Ralph Ellison	F	Summary	Black	HS
	<i>Lobizona</i>	Romina Garber	F	Summary	Latinx	HS
	<i>On the Come Up</i>	Angie Thomas	F	Summary	Black	HS
	<i>Silver Sparrow</i>	Tayari Jones	F	Summary	Black	HS
	<i>The Hate U Give</i>	Angie Thomas	F	Summary	Black	HS
Memoir						
	<i>Born A Crime</i>	Trevor Noah	NF	Summary	Black	HS
	<i>Farewell to Manzanar: A True Story of Japanese-American Experience During and After the World War II Internment</i>	Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston and James D. Houston	NF	Summary	Asian	HS
	<i>I Am Malala: The Story of My Life</i>	Malala Yousafzai	NF	Summary	Muslim	MS/HS
	<i>I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings</i>	Maya Angelou	NF	Summary	Black	HS
	<i>The Bite of the Mango</i>	Mariatu Kamara	NF	Summary	Black	HS
	<i>The Distance Between Us</i>	Reyna Grande	NF	Summary	Latinx	HS
	<i>The Story of My Life: An Afghan Girl on the Other Side of the Sky</i>	Farah Ahmedi	NF	Summary	Muslim	MS/HS
	<i>Warriors Don't Cry</i>	Melba Pattillo Beals	NF	Summary	Black	HS
	<i>Wouldn't Take Nothing for My Journey Now</i>	Maya Angelou	NF	Summary	Black	HS

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History through Diverse Lens						
YA Adaptations of Diverse History Non-Fiction Texts	<i>A Queer History of the United States for Young People</i>	Michael Bronski, adapted by Richie Chevat	NF	Summary	LGBTQIA	HS
	<i>A Young People's History of the United States</i>	Howard Zinn	NF	Summary	Multiple POC	MS/HS
	<i>Dear America: The Story of an Undocumented Citizen Young Readers' Edition</i>	Jose Antonio Vargas	NF	Summary	Latinx	MS/HS
	<i>Lies My Teacher Told Me: Everything American History Textbooks Get Wrong Young Readers' Edition</i>	James W. Loewen, adapted by Rebecca Steffoff	NF	Summary	Multiple POC	MS/HS
	<i>One Person, No Vote: How Not All Voters Are Treated Equally A Young Adult Adaptation</i>	Carol Anderson, with Tonya Bolden	NF	Summary	Black	HS
	<i>Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You</i>	Jason Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi	NF	Summary	Black	MS/HS
	<i>Thank You for Voting Young Readers' Edition</i>	Erin Geiger Smith	NF	Summary	Multiple POC	MS/HS

For even more in-depth research into how to incorporate diverse texts into the secondary ELA classroom, these two educator-created resources are invaluable:

- English Elixir “Replace or Supplement the Canon with a Diverse Curriculum”, which can be found at <https://englishelixirtpt.wixsite.com/englishelixir/post/replace-or-supplement-the-canon-with-a-diverse-curriculum>
- Secondary English Coffee Shop, “Rethinking the Classics: Supplements and Updates for 10 Core Texts” <https://secondaryenglishcoffeeshop.blogspot.com/2020/06/rethinking-classics.html?m=1>

Other resources that were used to compile the list are as follows:

- Nerd Daily, “10 Diverse YA Fantasy Books That You Should Read,” <https://www.thenerdaily.com/10-diverse-ya-fantasy-books/>
- PBS Newshour, “10 books besides ‘To Kill a Mockingbird’ that tackle racial injustice” <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/arts/10-books-besides-to-kill-a-mockingbird-that-tackle-racial-injustice>
- Remezcla, “The Literary Canon Is Mostly White. Here’s an Alternative Latin American Reading List,” <https://remezcla.com/lists/culture/latin-american-books-literary-canon/>
- Rich In Color, “9 Dystopian/Post-Apocalyptic Books Starring PoC,” <http://richincolor.com/2013/12/9-dystopianpost-apocalyptic-books-starring-poc/>
- Teaching Tolerance magazine, “The New YA,” <https://www.tolerance.org/magazine/spring-2020/the-new-ya>

Further reading and resources related to this topic:

- Arizona Department of Education, School Improvement: Equity and Diversity, <https://www.azed.gov/improvement/equity-and-diversity/>
- Book List, “100 MUST-READ CLASSICS BY PEOPLE OF COLOR,” <https://bookriot.com/100-must-read-classics-by-people-of-color/>
- Disrupt Texts, <https://disrupttexts.org/>
- Diverse Texts Primary Reading Room, more primary-focused but could be used for read-alouds and discussion in the secondary classroom, <https://bit.ly/32WviPZ>
- Harvard University, “Hooked on Classics,” <https://www.gse.harvard.edu/news/ed/19/08/hooked-classics>
- Harvard University, “Reloading the Canon,” <https://www.gse.harvard.edu/news/ed/19/08/reloading-canon>
- Rich In Color, Reading and Reviewing Diverse YA Books, <http://richincolor.com/>
- Teaching Tolerance, <https://www.tolerance.org/>
- Time, “Reading Anti-Racist Nonfiction Is a Start. But Don’t Underestimate the Power of Black Fiction,” <https://time.com/5861861/jasmine-quillory-black-fiction/>
- We Need Diverse Books <https://diversebooks.org/>

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Resources for Accessing Books Virtually:

During this COVID time, obtaining new books for the classroom will look differently. These are resources for assisting in accessing books virtually.

- Arizona Public Libraries – many libraries are offering digital books, curbside pickup, and other safe options during this COVID 19 time. <https://mclidaz.org/about/otherlibraries/>
- Audible – Audible is offering free audiobooks for kids and students. <https://stories.audible.com/start-listen>
- Bookshare - Bookshare makes reading easier. People with dyslexia, blindness, cerebral palsy, and other reading barriers can customize their experience to suit their learning style and find virtually any book they need for school, work, or the joy of reading. <https://www.bookshare.org/cms/>
- Cloud Library – digital access to library. <https://www.yourcloudlibrary.com/>
- Epic – the leading digital library for kids. <https://www.getepic.com/>
- Hoopla - Instantly borrow digital movies, music, eBooks and more, 24/7 with your library card. <https://www.hoopladigital.com/>
- Learning Ally – With an extensive library of human-read audiobooks and a suite of educator tools and resources, helps struggling readers become engaged, independent learners. <https://learningally.org/>
- Libby – Borrow and read e-books from your local public library. <https://www.overdrive.com/apps/libby/>
- Librivox – Free public domain audiobooks. <https://librivox.org/>
- Overdrive - Enjoy ebooks and audiobooks for free through your local public library or school. <https://www.overdrive.com/>
- Tales 2 Go - Instant, unlimited and simultaneous access to over ten thousand audio book titles from leading publishers. <https://www.tales2go.com/>
- Tumble Book Library - TumbleBookLibrary is a curated database of children’s e-books, available by subscription to Elementary Schools and Public Libraries around the world. <https://www.tumblebooks.com/>

For further questions, please contact Lauren Spenceley, Secondary ELA Specialist, Arizona Department of Education English Language Arts Team at lauren.spenceley@azed.gov. The website for Arizona’s English Language Arts Standards is <https://www.azed.gov/standards-practices/k-12standards/english-language-arts-standards>.

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