Pact’s Multicultural Adoption BookSource 2013
Of the thousands of multicultural and family diversity books for adults and children that we have reviewed, we have chosen the following titles as some of the most outstanding. The selections are thought provoking, discussion inducing, informative, enlightening and just plain terrific reads. So—read them aloud, spread the word about them and pass them on to other readers, young and old.
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### Books for Adults

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[www.pactadopt.org](http://www.pactadopt.org)
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<tr>
<td>Adopting the Hurt Child</td>
<td>Gregory Keck &amp; Regina Kupeck</td>
<td>$17.99</td>
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<td>This book explores the process of adopting as an emotional journey that begins with infertility, single status and other family building challenges and takes the reader through the decision making, preparation and lifelong experience of adopting. Does a great job of looking at the deeper issues and acknowledging the complexity of adoption today including a focus on couples communication and infertility. Pacts says: Pat speaks clearly and directly to and for the infertile who choose to adopt.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adoption: Sound Choices, Strong Families</td>
<td>Patricia Irwin Johnston</td>
<td>$26.95</td>
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<td>This book offers guidance for friends and extended family members in interacting with pre- and post-adoptive families. Pacts says: A wonderful tool, easy to read and the suggestions are on target making this a perfect gift for extended family.</td>
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<td>Adoption and the Schools</td>
<td>Lansing Wood and Nancy Ng</td>
<td>$25.00</td>
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<td>Powerful advocacy for adopted school-age kids. Includes information on how to influence your children’s schools toward adoption-positive reflections and sections on curriculum, homework, attitudes of teachers and staff, special challenges and more. Spiral bound so that handouts can be reproduced and distributed to schools. Pacts says: Highly recommended for every parent and school.</td>
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<td>Adoption is a Family Affair: What Relatives and Friends Must Know</td>
<td>Patricia Irwin Johnston</td>
<td>$14.00</td>
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<td>Many times extended family are relieved to have a guide book that helps them know how to support their relatives who adopt. This book offers guidance for friends and extended family members in interacting with pre- and post-adoptive families. Pacts says: A wonderful tool, easy to read and the suggestions are on target making this a perfect gift for extended family.</td>
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<td>Adoption Nation</td>
<td>Adam Pertman</td>
<td>$16.95</td>
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<td>In this revised edition of Adam Pertman’s award-winning book, first published in 2000, readers will find updated information on every aspect of adoption and its changing role in American society. Pertman suggests ways our laws should be changed to improve the adoption process and remove the obstacles that keep the children who most need permanent homes from getting them. Pacts says: A Pulitzer nominated journalist, Pertman argues against adoption for profit and highlights positive adoption impacts on society.</td>
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<td>Because I Loved You: A Birthmother’s View of Open Adoption</td>
<td>Patricia Dischler</td>
<td>$16.95</td>
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<td>This unique blend of Patricia’s personal story (20 years post-placement) combined with her advice and research as to what expectant parents considering an adoption can anticipate at each stage of the process is very helpful because it goes beyond the placement to adulthood of the child placed for adoption. Pacts says: by a welcome voice that is too often under represented in the world of adoption.</td>
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<td>Being Adopted: The Lifelong Search for Self</td>
<td>David Brodzinsky, Marshall Schechter, Robin Marantz Heni</td>
<td>$22.00</td>
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<td>Emphasizing adoption issues as viewed “through the eyes of adopted people,” this book normalizes the developmental progressions of identity formation that are common to adopted people. Without pathologizing adoption, the authors demonstrate adoption as a lifelong issue. Pacts says: Excellent. Blending research, theory, practicality and sensitivity, the authors normalize developmental stages and understanding of children and adults who have been adopted.</td>
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<td>Beneath The Mask: Understanding Adopted Teens</td>
<td>Debbie Riley with John Meeks</td>
<td>$19.95</td>
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<td>This book gives clinicians and therapists insight into adopted teens and is an important new contribution to the field of adoption. The authors identify six adolescent “stub spots” and discuss some of the ways that therapists and parents can help. Pacts says: Directed to clinicians, this book is very useful to parents as well—offering insight into what adopted teens are feeling. Excellent resource!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Birthright: A Guide to Search and Reunion</td>
<td>Jean Strauss</td>
<td>$21.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>This book is filled with stories… direct quotes from adoptive parents, birth parents, and adopted people who have experienced search and reunion. Includes guidelines for beginning a search. Pacts says: Jean is a great writer and this is a good overview of what to expect and how to handle both the emotional and logistical steps that are often involved.</td>
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<td>Brothers and Sisters In Adoption</td>
<td>Arleta James</td>
<td>$30.00</td>
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<td>Aimed at parents as well as pediatricians and adoption and mental health professionals, this tour de force book covers an unprecedented range of issues. This book addresses all the “tough” issues with compassion and addresses the whole family. Pacts says: A fat book that contains much to ponder and re-read at different ages and stages of parenting. If pediatricians, therapists, professionals and parents were going to read only one non-clinical book on adoptive parenting issues, this would be a good choice.</td>
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<td>Dear Birthmother, Thank You For Our Baby</td>
<td>Kathleen Silber and Patricia Martinez Dornen</td>
<td>$14.95</td>
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<td>A collection of actual letters between adoptive parents and birth parents, and by birth parents to their children, advocating for the benefits of openness and demonstrating the ways in which initial openness provides for increasing trust to the benefit of the children involved. The back and forth correspondence gives humanity to the sometimes sensationalized experience of open adoption. Pacts says: Recommended by the Child Welfare League of America. Highly recommended for pre-adopters.</td>
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<td>The English American</td>
<td>Allison Larkin</td>
<td>$24.00</td>
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<td>Never overly negative or treating adoption as if it is a disease, Alison, an adopted person herself, shares great insights into some of the ways that adoption impacts our experience in the world and the way we look at things. With an authentic adopted heroine at its center, Larkin’s compulsively readable first novel unearths universal truths about love, identity, and family with wit and heart. Pacts says: A laugh-out-loud, cry-because-you-care kind of read. Really worthwhile.</td>
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Adult Books about Adoption

**The Family of Adoption** by Joyce Maguire Pavao
$18.00
An international therapy expert and adoptee, Joyce offers a clear voice in the world of adoption, describing the deeper truths that often go unspoken. Joyce really honors the perspectives and voices of each member of the triad, making her book one of the important texts on the core issues of adoption.

Pact says: Reading this is like listening to a wise friend; Joyce links her own experience with vast knowledge, creating that elusive “ah ha!”

**Ghost at Heart’s Edge: Stories and Poems of Adoption** edited by Susan Ito and Tina Cervin
$16.95
Poignant short pieces are arranged in sections that represent the adoption process: the period before adoption takes place, the transition period when the child moves from one family to another, how adoption affects childhood, identity issues for those who grow up adopted, and search and reunion with birth relatives.

Pact says: A moving collection that dismantles adoption myths by showing adoption in all its complexity.

**How to Open an Adoption** by Patricia Martinez Dorner
$14.95
A guide to opening adoptions for adoptive parents, birth parents of minors and professionals. This book covers the benefits of opening adoptions; the issues raised if the request is initiated by adoptive parents or birth parents; professional help; preparation for contact; the first visit; reopening open adoptions and more.

Pact says: Adopted children shouldn’t have to wait until they are eighteen to have their questions answered. Contact allows children to receive answers directly.

**I Wish for You a Beautiful Life** edited by Sara Dorrow
$18.95
This collection of letters from birth mothers from the Ae Ran Won agency in Korea gives voices not often heard - a chance to articulate their innermost emotions at the time of placement of their children for adoption. Their messages of hope that the children will have a positive life, sadness over personal losses, love for the children, and a level of guilt shed new light on Korean birth mother's experiences.

Pact says: This book is not intended for children.

**Identical Strangers: A Memoir of Twins Separated and Reunited** by Elyse Schein and Paula Berstein
$16.00
What begins as an adult adoptee's search for a birthmother transforms to a search for an identical twin and the mysterious circumstances surrounding their separation as infants. They discover that they were part of a “Nature vs. Nurture” social experiment that resulted in the authors’ separation and placements into different adoptive families.

Pact says: A fascinating story told in 1st person about the twins’ life experiences having been adopted into separate families and then reuniting more than 30 years later.

**Learning the Dance of Attachment** by Holly van Gulden and Charlotte Vick
$20.00
A small book that packs a huge punch. Filled with practical advice and specific suggestions for how to enhance attachment in children of all ages, this book is popular for all families that have worked with Holly or know her work. As an adoptive parent herself, Holly understands that attachment is a lifelong process of learning to trust and believe in the relationship of adoption.

Pact says: The book gives parents and children real encouragement as they solidify their mutual attachment, which leads to children behaving better and parents feeling confident. Really helpful, especially for families with challenging children.

**Lifebooks: Creating a Treasure for Your Child** by Beth O’Malley
$14.95
This book offers clear advice about how to create a lifebook with your child stressing its importance in strengthening self-esteem and identity. Filled with examples and suggestions for difficult subject matter.

Pact says: Even if adopted at birth, it is very helpful to have recorded information about children’s personal history. It is never too late to create a lifebook with your child. Great conversation starter ideas are included.

**Lost & Found: The Adoption Experience** by Betty Jean Lifton
$16.95
The late B.J. Lifton drew upon her own experience as an adopted person and on her extensive work with triad members to explore the secrecy’s harmful effects on children’s identity. Lifton was a pioneer in adoption and this book is a classic.

Pact says: This groundbreaking book has been described by many adult adoptees as the perfect description of some of their own unspoken feelings about being adopted and the sense of self they desire to integrate from not only their adoptive family but also their birth family.

**Making Room in Our Hearts: Keeping Family Ties through Open Adoption** by Micky Duxbury
$23.95
Micky, a therapist as well as an adoptive parent (and Pact member!), interviewed hundreds of triad members about their life stories and experiences with open adoption. Based on interviews with over one hundred adopted children, birth and adoptive parents, extended family, professionals and experts, this book is an effective and invaluable resource.

Pact says: There is no other book that offers a compilation of firsthand stories of families living with open adoption. It is especially useful for those considering open adoption as it demystifies and offers a realistic model for what is best for kids. Kudos!

**Message from an Unknown Mother** by Xinran
$25.00
Message from an Unknown Chinese Mother is a really powerful, painful book to read, yet it is filled with details and insights that are not written elsewhere and explain complex and difficult stories behind adoptions in China. Xinran writes from her own perspective as someone who lost her mother to the Cultural Revolution. (They were separated for much of her childhood.) That experience drives her need to communicate with children placed for adoption in China and explain their loss.

Pact says: Xinran writes with extremely raw and compelling insight into the landscape of Chinese adoptions.

**Nurturing Adoptions: Creating Resilience after Neglect and Trauma** by Deborah Gray
$24.00
With higher and higher percentages of children joining their families through adoption, both parents and the professionals with whom they consult need new skills. From the author of *Attachment in Adoption* (a former Pact favorite!) comes this new tool designed to help placement professionals and therapists understand adoption, attachment and research on the impact of neglect, abuse and early trauma.

Pact says: We recommend it for parents who want to practice therapeutic parenting strategies as well.

www.pactadopt.org
# Adult Books about Adoption

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<td><strong>The Open Adoption Experience</strong></td>
<td>Lois Melina and Sharon Kaplan Roszia</td>
<td>$16.99</td>
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<td>This book covers all the bases, from theory to reality. It addresses both the easy and the challenging realities of living an open adoption. The many personal stories make the book believable and useful for all kinds of situations. It is sometimes a bit dense, but it makes for a perfect reference manual.</td>
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<td>Pact says: An important reference manual for many issues of open adoption.</td>
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<td><strong>Parenting Adopted Adolescents</strong></td>
<td>Gregory Keck, Edited by Lynda Mansfield</td>
<td>$17.99</td>
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<td>Written in a casual style, Keck’s underlying point is that all children who are adopted into their families must deal with the developmental issues of adolescence as well as adoption-related issues, either simultaneously or alternately. Keck’s writes with expertise and a special sensitivity for teens who come from chaotic beginnings and have lived in multiple foster homes, and to the issues of young men, in particular.</td>
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<td>Pact says: Beth Hall, Pact’s Director, her children and several other Pact teens contributed to this volume.</td>
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<td><strong>Parenting the Hurt Child: Helping Adoptive Families Heal and Grow</strong></td>
<td>Gregory Keck and Regina Kupecky</td>
<td>$17.99</td>
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<td>Keck and Kupecky welcome parents of children with attachment issues to a world of easy to grasp ideals and practical ideas. In smart, honest and everyday language they describe families-in-process; families where parents are not to blame for their children’s problems but are responsible for doing as much as they can to help their kids grow beyond difficult beginnings.</td>
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<td>Pact says: A really helpful guide for parents of challenging children.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Real Parents, Real Children</strong></td>
<td>Holly van Gulden</td>
<td>$24.95</td>
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<td>Want to know what your kids are thinking/feeling about their adoption? Want great ideas about how to talk to them from infancy on? This is a book about some of adoptive life’s essential moments, those instances when, in a split-second of time, you’re called upon to tackle core issues and challenges.</td>
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<td>Pact says: While there are many must-reads in books about adoption, we think Holly offers insights no adoptive parent can do without. Highly recommended.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>The Spirit of Open Adoption</strong></td>
<td>James L. Critter</td>
<td>$18.95</td>
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<tr>
<td>Viewing adoptive families as resources for birth families facing unplanned pregnancies, this book defines excellence in adoption by the replacement of fear, pain and shame with honor, respect, and reverence of each participant for one another. Open adoption is seen as a model built on candor, commitment, community, and cooperation. Critter expresses deep concern about for-profit adoption.</td>
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<td>Pact says: This book gives a compelling explanation of the reason open adoption is the “best” form of adoption we have today.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Stories of Adoption: Loss and Reunion</strong></td>
<td>Eric Blau</td>
<td>$16.95</td>
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<td>A rare opportunity to share the inner feelings of triad members who experience reunions.</td>
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<td>Pact says: Eric Blau has captured a special human story in each of his photographs, and the individual stories speak an emotional truth about how adoption affects people’s lives. Highly recommended. A Pact bestseller.</td>
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<td><strong>Talking with Young Children about Adoption</strong></td>
<td>Mary Watkins and Susan Fischer</td>
<td>$21.00</td>
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<td>What does your child understand about adoption? This book is filled with practical guidance and examples of what to say when.</td>
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<td>Pact says: Offers clear direction on how to listen rather than tell. The point is to understand what children are thinking rather than to hand them a politically correct doctrine of adoption thinking. We wish there was more discussion of birth parent stories.</td>
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<td><strong>The Third Choice</strong></td>
<td>Gail Moscone and Leslie Foge</td>
<td>$15.95</td>
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<td>This is the first book that accurately details the predictable emotional steps in the journey of placement, from the initial decision through common events during the first year after placement. Written in a warm conversational tone filled with personal experiences, this book is engaging, respectful, and realistic.</td>
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<td>Pact says: Finally! An intelligent guide for women in the process of placing a child for adoption.</td>
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<td><strong>Toddler Adoption: The Weaver’s Craft</strong></td>
<td>Mary Hopkins-Best</td>
<td>$15.00</td>
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<td>Practical, realistic and supportive advice for adoptive parents of kids adopted as toddlers. This is essential reading for those adopting children between 13 months and 4 years at the time of placement.</td>
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<td>Pact says: Hopkins-Best's discussion of the factors that make adopting a toddler different from adopting either infants or older children with special needs is well grounded and a good read.</td>
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<td><strong>Twenty Things Adopted Kids Wish Their Adoptive Parents Knew</strong></td>
<td>Sherry Eldridge</td>
<td>$15.00</td>
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<td>Eldridge (an adoptive parent) says that “buried feelings caused by the loss of birth family must be identified and grieved or the child’s ability to receive and give love will be diminished. The parental challenge is to create a non judgmental atmosphere and cheer the child on.”</td>
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<td>Pact says: A perceptive treatment of the core issues of adoption.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Wounded Children, Healing Homes</strong></td>
<td>Jayne Schooler, Betsy Keefer &amp; Timothy Callahan</td>
<td>$17.99</td>
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<td>The book offers a detailed look at the importance of attachment and what happens to a child cognitively, psychologically and behaviorally when it does not take place. While the book is not without optimism, it is realistic about what parenting a traumatized child can be like and the impact it has on parents and families.</td>
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<td>Pact says: The books strongest function is in providing an overall picture and a wealth of information about the possible issues and their root causes, as well as pointing out red flags, both in a child’s behavior and in the dynamics of potential adoptive families.</td>
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**Attachment Parenting** by William and Martha Sears $13.99
A common-sense guide to understanding and nurturing your baby, encouraging early, strong, and sustained attention to the new baby’s needs, this book outlines the steps that will create the most lasting bonds between parents and their children. The heart of the Sears’ parenting creed is one every new parent should consider, particularly adoptive families.
Pact says: A great resource for parents, although the tone is occasionally prescriptive.

**Becoming the Parent You Want to Be** by Laura Davis and Janis Keyser $21.00
A sourcebook of strategies for the first five years, this book offers a developmental approach for both children and parents. Provides parents with energy to explore, experiment and grow along with their kids. The authors examine both the needs of children and the feelings of parents. Dealing particularly well with the topic of kids who push limits, the authors suggest practical means for responding calmly and effectively.
Pact says: Thought-provoking, challenging and enriching, a great resource for every new and not-so-new parent’s shelf.

**Different and Wonderful** by Darlene and Derek Hopson $19.95
Written by African American psychologists, this book offers practical guidance for raising black children in a race-conscious society. Chapters focus on modeling, racial identification, sexuality, day-care and family relations. A great parenting book that approaches the process from an Afrocentric life view.
Pact says: This direct and clear book offers a positive and realistic approach toward preparing African American children to become positive, productive and self-respecting.

**Families Like Mine: Children of Gay Parents Tell It Like It Is** by Abigail Garner $13.99
The author, who was herself raised by her gay dad and his partner, interviewed over fifty adults in their 20’s and 30’s who had gay or lesbian parents. She offers an insider’s perspective on what it is like to grow up in an LGBT family, covering topics like coming out, how kids talk about (or hide) their LGBT parents, kids’ experiences at school, how the children develop their own sexual identities, HIV/AIDS, and family breakup.
Pact says: This book is a must read for LGBT parents. She acknowledges the challenges as well as the joys faced by kids and gives their parents some invaluable information.

**Flight of the Stork: What Children Think (and When) about Sex and Family Building** by Anne Bernstein $14.00
Bernstein examines how children think differently from adults concerning sex and birth. Page after page of enlightening interviews take us deep into the minds of children 3 to 12 years old. The interviews demonstrate how a child’s thinking changes with age. This understanding of child development will help adults communicate better with children about the origin of families as well as the origin of babies.
Pact says: Our favorite book about how children understand sex and family creation (including adoption and third party assistance).

**The Heart of Parenting, The Raising of an Emotionally Intelligent Child** by John Gottman & John DeClaire $15.00
This book is a guide to teaching children to understand and regulate their emotions, a skill the author calls “emotional intelligence.” On the basis of two ten-year studies of more than 120 families, the author argues that children who learn to acknowledge and master their emotions are more self-confident, physically healthier and do better in school.
Pact says: In adoptive families, being able to express and deal with difficult emotions is extremely important, for both parents and kids. The book’s guide for how to empathize with your kids and how to talk with them about hard feelings like fear, sadness and anger is a tremendously helpful tool. Be aware that the book’s chapter titled “The Father’s Crucial Role” is dated and weak.

**How to Talk so Kids Will Listen & Listen so Kids Will Talk** by Adele Faber and Elaine Mazlish $16.00
Excellent communication tool kit based on a series of workshops developed by the authors. Faber and Mazlish provide a step-by-step approach to improving relationships with your child. The “Reminder” pages, helpful cartoon illustrations, and excellent exercises will improve your ability as a parent to talk and problem-solve with your children. The book can be used alone or in parenting groups, and the solid tools provided are appropriate for kids of all ages.
Pact says: This book has great practical suggestions and models conversations and scenarios for practice.

**Identity Trap** by Joseph Nowinski $22.00
Violent behavior, eating disorders, drug use and drinking; these are just some of the scary behaviors that are explored in this book. What is particularly relevant to adopted teens is the author’s premise that the solution to problematic behavior in children lies in their quest for identity. Dr. Nowinski offers solutions for parents seeking to help their children get to the root of their search and stop harmful behavior.
Pact says: This book is highly relevant to adoptive families of teens and pre-teens because it focuses on one of the core issues of adoption: identity.

**Kids, Parents and Power Struggles** by Mary Sheedy Kurcinka $13.99
Drawing on her clinical experience with families, Kurcinka builds up an image of the parent as an “emotion coach,” whose role is to build a strong, connected “team” by understanding the players’ strengths and weaknesses and showing by instruction and example how best to play the game.
Pact says: Kurcinka’s book gives a practical and often humorous account of how to achieve family harmony. Kurcinka doesn’t promise miracle cures, but offers creative techniques for using power struggles as pathways to family connection.

www.pactadopt.org
Adult Books about Parenting

Although she’s finished raising her 10 kids (including her son Chris Rock) and caring for 17 foster children, this mom has never stopped giving advice. Divided into chapters like “I Am Your Mama, Not Your Friend,” “No Child Really Wants to Be Left Alone,” and “Feed Them and They Will Tell You Everything,” Rose’s rules are sensible and well illustrated, embracing traditional values like discipline, everyday spirituality and togetherness.

Pact says: Practical and fun, Rose Rock shares her no-nonsense approach to parenting.

No Biking in the House without a Helmet by Melissa Fay Greene $15.00
This book is a light, funny read that appeals to a broad audience. Anyone raising children can appreciate Greene’s description of her family life. She writes about all of her children with a lot of love and genuine appreciation for them as people. The book is definitely about adoption – specifically international adoption of older children – but it is also about life in a big family. She talks about good (and not so good) reasons to adopt and the importance of open adoption as well as the importance of cultural connections.

Pact says: Where the book deals specifically with adoption-related issues, Greene hits the right notes.

Parenting from the Inside Out by Daniel Siegel and Mary Hartzell $14.95
The authors explore the extent to which our childhood experiences shape the way that we parent. Drawing upon stunning new findings in neuro-biology and attachment research, they explain how interpersonal relationships directly impact the development of the brain, and offer parents a step-by-step approach to forming a deeper understanding of their own life stories that will help them raise compassionate and resilient children.

Pact says: Highly relevant to adoptive families, because it guides parents through creating the necessary foundations for a loving and secure relationship with their children.

Raising Nuestros Niños by Gloria Rodriguez $24.99
Focusing on the needs and issues of children ages birth to 12, this book offers a wide range of information ranging from basic parenting issues to an overview of Latino [Hispanic] culture. The cultural section includes information from recipes to outlines for a Quinceñera.

Pact says: Singles and gays be prepared, there is a long section on the importance of marriage to children. But access to the Latino perspective and approach to family and children counterbalance this challenge.

Raising Your Spirited Child by Mary Sheedy Kurcinka $15.99
Children who are more intense, perceptive and persistent may also be less adaptable, have more energy, and exhibit more difficult behavior. This optimistic book offers support and practical advice to parents raising spirited children. The author advises “progress, not perfection”.

Pact says: The engaging writing clearly presents practical skills for parenting. Highly recommended to parents of adopted children, many of whom act out their feelings about their core experiences by having difficulty with transitions, testing authority, fighting bedtime, and other challenging behaviors.

Setting Limits with Your Strong Willed Child by Robert J. Mackenzie $15.00
A well-written and helpful guide to raising strong-willed children that is centered around clear and respectful communication between parents and children. The first half of the book examines temperamental traits that are commonly found in children who will repeatedly test the rules; the second half details several strategies parents can use that are firm and will short circuit power struggles, while staying respectful of children’s feelings.

Pact says: This book encourages parents to take a look at the messages we may inadvertently be sending our children with our words and actions. A book many parents will want to read keep by their bedside table.

Sticks and Stones: 7 Ways Your Child Can Deal with Teasing by Scott Cooper $13.00
This book gives parents tips on how to teach their children basic communication skills to deflect or diffuse conflict. It is the best we have found for teaching positive communication and conflict resolution.

Pact says: These very simple communication techniques are presented through a confusing metaphor, as the author labels the techniques using habits of particular birds—thus, assertive self expression is taught as “The Way of the Blue Jay.” Nonetheless, it does a good job of letting parents know what will be helpful to kids.

Temperament Tools by Helen Neiville and Diane Clark Johnson, Illustrated by Dave Garbot $14.95
Working with your child’s inborn traits can be challenging. Research shows that temperament is something we are born with. When you understand what makes your adopted child tick, you can adapt your parenting style to your child’s individual needs, making your job much easier.

Pact says: This book is a very hands-on practical approach to understanding children’s temperament and how it influences their behavior, giving parents really helpful tools for understanding and responding to what often feels like challenging behavior.

Yes, Your Teen Is Crazy! Loving Your Kid without Losing Your Mind by Michael Bradley $14.95
A funny, blunt, and reassuring book. Psychologist Bradley uses current brain research to point out that the most sophisticated parts of the mind are not developed until the end of adolescence and that parents are still the most influential force in their kids’ lives. Overall, the message is that kids can become fine people even if they screw up a lot. Using crisp, believable anecdotes that are alternately poignant and hysterically funny, Bradley homes in on real-life scenarios, showing parents, for instance, how to respond when their teen is “raging,” and how to set curfews and limits.

Pact says: Bradley draws a vivid picture of what the teen is going through, and gives parents the tools to be effective parents.

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Asian American Dreams by Helen Zia
Award-winning journalist Zia traces the changing politics and cultures of Asian Americans. This well-written book is an important addition to the growing field of Asian American studies. It is a vivid personal and national history, in which Zia guides us through a range of recent flash points that have galvanized the Asian-American community.

Pact says: This is the best book we have found to give an overview of the Asian American experience and a clarification of why race matters and how bias exists for the “model” minority.

Beyond the Whiteness of Whiteness by Jane Lazarre
A mother’s recognition of white economic, social, and moral complicity in the power structure of racism. “I am Black,” Jane Lazarre’s son tells her. This book is her memoir about learning to look at race in a way that passionately informs the connections between herself and her family. Her journey includes a great deal of self-evaluation and introspection which serves as a beacon to white parents who must examine their own racial assumptions in order to be effective parents to children of color.

Pact says: This book is fabulous, clear-eyed, thoughtful and moving. It is not about adoption but is about the experience of a white parent of Black children. Jane Lazarre is a terrific writer.

The Black Male Handbook, A Blueprint for Life by Kevin Powell
In his collection of essays for Black males on surviving, living, and winning, Kevin Powell taps into the social and political climate rising in the Black community, particularly as it relates to Black males. The Black Male Handbook creates a different kind of conversation—man-to-man and with Black male voices, all of the hip hop generation. The book tackles issues related to political, practical, cultural, and spiritual matters, and ending violence against women and girls.


Can We Talk about Race? by Beverly Daniel Tatum
A self-described “integration baby” born in 1964, Tatum believes that schools can be key to forging connections across the racial divide. Her strong voice calls into question many of the assumptions and approaches that schools have taken in addressing for not the success of children of color (and particularly Black children). Four research-rich, concise written essays on race and education, including examinations of the “resegregation of our schools,” the need for educational curricula and staff that respect the diverse communities they serve, and the challenges of interracial friendships.

Pact says: We consider Beverly Daniel Tatum to be one of the truth-tellers about our current state of race relations and issues.

Colorblind by Tim Wise
Wise presents a very good argument that we are in no way living in a post-racial era. He takes the arguments often put forth by the liberal left and the conservative right and picks them apart one by one, using facts, details and statistics that are hard to argue with. If you already agree that we are a very long way from being “beyond” the issue of race, Wise will give you a detailed analysis to support that claim and a very nuanced picture of the many ways in which race impacts politics and public policy.

Pact says: Very interesting, well-written and accessible. If you are a reader who does believe in being “colorblind” Wise will give you a great deal to think about. Highly recommended.

Debating Race by Michael Eric Dyson
Having risen from poverty to become an ordained minister and a tenured professor, Dyson has been called the Voice of Black America because of his ability to combine intellectual rigor with popular culture. Collecting 27 transcribed conversations with 27 thinkers, scholars and pop-political commentators, Dyson and company tackle practically every angle in America’s experience of race, including the legacy of the civil rights movement, immigration reform, affirmative action, urban poverty and the war on terror.

Pact says: Dyson is controversial and provocative, offering real insight into the state of race in America.

Does Anybody Else Look Like Me? by Donna Jackson Nakazawa
This book takes a developmental look at raising multiracial children. The author is the white mom of Hapa (Asian/white) children. She asserts that race matters and offers concrete suggestions for how parents can talk with and shore up their kids to handle the racism and scrutiny they will face.

Pact says: A very accessible book, and while the focus is limited to parents of two different races raising a child of mixed racial heritage there is great relevant to all multiracial families as they find ways to talk to their kids about race and identity.

The First R; How Children Learn Race and Racism by Van Debra Ausdale & Joe Feagin
A study of 3-and 4-year-olds in progressive multicultural day care centers showing that young children have a sophisticated knowledge of how race/ethnictiy is in our society to rank people—AND that they know this racial hierarchy makes many adults anxious, so they try to cover their knowledge.

Pact says: An extremely useful book that underlines the importance of explicitly teaching about race and tolerance. Although the book is academic in tone, the content makes this a worthwhile read.

The Girl Who Fell from the Sky by Heidi W. Durrow
In her first novel, Durrow draws her own experience of growing up biracial through Rachel who, like Durrow, is the daughter of an African American man and a Danish woman. Rachel struggles with racial identity when her family moves from Europe back to the United States, as she responds to peoples expectations of her and how they expect her to act out her blackness.

Pact says: This is a great read that explores the intersection of race and class as well as the challenges and assumptions from both the white and Black communities about how education, speech and her looks place her within the racialized continuum of her identity as a member of the African Diaspora.

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Adult Books about Race

**Going Natural: How to Fall in Love with Nappy Hair** by Mireille Liong-A-Kong $13.95
Filled with suggestions and pictures of natural hairstyles, this is a great book that explores the how-to’s of natural hair care combined with ideas and support for feeling beautiful as an African American woman. Mireille grew up in South America and is all about helping Black women celebrate their beauty and hair.

Pact says: Great support and information for African American hair care and styles for girls and women (although the information can be applied to boys as well!)

**Half and Half** by Claudine C. O’Hearn $15.95
Personal essays from seventeen writers, including Julia Alvarez, Indira Ganesan, James McBride, David Mura and Lori Tsang, this anthology reveals the constancy of the human concern to find the place that feels right, and the challenge of addressing and incorporating dual ethnic identity. This outstanding work offers food for thought for all readers, but in particular for those interested in multiethnic identity.

Pact says: Fantastic writers that offer a strong opportunity to consider the multicultural experience in American.

**The Heart of Whiteness: Confronting Race, Racism, and White Privilege** by Robert Jensen $12.95
A personal discourse on being white and the necessity of owning white privilege in order to stop it and make change in the racial landscape in which we live. Gives good insight into ways in which white privilege pervades and the reasons it matters. This text lays it out in clear terms that are not meant to guilt trip, but rather to inspire.

Pact says: It is time for white people to acknowledge that they are at the heart of the race problems in America—this book is a call to action.

**It’s All Good Hair: The Guide to Styling and Grooming Black Children’s Hair** by Michele Collinson $12.99
Learn how to do coils, knots, twists, and more. Featuring hair-care and styling tips from a variety of experts, readers learn the secrets to braiding, relaxing, and locking. Detailed instruction on how to care for a variety of hair textures from bone straight to wavy to tightly coiled and everything in between. This book covers parting to combing to cornrows, twists and braiding. It also covers some basic styles for boys.

Pact says: Includes reminders about the importance of telling Black children that they are beautiful and smart.

**Kids Talk Hair** by Pamela Farrell $19.95
As Ferrell writes in the introduction, “Hair care the hard way has left some tearful and unpleasant hair experiences... I imagine that all this trial and error stuff could be avoided if there were simple, user-friendly hair care instructions for grown-ups... that explain: how kids’ hair grows; how to shampoo or get gum out of hair; how to deal with head lice, ringworm and comb-out disasters and, mostly, how to make pretty hair styles.”


**Measure of Our Success** by Marian Wright Edelman $10.00
An inspirational book by America’s premier advocate for children. In this book, written for her own children, Ms. Edelman details the lessons for life she hopes to pass along to the next generation.

Pact says: Marian Wright Edelman is a powerful role model. Beautifully written and highly recommended.

**Mixed: An Anthology of Short Fiction On The Multiracial Experience** by Chandra Prasad $16.95
This anthology of nineteen essays examines the complexities of living the multiple heritage experience. Section one takes a historical view, section two focuses on family and identity, three looks at community and politics, and four explores the global experience.

Pact says: Prasad begins each piece with a biographical sketch of the writer and concludes each with a commentary, which makes for an absorbing and thought-provoking collection.

**Multiplication is for White People** by Lisa Delpit $26.95
Delpit is an impassioned advocate for the needs of children of color and at the center of her book is a message about what the debate over the achievement gap desperately needs.

Pact says: Parents and educators who are concerned about the education of children of color can learn a great deal from Delpit’s knowledgeable, passionate and thoughtful analysis.

**New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness** by Michelle Alexander $27.95
Alexander reviews American racial history from the colonies to the Clinton administration, delineating its transformation into the war on drugs. She offers an acute analysis of the effect of this mass incarceration upon former inmates who will be discriminated against, legally, for the rest of their lives, denied employment, housing, education, and public benefits.

Pact says: Most provocatively reveals how both the move toward colorblindness and affirmative action blur our vision of injustice.

**No Lye: The African American Women’s Guide to Natural Hair Care** by Tulani Kinard $14.99
Kinard’s study on African American natural hair care is based on her philosophical belief that beauty and self-love is healthy and biologically sound. A must-read for every African-American woman, man, girl, and boy—and every parent and friend who plans to take care of a child’s hair! Tulani Kinard reveals the secrets to obtaining and maintaining beautiful healthy hair—naturally.

Pact says: Don’t think hair is not an adoption issue. Feeling beautiful and handsome is part of feeling good about oneself.

**Of Many Colors** by Peggy Gillespie $22.95
The families portrayed include transracial, interracial, same-race, blended, adoptive, single parent, and two-parent families, both heterosexual and homosexual.

Pact says: An intimate look at multiracial family life, the compelling photograph of each family is accompanied by revealing text culled from interviews with the family members—children as well as adults—who describe in their own voices the joys and challenges family life.

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**Tripping on the Color Line** by Heather Damage
Damage describes how people of all races support their own sense of racial identity and safety by erecting and maintaining “racial borders”—welcoming people of their own race inside and keeping those of other races out. Multiracial people, transracially adopted people, and all members of first-generation multiracial families share many experiences as they cross these racial borders.

Pact says: This is an accessible and stimulating read, useful for anyone interested in racial identity issues.

**Wake Up, Little Susie** by Rickie Solinger & Elaine Tyler May
A highly readable history of the difference in services provided to African American women facing unplanned pregnancies compared to white women in the United States, including the impact this had on whose children were available for adoption and how the “race factor” played into the development of a child-welfare system that underserves children of color and their birth parents.

Pact says: An exceptionally clear statement of the effects of racism on women and children in crisis. Highly recommended.

**Wavy, Curly, Kinky: The African American Child’s Hair Care Guide** by Deborah Lilly
In Wavy, Curly, Kinky, renowned stylist Deborah Lilly shows parents the best ways to style and maintain African American boys’ and girls’ hair from infancy to the preteen years. She presents clear, easy-to-follow hair care guidelines for the three different types of African American hair and gives you expert recommendations for the best products and techniques for each hair type.

Pact says: Another good addition to your hair care library.

**White Like Me: Reflections on Race from a Privileged Son** by Tim Wise
Racial privilege shapes the lives of white Americans in every facet of life, from employment and education to housing and criminal justice. Using stories from his own life, Tim Wise shows that racism not only burdens people of color, but also benefits those who are “white like him”—whether or not they’re actively racist.

Pact says: All of us can learn from Wise’s honest self-assessment.

**Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?** by Beverly Daniel Tatum
Young people can be observed segregating themselves by race. Tatum explains this tendency as a way of affirming racial identity and outlines the process of developing racial pride through a series of predictable stages. Includes differences between races.

Pact says: A fascinating and clearly presented map of steps toward integration of racial identity, this book affirms the need to understand the process and to talk about it. Highly recommended.

**Yellow: Race in America Beyond Black and White** by Frank Wu
A leading voice in the Asian American community tackles what being Asian American means in contemporary America. Mixing personal anecdotes, current events, academic studies, and court cases, Wu not only debunks the myth of a “model minority” but also makes disconcerting observations about attitudes toward affirmative action, what he calls “rational” discrimination, mixed marriages, racial profiling, and assimilation versus multiculturalism.

Pact says: A fascinating and clearly presented discussion of the Asian American experience.

Adult Books about Transracial and Transnational Adoption

**Adoption Parenting: Creating a Toolbox, Building Connections** edited by Jean MacLeod and Sheena McRae
A manual for adoptive parents that covers the ages from birth through pre-adolescence, this book offers brief articles on a very wide variety of topics relevant to parenting an adopted child, with an emphasis on topics relevant to parenting the internationally adopted child. Many of the articles are accompanied by a list of resources for further reading.

Pact says: A wonderful tool, easy to read and the suggestions are on target making this a perfect gift for extended family.

**Beyond Good Intentions** by Cheri Register
Cheri, the white mother of two adult daughters adopted from Korea, has written ten essays about pitfalls that well-meaning parents like herself can easily slip into. The author’s advice is based on her own experience of raising her daughters, her daughters’ reflections on their childhoods, and the experiences of many other adult international adoptees. She is direct and honest in looking at herself and what worked as well as what did not work for her daughters and the many other adoptees she has worked with and interviewed.

Pact says: These essays offer a thoughtful, candid look at the intersection between parental feelings and expectations and an adopted child’s emotional needs, whether they were adopted internationally or domestically.

**Black Baby, White Hands: A View from the Crib** by Jaiya John
Transracial adoption remains a potent and charged idea in American social life. Now, the children of these adoptions are coming of age as adults. Dr. Jaiya John, through his honest memoir, presents us with a voice from deep within the heart of this cultural and psychological phenomenon. The first Black child in the history of New Mexico to be adopted by a white family, John’s story is a landmark. John’s adoptive parents taught him how to love; hence, he could readily accept and envelope his biological family. He takes a spiritual view of his path through adoption and life.

Pact says: A heartfelt memoir with a spiritual viewpoint.
Adult Books about Transracial and Transnational Adoption

*Brown Babies, Pink Parents* by Amy Ford

Brown Babies Pink Parents is a practical guide for Caucasian parents who are raising Black children. Author Amy Ford is the adoptive mother of three African American daughters. With firsthand experience in facing the challenges of transracial adoption, she addresses a multitude of concerns from basic skin and hair care, to racial socialization, to accepting white privilege, and ways to celebrate the diversity of your family.

Pact says: Despite an unfortunate title that appears to trivialize race, this really is a helpful book with an upbeat, but realistic tone.

*Daughter of the Ganges* by Asha Miro

Daughter of the Ganges is a moving, 2-part account of the author’s search for her roots in India, from where she was taken as an almost 7-year-old to be adopted by a couple from Barcelona, Spain. The first part of the book details her first trip back to India as a 27-year-old, yearning to find the missing pieces in what little information she has about her first seven years of life. It is in the second part of her book, detailing her second return to India and her search for biological family.

Pact says: She writes eloquently about the importance to her of searching and finding that connection, of seeing herself reflected in biological family members and of finally being able to imagine what her life would have been like had her circumstances been different. This last is a question that she had struggled with throughout her life in Barcelona.

*Dim Sum, Bagels and Grits: A Sourcebook for Multicultural Families* by Myra Alperson

Alperson will take you on a thoughtful, provocative and cheerful personal journey into the identity issues of multicultural adoptive families through her own experience of adopting her daughter Sadie from China as a single mother. This fascinating introduction to the diversity of approaches and attitudes among such families is enriched by voices not often heard from, including lively stories from transracial adoptees and adoptive parents along with the author’s own straightforward views.

Pact says: Alperson’s approach provides a wonderful jumping off point to the thinking of anyone considering transracial adoption.

*Finding Fernanda* by Erin Elizabeth

If you think of international adoption as an altruistic way of “helping” children from other countries, you will find *Finding Fernanda* by investigative journalist Erin Siegal an eye-opening book. How can we be sure if children are really “orphans” or stolen children?

Pact says: The vast majority of adopting parents don’t want to steal anyone’s child, but their desperate desire to become parents can lead them to place unreasonable levels of trust in anyone who might help them in that quest—turning them into obvious targets for “helpers” who are corrupt and unscrupulous.

*In Their Own Voices* by Rita Simon and Rhonda Roorda

In this collection of interviews conducted with Black and biracial young adults who were adopted by white parents, the authors present the personal stories of twenty-four individuals who hail from a wide range of religious, economic, political, and professional backgrounds. How does the experience affect their racial and social identities, their choice of friends and marital partners, and their lifestyles? In addition to interviews, the book includes overviews of both the history and current legal status of transracial adoption.

Pact says: This book should be in the library of every transracial adoptive family. Rhonda’s personal experience as an African American woman raised by white parents makes this volume compassionate and real.

*In Their Parents’ Voices* by Rita Simon and Rhonda Roorda

This is a collection of interviews conducted with the parents of Black and biracial adult adoptees who were interviewed for *In Their Own Voices*. In addition to personal interviews, the book also includes overviews of both the history and current legal status of transracial adoption in America.

Pact says: This book offers insights from experienced parents who discuss their experience and their children’s from the long view of having completed the task of raising their children. Another important contribution to the literature on transracial adoption.

*In Their Siblings’ Voices* by Rita Simon and Rhonda Roorda

A companion collection of interviews conducted with the white siblings of Black and biracial adult adoptees who were interviewed for *In Their Own Voices*. The narratives collected here detail the many sides of the transracial adoption experiment. The book offers insights from individuals whose parents made the decision to adopt including their reactions to the experience from their unique point of view.

Pact says: This volume is the capstone in a landmark trilogy. There is no other work like it. It is historic, important, and provocative, with many findings that will be the primary source for scholars, as well as anyone interested in this complex subject.

*Inside Transracial Adoption* by Gail Steinberg and Beth Hall

Moves beyond the debate to offer real solutions to real challenges. Reinforces the message that race matters, racism is alive, and families built transracially can develop binding ties. “Eloquent, interesting, and intensely practical, you can’t read this book without thinking differently about your own life as a child, a parent, and a member of our diverse society.” “Brimming with facts, examples, challenge and inspiration, and plenty of hard-nosed practical advice.” “Every adoption professional should read this book.”

Pact says: (Humbly, since Pact’s co-founders wrote it) we think it’s pretty good!

*Little Princes: One Man’s Promise to Bring Home the Lost Children of Nepal* by Conor Grennan

29-year-old Conor Grennan begins a year-long trip around the world with 3 months of volunteer work in a Nepalese orphanage to justify the exigencies. As his friends pressure him and he himself realizes as he stands on the doorstep, he has absolutely no skills for the job. Humility, insights into culture and the difference one person can make abound.

Pact says: The adoption triad has a lot to learn from this book, particularly those involved in international adoption.

*Lucky Girl* by Mei-Ling Hoppgood

Mei-Ling Hoppgood has written a wonderful memoir, Lucky Girl, about her reunion with her birth family in Taiwan. With her clear prose and journalist’s eye for detail, she creates a compelling story of how the relationship begins and how it develops over the years.

Pact says: One of the strongest aspects of Lucky Girl is the way Hoppgood captures the complexity of reunion. As their relationships develop beyond first impressions, she learns some of the secrets and painful events that have shaped her birth family and the lives of her siblings. This inevitable evolution takes her readers on a rollercoaster ride of joy and sorrow, disillusionment and acceptance.

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Once They Hear My Name edited by Marilynn Lammert and Mary Anne Hess $14.95
Nine adult Korean adoptees ranging in age from 25 to 53 speak in interviews about their struggles growing up and how they’ve chosen to navigate the complex journey towards identity acceptance. Each adoptee’s story appears to be transcribed verbatim; phrases spoken out loud are fine in conversation, but translated to paper they sometimes weaken the story’s impact.

Outsiders Within edited by Jane Jeong Trenka and Julia Chierye $20.00
Although transracial adoption is generally considered win-win, it has too often exacted a heavy toll on children when white parents approach it from a color-blind or child-saving mentality. Through gripping essays, poetry and art, transracially adopted writers and artists from around the world carefully explore this most intimate aspect of globalization.

Red Dust Road by Jackie Kay $24.00
From the moment when, as a little girl, she realizes that her skin is a different color from that of her beloved mum and dad, to the tracing and finding of her birth parents, her Highland mother and Nigerian father, the journey that Jackie Kay undertakes is full of unexpected twists, turns and deep emotions. Taking the reader from Glasgow to Lagos and beyond, Red Dust Road is revelatory, redemptive and courageous, unique in its voice and universal in its reach. It is a heart-stopping story of parents and siblings, friends and strangers, belonging and beliefs, biology and destiny, and love.

Seeds from a Silent Tree by Tonya Bischoff and Jo Rankin $15.00
A collection of poetry, fiction, and personal narratives written exclusively by Korean adopted people. Explores issues of adoption, identity, race, and sexuality. Born in one culture, raised in another, assigned new names and families, thirty men and women write of their complex experiences.

This Many Miles from Desire by Lee Herrick $17.00
Lee’s poems are a collection of wise, heartfelt, honest poems that feel like songs, sad songs you play alone at midnight to remind your soul to live. In settings as diverse as Korea, Latin America and Fresno, California, the poems speak of the emotional experience of being adopted, of one man’s search for identity, of the problem of abandonment—yet most of all, they speak of the constancy of love.

Transnational Adoption: A Cultural Economy of Race, Gender and Kinship by Sara Dorow $25.00
Dorow provides an honest and intriguing look at hard topics, discussing the children who are available for adoption, for example, Dorow describes how the “industry” of adoption encourages the invisibility of special-needs children, while the “healthiest,” and thus most “salable” children get the best care in orphanages. Also addresses institutional racism, gender and class issues in adoption.

Transracial Adoption and Foster Care: Practical Issues for Professionals by Joseph Crumbley $18.95
This book describes specific ways practitioners can work with transracial families to ensure that children develop positive racial and cultural identities. Dr. Crumbley also addresses concerns such as cultural competence and recruitment of adoptive and foster parents of color. Case studies and “myths” of transracial adoption provide valuable background information.

Voices from Another Place by Susan S. Cox $12.00
Voices from Another Place is a from-the-heart collection of poetry, fiction, memoir, essay, photography and artwork, created by adopted Koreans after adulthood. Their diverse and unmistakably honest voices cast light on issues common to all adoptees, to those who were internationally adopted in particular and to Koreans who have grown up in American or European cultures. The importance of connecting to one’s full identity, including culture and country of origin is made clear through their sharing of works expressing their deepest experiences.

Wanting a Daughter Needing a Son by Kay Johnson $24.95
A well-researched study of child abandonment and adoption in China. The author offers a historical explanation of China’s “one-child” policy, as well as an explanation of the pressures that lead families to decide to parent boys, not girls. The author also discusses the informal adoption system through which many families in China do, in fact, take in and keep their girls.

White Parents, Black Children: Experiencing Transracial Adoption $34.95
by Darron T. Smith, Cardell K. Jacobson and Brenda Juárez
The book takes very seriously this gap between white and Black in understanding the world around us: that is, recognizing that this world was designed by and for white people, while exploiting and excluding non-white people.

Pact says: This book is essential reading for any family adopting from China.
Adopted and We Can Do Better by Barb Lee and Nancy Kim Parsons  $59.99
A two DVD set, Adopted reveals the grit of transracial adoption. First-time director Barb Lee goes deep into the intimate lives of two families, one just beginning the process of adopting a baby from China and the other with an adopted Korean daughter now 32 years old. The journey that unfolds is riveting, unpredictable and extremely insightful. Pact says: We Can Do Better includes over 3 hours of training videos on adoption, parenting and racial issues. Institutional Use Price: $300.00

Daddy & Papa by Johnny Symons  $19.95
This film explores the growing phenomenon of gay fatherhood in the ever-changing landscape of the American family. This intimate and compelling film delves into challenges such as surrogacy, foster care, interracial adoption, gay marriage and divorce, and the battle for full legal status as parents underscores that hard work, love, and commitment—not gender or sexual orientation—are what constitute a good home for a child. Pact says: Thoughtful and frequently entertaining.

Jagadamba, Mother of the Universe by Amber Field  $25.00
A short film (10 min, 18 sec) about identity and finding one’s home in the world. Amber was born in Korea and adopted by a white single parent, growing up in Korea, Nepal, Liberia and eventually the US. This is a tender portrayal of her healing journey through music that acknowledges the ways in which race and adoption matter. Pact says: Amber self identifies as a queer transracial adoptee. Not suitable for young children.

Las Hijas by Maria Quiroga  $24.00
A documentary about three young women who were adopted from Colombia as infants and raised in the New York City/New Jersey area by white parents who pursue their need to understand their adoption history and heritage in order to feel comfortable in their own skin. Pact says: A poignant film that reminds us that community and heritage matter.

Mirrors of Privilege by Shakti Butler  $50.00
Featuring white men and women interspersed with a few articulate adults of color, participants talk about their learned and internalized sense of privilege. Featuring: Tim Wise, Joe Fahey, Peggy V. Macintosh, and many more. Pact says: This film catalyzes powerful dialogue to support learning, change and the healing of all people who want to undo race-based oppression. $350.00 Institutional Use, $150.00 Community Groups / Educators /Public Libraries

Off and Running: An American Coming of Age Story by Nicole Oper  $24.95
With white Jewish lesbians for parents and two adopted brothers, Brooklyn teenager Avery is curious about her African American birth mother and is trying to figure out her identity. The film follows Avery as she explores her multiple identities and her relationship with her adoptive and birth mothers. Pact says: This is a provocative film that explores a multiplicity of issues all in the context of transracial adoption in a way that is both deep and forgiving. Highly recommended.

Outside Looking In by Phil Bertelsen  $40.00
This film follows three generations of transracial adoptions involving African American children, including the filmmaker himself. Each family’s story explores a different aspect of the many complex issues that arise when child and parent do not share the same racial background. Pact says: As America struggles to understand and address its own complex racial history, Outside Looking In compels viewers to get past the traditional “pro versus con” of transracial adoption.

Pact Camp Videos  Each $15.00, Set of 4 $50.00
Get a taste of past Pact Camps with videos of presentations on topics specific to transracial parenting.
Titles include:
  Adolescent Issues featuring Joseph Crumley and Gail Steinberg
  African American Identity featuring Joseph Crumley
  Talking with Children about Adoption featuring David Brodzinsky
  Using Books featuring Gail Steinberg

Struggle for Identity: Issues in Transracial Adoption and a Conversation Ten Years Later  $100.00
produced by New York State Citizens Coalition for Children
Featuring John Raible, Michelle Johnson and others delving into issues such as confronting stereotypes, fitting into culture of origin and learning to identify racially.
Pact says: We love this video.

Visible Differences by Ann Humphrey  $35.00
A 28-minute training tool for pre- and post-adoptive families adopting across racial or cultural lines through international (or domestic) adoption. Single parents, two parent households, families with children adopted from different countries and racial groups, families with both birth and adopted children and adult transracial adoptees share their personal stories.
Pact says: Features Holly van Gulden (author of Real Parents, Real Children) as well as Gail Steinberg (co-author of Inside Transracial Adoption and co-founder of Pact).

www.pactadopt.org
**Clap Hands** by Helen Oxenbury
A simple and fun board book, that you can use interactively with your baby or young toddler. We carry it because of the appealing simple rhyming texts and the fact that the babies depicted represent all different races.
Pact says: Appealing simple rhyming texts, all the babies are different races. Fun for parents and children alike.

**Hola, Jalapeno** by Amy Wilson Sanger
A board book. Delectable Mexican food along with wonderful pictures and bilingual text make this a fun and lively book to read with your littlest gastronomes.
Pact says: A nice book with a Latino flavor!

**A Little Bit of Soul Food** by Amy Wilson Sanger
A celebration of soul food that is filled with bright colors and cheerful collages that is sure to be a hit with the very young.
Pact says: Enjoy this celebration of African American food traditions.

**Mama, Do You Love Me?** by Hing-Hwa Hu and Deborah Lattimore
A story set in Alaska about unconditional love. An Inuit daughter searches for the limit of her mother’s love in board book format. A well-loved favorite.
Pact says: This is an imaginative and reassuring story presenting a model for terrific parenting.

**More, More, More, Said the Baby** by Vera Williams
Three wonderful, funny multicultural stories with pictures that show babies in families having fun with their parents and grandparents. Sometimes the child and adult are of the same race; sometimes they’re not.
Pact says: A heartwarming imagination-tickler that all kids should experience.

**On Mother’s Lap** by Ann Herbert Scott, Illustrated by Gio Coalson
This book explores the issue of whether Mom has room on her lap for both of her children. The answer is, “There’s always enough room for us both.”
Pact says: A book to cuddle with.

**Please, Baby, Please** by Spike Lee and Tonya Lee
An energetic toddler has tons of important things to do. Her parents must be patient, understanding and love her unconditionally. The book’s end, in the final wordless picture, a loving embrace leaves no doubt of who loves this baby.
Pact says: A loving book that just happens to have all African American characters. Also available in a board book $7.99.

**Shades of Black Small Book** by Sandra L. Pinkney & Myles C. Pinkney
Embraces the beauty and diversity of African American children. Using simple poetic language these photographic portraits and descriptions of varied skin tones, hair texture and eye color convey a strong sense of pride in a unique heritage.
Pact says: A great affirmation of blackness.

**So Much** by Trish Cooke, Illustrated by Helen Oxenbury
Mom and Baby (who happens to be brown-skinned), are home alone when Auntie and then Uncle and Nannie and Gran-Gran and the cousins come to visit because everybody loves the baby so much!

**Whose Knees Are These?** by Jabari Asim, Illustrated LeYuen Pham
Playful rhymes answer the title question, referring to knees so brown and strong, toes so brown and sweet.
Pact says: These titles add welcome diversity to board-book collections.

**Will There Be a Lap For Me?** by Dorothy Corey, Illustrated by Nancy Poymar
Kyle loves to sit on his mom’s lap but now that she is expecting a baby, her lap is getting smaller and smaller. The characters in the story are African American.
Pact says: This reassuring story about a Black family answers universal big-sibling questions.

**Yum, Yum, Dim Sum** by Amy Wilson Sanger
This board book is fun, a charming introduction to dim sum, and even a little bit educational for adults. The rhymes are simple and catchy, and the illustrations (with pictures made from scraps of fabric) are intriguing.
Pact says: A winner.
Books For Preschoolers

**All the Colors of the Earth** by Sheila Homanaka
- Price: $6.99
- Description: This book celebrates the beauty of every shade of skin and every type of hair through comparisons with beauty in nature; reveals in verse the truth that, despite outward differences, children everywhere are essentially the same and all are lovable. Everyone is present and represented — the children come in all the colors of love.
- Pact says: A lovely and affirming book for preschoolers.

**All the Colors We Are** by Katie Kissinger
- Price: $9.95
- Description: Demystifies skin color differences. Human beings have different skin tones to protect us from the sun’s harmful rays. Melanin gives us color; all human beings have melanin in their skin, eyes, and hair. Each page has a spectrum of colors, allowing kids to match skin tones to the colors on the page. Bilingual in Spanish and English.
- Pact says: This is the best book we have found to help children view coloration from a scientific point of view rather than a judgmental one. We feel it should be in every child’s library. A Pact bestseller.

**And Tango Makes Three** by Justin Richardson and Peter Parnell
- Price: $16.99
- Description: A true story about two male penguins in the Central Park Zoo who become a couple, build a nest together and start a family by hatching an abandoned egg given to them by the zoo-keeper. The book is a gentle, fun and matter-of-fact illustration of the point that two-dad families and adoptive families both are just another kind of family.
- Pact says: Charming pictures at the zoo; this is a must-have for families and schools.

**Aunt Harriet’s Underground Railroad in the Sky** by Faith Ringgold
- Price: $6.99
- Description: Cassie and BeBe, the young protagonists of Ringgold’s Tar Beach, take a fantastical flight. They encounter a remnant of the Underground Railroad whose conductor is Harriet Tubman. Rambunctious BeBe boards the train, leaving his worried sister to follow behind with only directions from “Aunt Harriet” and the kindness of strangers to guide her.
- Pact says: Bountiful, color-rich images make for a useful tool to talk about slavery and the underground railroad of allies who worked to help free the slaves.

**Back of the Bus** by Aaron Reynolds, Illustrated by Floyd Cooper
- Price: $16.99
- Description: The story of Rosa Parks is told from a young black boy’s perspective and he and his mother ride on the back of the bus and watch Rosa Parks refuse to give up her seat for a white person.
- Pact says: What is great about this book is that the story unfolds just as it would for a child, sometimes uncertain, trying to figure out not only the words but also the body language of the adults around him. This makes for a great conversation starter about how Rosa Parks and others stood up against segregation and racism.

**Bippity Bop Barbershop** by Natasha Tarpley, Illustrated by E.B. Lewis
- Price: $6.99
- Description: In this companion book to the bestselling I Love My Hair, a young boy, Miles, makes his first trip to the barbershop with his father. Like most little boys, he is afraid of the sharp scissors, the buzzing razor, and the prospect of picking a new hairstyle. But with the support of his dad, the barber, and the other men in the barbershop, Miles bravely sits through his first haircut.
- Pact says: Written in a reassuring tone with a jazzy beat, this book captures an important rite of passage for boys and celebrates African American identity.

**Black Is Brown Is Tan** by Arnold Adoff, Illustrated by Emily Arnold McCully
- Price: $6.99
- Description: This collection of poems about biracial identity, presented in an accessible, conversational voice, has stood the test of time and serve as a good springboard for discussing racial heritage with children. Offering a clear and positive perspective for young people in general, the poems express the voice of a well-rounded character who values community while progressing toward self-realization.
- Pact says: This poetry about biracial identity has been a favorite for over thirty years.

**Bright Eyes, Brown Skin** by Cheryl Hudson & Bernette Ford
- Price: $7.95
- Description: Olivia, Jordan, Ethan and Alexa all have “bright eyes, brown skin... warm as toast and all tucked in.” They are happy kids who are playful, cooperative, curious and full-speed-ahead. This paperback picture book is very appealing to young children, offering a recite-along rhyme which encourages a game to affirm each child’s own physical characteristics.
- Pact says: The range of skin tones illustrated by the realistic images encourages children to respect diversity within their race and affirms the beauty of all brown skin, be it light tan or deep mahogany.

**David’s Father / El Papa de David** by Robert M. Munsch
- Price: $6.95
- Description: Julie was afraid of David’s father because he was a giant. David, who is adopted, is not a giant. When Julie gets to know David’s father, she finds out he is very nice after all! David responds, “Wait til you meet my grandmother.”
- Pact says: Every adopted child should have this book because it’s the only one that turns the tables and identifies the parents as “different ‘and the child as just a regular kid. Don’t miss this book. (Also available in Spanish, El Papa de David for $6.95)

**The Day We Met You** by Phoebe Koehler
- Price: $5.99
- Description: The story begins simply, with the phone call that notifies the adoptive parents of the baby’s arrival, and ends with the joy of seeing their child. Adopted children and their parents will want to celebrate that important day—the first homecoming—with this lovely and affirming book. Written for parents to read aloud, its script offers opportunities to reaffirm the details of this important day.
- Pact says: Affectionate and personal, it creates a mood that conveys comfort and reassurance.
De Colores and Other Latin-American Folk Songs For Children by Elisa Jose-Luis Rozco, Illustrated by Elisa Kleven $7.99
Selected, arranged, and translated by popular Mexican performer and songwriter Orozco, this bilingual collection of Latin American folk songs for children is a musical treasure. Offers a selection of traditional children’s songs, chants, and rhymes from a variety of Latin American countries and music arranged for piano, voice, and guitar.
Pact says: A fun way to celebrate Latino culture as you and your children enjoy singing and learning the songs together.

Did My First Mother Love Me? by Kathryn M Miller, Illustrated by Jami Moffett $12.95
Morgan knows her adoptive parents love her, but she wonders about her birth parents. Did they love her too? At the end of the book, there is a nice discussion for adults about how to talk about adoption with children.
Pact says: A Pact bestseller. Books that articulate the challenges of growing up adopted can be real springboards to conversation and break through any sense of “being the only one” your adopted child may have. The illustrations are realistic and wonderfully detailed, using warm, clear colors to depict simple scenes.

The Different Dragon by Jennifer Bryan, Illustrated by Danamarie Hosler $12.95
This is an enchanting book of adventure and storytelling. Noah and his mother Go-Ma weave a tale of a boy in search of excitement and a dragon who doesn’t want to be fierce anymore. The author knows exactly how parents and young children tell stories, with input from the child driving the narration. The fact that Noah has two moms is incidental to the main story.
Pact says: Books that are creative and validating are important to children who live a “different” experience every day.

The Feel Good Book by Todd Parr $6.99
A celebration of difference, this is a story of family love that includes adoption in a wonderful way. Everybody wants to feel good, from sweet (“Being together feels good”) to whimsical (“Catching snowflakes on your tongue feels good”) to downright silly (“Making sounds like a monkey feels good”), this is a bright catalog of good feelings.
Pact says: The central idea of acceptance, understanding and confidence is the unstated message of every page. Good job!

Forever Fingerprints by Sherrie Eldredge, Illustrated by Rob Williams $17.95
Forever Fingerprints uses a relative's pregnancy as a springboard for discussions on birthparents and adoption. Lucie is excited to feel a baby moving in her Aunt Grace's tummy but it makes her question her adoption story in a different way. Discussion of each persons unique fingerprints gives Lucie's parents the chance to honor Lucie's connections to her birth heritage.
Pact says: This is a worthwhile vehicle to encourage the normal discussion of children's experience of being adopted.

Hair Dance! by Dinah Johnson, Photographs by Kelly Johnson $16.95
Hair comes in all colors, textures, and styles. Whether it is worn long or short, in braids or cornrows, or left natural in an Afro, hair plays a big part in who we are and how we feel about ourselves. Kelly Johnson’s stunning photographs of girls wearing a range of hairstyles and the lyrical words of Dinah Johnson’s poem celebrate African American hair in all its radiant variety.
Pact says: Celebrating African American beauty and diversity is always important.

I Am Latino by Myles Pinkeye and Sandra Pinkney $16.99
A celebration of Latino children in all of their various shades, cultures, and customs. Poetic, affirmative text accompanies the striking photographs of children and uses the five senses to lead the reader on an exploration of Latino foods, music, and language.
Pact says: A great way to acknowledge the richness of all Latino peoples and their various racial and ethnic heritages.

I Bet She Called Me Sugar Plum by Joanne Gabbin, Illustrator Margot Bergman $14.95
A soft and beautiful story of an African American family that honors an adopted child’s first mother and the precious relationship of love that exists through the generations in her adoptive family. A paper doll with clothes, is included.
Pact says: The pictures reflect natural materials and go along with the simple text that talks about adoption and birth parents in terms of feelings instead of role definitions.

I Like Myself by Karen Beaumont, Illustrated by David Catrow $11.99
Exactly what the title suggests, this is a book about an exuberant little girl who loves herself inside and out. The book uses simple, rhyming text to accompany Catrow’s colorful illustrations. “I like me wild. I like me tame. I like me different and the same.”
Pact says: It’s a fun book with a good message that has proven to be appealing to younger children that features an African American girl who loves herself “no matter how she is feeling or what others might say.”

I Love My Hair by Natasha Tarpley, Illustrated by E. B. Lewis $6.99
Kenyana doesn't feel very lucky about her hair because no matter how gently her Mama combs, it still hurts. Mama shows her the many wonderful ways she can style it and encourages her to feel good about her special hair but also to feel proud of her heritage.
Pact says: Reminds African American girls not to succumb to white ideas of beauty for themselves.

I Love You Like Crazy Cakes by Kennise Herring, Illustrated by Jane Dyer $16.99
This story follows a woman on her journey to adopt a baby girl from China. From orphanage crib to plane flight, the narrative chronicles the baby’s trip to her own crib in her own room in her new home.
Pact says: This book acknowledges the baby’s first mother and time in an orphanage in an important and respectful way.
Books for Preschoolers

**In My Heart** by Molly Bang

This is a beautifully illustrated work that could stand on its own, even without the story. The vibrant colors and fun integration of alphabet lettering into the story’s lines give the book a feel of warmth and fun. Overall, the multicultural images speak directly to the concrete mirroring we strive for and the text is incredibly reassuring and offers the a validating message that parents and children are connected through the love they feel for one another.

Pact says: A beautiful book that can be given to a child of any age, but is well loved as a bedtime read and get ready to go to sleep kind of book to be read with young children.

**It’s Okay to Be Different** by Todd Parr

The colorful illustrations are integral to the text, often the “funny” is in the image. “It’s okay to have wheels” shows a kid in a wheelchair. “It’s okay to be a different color” shows a horse with a rainbow coat. “It’s okay to be adopted” shows a small yellow creature with a big blue eye and a big smile peeping out of a smiling brown creature’s pouch.

Pact says: The central idea of acceptance, understanding and confidence is the unstated message of every page but the book is not sappy or sugarcoated. Good job! Funny and upbeat, this bright book delivers through a series of one-liners kids will relate to.

**Let’s Talk about It: Adoption** by Fred Rogers

Discusses what it means to be part of a family and tackles some feelings adopted children may have. The main message is that belonging in a family comes from being loved. Fred Rogers opens the door for adoptive families to safely talk about their good and not-so-good feelings in a book that reinforces family unity.

Pact says: This is a classic and every generation seems to love it. It is a great starter for talking with children about adoption, explaining the words and concepts.

**Let’s Talk about Race** by Julius Lester, Illustrated by Karen Baubour

Lester and a great job of talking about race and racism in terms that young children can absorb. “Why would some people say their race is better than another? Because they feel bad about themselves. Because they are afraid...” Using simple words interspersed with bold pictures of people with different skin colors, Lester gives children language with which to understand how race matters and how it doesn’t.” Beneath everyone’s skin are the same hard bones,” in the end, offering the opportunity to understand race as one, not the only or the defining, characteristic of one’s self.

Pact says: Gives parents a way to talk about a topic that they are sometimes fearful to tackle. Every family should have this book.

**Little Miss Spider** by David Kirk

Little Miss Spider takes readers back to her birth and subsequent search for her mother. This winning tale puts a new spin on the subject, for the just-hatched little Miss Spider never locates her biological mother (fans of Charlotte’s Web will know why). Instead, Miss Spider adopts her mother the green beetle, Betty, who has been assisting Miss Spider in her search all along.

Pact says: Great for adopted children.

**A Mother for Choco** by Keiko Kasza

Choco wished he had a mother, but who could his mother be? The story is about belonging. The story ends with Mrs. Bear acknowledging that she will perform the parenting needs Choco is missing—fun, love, nurture, protection—even though she doesn’t look like Choco. The word adoption is never once used in this story.

Pact says: A great validation that a family can be found, not just born. Available in paperback or as a board book.

**Nappy Hair** by Carolivia Herron

In a unique and vibrant picture book that uses the African American call-and-response tradition, a family talks back and forth about Brenda’s hair. The family delights in poking gentle fun with their hilarious descriptions, all the time valuing the beauty of Brenda.

Pact says: Nappy Hair celebrates the glory of Black beauty. While children of Black heritage may delight to see this story, it is equally important for children of all backgrounds to see positive reflections of children of African American heritage.

**Oh The Things Mommies Do** by Crystal Tompkins, Illustrated by Lindsey Evans

A sing-song book that celebrates having two moms. Colorful drawings that include parents and children of different races. It is fine, but not super exciting or fun.

Pact says: A playful celebration of lesbian mothers and their children! Oh The Things Mommies Do is a bouncy, and playful look at the joys of a two Mom family. With its catchy rhymes and vibrant illustrations, it is a pleasure for children and parents alike! By the end of the book, young children will catch on and be able to “read” the rhymes themselves.

**One Wonderful You** by Francis Portnoy, Illustrated by Tracy Higgins

“You are unique because you are a wonderful blend of both your families.” This straightforward, clear and entertaining book talks in language kids can understand about genetics, heritage and what adoption really means. The simple message reinforces basic information in an appealing way. Multicultural cartoon-like illustrations add appeal.

Pact says: We love the inherent message of completeness, helping children from the beginning feel great about BOTH their family legacies. Written by an adoptee, and it has some humor as a bonus!

**Over The Moon: An Adoption Story** by Karen Katz

Once upon a time a teeny-tiny baby was born. At the same time, a man and a woman had a dream. They saw the baby in a basket surrounded by beautiful flowers and they knew it was the child they had been longing for. Bright, exuberant illustrations tell the story of how one family came together with the lively appeal of Guatemalan folk art. The child looks Central American.

Pact says: The message is reassuring, the illustrations are delightful and the text is happy.

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Books for Preschoolers

**Pablo's Tree** by Pat Mora $17.95
Five-year-old Pablo can hardly wait to see how Abuelito, his grandfather. When Mama first told her father that she was going to name the baby she adopted after him, Lito went out and bought the tree for his grandson, but he waited to plant it until the day that Mama finally brought Pablo home. And every year after, Lito decorates the tree for Pablo's birthday.

Pact says: This book is a powerful tool for adoptive families, at any stage of pre or post-adoption. Illustrates a family ritual and how it promotes deep and enduring attachments for a child as he grows.

**Peter's Chair** by Ezra Jack Keats $6.99
The new baby is home and Peter's world has really changed. So Peter runs away until his parents welcome him home with his own grown-up chair. Peter eventually realizes his status as big brother is very special.

Pact says: Addressing sibling rivalry, this book has stood the test of time and it is both charming and reassuring.

**Sam's Sister** by Juliet C. Bond, Illustrated by Dawn Majewski $18.00
Finally—a book that acknowledges the birth siblings of adopted children. Sam’s Sister follows 6-year-old Rosa (who happens to be Latina) as she comes to terms with her brother’s birth and placement with Sarah and Joe.

Pact says: We hope this book makes it into every adoptive and birth family home as well as becoming a staple for agency personnel to use with their prospective clients. Buy a copy for your own children and your adopted children’s birth siblings. Even if your child doesn’t know his or her birth family, this story delivers a terrifically positive message. Four stars.

**Shades of Black** by Sandra L. Pinkney, Illustrated by Myles C. Pinkney $17.99
Embraces the beauty and diversity of African American children. Using simple poetic language these photographs and descriptions of varied skin tones, hair texture and eye color convey a strong sense of pride in a unique heritage.

Pact says: Pictures of faces of African American children demonstrate the true diversity of “Black” people, allowing young children to understand that blackness derives not from color but from culture of the people. Also available in a board book for $6.99.

**Tell Me Again About the Night I Was Born** by Jamie Lee Curtis, Illustrated by Laura Cornell $6.99
A heartwarming story with real-life details your child can connect to — about how the phone rang in the middle of the night and the scream you let out when they said I was born; how Grandma and Grandpa slept through it like logs; how the airplane had no movies and no peanuts; how you couldn’t grow a baby in your tummy; how you went to the hospital and felt very small; how tiny and perfect you were; about how I didn’t like my first diaper change — and all those lovely memories of specificity and love.

Pact says: A good book although we are sorry no mention is made of birth parents.

**We See the Moon** by Carrie Kizl $17.95
This is a story written from the adopted child’s perspective, asking the questions about his or her birthparents that are often unspoken.

“We do you look like? Where are you from? Do you think of me?” It teaches children that their birth family is always with them in their hearts.

Pact says: We love this book! It is simple, refined and beautiful, it succeeds in transforming the sadness of separation into a healing experience, inspiring readers to find their own meanings. Every adopted person deserves a copy of this book.

**When Sophie Gets Angry—Really, Really Angry** by Molly Bang $6.99
When Sophie’s little sister grubs her toy Sophie looks to her mother for help but Mom says Sophie needs to learn to share. This makes Sophie feel like a “volcano ready to explode.” Overcome, she runs outside, finds solitude, is able to cry, think about what she has done and manage to calm down. Ends with loving hugs.

Pact says: Supportive book for any child who has ever lost her temper—or might ever lose her temper.

**Where Do I Belong?** by Ola Zuri, Illustrated by Jenn Simpson $14.95
A story of a transracially adopted child who is the only Black person in the family and feels sad and lonely. The child tries to feel good about herself and make good choices. The goal is to encourage children to love themselves first and remember that God loves them, even if they don’t feel comfortable in their family.

Pact says: This book is written to children who feel like they don’t fit and to parents of transracial adoptees to give them insight into their child’s experience. Some children may not relate to the story but it can still be used as a conversation starter.

**Whoever You Are** by Mem Fox and Leslie Staub $7.00
Whoever You Are urges readers to accept differences among people, to recognize similarities, and, most importantly, to rejoice in both. The book offers a “we’re-all-the-same-under-the-skin” message for the very young. An essential book that acknowledges the simplest of terms our common humanity.

Pact says: Vivid colors underscore a vibrant and reassuring message.

**Yo!** by Chris Raschka $18.99
Two boys, one Black and one white, meet on the street. In a simple story that uses just nineteen words (“Yo!” appears twice, “yes!” six times), two boys meet as strangers who strike up a conversation on a city sidewalk. One halls the other, who is cautious. The first persists. The other responds. Gradually they become friends.

Pact says: So bouncy it feels as if it’s spilling off the pages, energetic illustrations create mirrors to see ourselves in and windows to see others. Friendship across differences is supported.

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Books for Kindergarten to 2nd Grade

All Families Are Special by Norma Simon, Illustrated by Teresa Fylin
Beginning with an adoptive family, Norma Simon does a great job of describing the wide variety that exists among families. Big and small, one parent or two, adoptive or kinship, two moms or none, she has made sure there is variety and validation for each and every constellation she describes and those she does not. With vivid illustrations, Simon ends the book by talking about the ways families support each other during good times and bad.

Pact says: A sweet book that affirms the differences while underscoring the significance of families. Ideal for classroom use.

Amazing Grace by Mary Hoffman, Illustrated by Caroline Binch
When told she cannot be Peter Pan in the school play because she’s a girl and because she’s Black, Grace challenges the racist, sexist attitudes at her school (with the help of her family) and prevails. Grace’s mother and grandmother teach her to fight bias by preparing, not by trying to protect her - a lesson useful for all parents.

Pact says: An inspiring favorite that should be in every child’s library!

Antonio’s Card/La Tarjeta de Antonio by Rigoberto Gonzalez and Cecilia Alvarez
Antonio loves his routine—being dropped off at school by his mother in the morning and picked up by her partner, Leslie, in the afternoon, but it takes time for Antonio to feel ready to claim his two-mom family publicly. Sensitivey written in English, with a Spanish translation, the narrative captures the social concerns that children in “non-traditional” families experience.

Pact says: This story deals brilliantly with issues of inclusion.

Borya and The Burps by Joan McNamara, Illustrated by Dawn Majewski
This book is set in an orphanage in Eastern Europe and tells the story from the experience of the child (Borya) rather than the adults around him. Borya watches and wonders about everything that is going on around him as his journey to adoption progresses.

Pact says: We love this book because it gives parents and children the chance to think about how kids feel safe and comfortable based on where they have been before rather than parents’ own expectations for what a child would want.

Chocolate ME! by Taye Diggs, Illustrated by Shane Evans
Tackles the topic of racially motivated teasing using simple text appropriate for even very young readers. The author notes that he was constantly asked why his skin was dark and his hair kinky as a child himself. An appealing book with an affirming message about feeling good about one’s self - no matter what others might say. The book specifically affirms the beauty of African American skin and hair.

Pact says: A book that can open the conversation with young children about diversity.

Chrysanthemum by Kevin Henkes
Chrysanthemum’s parents always told her that her name was perfect, and she thought so too until her first day of school when the kids teased her. Henkes has great compassion for the victims of childhood teasing and cruelty – using fresh language, endearing pen-and-ink mouse characters, and realistic dialogue to portray real-life vulnerability. An old classic that helps children explore their fears about being teased and desire to fit in.

Pact says: For every child who struggles when other kids make fun of them. Inspirational and funny.

Colors of Us by Karen Katz
Lena discovers that she and her friends and neighbors are all beautiful shades of brown. “I am the color of cinnamon. Mom says she could eat me up,” says Lena. Then she sees everyone else in terms of delicious foods. “Mom is the color of French toast. Lena’s friend Sonia is the color of creamy peanut butter. Isabella is chocolate brown like the cupcakes they had for her birthday.

Pact says: A tasty approach to differences in skin color.

Con Mi Hermano/With My Brother by Eileen Roe
A young boy treasures time with his older brother and is sad when he goes off to school. A nice depiction of brotherly love, with characters who just happen to be Latino and bilingual. This simple, repetitive story paints a reassuring picture of family life and supportive relations. The Spanish text, rendered without regionalisms, is as direct and simple as the English version.

Pact says: A sweet book with colorful illustrations that speaks to how younger siblings look up to older ones.

Dave the Potter by Laban Carrick Hill, Illustrated by Brian Collier
Dave was an extraordinary artist, poet, and potter known for his work in South Carolina in the 1800s. He combined his superb artistry with deeply observant poetry, carved onto his pots, transcending the limitations he faced as a slave.

Pact says: This is a beautifully written book about an enslaved African man who was a talented potter. The book paints a lovely picture of Dave’s artwork and how his pieces were crafted. As part of a collection this book is a great addition, but it is not a stand-alone book to explain slavery.

Dear Primo by Duncan Tonatiuh
From first-time author and illustrator Duncan Tonatiuh comes the story of two cousins, one in NY City, America and one in Mexico, and how their daily lives are different yet similar. Dear Primo covers the sights, sounds, smells, and tastes of two very different childhoods, while also emphasizing how alike Charlie and Carlitos are at heart. Spanish words are scattered among the English text.

Pact says: A nice book for adoptees who are thinking about what life might have been in their country of birth vs what it is like in their American home.

Dona Flor by Pat Mora, Illustrated by Raoul Colon
Un cuento de una mujer gigante con un gran corazon / A tall tale about a giant woman with a great big heart. Dona Flor has a brilliant intensity that is representative of Latino lore. Spanish words and glossary. Dona Flor is larger than life. At first the children are intimidated, but they grow used to Flor, who is always willing to help them out and learn that people’s hearts are more important than their looks.

Pact says: A beautiful book; a story with heart and imagination.

Double Dip Feelings by Barbara Cain, Illustrated by Anne Patterson
What we love about this book is that it identifies contradictory emotions and delivers the message that it is natural to have them. That makes this book really useful with children who are happy to be adopted but also sometimes feel sad. Unfortunately it has somewhat uninteresting illustrations and somewhat boring text.

Pact says: This book doesn’t give a lot of hints for resolving problems, but in the hands of a good therapist and/or creative parent it offers reassurance about having conflicted feelings.

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Books for Kindergarten to 2nd Grade

**Heart and Soul** by Kadir Nelson  $19.99
This book is unique in it’s telling of American History from the perspective of African Americans. It is more of an overview than an in depth work of history, but contains details that one often doesn’t learn in school. The story is told in the voice of an old man passing along the story of African Americans to the younger generation, giving it a conversational feel that reads much more like a story than a textbook. The book is greatly enriched by Nelson’s incredible artwork.

Pact says: A wonderful introduction to African American history for younger children that is engaging and very readable.

**Henry’s Freedom Box** by Ellen Levine, Illustrated by Kadir Nelson  $16.99
The story recounts the true story of Henry Brown, a slave who was separated from his family. In a heart wrenching scene depicted in a dramatically shaded pencil, watercolor and oil illustration, Henry watches as his family—suddenly sold in the slave market—he then enlists the help of an abolitionist doctor and mails himself “to a place where there are no slaves” in a wooden crate.

Pact says: the story depicts the evolution of a self-possessed child into a determined and fearless young man. A good way to help parents talk with their children about slavery and other losses (like adoption) that have to be overcome.

**Hip Hop Speaks to Children** by Sandy Eisenberg Sasso, Illustrated by Phoebe Stone  $19.99
This collection of poetry and song lyrics is a joy to read. Inside the beautifully illustrated book are works by everyone from W.E.B. DuBois to Tupac Shakur, Maya Angelou to Mos Def. The CD has many works performed by the artists including poems read by Langston Hughes and part of Dr. King’s “I Have a Dream” speech.

Pact says: An accessible collection of poetry for children mostly by African American artists. Some poems touch deeply on the subject of race while others are just fun to read.

**In God’s Name** by Sandy Eisenberg Sasso, Illustrated by Phoebe Stone  $16.99
Everyone and everything in the world has a name. What is God’s name? In this appealing book relaying God’s many names, the energetic illustrations enhance the feeling of celebration. The visual elements of this book elicit a sense of wonder in the reader all the more moving because people from many cultures share the belief in a higher power.

Pact says: This book can be particularly comforting to adopted children trying to make sense of their personal journey in a spiritual context. Non-deominational, written by a Jewish Rabbi with an eye to interfaith sensitivity.

**Kids Like Me In China** by Ying Ying Fry  $18.00
“Hi! My name is Ying Ying, I am eight years old and I live in San Francisco. Like lots of kids in my city, I’m Chinese American. But I wasn’t born that way. When I was really small, I was just Chinese. Then my American parents came and adopted me, and that’s how I got the American part.”

Pact says: Ying Ying’s book will inspire adopted children to write their own story!

**Lucy’s Family Tree** by Karen Halvorsen Schreck, Illustrations by Stephen Glasser  $7.95
Lucy, adopted from Mexico by white parents, feels “different,” hurt and weird when assigned to make a family tree. Her parents challenge her to find three families she thinks are “the same.” In so doing, her aha conclusion is that since most families are different in some way, any family that turned out to be the same would be the one who was different.

Pact says: This book does an authentic job of capturing the responses adopted kids have to the family tree assignment.

**Mama Mitt** by Donna Jo Napoli, Illustrated by Kadir Nelson  $17.99
A lyrical and beautifully illustrated book inspired by the life of Nobel Peace Prize winner Wangari Maathai that describes the importance of the greenbelt movement through the experiences of women who come to her for help. The text is simple (She ends each encounter with, “Thayu nyumba – Peace, my people.”) and depicts the greenbelt movement and it’s importance.

Pact says: A beautiful and inspiring book. Kadir Nelson did the book’s illustrations – these are a mix of paint and collage – and they are as powerful and beautiful as the rest of his work.

**Megan’s Birthday Tree: A Story about Open Adoption** by Laurie Lears, Illustrated by Bill Farnsworth  $15.95
When Kendra, Megan’s birth mother, writes to say she is getting married and moving to a different town, Megan is worried she will forget her, especially since the “birthday tree” she planted when Megan was born is in her old backyard. The story ends when Megan finds out that Kendra has transplanted the birthday tree, and will be continuing to send pictures of it to Megan each year.

Pact says: Very sweet, this book explores the importance of their birth parents to children this age.

**Molly’s Family** by Nancy Garden, Illustrated by Sharon Wooding  $16.99
A kindergartener with two moms has to handle a classmate’s insistence that a two mom family isn’t a “real” one. When she gets home and tells her moms what happened at school, they reassure her that her family is real, and that there are all kinds of families. But Molly isn’t completely reassured until her teacher offers her support.

Pact says: A validating book for kids who deal with teasing that underscores the need for adults to be proactive in helping children.

**Mommy Far, Mommy Near** by Betsy James, Illustrated by Shawn Costello Brownell  $16.99
Elizabeth was adopted from China. While her mother finds many openings to talk about adoption, it isn’t until Elizabeth sees a Chinese mother and daughter at the playground that she understands that she has lost her own birth mother. Elizabeth’s mom doesn’t try to fix what she cannot but responds perfectly with her show of love.

Pact says: The game of “look” (a must-do ritual for reinforcing attachment and truly seeing one another) is unfolded in the story.

**My Name is Maria Isabel** by Alma Flor Ada, Illustrated by K. Dyle Thompson  $4.99
Maria Isabel is hurt when her teacher decides to call her Mary to distinguish her from two other Maria’s in the class, and it interferes with her performance in school. Maria is proud of her name and heritage. Eventually her teacher understands.

Pact says: The story speaks to the experience being called a different name and how children experience authority figures who want to change their identity – the parallel to adoption makes it very relevant.

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Books for Kindergarten to 2nd Grade

**My People** by Langston Hughes, Illustrated by Charles R. Smith Jr

The inspirational words of Hughes’ poem are brought to life through a collection of sepia-colored photographs that capture the diverse features, hearts, and souls of its subjects. Introducing the poem two or three words at a time, Smith pairs each phrase with a portrait of one or more African-Americans; printed in sepia, the faces of his subjects materialize on Black pages.

Pact says: Inspire a child with beautiful depictions in word and photo of what it means to be part of the African diaspora!

**Of Thee I Sing: A Letter to My Daughters** by Barack Obama, Illustrated Loren Long

A tender letter to his daughters, President Barack Obama has written a moving tribute to 13 historically important Americans and the ideals that have shaped our nation; from the artistry of Georgia O’Keeffe, to the courage of Jackie Robinson President Obama sees the traits of these heroes within his own children as well as America’s children. Illustrated by an award-winning artist whose images capture the personalities and achievements of these great Americans.

Pact says: We can all be inspired by America’s first Black president to see ourselves in the many positive traditions and heroes that are part of our collective heritage.

**A Place in My Heart** by Mary Grossnickle, Illustrated by Allison Reiyea

Charlie the chipmunk was adopted into a family of grey squirrels. He wonders about his birth parents. His mother gives him permission to be curious and to care about his birth parents, and shows him there is always room in our hearts for all of the people we care about. This book gives parents excellent models for how to talk to their young children about the deeper issues in adoption.

Pact says: We love this book and it is written by an adoptee, giving it real authenticity.

**The Skin You Live In** by Michael Tyler, Illustrated by David Lee Csicsko

This picture book takes a cheerful look at human diversity by focusing on skin. Rhyming verses describe the many experiences that can be had in it in a variety of hues. The poem ends by emphasizing the importance of the “You who’s within” and pointing out that skin is something that makes individuals different and similar at the same time.

Pact says: This is an affirming addition to the collection of books dealing with self-esteem and multiculturalism.

**Star of the Week A Story of Love, Adoption and Brownies with Sprinkle** by Darlene Friedman and Roger Roth

The authors take a sensitive, often upbeat look at Cassidy-Li’s feelings about her adoption as she puts together her personal poster. “I love my parents, but I’m sad about my birthparents...” she says, stating simply the complicated dichotomy which adoptees live.

Pact says: Star of the Week serves as an excellent springboard for discussion about taking adoption to school.

**Sugar Plum Balleinas** by Whoopi Goldberg, Deborah Underwood and Maryn Roos

Each book is $4.99 each

Pact says: Fast-paced and entertaining, with unique, multicultural characters and positive messages about friendship, honesty, materialism, and forgiveness as well as the challenges of life for girls, these books are fun to read and give a positive message to girls of color in particular.

- *#1 Plum Fantastic* This first book in the series addresses the effects of moving, making friends, and settling into a new routine.
- *#2 Toeshoe Trouble* Nine-year-old Brenda and her friends hatch a plan to “borrow” their ballet teacher’s prized ballet shoes.
- *#4 Terrible Terrel* Terrel is always in charge, things get weirder when her surprises Terrel with his new girlfriend.

**Teammates** by Peter Golenbock and Paul Bacon

An account of Jackie Robinson’s difficulties as the first Black player in Major League baseball; this book relates the acceptance and support he received from a white teammate. This single moment is a great way to talk about racism, courage and true brotherhood.

Pact says: A great example to demonstrate how white allies can support people of color.

**Three Names of Me** by Mary Cummings, Illustrated by Lin Wang

A book that has a touching overall tone inviting acknowledgment of an adopted girl’s history and connections. Ada, a Chinese adoptee, tells her story, “Ada Lorane Bennett. That is my name. But it is not the first name I have had. It is the third.”

Pact says: Ada’s story takes her to America but she remembers her “China mother” and her homeland with love and affection.

**What is a Part of Me?** by Ola Zuri, Illustrated by Jenn Simpson

A transracial adoptee of African descent herself, author Ola uses this simple text to ask questions about why she was adopted, where she comes from, who her birth parents are to name just a few. This book gives adopted children of color permission to ask questions about themselves and explore the circumstances and ongoing feelings they have about being placed transracially.

Pact says: Ola always puts forward a message of support and strong self-esteem that adopted children respond to because of her validating and empowering tone.

**The Whole Me** by Ellen Barron

A story in verse about the experience of kids being adopted from the foster care system. Intended for kids aged six to twelve, we feel this book is appropriate for kids four years and up. It is presented in picture book format that children may feel makes it a “baby” book. Nevertheless, it presents authentic feelings children often have about the move from foster care to adoption.

Pact says: This book fulfills a unique purpose and will be important for children who have moved and lost more than one family.

**Why Can’t You Look Like Me?** by Ola Zuri and Jenn Simpson

“Have you ever felt like you didn’t belong? How did you deal with it? This story a young girl who has been adopted transracially and feels like she doesn’t fit in anywhere, even within her own family.” There are really two separate issues that the little girl is dealing with - lack of adult support and lack of peers - and in the book those two things get intertwined.

Pact says: While a little over simplified, the esteem-affirming message is validating and encouraging to children.

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### Books for 3rd to 5th Grade

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author(s)</th>
<th>Price</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>After Tupac and D Foster</em></td>
<td>Jacqueline Woodson</td>
<td>$7.99</td>
<td>A deeply felt novel about the power of friendship. Two 11-year-old African American girls are suddenly joined by D, a girl in foster care who talks about the need to find your Big Purpose. When D is unexpectedly reunited with her mother, she is lost to them without warning. The book tells the story of their two year relationship and how changed they are by their connection to one another. Pact says: A very well-written novel that does a unusually good job of depicting the depth and power of friendship between tweens moving toward the teen years. The foster/adoption aspect of D’s story is a bonus.</td>
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<td><em>An-Ya and Her Diary</em></td>
<td>Diane Rene Christian</td>
<td>$13.95</td>
<td>An-Ya and Her Diary is a novel about an 11-year-old Chinese girl struggling to adjust to her new life in America with her adoptive family. Through the pages of her diary, the reader feels her confusion, her anger, and her slowly dawning understanding of what it means to be part of a family. This is a girl, and a family, who are going to make it. Written by an adoptive mother, there is compassion and understanding for the experience of an adopted girl that is both welcome and surprising. Pact says: This is a well-written novel with a strong main character that depicts the complex emotional experience of someone adopted in middle childhood.</td>
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<td><em>Becoming Naomi Leon</em></td>
<td>Pam Munoz Ryan</td>
<td>$6.99</td>
<td>Naomi is biracial—Mexican and white—the only one in the family who looks like a person of color. Her mother left Naomi and her little brother with her grandmother when she was quite young. When Naomi’s grandmother decides to bring the kids to Oaxaca to search for Naomi’s Mexican father, Naomi gets a chance to see her cultural heritage and her own voice. Pact says: This book explores many issues that are relevant to adopted children—particularly those adopted transracially—bridging several families, connecting different cultures, and forging a personal identity gives transracially adopted kids much to think about.</td>
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<td><em>Brendan Buckley’s Universe and Everything In It</em></td>
<td>Sundee T. Frazier</td>
<td>$6.99</td>
<td>Brendan Buckley is a 10-year-old biracial boy trying to understand why his white maternal grandfather is missing from his life—and why his parents won’t talk about it. Curious and determined, Brendan takes matters into his own hands and pieces the puzzle together. An engaging book about race, family and forgiveness. 2008 Coretta Scott King Award winner. Pact says: This is a well-written book that deals with the issue of race and family conflict sensitively and intelligently. A very good book for older elementary-aged children.</td>
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<td><em>Bud, Not Buddy</em></td>
<td>Christopher Paul Curtis</td>
<td>$6.99</td>
<td>An orphaned runaway, Bud copes with the adult world with his numbered “Rules and Things.” His few treasures from his former life with “Momma,” are kept in a battered suitcase. One, a flyer advertising a musical group, leads him on a fantasy journey to an amazing reality as he looks to find a man he thinks might be his father. Pact says: A great book that explores a child’s sense of need for family and the whole notion of search and reunion.</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>The Dream Keeper</em></td>
<td>Langston Hughes</td>
<td>$8.99</td>
<td>Celebrates hopes, dreams, aspirations, life and love in a splendid combination of timeless words and illustrations, Langston Hughes’ poems range from the romantic to the poignant, from the spiritual to the challenging. Pact says: Langston Hughes represents the essence of the African American experience and this book of his amazing poems will give pride and inspiration to many. Also great to have on hand for school assignments!</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Hank Zipzer Collection</em></td>
<td>Henry Winkler and Lin Oliver</td>
<td>$19.96</td>
<td>Includes 4 titles: &quot;Niagara Falls, or Does It?&quot;; &quot;I Got A &quot;D&quot; in Salami;&quot; &quot;Day of the Iguana;&quot; &quot;The Zippity Zinger.&quot; These are laugh out loud books, as Hank and his friends (who just happen to be Chinese and African American) romp together through various situations mostly created by Hank’s struggles in school. Hank has learning differences, which are really coming to the fore in fourth grade. Any child facing these issues will feel bolstered after reading about Hank’s fantastic adventures. Pact says: This is a great series and a wonderful read, especially for kids facing learning challenges.</td>
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<td><em>It’s Perfectly Normal</em></td>
<td>Robie Harris and Rebecca Emberley</td>
<td>$12.99</td>
<td>Changing bodies, growing up, sex, and sexual health. Pact says: This is an informative, well crafted guide that addresses kids’ concerns about their changing bodies and how they function. Best of all, it includes multicultural models and promotes an acceptance of difference beyond the norm including wheelchair bound people, aged people, Gay and Lesbian people, skinny people, fat people, people of all races — in short, a great diversity, and all treated with respect. Both physiological and psychological aspects of the issues are covered. Though topics of sexuality and sexual development are difficult for some, this book provides a positive foundation for discussion. This honest, trustworthy and highly entertaining book about sexuality and growing up is notable for its nonjudgmental section on homosexuality and for including same-sex couples throughout its illustrations. Truly excellent, on all counts.</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>It’s So Amazing!</em></td>
<td>Robie Harris and Rebecca Emberley</td>
<td>$12.99</td>
<td>Answers the many questions most children have about babies, bodies, love, sex, reproduction, and family. An inquisitive, loquacious bird and an embarrassed bee act as comic and straight man and serve as diverting foils to Harris’s conversational narrative. Pact says: This upbeat and caring book is the perfect beginning for talking with children because it answers the many questions most children have about babies, bodies, love, sex, reproduction, and family.</td>
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**The Jacket** by Andrew Clements, Illustrated Henderson McDavid  
Story of a young white boy who begins to realize that he has prejudice against African Americans. As the story progresses he begins to realize that his mother and father and friends are too as they live in an all white neighborhood and don’t interact with Black people except superficially. He makes a visit to the young boy who was given his brother’s old jacket and comes to the realization that Black people aren’t really any different than he is.  
Pact says: An exploratory novel told from the point of view of the white boy, this is a direct and simple story about race-based assumptions.  
$5.99

**The Liberation of Gabriel King** by K.L. Going  
Frita happens to be the only Black child in their 4th grade class and Gabriel happens to be afraid of almost everything that takes courage. In the summer between their 4th and 5th grade year, Frita and Gabriel embark on a plan to overcome their fears that turns out to include some powerful lessons about oppression and standing up to racism.  
Pact says: Frita and her family are a wonderful model of a strong African American family; Gabriel and his family learn what it means to be white allies against racism in a backdrop of the 1976 South including members of the Ku Klux Klan. A great book to introduce the need to speak out and band together against racism.  
$6.99

**Mulberry Bird** by Anne Brodzinsky, Illustrated by Diana Stanley  
Although she loves her baby very much, a young mother bird chooses adoption because she is unable to give him the home that he needs. This gentle story shows her struggle with this decision and illustrates her hope that her baby’s life can be fulfilled through adoption.  
Pact says: This re-illustrated version of a beloved classic offers a reassuring answer to every adopted child’s question, “Why is there adoption and why was I adopted?”  
$16.00

**One Crazy Summer** by Rita Williams-Garcia  
In 1968, three black sisters from Brooklyn are put on a California-bound plane by their father to spend a month with their mother, a poet in Oakland. It’s the summer after Black Panther founder Huey Newton was jailed and there are men in berets shouting “Black Power” on the news. Beautifully written, this book raises questions of cultural identity and personal responsibility.  
Pact says: With memorable characters (all three girls have strong voices) and unabated story, this is a book well worth reading.  
$6.99

**The People Could Fly: American Black Folktales** by Virginia Hamilton  
Virginia Hamilton, Newbery Medal winner, teams up with two-time Caldecott Medal winners, Leo and Diane Dillon, in this classic collection of American black folktales, winner of the Coretta Scott King Award. Four groups of stories: Animal Tales; Tales of the Real, Extravagant and Fantastical; Tales of the Supernatural; and Slave Tales of Freedom.  
Pact says: An excellent collection of stories rooted in the African American experience.  
$13.00

**Rosa** by Nikki Giovanni  
Together Nikki Giovanni and Brian Collier tell the story of Rosa Parks and of the strength of the African American community that surrounded her and stood with her. Giovanni is a skillful writer and paired with Collier’s beautiful illustrations her text offers children a look at history that will fill them with appreciation for these icons of the Civil Rights Movement.  
Pact says: A beautifully written and illustrated book for children that emphasizes the role of the whole community in Parks’ victory over injustice.  
$7.99

**Ruby Lu, Brave and True** by Lenore Look, Illustrated Anne Wilsdorf  
These are the adventures of almost 8-year-old Ruby Lu, a Chinese American girl. The book is a fun-filled look at a few days in the life of an Asian American kid.  
Pact says: This is a great book about a little girl whose family has figured out how to live two heritages—the one of their parents and grandparents, and the other in the U.S. There’s a glossary and pronunciation guide for the Cantonese words and phrases sprinkled throughout the book. It is geared towards the younger end of the 3rd to 5th grade group.  
$5.99

**Ruby Lu, Empress of Everything** by Lenore Look, Illustrated Anne Wilsdorf  
Sequel to Ruby Lu, Brave and True. When Flying Duck comes from China to live with her family, Ruby Lu’s happy world is turned upside down as suddenly everyone is speaking in a foreign language at home, their evening dinners are greatly altered, and she is suddenly mandated by her family to become Flying Duck’s guide at school. More adventures and realizations about what it means to immigrate and how to communicate ensue when you don’t speak the same language ensue.  
Pact says: Great books for American kids of Chinese descent, and for anyone else who wants to read about a little girl whose family has figured out how to live two heritages — the one of their parents and grandparents, and the one here in the US.  
$5.99

**Sadako and the Thousand Cranes** by Elanor Coerr  
Sadako Sasaki was two years old when the atom bomb was dropped on her home city of Hiroshima. When she was twelve, she developed leukemia. Facing long days in bed, Sadako spent the time folding paper cranes, for the legend holds that if a sick person folds 1000 cranes, the gods will make her well again. She folded 644 cranes before she died. Children all over Japan helped collect money to build a monument to her.  
Pact says: An inspiring story of one child’s courage in the face of adversity and the tremendous outpouring of support she received.  
$5.99
Books for 3rd to 5th Grade

Soul Looks Back in Wonder by Tom Feelings $7.99
Included in this anthology are verses by Margaret Walker, Maya Angelou, Lucille Clifton, and Eugene B. Redmond, and a previously unpublished poem by Langston Hughes. This moving collaboration celebrates the sustaining spirit of African creativity. Winner of the Coretta Scott King Award for illustration.
Pact says: A beautiful book filled with compelling words and pictures that inspire. This is a great book to have on your shelf for this age range as they look for information for class projects and inspirational historical figures of color they can admire and study.

Under Our Skin: Kids Talk about Race by Barbara Birdsey, Photography by Robert Crum $15.95
Six youth of different ethnic backgrounds offer words of wisdom and hope for the future: Tod, Caucasian; Rosa, Latina (Hispanic); Akram, Arab; Jenny, Chinese; Jason, African American; and Janell, Native American, who candidly discuss how the traditions of their different cultural heritages affect their daily lives, their views on race, and their experiences with prejudice.
Pact Says: A great example of how to talk about race for younger children who will look up to these older children as mentors.

The Watsons Go To Birmingham — 1963 by Christopher Curtis $6.99
10-year-old Kenny and his family, the "Weird Watsons", set out on a trip like no other. They’re going to Birmingham, Alabama, during one of the darkest moments in America’s civil rights history. In the midst of the warmth and hilarity of the family, they encounter unexpected violence and some painful racist history.
Pact says: Being familiar with "isms" is strengthening for all kids. This award winning account of racism in the south has plenty of spice and no sugarcoating. It grabs the reader and won’t let go.

W.I.S.E. UP Powerbook by Marilyn Schoettle $15.00
This child friendly book gives children easy to remember tools to cope with uncomfortable comments from others. They learn to think about their options, and make wise choices based on the word W-I-S-E: Walk away, say it’s private, Share something, or Educate. This book offers practical advice and has parent suggestions for helping children handle questions from outsiders.
Pact Says: A must-read written in a kid friendly cartoon style, filled with practical advice, this book is an ideal conversation starter for parents and children to develop strategies about handling adoption questions. This book is without a doubt the best book available to help kids work through ways to respond to friends and strangers questions.

We Are The Ship - The Story of Negro League Baseball by Kadir Nelson $18.99
Describes the glory years of Negro league baseball in the early 1900s, profiling its star athletes and highlighting the challenges faced by the players and the sacrifices made to live out their dreams and play the game they loved. The narrative is divided into nine innings, beginning with Rube Foster and his formation of the first Negro League in 1920 and closing with Jackie Robinson breaking the color barrier into white major league baseball. In between are fascinating snippets of the events and men who formed the Negro Leagues.
Pact says: The incredible artwork along with the stories makes this book a valuable collectors’ item for every family library.

We Shall Overcome by Stuart Scotts, Illustrated Terrance Cummings $18.00
The power of song is linked with the power of a people to rise up and fight oppression. This book traces the history of the inspiring anthem, exploring the influence of traditional African music and Christian hymns in shaping its lyrics and tune and offering insight into the song’s role in civil rights, labor, and anti-war movements in America.
Pact says: A great book to explore the history of overcoming slavery and the civil rights movement and learn the songs that were integral to the movements.

What Color is My World? by Kareem Abdul-Jabbar & Raymond Obstfeld, Illustrated Ben Boss $17.99
The simple story that brings the book together is of a brother and sister helping a handyman fix up their new house. But while they work, this "handyman" starts to tell them about all of the things around them, from their cell phones and computers to the foods they are eating that were improved by the inventions or innovations of African American scientists and inventors.
Pact says: The information is just a glimpse at each person, but the message of the book is that African Americans have made significant contributions to every aspect of our lives and it is presented in a way that is enjoyable rather than dry or didactic.

Ziggy and the Black Dinosaurs by Sharon M. Draper, Illustrated by Jesse Joshua Watson $4.99 each
Pact says: Great books about a group of four boys who just happen to be African American, good friends and prone to adventures and mystery. Great reads that will especially inspire young boys. These books are fun but also teach history and pride rooted in the African American community.
Titles include:
The Buried Bones Mystery Ziggy and his friends, the Black Dinosaurs learn a lot about history in this exciting adventure.
The Space Mission Adventure The lure of space travel, aliens and astronauts launches the boys on another adventure.
Shadows of Caesar’s Creek A fast moving mystery that Jamaican Ziggy and his pals must solve.
The Backyard Animal Show The Dinosaur’s stage a neighborhood animal show to raise money for the wildlife rescue center.
Stars and Sparks on Stage The boys participate in a school talent show hoping to win the prize to fix up their clubhouse.

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**Books for Tweens through Middle School**

*Baby* by Patricia MacLaclan, Illustrated by Oscar Hijuelos $6.99

Larkin and her friend Lalo find a baby in a basket with a note and a promise that her mother will come back for her. Family welcomes Sophie, but her arrival forces them to come to terms with a secret loss. Some are afraid to love Sophie, always wondering if her mother will return for her. Larkin learns to make peace with love and loss. This story is told with a child’s voice and focuses on the child’s role.

Pact says: “Holding the reader captive from start to finish, *BABY* is sure to inspire discussion about family building through adoption and foster families.”

*Cool Salsa: Bilingual Poems on Growing Up Latino in the United States* by Lori Carlson $7.99

Growing up Latino in the United States sometimes means speaking two languages and learning the rules of two cultures. These poems celebrate the trials and triumphs that come with the experience by Sandra Cisneros, Martin Espada, Gary Soto and Ed Vega. Bilingual in Spanish and English.

Pact says: “These selections reinforce the bicultural experience of Latinos in general and give adopted Latinos insight into the cultural normalcy of their own experiences.”

*Day of Tears: A Novel in Dialogue* by Julius Lester $7.99

This engaging historical novel is told in dialogue and monologues. It moves around in time, from the period when the story takes place to “interludes,” in which the various characters look back on events years later. It begins with a factual event—the largest slave auction in United States history. Each character is well drawn and believable. Both blacks and whites liberally use the word “nigger,” which can be jarring. The text itself is easy to read and flows nicely. Different typefaces distinguish the characters’ monologues, their dialogues with one another, and their memories.

Pact says: “Lester has done an admirable job of portraying the simmering anger and aching sadness that the slaves must have felt. Altogether this novel does a superb job of showing the inhumanity of slavery. It begs to be read aloud.”

*The Dreamer* by Pam Munoz Ryan, Illustrator Peter Sis $17.99

The Dreamer is a fictionalized biography of the life of Chilean poet, activist and Nobel Laureate Pablo Neruda. It is a beautifully written book that contains elements of magical realism and poetry. The story is of Neruda’s childhood with a harsh, critical father who belittles his son’s imagination and sensitive nature. He struggles both to understand his father’s criticism and his life is changed by a kind uncle who appreciates his gifts and provides an example of someone who stands up for him.

Pact says: “There are many wonderful themes in the book and Ryan’s lyrical prose is a pleasure to read.”

*Heaven* by Angela Johnson $5.99

“Last night Momma and Pops kept saying they should have told me what they had to tell me sooner. It’s what people who haven’t told the truth always say.” At fourteen, Marley is shocked to find out that she was adopted. How could her parents have lied? Is her brother really her brother? Does she belong? Eventually, Marley finds peace, realizing that her relationships with her family can be healed. She comes to understand both that they belong to each other and that it is important to know about her birth family and her birth heritage.

Pact says: “A good read with insight into the adoption experience.”

*How It Feels to Be Adopted* by Jill Krementz $17.00

Nineteen kids from diverse backgrounds confide their feelings about being adopted. This book gives readers a diversity of experience and feelings that is both realistic and emotionally honest. Required reading for all touched by adoption.

Pact says: “This classic is still the best book we’ve found explaining a variety of children’s perspectives of how it feels to be adopted. The inclusion of photographs brings a greater sense of immediacy and realism to the text and helps children to identify with others who share their experiences.”

*Kimchi & Calamari* by Rose Kent $5.99

This one is a definite keeper. Joseph is a 14-year-old boy with a great sense of humor, a love of candy and comic books, and some anxiety about asking a girl to the school dance. Joseph was adopted from Korea as an infant by his very Italian parents who are loving parents but bad at talking about his adoption. Joseph is left in a quandary when he’s assigned an essay at school about his heritage and his parents just assume that writing about their Italian ancestors will suffice. With the help of his best friend and a new boy who recently moved to the area from Korea he figures it out and in the end, Joseph’s parents get it.

Pact says: “A beautifully written and engaging story about learning trust and becoming part of a family that has great appeal.”

*Ninth Ward* by Jewell Parker Rhodes $15.99

New Orleans during Hurricane Katrina is the setting for this tense novel that blends the drama of the catastrophic storm with magical realism. Twelve-year-old Lanesha’s teenage mother died while giving birth to her, and, because her mother’s wealthy uptown family won’t have anything to do with her, she is raised in the Ninth Ward by loving Mama Ya-Ya, 82, who feels like her “mother and grandmother both.” This book has a strong message about facing fears and adversity.

Pact says: “There is an adoption theme; at the end, a vision of Lanesha’s birth mother appears to help her survive a crisis after having died in childbirth.”

*Parents Wanted* by George Harrar $6.95

Andy is twelve years old and was removed from his parents several years before. He meets a couple at his 5th adoption party whom he chooses to adopt him and they do. Parents Wanted chronicles Andy’s experience as he moves in with them and becomes their son. It includes very telling passages as he copes with loyalty issues regarding his birth parents, ADD, shame about being adopted and fear of being rejected again.

Pact says: “What is wonderful about this book is that it is written from a twelve-year-old’s voice giving kids and parents alike a window into how a kid who has been through several placements and group homes views the world and the actions of the adults who are SUPPOSED to be caring for him. Really insightful.”

*Peace Locomotion* by Jaxxueline Woodson $7.99

Through letters to his little sister, who is in different foster home, Lonnie, 11 years old, also known as “Locomotion,” keeps a record of their lives while they are apart. Jaxxueline Woodson is a children’s lit goddess who takes incredibly complicated emotions and pressures them down into diamonds. An example of some of the heartfelt writing includes: “It sinks in one rainy Saturday afternoon; while you’re sitting at the Group Home window; reading a beat-up Group Home book; wearing a Group Home hand-me-down shirt; hearing all the Group Home loudness; that you are a Throwaway Boy; And the news just sits in your stomach; hard and heavy as Group Home food.”

Pact says: “Do yourself a favor and get your hands on this book. Now.”
Books for Tweens through Middle School

**The Pinballs** by Betsy Byars $5.99
Coming to terms with living in foster care. You can’t always decide where life will take you when you’re stuck in foster care. Three kids in foster care—Pinballs, as wisecracking Carly dubs them—collide in a warm and caring foster home. This book engages in many conversations and also enlightens us about their real feelings as they struggle to feel good about themselves in the face of the loss of their birth families and placement in foster care.

**The Returnable Girl** by Pamela Lowell $6.99
Since her mother left two years ago, 13-year-old Veronica has been in a succession of foster families. Now she is living with a new foster mother, a child psychologist who is willing to tackle Ronnie’s lying, stealing, and violent outbursts. Difficult issues—betrayal, depression, emotional abuse—are handled without melodrama or sensationalism.

**Shabanu, Daughter of the Wind** by Suzanne Fisher Staples $6.99
Exploring the challenges of a young Muslim girl growing up in Pakistan, Shabanu struggles to find her own identity. Set against the backdrop of desert life, this book offers a passionate and deeply personal portrait of a young girl’s struggle for identity in a culture that forbids even token expression of independence for women.

**The Skin I’m In** by Sharon Flake $7.99
“Maleka Madison feels like a freak in her inner-city middle school. The kids pick on her because she is ‘the darkest, worst-dressed thing in school’ and because she gets good grades.”

**Slant** by Laura Williams $6.95
Williams, a Korean adoptee herself, tells the story of 13-year-old Lauren, a Korean adoptee who is the only Asian-American in her middle school. Taunted by a pair of classmates who call her “gook,” “chink,” and “slant,” Lauren saves her money to pay for eye surgery. Any thirteen-year-old girl will relate to Lauren’s everyday problems and concerns—she gets her ears pierced, buys her first bra, argues with her emotionally distant father, and longs to be asked to the school dance. Ultimately, Lauren decides against eye surgery.

**Stanford Wong Flunks Big Time** by Lisa Yee $6.99
Stanford Wong is a middle school basketball star who has just found out that he’ll need to go to summer school if he wants to pass 6th grade. He spends the summer sneaking to school so that his friends don’t find out and trying to connect to his distant and disappointed father. Along the way, he finds out who his friends are and learns a lot about himself.

**The Tequila Worm** by Viola Canales $7.99 paperback, $15.95 hardback
This story of family and community is an affectionate picture of the life of a Mexican-American family. The book is rich with details about celebrating el día de los Muertos, preparing for a quinceanera, rejoicing in the Christmas nacimiento, and the lore of the tequila worm. Sofia celebrates festivals and rituals with her family as she grows into a young woman, and faces a decision about how to leave home to attend a private boarding school that will open the world to her, but take her away from her family.

**Voices in First Person: Reflections on Latino Identity** by Lori Marie Carnes, Photos by Manuel Rivera-Ortiz, Illustrated by Flavio Morales $16.99
Carlson has drawn from both established and new writers, focusing on finding Latino voices that speak to contemporary readers. Collected here are poems and short stories whose subjects range from finding God in the clouds to a lust for eating chicken, from someone’s fingers on the hole in your jeans in a crowded café to someone asking, once again, “So, where are you from?” This collection sparkles.

**Walk Two Moons** by Sharon Creech $6.99
Sal, trying to deal with the fact that her mother left her, tells the story of her friend Phoebe whose own mother is gone. While dealing with the painfully realistic reactions children have to such departures, it also gives us glimpses into families that are rock solid in their love and devotion. “Creech underscores the notion of “don’t judge until you have walked two moons in someone else’s moccasins.”

**The Wanderer** by Sharon Creech, Illustrated David Diaz $6.99
Much to the concern of her adoptive parents, Sophie joins her grandfather, uncles and male cousins on a voyage across the Atlantic to England on a 45-foot sailboat. Proving her bravery and competence to the all-male crew; she keeps a journal, as her past reveals itself. This is a deep wrenching suspenseful novel that you will think about long after you finish reading it.

**What’s Going on Down There** by Karen Gravell $9.99
This book is forthright without being sober or scary. Facts about puberty, sex, and sexually transmitted diseases, and also what happens to girls during puberty are presented clearly and completely, along with answers to an assortment of related questions. The authors also manage to slip in some counsel about wise decision making. Illustrations are multicultural.

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Books for Teens through High School

**American Born Chinese** by Gene Luen Yang  
$9.99  
Graphic novelist Gene Yang follows three different plot lines about Chinese youth trying to fit into American culture. The first tale is the legendary folk tale of The Monkey King, which is renowned all through China and in many parts of Asia. The second tale is the story of a second-generation immigrant from China named Jin Wang, who still is heavily influenced by Chinese culture. The story follows his life through the making of his best friend, to him falling in love with a girl, and many adventures in between. The third tale follows the story of an American boy named Danny, whose Chinese cousin Chin-Kee comes and visits every year. Chin-Kee is the ultimate Chinese stereotype in terms of accent, fashion sense, hairstyle, appearance, and hobbies. This much-anticipated, affecting graphic novel about growing up different is more than just the story of a Chinese-American childhood; it’s a fable for every kid born into a body that doesn’t always fit in and the struggle to come to acceptance and peace within one’s own identity.  
Pact says: Very relevant, particularly to Asian adoptees, who often feel caught between worlds.

**American Eyes** Edited by Lori Colson  
$6.99  
Short stories that burn with the conflicts and choices that occur when two cultures come together. The search for identity that is depicted in many of the stories sometimes leads back to Asian roots: in one selection, an adopted person journeys to her native Korea to find her biological parents. The many stories of culture clash and identity seeking, are relevant to all adopted youth, especially those of Asian descent.  
Pact says: This book acknowledges racism for Asian youth and gives adopted Asians a context for seeing their own struggles toward identity in a larger context - opening the door to commonalities with non-adopted kids.

**A Brief Chapter in My Impossible Life** by Dana Reinhardt  
$8.99  
Simone has always felt different. As a member of a middle class professional family, studying for her SATs, facing dilemma's about choosing to get drunk, having sex with boyfriends and smoking dope, she also happens to be adopted. Her parents ask her to consider meeting with and having contact for the first time ever with her birth mother, something that at 16 she isn’t sure about. She eventually agrees and finds that it really matters to her to find out her story.  
Pact says: This book reads very true to upper middle class teens who may be afraid to stir the emotional pot of search but in fact struggle to feel whole without information. A really good read.

**Causasia** by Danzy Senna  
$16.00  
Explores the internal cultural tug-of-war of a multiracial family. When their family breaks up, Birdie’s Black father and sister move to Brazil to find racial equality, while Birdie, who stays with her white mother, passes for white. Birdie tries to fit in but struggles to find a way to make both her white and Black heritage count. Her search for her sister leads her to a search for her own identity.  
Pact says: This is a well written book that particularly highlights the differences between growing up with a strong African American influence versus living in a predominantly white environment making this a really interesting exploration of racial identity and how we define ourselves—genetically and culturally.

**Copper Sun** by Sharon Draper  
$17.99  
Amari is 15 when she is kidnapped from her village in Africa and sold into slavery in America. She struggles to hold on to her memories and her sense of self as she is plunged into the horrors of slavery and clings to the hope that somehow, she may find her way back to freedom. There are a few moments, such as when Amari has a chance encounter with the man who she plans to marry in Africa, that stretch credibility. But overall, the story is a well-crafted and compelling read.  
Pact says: well-crafted and compelling historical novel for older teens.

**Finding Miracles** by Julia Alvarez  
$6.99  
In spite of her family’s openness, Milly Kaufman has never wanted to talk about her adoption. However, during ninth grade, Pablo Bollivar, a refugee from an unnamed Central American country, joins her class and immediately identifies her as someone who might have come from his family’s hometown. The strength of this book lies in its description of adoption issues—Milly’s feelings of abandonment and difference and her sister’s fear that Milly’s increased identification as Latina will destroy their close relationship.  
Pact says: This book explores adoption and race in a way that will satisfy many teenagers who are thinking about these issues themselves and of course Alvarez is a really good writer.

**First Part Last** by Angela Johnson  
$7.99  
A Coretta Scott King award winner, this novel tells the story of a young father struggling to raise an infant. His parents are supportive but refuse to take over the child-care duties, so he struggles to balance parenting, school, and friends who don’t comprehend his new role.  
As one teen reviewer says: “You can’t go out and have fun all the time you would have to stay in the house and take care of your child.”  
Pact says: An opportunity for teens to concretely think about what it means to be a parent that includes real honesty about the struggles not just the glamour and appeal.

**Monster** by Walter D. Myers  
$9.99  
Monster is a gripping, complex novel about a 16-year-old boy on trial for his life. Steven Harmon is a “good” boy from a loving family—a good student who agrees to be the lookout in a drugstore robbery. In the course of the robbery, a man is killed. We see Steven’s absolute terror, both of losing his future to prison and of the violence surrounding him in jail. We see the grief of his parents and his guilt at being the cause. We also get a look at the racial dynamics at play in the criminal system.  
Pact says: A multi-faceted novel about how we are defined both by our choices and by the way others see us.
Books for Teens through High School

My Sisters' Voices: Teenage Girls of Color Speak by Iris Jacob
$17.99
This book is a compilation of writing from girls of color aged 11 to 19. The author/editor describes her journey to deciding to create such a book: "I felt my struggle had not been truly identified. I felt as though girls of color had a unique and rarely validated struggle. I believed that in adoption bearing the weight of being teenagers and female, we also carry the enormous issues of race and ethnicity." Each piece is preceded by an often empathetic reflection by Ms. Jacob herself. Bravo!
Pact says: A wonderful contribution to the field that gives insight to adults and validation to girls as they journey towards womanhood.

Once Upon a Quinceañera: Coming of Age in the USA by Julia Alvarez
$16.00
Alvarez explores the quinceañera, the coming-of-age ceremony for Latinas turning 15. She structures her book around one particular girl's ceremony, from the dreamy planning stages through the late hours of the actual, dizzying affair. Both sympathetic and critical, Alvarez wants readers to focus on creating positive, meaningful rites of passage for the younger generation.
Pact says: Alvarez underscores both the value and complexity of the ritual in the Latino community.

One Thing That's True by Cheryl Fogg
$5.95
Roxanne, 13, can't work out what's gone wrong... Why are her parents acting so weird, especially with her older brother, Joel? When it turns out that Joel is adopted and that they had kept it secret, Joel runs away. Set in Canada, this first novel is told in a fresh, funny, contemporary voice that blends the suspenseful plot with Roxanne's coming-of-age struggles ("Are you, like, in love or something?").
Pact says: Race and class are part of the story. As one of the few Black families in the community, the Jacobs are always wary of prejudice. For the sake of all adopted children of color, we are so glad to have this book which affirms cultural pride and individual value.

Pieces of Me: Who I Want To Be by Bert Ballard
$24.95
A collection of heartfelt poems, essays, songs, and artwork that give voice to the unique struggles and experiences of adopted teenagers. The book's guiding image is a puzzle piece made up of all of the pieces of the adopter's identity, history, and experiences. Organized into thematic sections ("Gathering the Pieces," "Stolen Pieces," and "Fitting the Pieces"), the individual contributions are sometimes painful, sometimes hopeful, sometimes direct offers of advice. The unifying message to teenage readers is that they are not alone—others share their feelings and experiences.
Pact says: A valuable resource for young adoptees and those who love them.

The Secret of Me by Meg Kearney
$17.95
Being adopted is a fact of life for 14-year-old Lizzie: she and her older brother and sister are all adopted. Lizzie struggles with explaining to her family that she would like to know more about her birth parents. A tender, sometimes intense look at the inner life of an adopted teen. Autobiographical.
Pact says: This book of poems expresses a range of emotions that will be familiar to all teens, and especially to those who have been adopted and are secretly wondering if their questions are "normal."

Whale Talk by Chris Crutcher
$9.99
A group of misfits brought together by T. J. Jones to find their places in a school that has no place for them. A multi-layered plot includes the history behind T. J.'s personal rage, his foster father's karmic destiny, and an alumnus who makes his mixed-race daughter scrub away her blackness with a Brillo pad. Crutcher captures perfectly the emotions and humor of teens facing injustices.
Pact says: Nice to have a story that has a male adopted teen as the main character.

What Are You? by Pearl Gaskins
$19.95
Through the lively voices of 45 multi-racial young people, ages 14-26, speaking of their own lives, this book helps us begin to understand how it feels to grow up outside traditional racial boundaries. Their views about the challenges of coming-of-age when the complexities of race are part of each milestone are honest, to-the-point, inspirational, and remarkably insightful. Includes extensive resource lists.
Pact says: This collection of authentic writing conveys the emotional impact of being of mixed race in a time of identity politics.

Yellow Girls! by Vickie Tom
$13.99
Emerging voices explore culture, identity, and growing up Asian American. This collection includes 80 brief selections by budding teen writers. Nam presents the pieces according to theme and ends each section with a "Mentor Piece" by an established Asian-American writer on her own coming-of-age. This book certainly lays to rest the notion that race and racism are not issues for Asian Americans.
Pact says: Very important reading for Asian American girls and everyone who loves them!

You Hear Me? Poems and Writing by Teenage Boys edited by Betsy Franco
$6.99
Through these mostly free-verse lines, the hopes, dreams, fears, and desires of young men from different cultures and races shine through. They pull no punches with their words in these openly honest, raw, and sometimes tender selections. They talk about what you'd expect—drugs, girls, A/D/S, sex, parents—sometimes in unexpected ways.
Pact says: The poetry is fresh and gives the reader insight into what today's youths have to say, and it's refreshing that the words came straight from them. Teens will recognize themselves in the words.

A Young People's History of the United States by Howard Zinn, adapted by Rebecca Stefoff
$17.95
Volume II: Class Struggle to the War on Terrorism History told from the viewpoints of slaves, workers, immigrants, women, and Native Americans with color images, a glossary, and primary sources. Begins with a look at Christopher Columbus' arrival through the eyes of the Arawak Indians and leads the reader through the strikes and rebellions of the industrial age.
Pact says: While the title is not catchy the information is an important counterpoint to the information too often presented in school textbooks, particularly for people of color.
What Is Pact?

Pact is a non-profit organization whose mission is to serve adopted children of color. In every case, the child is always our primary client. In order to best serve children’s needs, we provide not only adoptive placement but lifelong education, support, and community for adoptees and their families on issues of adoption and race. Our goal is for every child to feel wanted, honored and loved—a cherished member of a strong family with proud connections to the rich cultural heritage that is his or her birthright.

We advocate for honesty and authenticity in matters of race and adoption. We strongly believe that adopted children’s and adults’ connections to birth family and birth heritage should be respected and maintained. We also strive to identify and counteract “adoptism,” an unfortunately common social prejudice that challenges the legitimacy of the choice to place a child for adoption or to build a family by adoption. Finally, as an organization committed to children of color, we feel it is essential to educate ourselves and others about the pervasive power of race and racism as they affect our children, our families, ourselves and our society.

We believe that:
- Every child deserves to grow up in a permanent, nurturing home.
- Racism and adoptism exist and must be actively combated.
- Same-race adoption is easier for children.
- Transracial adoption can work beautifully if the parents are serious about helping their child build a positive racial identity.
- Adopted children and adults deserve as much information about and connection to their birth heritage as possible.
- Children thrive when they have the opportunity and support to explore all aspects of their identity.
- Adopted people deserve to know their full heritage and should have access to all of their records and birth history.

We are a multicultural organization from top to bottom. Our staff and board of directors are racially diverse and reflect all positions of the adoption triad.

Adoption Placement

In addition to facilitating adoptions, we offer lifelong support to all triad members. Our primary client is the child. In order to serve the child, we address the needs of all of the child’s parents, by advising families facing a crisis pregnancy and by offering lifelong education to adoptive families and birth families on matters of race and adoption. Fees are charged to adoptive parents on a sliding scale. All services to birth parents are free. Pact was incorporated in 1991 as a non-profit 501(c)(3) charitable organization. We work with families throughout the U.S.

Brochures available individually or in bulk.
- “Considering Adoption: Becoming an Adoptive Parent” Pact services for pre-adoptive parents looking to adopt a child of color.
- “Healthy African American Infants Need Families Now” Need for African American families looking to adopt.
- “Considering Adoption: Placing Your Child for Adoption” Pact services for expectant parents considering adoption for a child.
- “Spanish Language Birth Parent Brochure” Spanish version of Pact services for expectant parents considering adoption.

Pact Membership

We invite you to join the Pact family by becoming a member. When you join Pact, you receive access to an array of membership benefits — and you support Pact’s mission of serving adopted children of color and their families.

Why should you join Pact? What are the benefits of membership? Pact members receive an array of benefits, many of which can be enjoyed no matter where you live. For instance, you can receive our quarterly publication Pact’s Point of View, full of moving, thought-provoking essays by adoptees, birth parents, adoptive parents, and adoption professionals that you simply won’t find anywhere else. Pact membership also gives you access to our online affinity groups, where you can connect with other families like yours, and to our monthly email updates on timely adoption-related issues. Pact members receive a member discount at our online store, with its carefully curated collection of adoption-related books and videos, and pay discounted rates for our programs and services. Invitations to members-only events are another benefit.

Annual Membership Dues
- Family $ 50
- Organization $100
- Grassroots Organization $ 65

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Pact Resources about Transracial Adoption

Below the Surface
$6.50
bulk pricing:
11-100 copies: $5.00 each
more than 100 copies: $3.50 each

by Beth Hall & Gail Steinberg
A self-assessment guide for adoptive families considering adoption across racial or cultural lines. This learning tool will help pre-adoptive parents decide for themselves if transracial adoption is the right choice for their family. It is designed to give parents feedback as to how challenging this form of parenting is likely to be for them depending on their personality, lifestyle, attitude about race and knowledge of races other than their own. Professionals will find this tool invaluable. Below the Surface gives families the chance to quiz themselves in four areas pertinent to transracial parenting and to determine their Transracial Adoption Suitability Index. Designed as a user-friendly learning tool, this pamphlet does not debate transracial adoption; instead, it gives potential parents real tools to decide where their strengths and challenges will play out in this special kind of adoptive parenting.

Interracial Families, Interwoven Cultures
$18.00
A six-hour audiotape looking at the challenges of transracial adoption. Recorded at a day-long training program led by Beth Hall and Gail Steinberg, it concentrates on the child’s experience in the world.

Trainer’s Kit for Transracial Adoption
$60.00
A training curriculum for professionals working with pre- and post- adoptive families. This kit offers step-by-step outlines and instructions for planning workshops using Pact materials and two instructional videotapes (Visible Differences and Struggle for Identity – read more about both in the video section of Pact’s BookSource) exploring transracial adoption issues. The trainer’s guide includes advice on how to use the materials, how to establish topic priorities and suggested exercises for pre- and post- placement families. Instructions include goals, trainer preparation, agendas and handouts for 12 individual workshops as well as all-day and half-day sessions. Includes:
• Trainer’s Guide for Transracial Adoption
  Permission to duplicate granted with purchase.
• Below the Surface
  A self-assessment guide for anyone considering adoption across racial or cultural lines.

Transracial Adoption Collection
$120.00
Includes:
• Best of Pact Press Collections:
  Racial Identity, Biracial Identity, Being Adopted and Talking With Kids About Adoption
• Below the Surface A self-assessment exploring adoption across racial/cultural lines
• Inside Transracial Adoption by Gail Steinberg & Beth Hall: A must-read book that pulls no punches.
• Trainer’s Guide for Transracial Adoption Curriculum guides and handouts with permission to reprint.
• Interracial Families, Interwoven Cultures A six-hour audiotape on the challenges of transracial adoption.
• Visible Difference A videotape looking at transracial adoption.

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We are now flooded with adoption books and it is difficult for adoptive parents with young children to figure out which books are really worthwhile to read and then read to their children. Many that are feel-good books for adoptive parents sell well, but are little more than propaganda for parents to try to dictate to their children how to think and feel. How, though, would most adoptive parents know this? Some booksellers have confided to me that they are struggling with this because they dare not refuse to sell and promote the feelgood books that bring in lots of $$$, but they see the flaws in many of these books and don’t feel so terrific about foisting them on adoptive families. Pact’s BookSource is different because they don’t “give into” the need to market and sell books but instead focus exclusively on books that are really good for families and kids and promote deeper thinking and support for the feelings and experience that adoption entails.

I encourage adoptive families and adoptive family support groups to join NATIONAL organizations like Pact, in addition to forming and sustaining local adoptive family organizations so that parents can benefit from the collective wisdom Pact has accumulated. By creating their BookSource, Pact does a tremendous service to the adoption community that aids adoptive parents in separating out those books that are really good from those that are (in Pact’s opinion) “a waste of trees.” I urge booksellers who are not experts in adoption to use the BookSource to decide which books to advertise (or at least to what extent TO advertise them). I am delighted to see Pact help us find a way to counter the increasing wave of offering superficial, not so terrific “stuff” to the adoptive parent population who are vulnerable because most of them are eager to provide positive images to their children.

Jane Brown
Adoption Social Worker and Educator

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