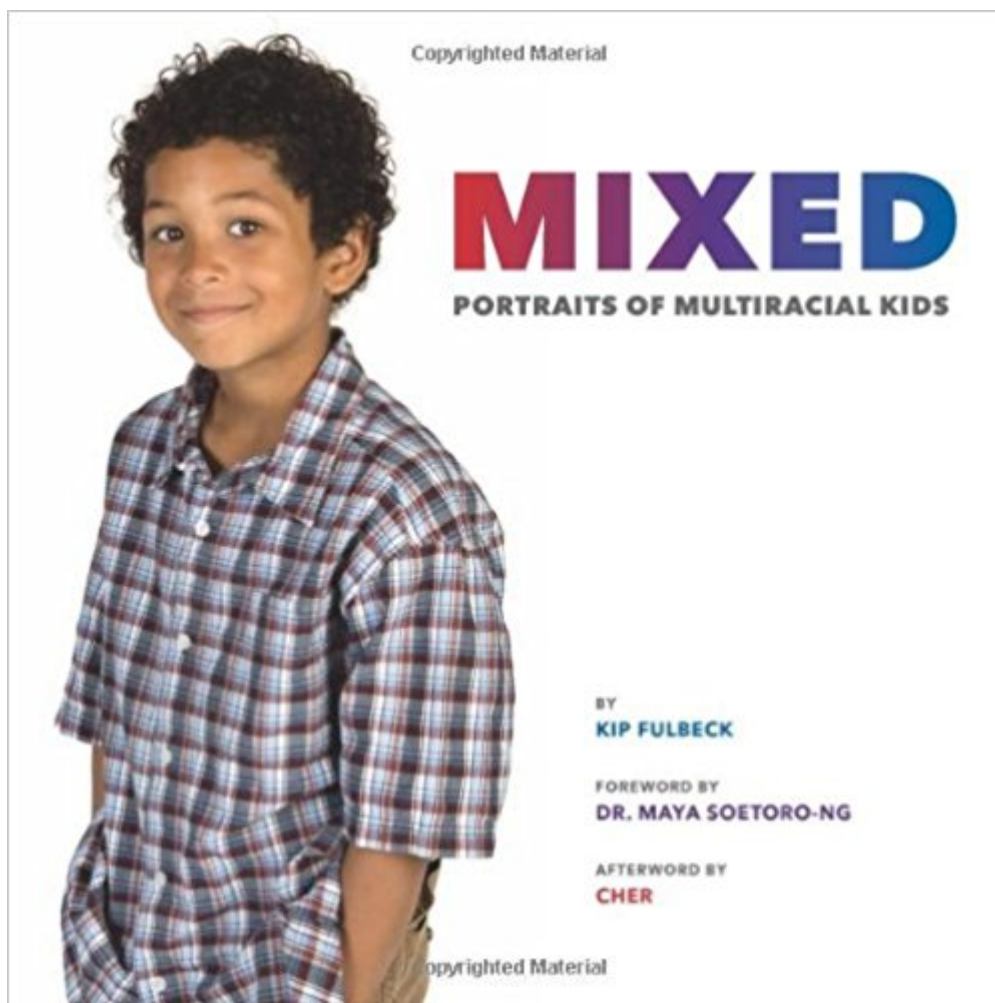


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# Mixed: Portraits Of Multiracial Kids



## Synopsis

From beloved writer and artist Kip Fulbeck, author of *Part Asian*, *100% Hapa*, this timely collection of portraits celebrates the faces and voices of mixed-race children. At a time when 7 million people in the U.S. alone identify as belonging to more than one race, interest in issues of multiracial identity is rapidly growing. Overflowing with uplifting elements including charming images, handwritten statements from the children, first-person text from their parents, a foreword by Dr. Maya Soetoro-Ng (President Obama's sister), and an afterword by international star Cher (who is part Cherokee) this volume is an inspiring vision of the future.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 26 customer reviews

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> Children's Studies

## Customer Reviews

Kip Fulbeck, professor and artist, lives in Santa Barbara. Cher is an internationally adored music and film star. Dr. Maya Soetoro-Ng is a multiracial identity specialist and educator.

This is a book that has been on my to be owned list for a while and when it finally arrived in the mail today I was over the moon and of course re-read the whole thing in one sitting. So what makes this book so amazing? Well if some of you somehow missed this news flash, I am mixed. And I am married to a man who does not share the same racial heritage as me. So our kids will be even more mixed. Mexican, Native American, German, Caucasian, Irish, Austrian, Czech and Prussian to be exact. Growing up mixed was interesting for me. While most of my life was spent in areas predominated by white culture, at 17 I moved into a household that primarily spoke Spanish and ate

Mexican food everyday. In both areas I felt as many of the parents and Kip expressed in *Mixed*, that I was always pressured to choose one culture over the other. "Choose one" on the demographic forms. So what I loved about this book is how it embraces a new generation of mixed kids and paves the way for them that they don't have to choose one race over the other. They won't have to choose to identify with one race but can embrace their Heinz 57 of cultures and be proud and beautiful. If I had to pick one complaint with this book, it's that it wasn't as diversified as I'd like to see. A few mix combinations were displayed over and over again with some not pictured at all (Where are the strictly Latino/Caucasian kids?). Overall this is a book I am so happy to have as part of my permanent bookshelf and definitely plan to share it with my children in the years to come.

A few months ago, I saw the museum exposition based on this book at the Japanese-American Museum in Los Angeles. I was so delighted and inspired by it that I very nearly bought the book immediately, but I figured, "Well, c'mon, how often am I going to look at it?" But I've been haunted by these photos -- in a nice way -- so I finally gave into temptation and bought myself a copy. You probably should indulge, too. The book is, as the title implies, primarily photos of kids from mixed backgrounds. Each portrait includes the child's background, so you can see that Kieli is Chinese, Scottish and Irish. (You don't need to be told that she's a cutie.) The children are all under the age of 12; as the author said in the museum show, that is young enough that the children don't yet define themselves primarily in terms of race. For example, he asked each of them to write or draw answers to "Who are you?" and most said things like, "I like baseball" rather than "I'm Chinese." The book would be worth it simply as a cool collection of kids' portraits, and as inspiration for anyone who wanted to see how to take better pictures of their kids. But where it transcends "interesting" and approaches "magical" is in the text that accompanies many of the photos, and in the essays at the beginning of the book. Many of the photos include the "who are you?" essay or drawing ("I play soccer. I am amazing..." ) or notes written by one of the kids' parents, nearly all of which are upbeat ("....I have struggled for years to come to terms with my racial identity, but I don't believe my children will have that problem"). There's an engaging essay by the author, who pointed out that until the U.S. Census of 2000 he had to "choose one" when it came to identifying his race, and that such choices could make someone feel as though he's rejecting one of his parents. (Plenty of forms still have "check one," I've since noticed.) I was also inspired by the long forward by Dr. Maya Soetoro-Ng, the sister of President Obama, in which she wrote about the self-perceptions of those who grow up as mixed race. "The newly visible and active presence of mixed-race youth offers interesting opportunities for discussions about identity," she writes, and she explains the importance

of "appreciation for complex identities and [the need to] thereby usher in a more truly inclusive understanding of 'diversity.'" The afterward by Cher is nice but it's only a page -- just one step above a book blurb. This is a wonderful book, and it will cheer you up immensely. Recommended.

I bought this book out of curiosity because my daughter is biracial. There are photos of children of many ages, sometimes with a little drawing or note from the child, sometimes with a note from the parent. These are all very positive, the parents talking about how great their kids are and how much they love them. Not a lot of commentary on difficulties kids may face... it's definitely a book with a 'we are all human' type of message, which is nice. Each photo also lists the 'mix' for each kid, which is interesting. I am not sure I believe all the claims, as some parents seemed to view having a mixed heritage as being like collecting Pokemon -- gotta have 'em all. Fun book, overall.

This book is simply amazing. For anyone who has mixed race kids or who are interested in mixed race issues, etc. this book is perfect. Each page features photos of a different mixed race kid and you get to see what different races/ethnicities each kid is too! It is great for showing people that you can't always put people into one racial category or box and also helps to break down barriers and expectations in how we "think" people should look. I love this book and try and give it as a present whenever possible. It is always a great conversation starter.

I just had to take the time to review this book, because my daughter (1 year 1/2 old) loves it and so do I. I had it on my wishlist for awhile and brought it a few months ago. Wish I had brought it sooner. Every night before bedtime we have to look at the book and she will give kisses to the babies pictures. Oh and she loves the baby on the back flap (the photographer's baby) - he should have put a bigger picture of his baby in there too, because she loves that baby. If you are thinking about buying this book - just go ahead and do it - I don't think you will be disappointed - we weren't.

Mixed race kids tell their stories...a fun read...and encouraging to know that our grandson is not alone. A good read for everyone...mixed race or not.

Of course the book was excellent; I had seen it in print form first. However, four stars because the kindle version comes out weird with pictures and descriptions on off pages.

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Mixed: Portraits of Multiracial Kids Draw Faces: How to Speed Draw Faces and Portraits in 15

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