

Book List and Resources

For MCHD Diversity Committee, Faculty, and Families

Resources: Review Sites/Publishers/Articles/Booklists/Videos

- [Children's Lit to Promote Hope & Counter Fear](#) - a strong list of resources from School Library Journal, including a list of resources for books with Muslim characters, resources on the refugee experience, resources for locating diverse books in general
- [35 Picture Books for Young Activists](#)
- [20 Books about the Refugee and Immigrant Experience](#)
- [Lee & Low Publisher](#) - publishes diverse books and has an excellent blog plus book reviews
- [Disability in Kidlit](#) - a website that reviews and promotes books that authentically represent various disabilities in children's literature. Check out the "Honor Roll" tab for specific book recommendations
- [Brown Bookshelf](#) - a website that reviews and promotes books by and about African Americans. They have an initiative, 28 Days Later, which in their words, "showcases the best in Picture Books, Middle Grade, and Young Adult novels written and illustrated by Black creators"
- Blog from Lee & Low - ["Building a Diverse Classroom Library & Beyond"](#)
- Ted Talk, ["The Danger of a Single Story"](#), Chimamanda Ngozie Adichie
- Book review site, [The Cooperative Children's Book Center](#) - Includes many multicultural booklists and reviews
- website/movement: [WeNeedDiverseBooks](#)
- Blog post: ["Booklist of Children's Books About Transracial Adoption"](#)
- ALSC (Association for Library Service to Children): [Unity Kindness, and Peace Booklist](#)
- [Coretta Scott King Award Books](#), American Library Association Award Site - includes the Author Award, Illustrator Award, and the John Steptoe New Talent Award
- [Pura Belpre Award Books](#), ALA Award Site - awarded to Latino/Latina writer and illustrator whose work best portrays, affirms, and celebrates the Latino cultural experience in an outstanding work of literature for children and youth.
- Article, ["No Longer Invisible: How Diverse Literature Helps Children Find Themselves in Books & Why It Matters"](#) - includes a wonderful list of resources for teachers seeking diverse booklists
- Article, [5 Tips on How to Teach Kids the Real Story of Thanksgiving](#), This article was created as part of the social action campaign for the documentary 'TEACH,' produced by TakePart's parent company, Participant Media, in partnership with Bill and Melinda Gates.
- Article, ["What Does This Book Have to Do With Me?": Why Mirror and Window Books are Important for All Readers](#), by Katie Cunningham on Lee & Low blog

Adult Books

- [Whistling Vivaldi](#): How Stereotypes Affect Us & What We Can Do, by Claude M. Steele

- [NurtureShock: New Thinking About Children](#), by Po Bronson (This would be an interesting book from which to pull chapters for group discussions/book club.)
- [Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together In the Cafeteria](#), by Beverly Tatum (almost 2 decades old, but still an excellent read)
- [Can We Talk About Race?: And Other Conversations in an Era of School Resegregation](#) By Beverly Tatum (her more recent book, 2007)
- [What If All the Kids Are White?](#), by Louise Derman-Sparks
- [Between the World and Me](#), Ta-Nehesi Coates (very timely letter from an African American father to his son)
- [Americanah](#), by Chimamanda Ngozie Adichie (a novel that brings in race, identity, community, and global issues)
- [At Mama's Knee: Mothers and Race in Black and White](#), by April Ryan
- [The Misunderstood Child, Fourth Edition: Understanding and Coping with Your Children's Learning Disabilities](#), by Larry B Silver, MD

Children's Books

Picture Books -- that specifically highlight some type of diversity

Race/Ethnicity

- [Shades of People](#), by Shelley Rotner (real photos of racially/ethnically diverse kids!)
- [The Colors of Us](#), by Karen Katz (Names brown skin in child-friendly ways)
- [Let's Talk About Race](#), by Julius Lester (his memoir, which brings in role of race in identity)
- [The Skin You Live In](#), by Michael Tyler (I think I've seen this in Lisa's classroom so it may be one that families and faculty already know about)
- [Happy in Our Skin](#), by Fran Manushkin (depicts many cultures, including children in wheelchairs)
- [One Family](#), by George Shannon (This is also a counting book, so better for the Toddler crowd)
- [Amazing Faces](#), by Lee Bennett Hopkins (This is comprised of 16 poems which highlight various races and cultures)
- [Thunder Boy Jr.](#), by Sherman Alexie (American Indian boy, importance of naming)
- [Looking Like Me](#), by Walter Dean Myers (African-American boy looking in the mirror & defining himself in many different ways - great for identity discussion)
- [Ron's Big Mission](#), by Rose Blue (chronicles an experience in early childhood of African-American astronaut, Ron McNair)
- [Saltpie: A Choctaw Journey From Darkness Into Light](#), by Tim Tingle
- [This is the Rope, a Story from the Great Migration](#), by Jacqueline Woodson
- Any book really from Jacqueline Woodson!
- [Peekaboo Morning](#), by Rachel Isadora (great for the Toddler crowd)

- Almost anything by Rachel Isadora -- [Kirkus reviews of all Rachel Isadora books](#) -- Most of the main characters in her picture books are black, although some are Asian-American or white.

Family Structure (adoption, same-sex parents, divorce, interracial, etc)

- [Who's In My Family?: All About Our Families \(Let's Talk About You & Me\)](#), by Robie H. Harris (depicts & discusses all types of customs and families, including specific depictions of same gender parents, mother in hijab, and many racial variations)
- [Over the Moon: An Adoption Tale](#) by Karen Katz (A book for very young readers about one adoptive family's beginnings)
- [All the World](#), by Liz Gordon Scanlon (beautiful illustrations, very diverse family & very peaceful message - very Montessori!)
- [And Tango Makes Three](#), by Justin Richardson and Peter Parnell (based on a true story, two male penguins are given an egg to raise together)
- [Mommy, Mama, and Me](#), by Leslea Newman (two mother family structure)
- [Families](#), by Shelley Rotner (real pictures featuring many forms of diversity)
- [Donovan's Big Day](#) (boy will be ring bearer for his mothers' wedding)
- [Stella Brings the Family](#), by Miriam Shiffer (a girl with two fathers grapples with how to handle a Mother's Day celebration at school)
- [Star of the Week: A story about Love, Adoption, and Brownies with Sprinkles](#), by Darlene Friedman (a young girl adopted from China, finds a way to include her birthparents in her poster when she is chosen as Star of the Week)
- [Mum and Dad Glue](#), by Kes Gray (divorce)
- [Two Homes](#), by Claire Masurel (divorce)
- [The Red Thread: An Adoption Fairytale](#), by Grace Lin (adoption)

Religious Diversity

- [A Time to Pray](#), by Maha Addasi (a Muslim American girl visits her grandmother in a Muslim country, learns about the five times for prayers)
- [Under the Ramadan Moon](#), by Sylvia Williams (simple rhyming book describing Ramadan celebration by a modern family)
- [The Language of Angels](#), by Richard Michelson (historically accurate story of father and son reinvent and modernize Hebrew in 1885)

Immigration/Global Connections

- [Teacup](#), by Rebecca Young (allegorical story, beautiful illustrations of a boy fleeing his home on a solo journey across an ocean - could be read and discussed on many levels)
- [My Name is Yoon](#), by Helen Recorvits (Immigration, Asian-American experience, importance of names)
- [This Is Me: A Story of Who We Are and Where We Come From](#), by Jamie Lee Curtis (personalizes the immigration journey for a child by discussing what you would choose to bring with you)
- [Same, Same, but Different](#), by Jenni Sue Kostecki-Shaw (American boy and Indian boy who are pen pals, global connections)

Disabilities/Differently Able

- [My Brother Charlie](#), by Holly Robinson Peete (Autism)
- [My Three Best Friends and Me, Zulay](#), by Cari Best (main character is a blind, African American female 1st grader & the book tackles special needs with respect)

Picture Books -- that have diverse characters but are not explicitly about diversity

- [Ada Twist Scientist](#), by Andrea Beatty (great STEM connection, black female main character)
- [The Different Dragon](#), by Jennifer Bryan (main character has two mothers, but story is a fantasy about a boy at bedtime)
- [Dancing in the Wings](#), by Debbie Allen (loosely based on her life story of becoming a ballerine)
- [One Plastic Bag](#), by Miranda Paul (highlights one person's power to affect change, and recycling efforts)
- [Amazing Grace**](#), by Mary Hoffman (classic!)
- [Talk Peace](#), by Sam Williams
- [Never Say a Mean Word Again](#), by Jacqueline Jules (a tale from Medieval Spain)
- [One Day in the Eucalyptus, Eucalyptus Tree](#), by Daniel Bernstrom
- [The Airport Book](#), by Lisa Brown (a book about plane travel, main characters are biracial children)

Grades 1 - 3 (Lower Elementary) -- Most of these are "early chapter books"

- [The Stories Julian Tells**](#), by Ann Cameron (series, realistic fiction, African-American family), more K-2nd grades
- [Sofia Martinez**](#), My Family Adventure, Jacqueline Jules (series), more K-2nd grades, (some Spanish words, phrases, Latina main character)
- [Bird](#), by Zetta Elliott (picture book, but appropriate for older students because of content, an African-American boy uses drawing to grapple with loss of his grandfather & his brother)
- [Mandela](#), by Kadir Nelson (picture book with incredible illustrations, biography of Nelson Mandela in free verse, beautifully done)
- [Clubhouse Mysteries: The Buried Bones Mystery**](#), by Sharon M Draper (realistic fiction, four 10 year old African American boys as main characters, excellent author)
- [Alvin Ho](#), by Lenore Look (realistic fiction, 2nd grade Asian American male main character)
- [Miami Jackson Gets It Straight](#), by Patricia & Frederick McKissick (realistic fiction early chapter book with an African American male main character)
- [Jackson Jones and the Puddle of Thorns**](#), by Mary Quattlebaum (old, but well-written, realistic fiction, African American male main character)
- [Keena Ford and the Second Grade Mix-Up**](#), by Melissa Thomson (realistic fiction, African American female main character)

- [Ruby and the Booker Boys #1](#)** , by Derrick Barnes (realistic fiction, African American female main character)
- [Make Way for Dynamonde Daniel](#) (A Dynamonde Daniel book)** , by Nikki Grimes (realistic fiction, African American female main character)
- [Ling and Ting, Not Exactly the Same](#), by Grace Lin (realistic fiction, twins, Asian American female main characters)
- [Katie Fry, Private Eye, The Lost Kitten](#), by Katherine Cox (realistic fiction, African American female main character)
- [Ellray Jakes](#) series, by Sally Warner (realistic fiction, African American male 3rd grade main character)

Grades 3/4 - 6 (Upper Elementary)

- [Hidden Figures, Young Readers Edition](#), by Margot Lee Shetterly (chronicles 1st African American women to work for NACA/NASA who were the little known mathematicians known as “human computers” - movie of the story out in January)
- [Garvey's Choice](#), by Nikki Grimes (realistic fiction novel in verse, African American male main character who struggles with not fitting his father’s idea of a “typical boy” because he loves music and dislikes sports)
- [Inside Out & Back Again](#), by Thanhha Lai (Immigrant experience, Vietnam War, Asian-American experience, novel in verse)
- [Ghost](#), by Jason Reynolds (male, African American main character - does include description of domestic violence through the boy’s memories)
- [As Brave As You](#), by Jason Reynolds (male, African American main character)
- [The Thing About Luck](#), by Cynthia Kadohata (female main character, migrant experience, Japanese American experience)
- [The Year of the Dog](#), by Grace Lin (female main character, Asian American experience, very innocent book)
- [Out of My Mind](#), by Sharon Draper (female main character is brilliant & has cerebral palsy - humanizes physical disabilities)
- [Randi Rhodes, Ninja Detective: The Case of the Time Capsule Bandit](#)** , by Octavia Spencer (not expressly about race/ethnicity, white female main character with Latino & African-American best friends)
- [Unusual Chickens for the Exceptional Poultry Farmer](#), by Kelly Jones (mix of realistic fiction and fantasy, Latina main character)
- [El Deafo](#), by Cece Bell (graphic novel, main characters are rabbits, but this is a memoir of growing up deaf)
- [Hold Fast](#), by Blue Balliet (realistic fiction/mystery, African American main characters, poverty, homelessness)
- [Rules](#), by Cynthia Lord -- (autism) Catherine is a 12-year-old girl who just wants to be normal. She tries desperately to control the behavior of her autistic 8-year-old brother, David, by setting up various rules. When Catherine meets a young boy who can only communicate by pointing to pictures, she learns that “normal” has all kinds of definitions.

- [Breadcrumbs](#), by Anne Ursu - (5th grade main character adopted from India - In this contemporary version of *The Snow Queen*, the main character embarks on a memorable journey into the Minnesota woods to find her best friend Jack, who vanishes after a shard of glass pierces his eye.)
- [Half A World Away](#), by Cynthia Kadhota (adoption) -- Eleven-year-old Jaden feels like he's an "epic fail" and understands why his adopted family wants to adopt a "replacement baby". His emotions are high as he travels with his family to Kazakhstan to meet their newest family member.

Grades 5th and up

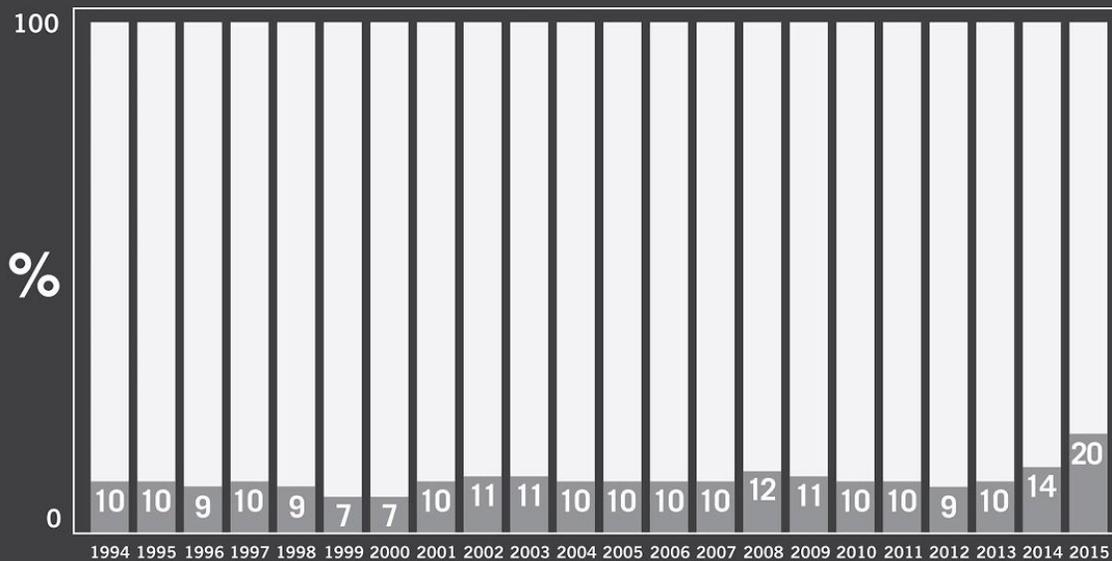
- [Crossover](#), by Kwame Alexander (Newbery Award Winner, novel in verse, African American male main character, basketball)
- [Booked](#), by Kwame Alexander (his newest book, same style as his first, but soccer)
- [One Crazy Summer](#), by Rita Williams-Garcia
- [Watsons Go to Birmingham, 1963](#), by Christopher Paul Curtis (excellent writing, African American male main character, set in 1963, a family from Flint, Michigan travels to the South & is present at the 16th Street Baptist Church bombing)
- [Brown Girl Dreaming](#), by Jacqueline Woodson (on the NYT list)
- [Flying Lessons, an anthology of short stories edited by Ellen Oh](#), in partnership with WeNeedDiverseBooks (will be published in January, 2017, short stories written by 10 of the current biggest diverse authors for Middle Grade books)
- [The Red Pencil](#), by Andrea Davis Pinkney (novel in verse, hopeful story a Sudanese girl in a refugee camp)

[Interesting InfoGraphic about the Diversity Gap in Children's Books](#) (Next Page)

THE DIVERSITY GAP IN CHILDREN'S BOOKS

22 YEARS ★ 1994 – 2015

PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN'S BOOKS BY AND/OR ABOUT PEOPLE OF COLOR



37% OF THE US POPULATION ARE **PEOPLE OF COLOR** **10%** OF CHILDREN'S BOOKS IN THE PAST 22 YEARS CONTAIN **MULTICULTURAL CONTENT**

60% OF THE BOOKS PUBLISHED IN 2015 ABOUT **PEOPLE OF COLOR** WERE CREATED BY PEOPLE FROM **OUTSIDE** OF THOSE CULTURES

MINORITY % OF US POPULATION

2012
116.2M



2060
241.3M
PROJECTED



DID YOU KNOW?

THE US IS PROJECTED TO BECOME A MAJORITY-
"MINORITY" NATION IN 2043.



ABOUT EVERYONE • FOR EVERYONE for more conversations on diversity, visit
LEE & LOW BOOKS blog.leeandlow.com

*Children's Books by and about People of Color Published in the United States. *Statistics Gathered by the Cooperative Children's Book Center, School of Education, University of Wisconsin-Madison, CSCB. <http://www.education.wisc.edu/ccbc/bookpublics.htm>.
**U.S. Census Bureau Projections Show a Slower Growing, Older, More Diverse Nation a Half Century from Now. *United States Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce, December 12, 2012. <http://www.census.gov/newsroom/releases/archives/population/0112-243.html>.
Disclaimer: Statistics for this study were compiled by Lee & Low Books. While we do our utmost, every people, we are not statisticians. We have carefully listed our sources for this study and have done so with the full knowledge that other such as Wikipedia may not be entirely accurate.
PRODUCED BY LEE & LOW BOOKS. DESIGNED BY BEN MAUTNER. © 2015