

Using Diverse Literature in the Classroom



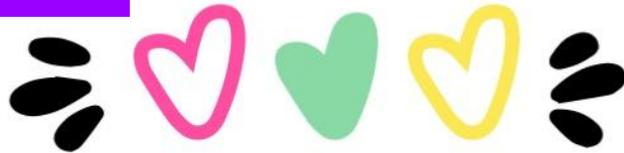
Let's test your

S- Strengths

W- Work in progress

A- Accomplishments

G-Goals



The image features a quote by Maya Angelou centered within a white rectangular area, which is framed by a thick green border. The background is a vibrant, abstract design consisting of a black top section with white dashed lines, and a bottom section with curved, overlapping bands of pink, orange, and yellow. The text is presented in a clean, black, sans-serif font.

Do the best you can until you
know better. Then when know
better, do better.

-Maya Angelou

You are teaching but are they learning?

- Gloria Ladson-Billings

[Link](#)

"Children need to see themselves in books. Then perhaps they will reach for books more often."- Naomi V. Dunsen-White

DIVERSITY IN CHILDREN'S BOOKS 2018

Percentage of books depicting characters from diverse backgrounds based on the 2018 publishing statistics compiled by the Cooperative Children's Book Center, School of Education, University of Wisconsin-Madison: ccbc.education.wisc.edu/books/pcstats.asp



23 BOOKS **1%**

**American Indians/
First Nations**

170 BOOKS **5%**

Latinx

218 BOOKS **7%**

**Asian Pacific
Islander/Asian
Pacific American**

301 BOOKS **10%**

**African/
African
American**

864 BOOKS **27%**

Animals/Other

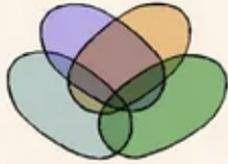
1,558 BOOKS **50%**

White

Illustration by David Huyck, in consultation with Sarah Park Dahlen
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The CCBC inventory includes 3,134 books published in 2018. This graphic would not have been possible without the statistics compiled by the CCBC, and the review and feedback we received from Edith Campbell, Molly Beth Griffin, K. T. Horning, Debbie Reese, Ebony Elizabeth Thomas, and Madeline Tyner. Many thanks.

What Makes a Book Diverse?



Characters with intersecting identities



Different family dynamics



Disability experiences



Social issues and events



WE need diverse books!

Mirror, Windows, & Sliding Doors

[Dr. Hollins-Sims](#)

Mirrors

- What more do I need to know about my students?
- What are their funds of knowledge?
- How does intersectionality live in our learning spaces?
- How do my students see themselves?
- What activities can I design to help students explore their identity/identities?
- How can I prepare myself so I can best support students in this process?

Windows

- Who are my students?
- What are their interests?
- What do my students find curious?
- What world knowledge can we build together?
- What connections to prior knowledge can we make?
- Through what ways can I learn different things about my students?

Sliding Doors

- The opportunity to enter a new world or experience.
- It can also be used to change perspective.

What is Equity?

The concept involves giving everyone in a situation the specific tools that they need to be successful. In the classroom, promoting equity is about educators choosing to embrace rather than shy away from the unique backgrounds, identities, and experiences that their individual students bring to the table.



Equity Is A Journey,
Not A Destination.

-Dr. Nikole Hollins-Sims

Promoting Equity Through Literature

1. Reflect on Your Own Beliefs
2. Reduce Race and Gender Barriers to Learning
3. Establish an Inclusive Environment Early
4. Be Dynamic With Classroom Space
5. Accommodate Learning Styles and Disabilities

Benefits

An introduction to different worlds

Proactive engagements with the text

A lesson in empathy

A love of reading

Book Tasting

Dancing Home

Alma Flor Ada and Gabriel
M. Zubizarreta

Grade Level

3-7

[Trailer](#)

- whole group read-aloud
- small group project
- individual project

The Only Black Girls in Town

Your Text

Grade Level
5-8

[Trailer](#)

-window,
mirror and
sliding glass
door
opportunity
-Find a friend
-celebrate
differences

Ghost Boys

Your Text

Grade Level
5-12

[Trailer](#)

- carefully consider the emotional maturity of your audience.
- Allow for conversations to be had after.

Oddity

Sarah Cannon

Grade Level

4-8

[Trailer](#)

- Creative writing
- PBL
- STEM

One True Way

Your Text

Grade level
5-8

[Trailer](#)

-finding out
who you are
-history
-window,
mirror &
sliding door
opportunity

A Good Kind of Trouble

Your Text

Grade Level
5-8

- writing activity
- Group project
- Mirror,
window and
sliding door

[Trailer](#)

Too Bright to See

Kyle Lukoff

Grade Level

6-9

-Window,
mirror and
glass door
-LGBTQ+
community

[About the author](#)

The Day You Begin

Jacqueline
Woodson

Grade Level
K-5

-Great first
day book.
-Journal
writing

[Trailer](#)

Walk Two Moons

Sharon
Creech

Grade Level
4-9

[Trailer](#)

-social &
emotional
learning
-grief
-find ones
place in the
new

The Crossover

Your Text

Grade Level
5-9

[Trailer](#)

-poetry
-writing
-PBL

Code Talker

Joseph Bruchac

Grade Level
5-12

[Trailer](#)

- PBL
- Writing activity
- historical impact project

Sulwe

Lupita
Nyong'o

Grade Level
K-5

[Trailer](#)

- Window, mirror & sliding door
- First days of school
- Writing activity

The background features a white field with scattered black dots. A thick, light green rectangular border frames the central text. At the bottom, there are three overlapping, stylized rainbows with bands of pink, orange, yellow, and light green. The text is centered within the green border.

It is as crucial for privileged folx to read about the experiences of those who have been historically oppressed, as such learning can help prevent atrocities of the past from being repeated in future. Research suggests reading can teach children to empathize with people from backgrounds different from their own and reduce the salience of harmful stereotypes.



References

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