



**YOUR PATRONS NEED  
DIVERSE BOOKS:  
the care & keeping of a  
diverse collection**

**Oregon Library Association Annual Conference**

**April 22, 2016**

HELLO

WE ARE ELENA, LORA & KATY

# ELENA GLEASON

- ◇ Acquisitions Librarian at Coos Bay Public Library
- ◇ Selector for adult materials
- ◇ [egleason@cclsd.org](mailto:egleason@cclsd.org)



# LORA WORDEN

- ◇ School Library Assistant at Catlin Gabel School (Portland, OR)
- ◇ Assist with selecting and promoting materials for preK-5th grade, their caregivers, and educators
- ◇ [loraword@gmail.com](mailto:loraword@gmail.com)

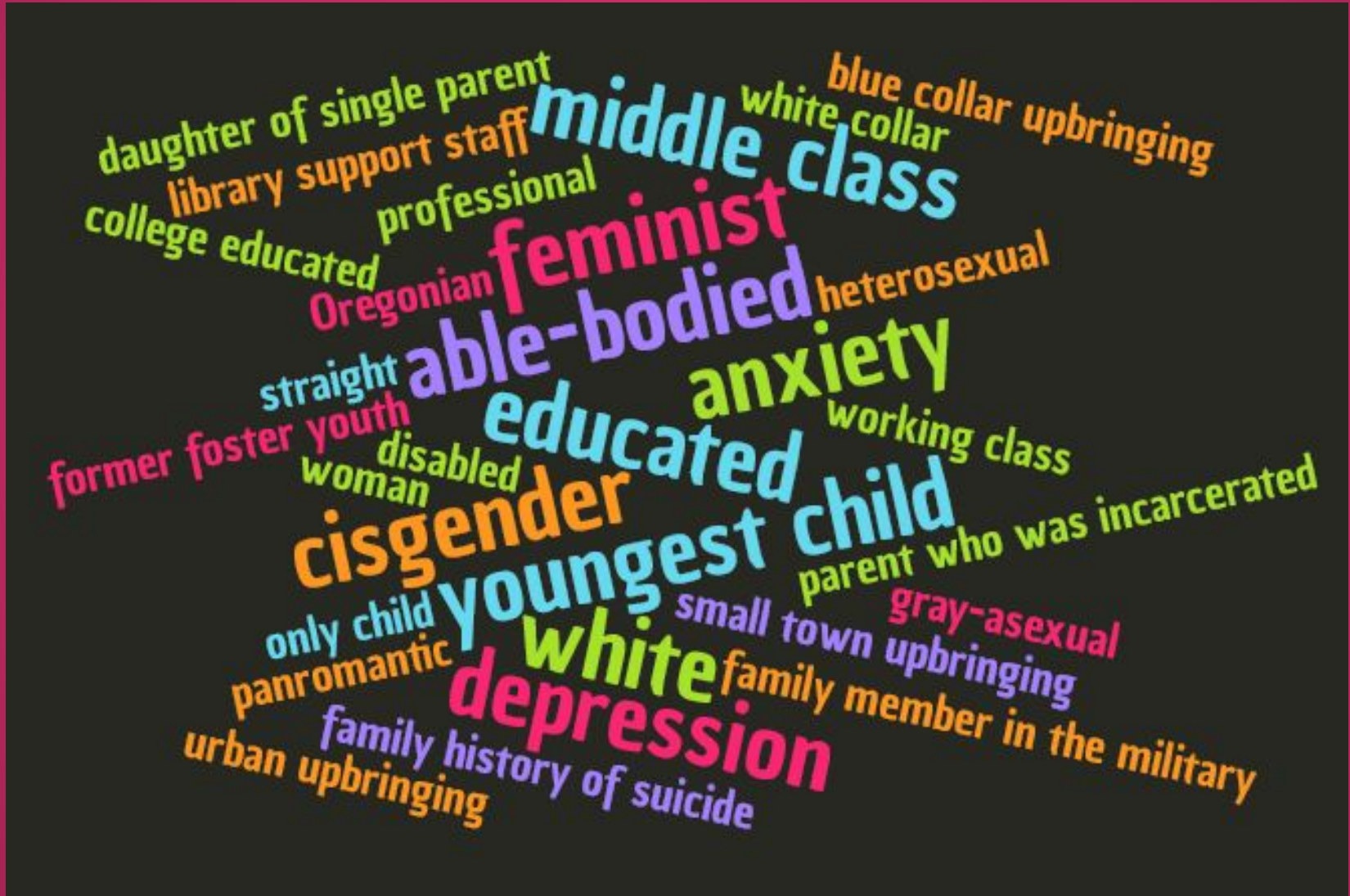


# KATY BOGART

- ◇ Youth Services Librarian at Garden Home Community Library (Portland, OR / Washington County)
- ◇ Selector for youth materials
- ◇ [katyb@wccls.org](mailto:katyb@wccls.org)



# WHO WE ARE





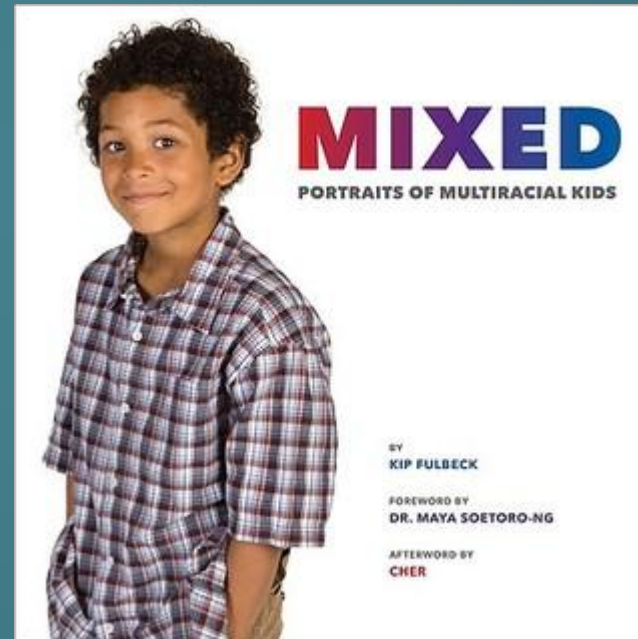
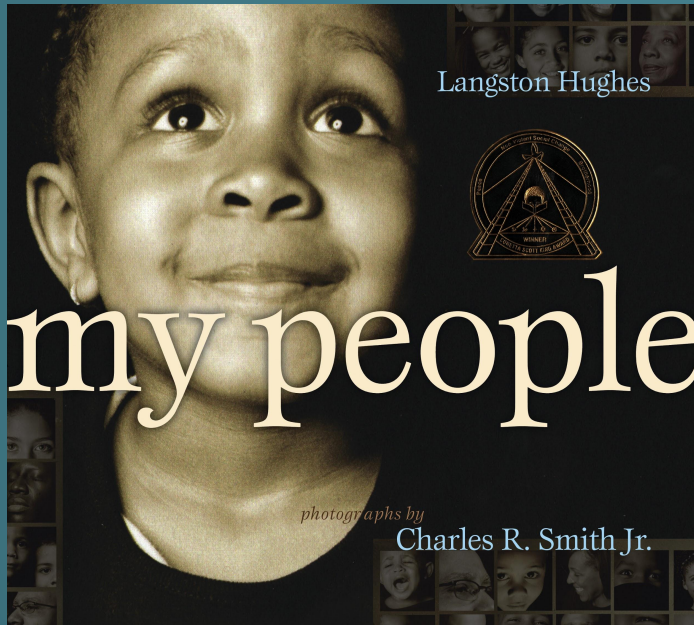
**WHAT IS**

**DIVERSITY?**

# DIVERSITY

The “Original Big 8” include . . .

## ◇ Race



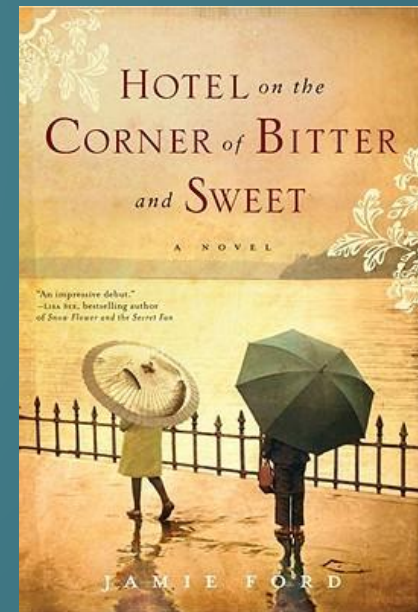
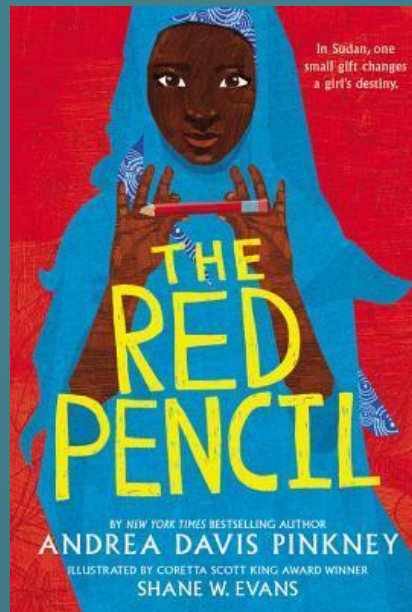
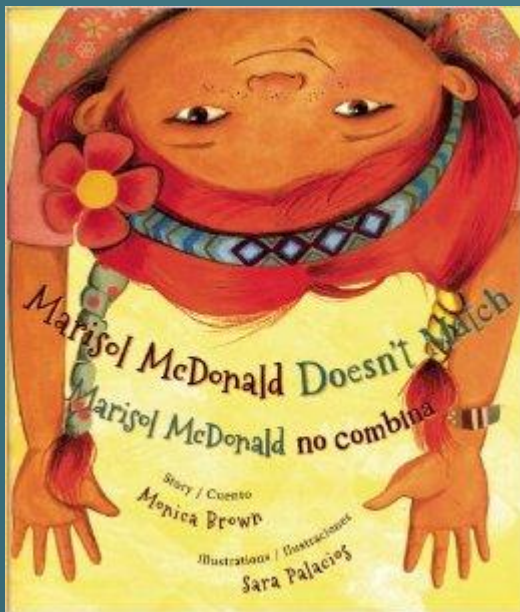
<http://www.isdnetwork.org/what-is-diversity.html>



# DIVERSITY

The “Original Big 8” include . . .

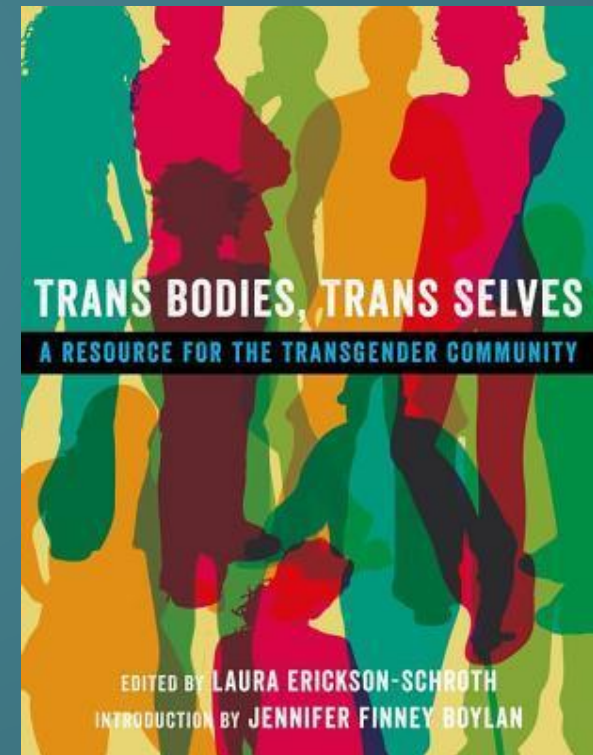
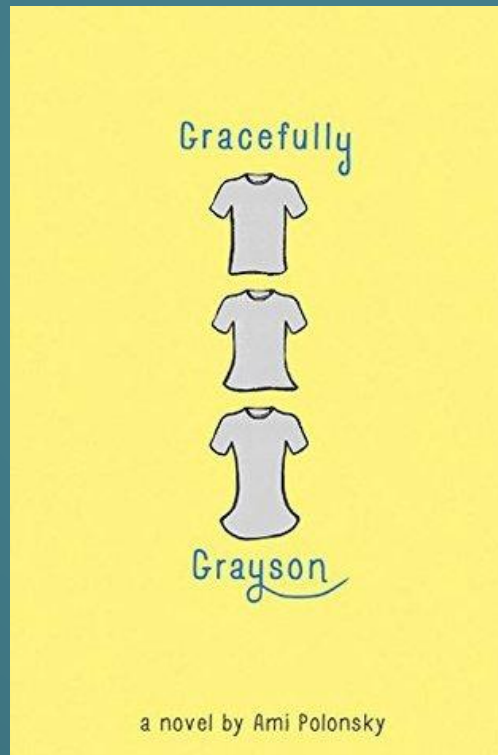
## ◆ Ethnicity



# DIVERSITY

The “Original Big 8” include . . .

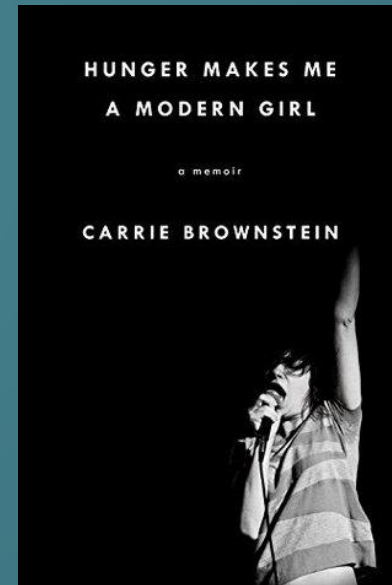
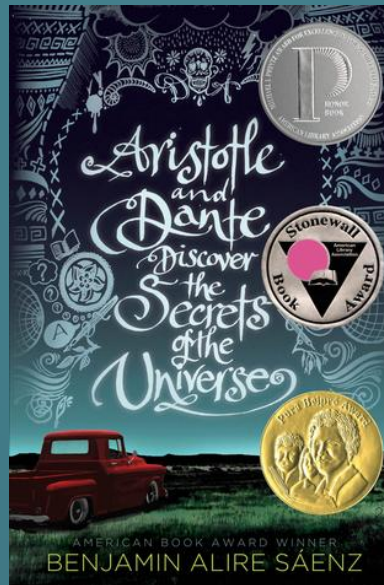
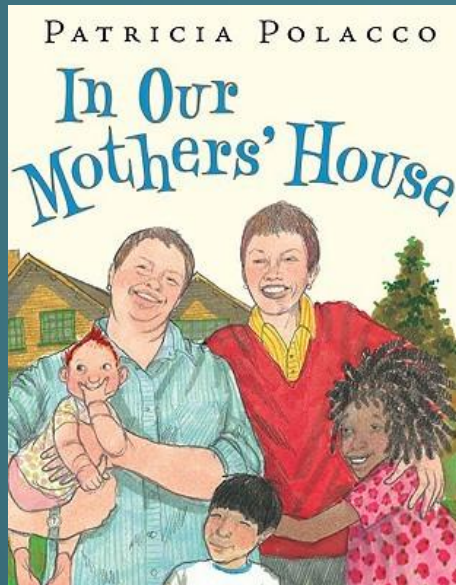
## ◇ Gender



# DIVERSITY

The “Original Big 8” include . . .

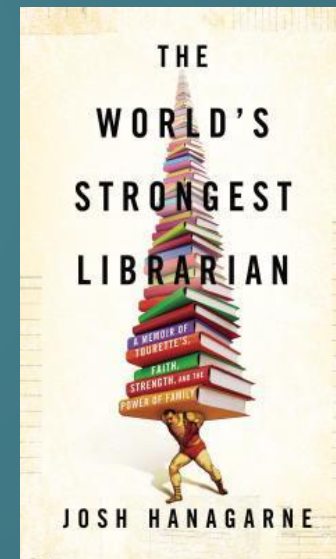
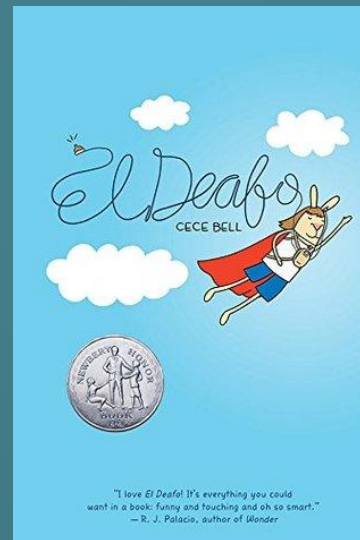
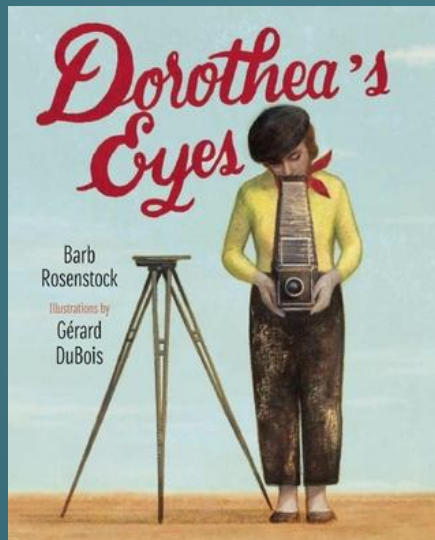
## ◇ Sexual Orientation



# DIVERSITY

The “Original Big 8” include . . .

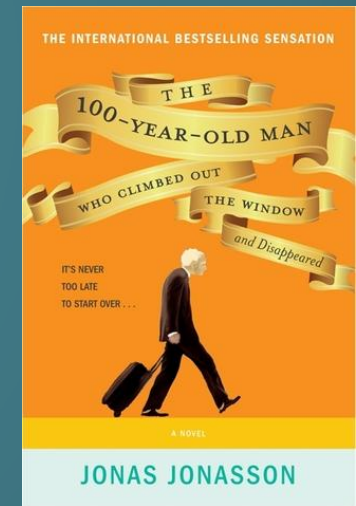
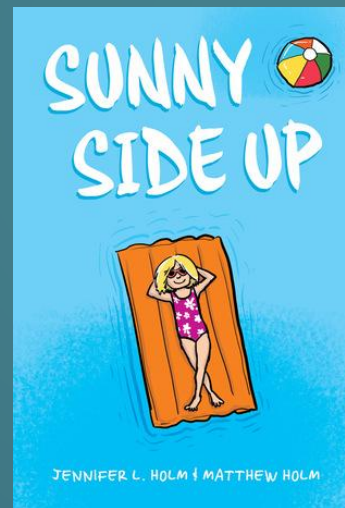
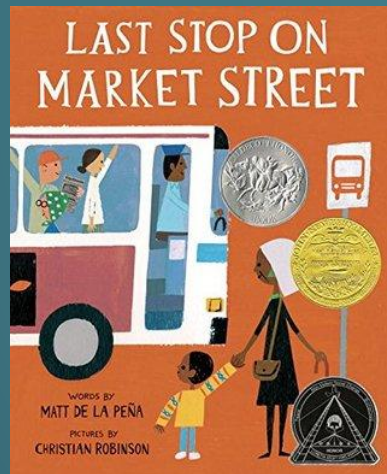
## ◇ Ability (mental and/or physical)



# DIVERSITY

The “Original Big 8” include . . .

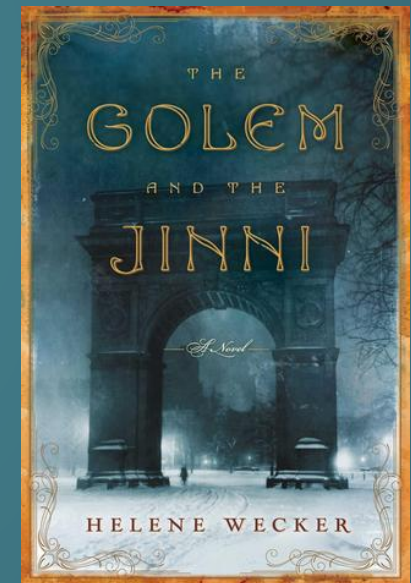
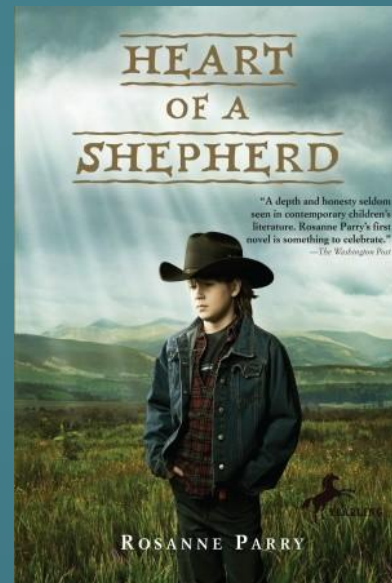
## ◇ Age



# DIVERSITY

The “Original Big 8” include . . .

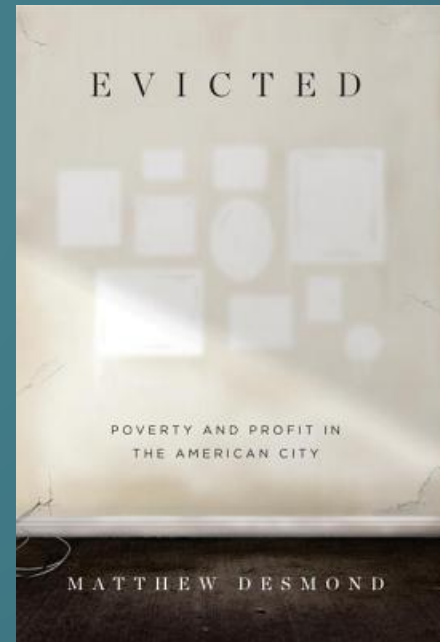
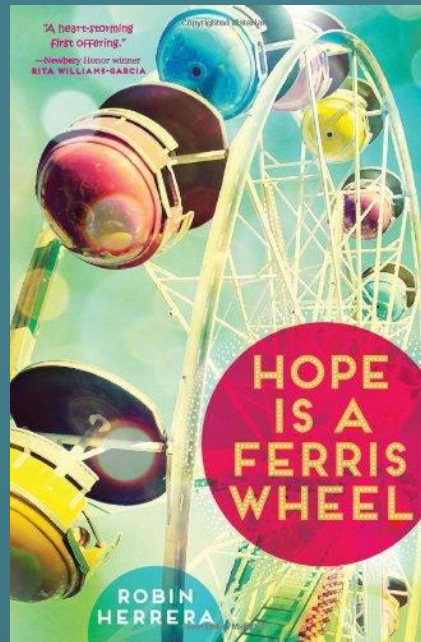
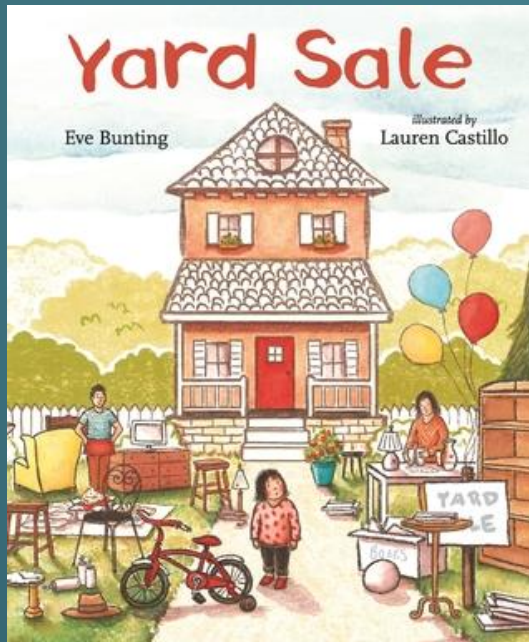
## ◇ Religion



# DIVERSITY

The “Original Big 8” include . . .

## ◇ Socio-Economic Status / Class



# DIVERSITY

... *and so much more!*

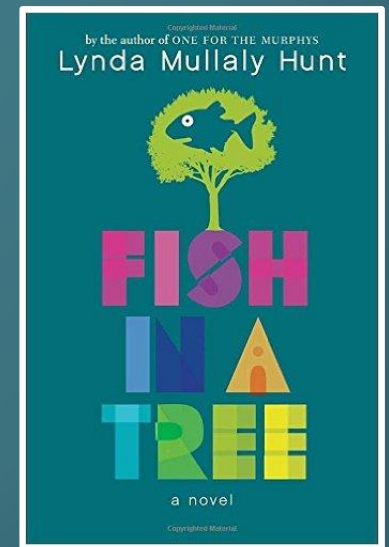
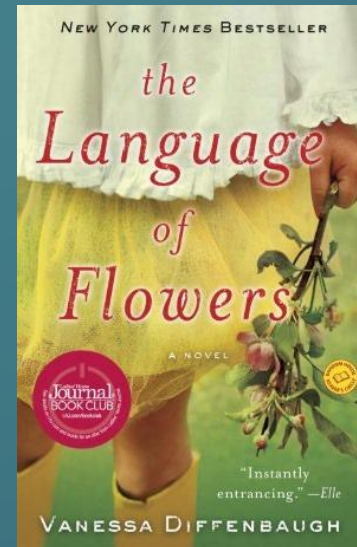
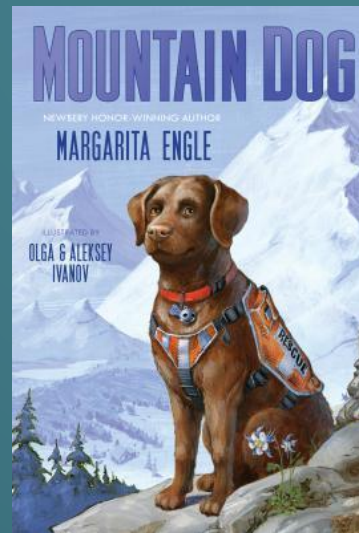
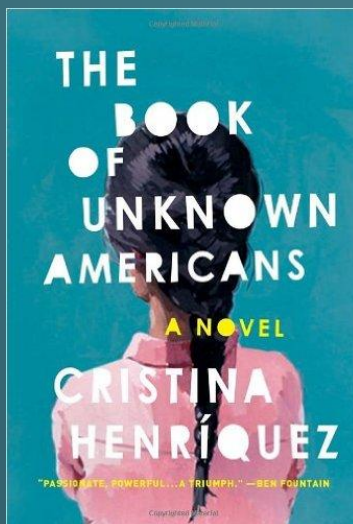
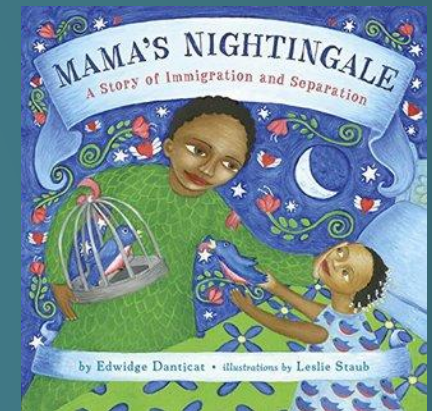
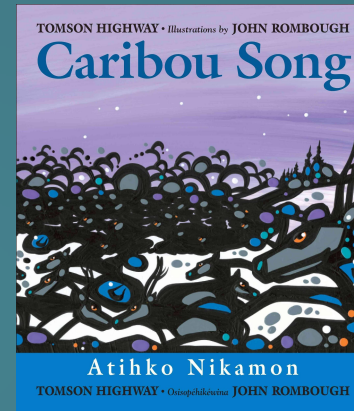
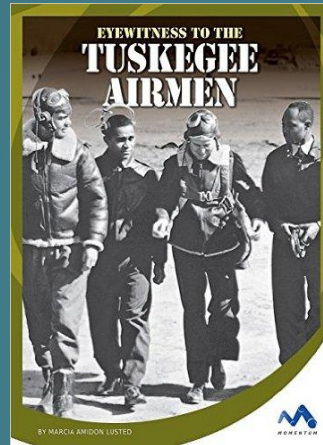
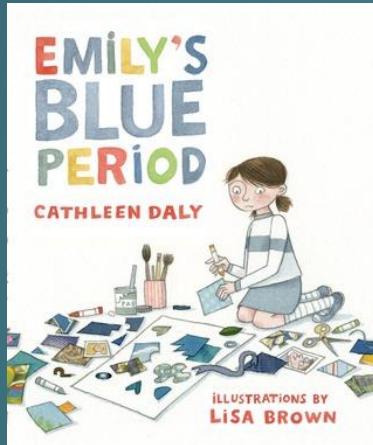
Let's brainstorm together!

- Family composition\*
- Academic/Social achievement\*
- Language\*
- Learning style\*
- Beliefs\* (Political, Social, Spiritual)
- Veteran status
- Subculture
- Family incarceration
- Professional status
- Educational background\*
- Geographic/Regional Background\*
  - (urban/rural)
- Globalism/Internationalism\*
- Homelessness/ housing
- Mental illness
- Body image\*/ Body size
- Legal status
- Social status



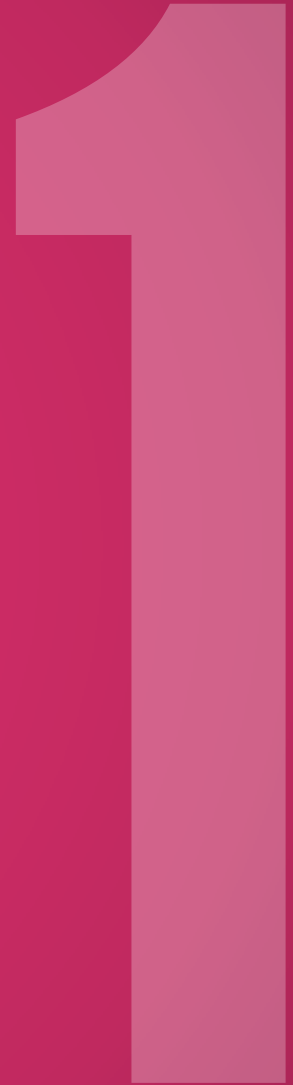
# DIVERSITY

*also includes...*



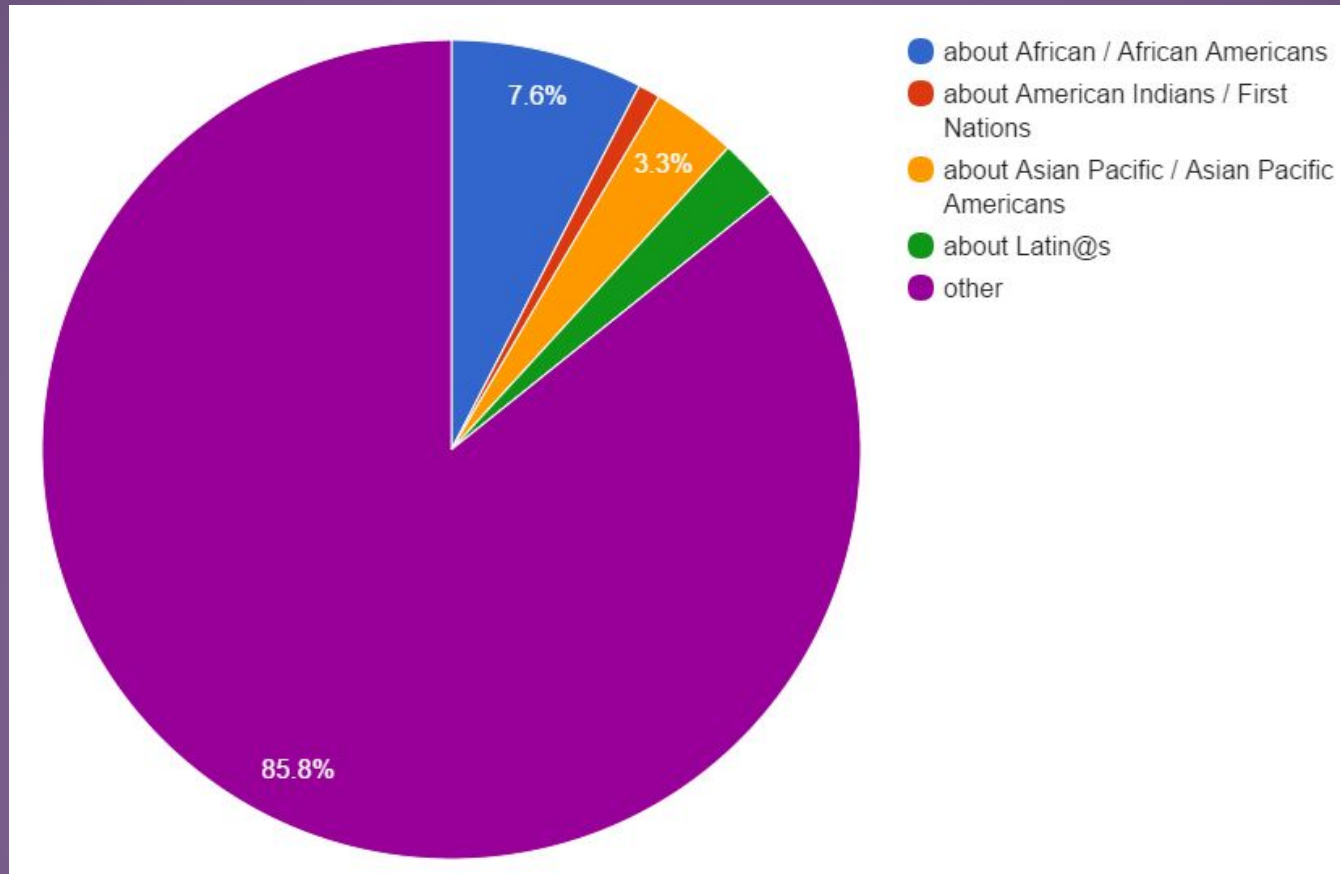
# CHAMPION

Why to champion diversity  
in your library



WE NEED  
DIVERSE  
BOOKS™





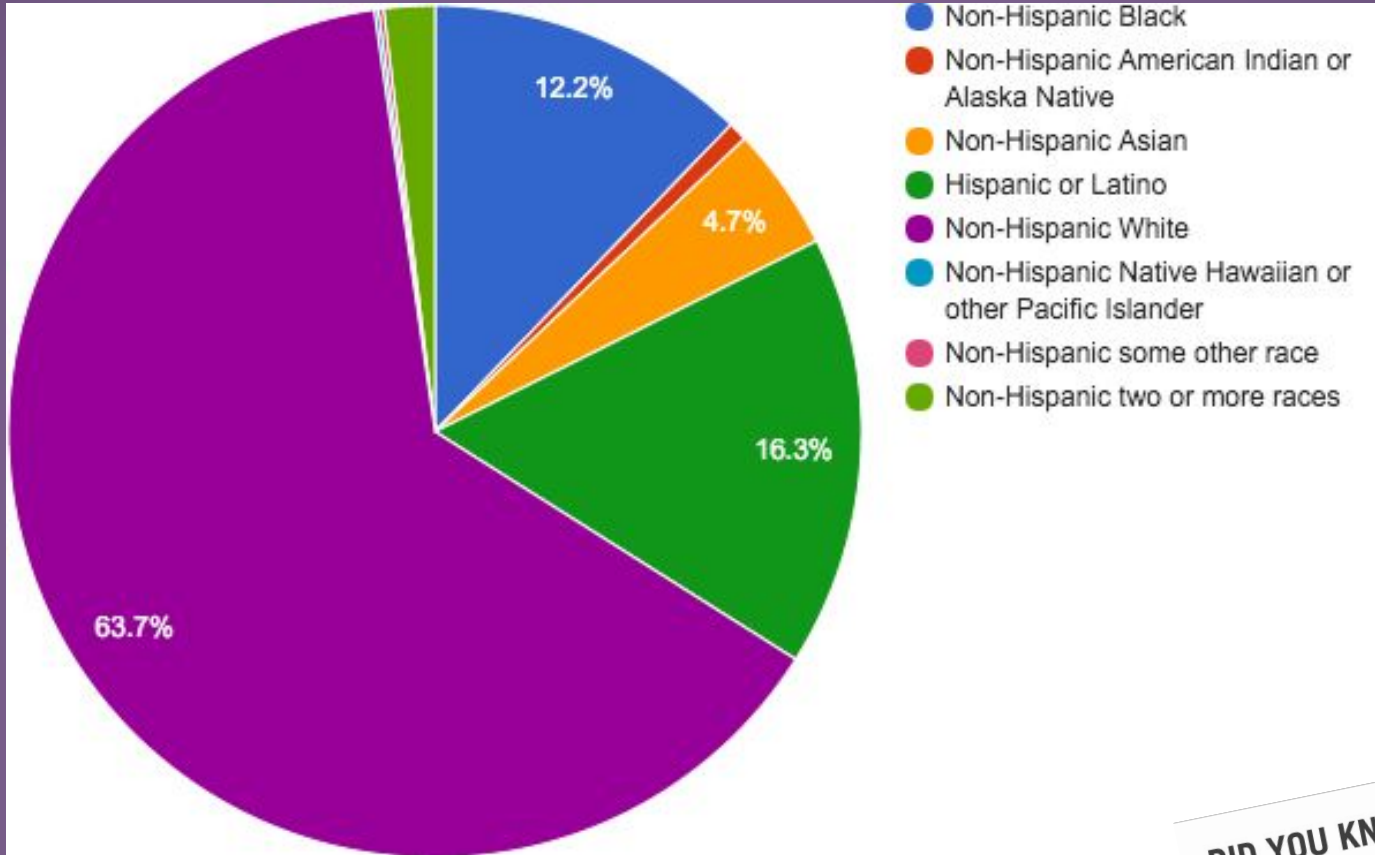
## U.S. books published for children and teens in 2015: Subject

<https://ccbc.education.wisc.edu/books/pcstats.asp>



# U.S. books published for children and teens in 2015: Author

<http://ccbc.education.wisc.edu/books/pcstats.asp>



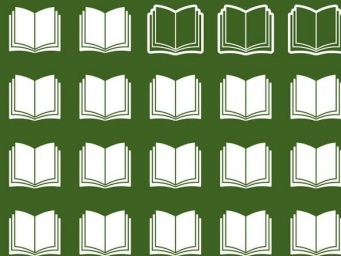
# U.S. Population: Race / Ethnicity

2010 U.S. Census

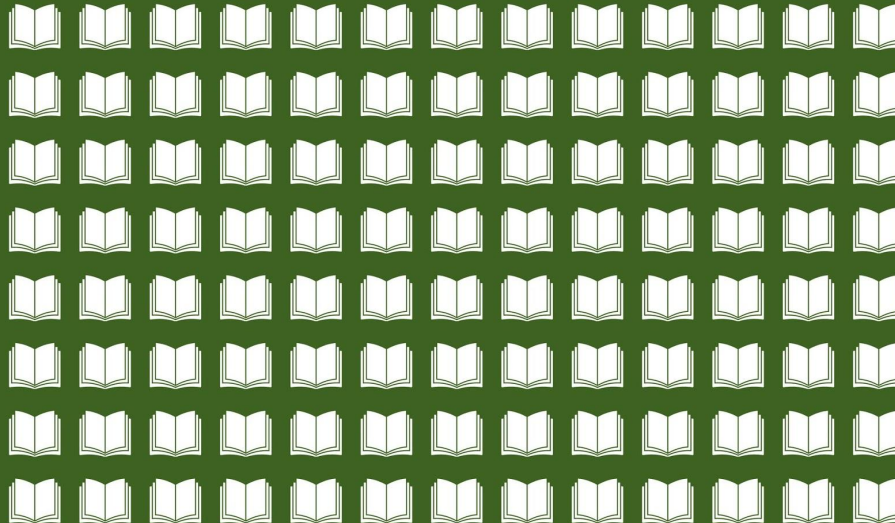
**DID YOU KNOW?**  
THE US IS PROJECTED TO  
BECOME A MAJORITY-  
"MINORITY" NATION IN 2043.  
*Lee & Low*

# THE DIVERSITY GAP IN *THE NEW YORK TIMES* TOP 10 BESTSELLERS

★ COMBINED PRINT & E-BOOK FICTION (ADULT) 2012 ★



**3** OF 124 AUTHORS  
WERE PEOPLE OF COLOR  
Sylvia Day (half Japanese)  
E. L. James (half Chilean)  
Tess Gerritsen (Chinese American)



**E. L. JAMES APPEARED 126 TIMES DURING 42 WEEKS**

**JAMES PATTERSON APPEARED 37 TIMES**



ABOUT EVERYONE • FOR EVERYONE for more conversations on diversity, visit  
**LEE & LOW BOOKS** [blog.leeandlow.com](http://blog.leeandlow.com)

\*Top Sellers, Combined Print & E-Book Fiction: "New York Times," Jan. 1, 2012–December 30, 2012. <http://www.nytimes.com/best-sellers/books/2012-01-01/combined-print-and-e-book-fiction.html>.  
Authors' backgrounds were researched online using a combination of Google, Wikipedia, and other legitimacy pages.  
Illustration: Adapted from work licensed to Lee & Low Books under the Creative Commons license. No new artwork has been created for this study and those items with the Lee & Low Books logo are not for sale.  
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# MIRRORS

<u>Positive Images</u>	<u>Negative Images</u>
<b>Build self-esteem</b>	<b>Reinforce negative self-image</b>
<b>Provide role models</b>	<b>Increases isolation</b>
<b>Offers hope</b>	<b>Causes shame</b>



*If literature is a mirror that reflects human life,  
then all children who read or are read to  
need to see themselves reflected as part of humanity .*

*-Rudine Sims Bishop*



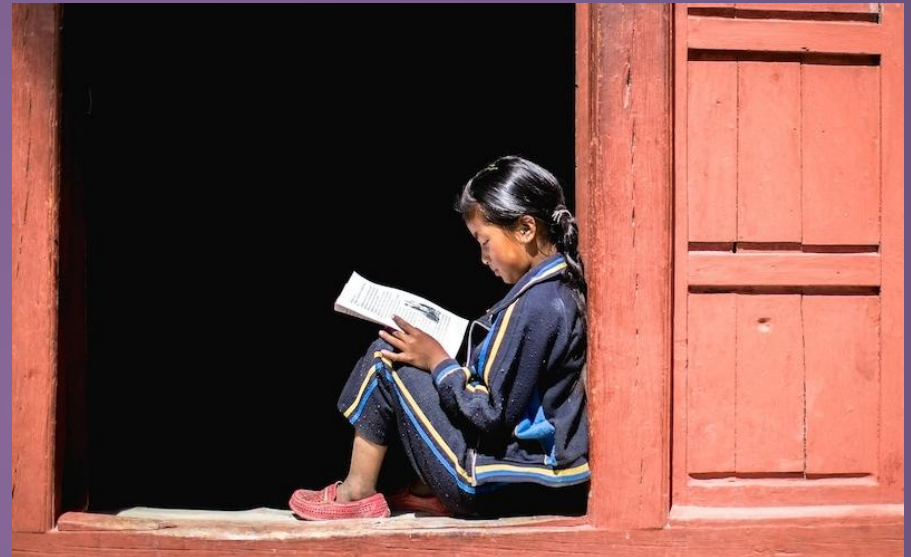
# But all my patrons are . . .



Blue Mountains City Library  
Storytime with Rebekah, Sue, & Aniko

# WINDOWS

<u>Positive Images</u>	<u>Negative Images</u>
<b>Develop empathy</b>	<b>Reinforce stereotypes</b>
<b>Inspire interests</b>	<b>Misinform</b>
<b>Breakdown stereotypes</b>	<b>Create barriers</b>



*One of the ways children learn about the world is through the books they read and the books that are read to them.*

*-Elizabeth Noll*

# The Danger of a Single Story



Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

# LOCATE

How to locate diverse materials



# One size does not fit all

Be conscious of diversity and representation in other materials :

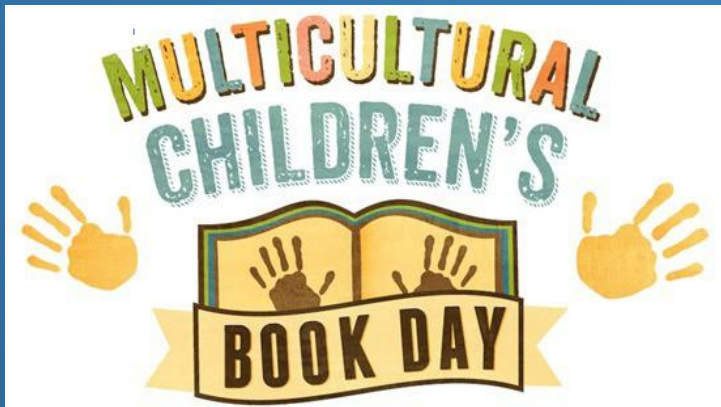
- ◇ Large font books
- ◇ Audio books
- ◇ Magazines
- ◇ Braille books
- ◇ CDs and DVDs
- ◇ Video games
- ◇ Board games



Image from [Never Alone](#) game

## Youth Materials - Highlights

◇ Multicultural  
Children's  
Book Day



◇ American  
Indians in  
Children's  
Literature



## Adult Materials - Highlights

- ◇ [Lambda Literary](#) - LGBT book reviews and annual awards



- ◇ [AALBC.com](#) (African American Literature Book Club) - Forthcoming and recent releases, reviews, book lists



**“That’s great, but I can’t afford  
all these materials . . .”**





## Tips for Tiny Budgets

- ◇ **Check every order** for diverse creators and characters. Awareness of gaps in your collection/orders is the first step.
- ◇ **Seek out just a few new diverse books every month.** Make sure you're collecting broadly by searching for different genres, formats, or "social identifiers" (e.g. ethnicity, sexuality, disability, family composition) each time.
- ◇ **Evaluate!** You can't buy everything, so make sure you're buying the *right* things.

**EVALUATE**

**How to evaluate diverse  
materials**

3

## Ask Yourself

**If this is a reader's only exposure to this culture what might he think about the culture based on this item?**

**If a reader identifies with this culture represented in the story, what might she think of herself based on the item?**

## Evaluation Criteria

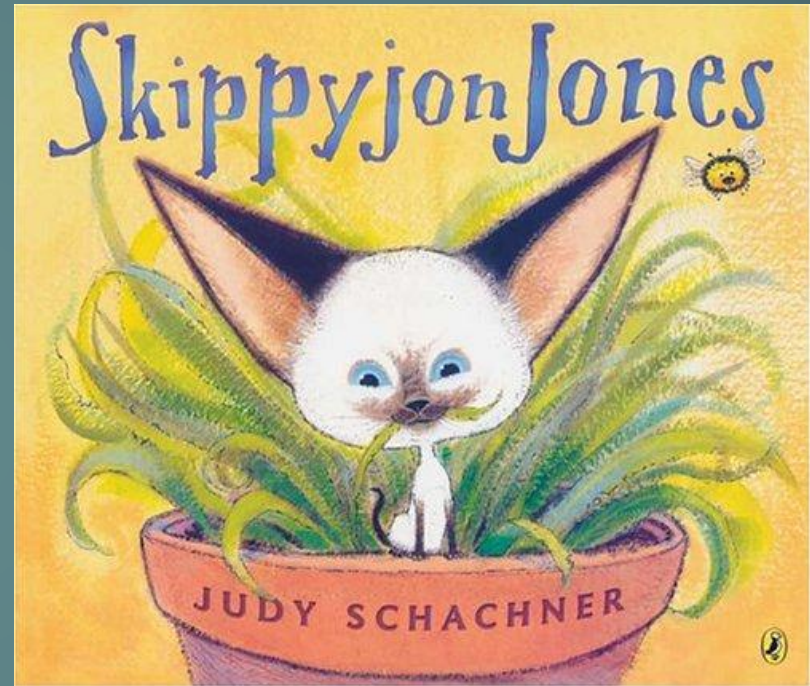
- ◇ Literary Quality
- ◇ Language/Speech
- ◇ Character Development
- ◇ Cultural Background
- ◇ Lifestyle
- ◇ Culture Celebrated?
- ◇ Purpose of illustrations?
- ◇ Cultural Accuracy
- ◇ Creators' background/sources
- ◇ Critics/Reviews
- ◇ Overall Quality

A person's face is visible, peering over a large stack of books. The scene is dimly lit, with the light source coming from the side, casting shadows on the books and the person's face. The books are stacked high, and the person's eyes are looking directly at the camera. The text is overlaid on a white rectangular background.

# WHEN “GOOD” BOOKS GO (ARE?) BAD

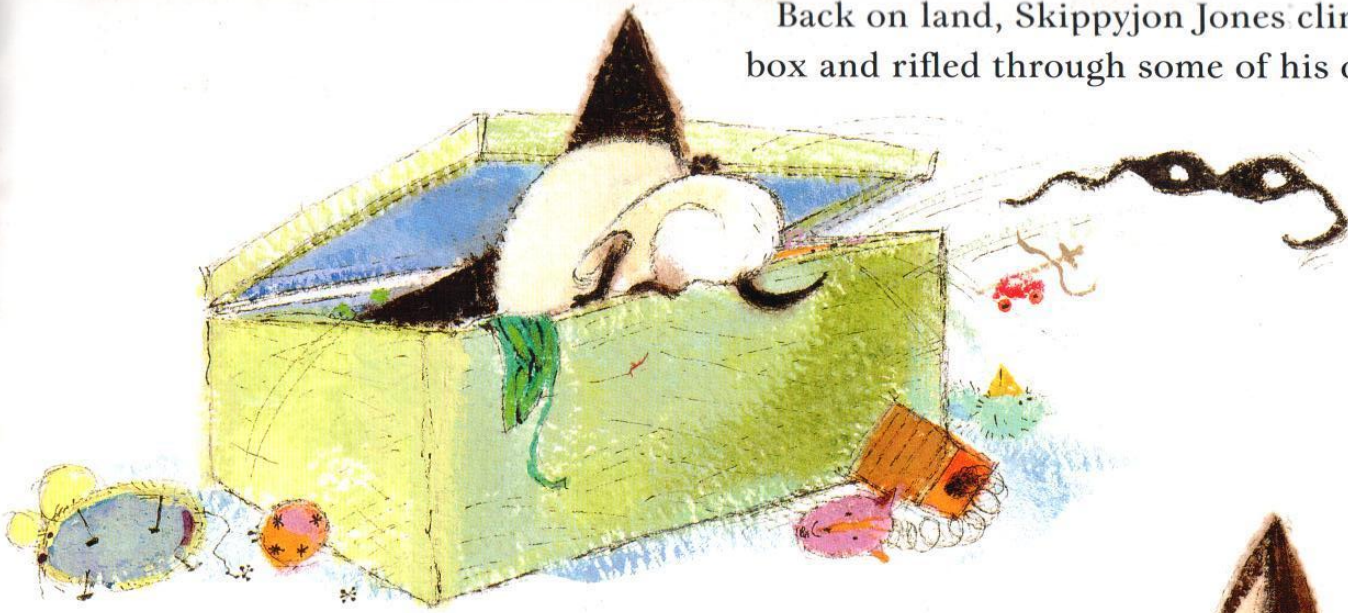
# Skippyjon Jones

- ◇ 2004 E. B. White Readaloud Award
- ◇ 2005 Monarch Award
- ◇ 2007 Colorado Children's Book Award
- ◇ 2006 Ladybug Picture Book Award
- ◇ Kirkus Starred Review
  
- ◇ Mocks language instead of informing
- ◇ "Sonic brownface"
- ◇ Stereotypes
- ◇ Power dynamics: who's the hero?



<https://soundstudiesblog.com/2014/05/05/speaking-mexican-and-the-use-of-mock-spanish-in-childrens-books-or-do-not-read-skippyjon-jones/>

Back on land, Skippyjon Jones climbed into his toy box and rifled through some of his old junk.



After he put on his mask and sword and climbed onto his mouse, Skippyjon Jones began to sing in a *muy, muy* soft voice:

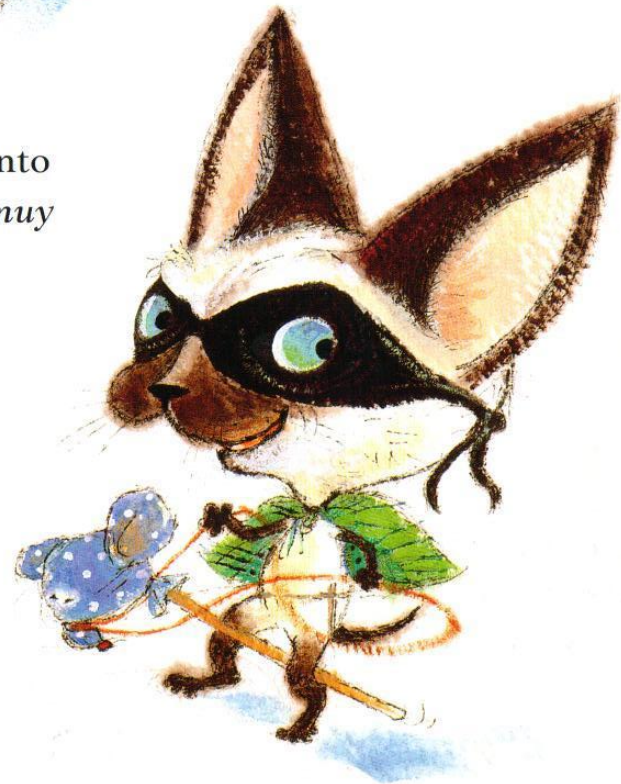
“My name is Skippito Friskito. (clap-clap)

I fear not a single bandito. (clap-clap)

My manners are mellow,

I’m sweet like the Jell-O,

I get the job done, yes indeed-o.” (clap-clap)





*“Yip, Yippee, Yippito!*

*It’s the end of Alfredo Buzzito!*

*Skippito is here,*

*We have nothing to fear.*

*Adiós to the bad Bumblebeeto!”*

*Then all of the Chimichangos went crazy loco.*



## Most Recent Customer Reviews

### ★☆☆☆☆ **Ofensivo Gatito**

I agree that this is offensive. My little sister loves it-I'll give them that-but it makes fun of hispanics the whole way though. [Read more](#)

Published 2 days ago by hola

### ★★★★★ **Five Stars**

Got the book for my niece and we love it. So cute!

Published 6 days ago by Thankful

### ★★★★★ **A Real Favorite**

This was my daughters favorite book when she was little. She still kept this book to the state because it's such a fun book. I always enjoyed reading it to her. [Read more](#)

Published 8 days ago by D. Esparza

### ★☆☆☆☆ **What. The. #@?!?**

Absolutely irredeemably racist in every line and picture as soon as the main character enters his fantasy world of "Old Mexico. [Read more](#)

Published 11 days ago by Amazon Customer

### ★☆☆☆☆ **Racist**

This book is racist. My daughter checked this out from the library and my family and I found it incredibly offensive. Do not purchase!

Published 19 days ago by Maria D.

### ★★★★★ **This is an adorable book. A few Spanish words**

This is an adorable book. A few Spanish words, - fun vocabulary combinations. It is a favorite for children - one to read very dramatically to children. Age 4 min up.

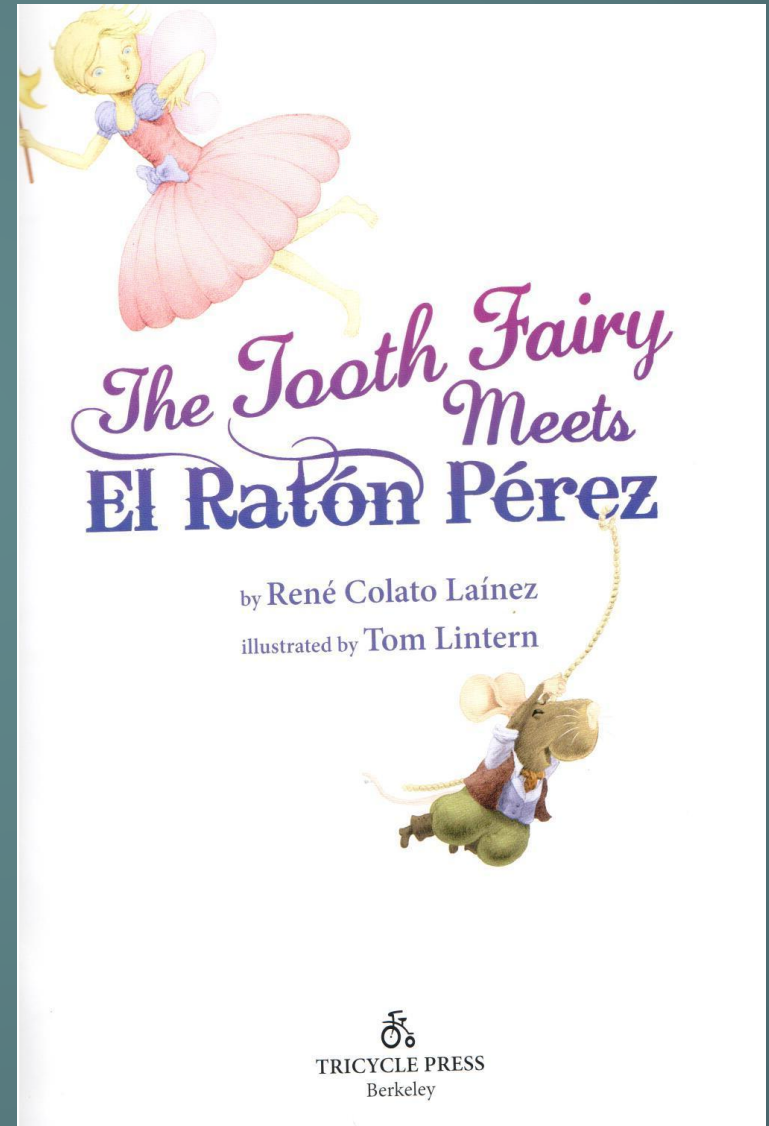
Published 1 month ago by Jill

### ★★★★★ **These books are great to read out loud**

Skippyjon Jones is an adventurous, mischievous little dog.....er, cat. These books

# INSTEAD, WHY NOT TRY ...

- ◇ Informative
- ◇ Accurate and educational language usage





## Spanish Terms in This Book

*Mi diente/Mis dientes:* My tooth/My teeth.

*Aquí está:* Here it is.

*¡Guau!:* Wow!

*Señorita bonita:* Beautiful young lady.

*Niños:* Children.

*Papá:* Father.

*Mamá:* Mother.

*Abuelitos:* Grandparents.

*Es mío:* It is mine.

*¡Ay caramba!:* Oh no!

*¿Dónde está?:* Where is it?

*Bello:* Beautiful.

*Sí:* Yes.

*¡Viva! ¡Viva!:* Hooray!

*Amigos:* Friends.

## Who are the Tooth Fairy and El Ratón Pérez?

**Name:** The Tooth Fairy

**Birthplace:** England

**What does she do with the teeth?** She uses them to make sparkling castles.

**Legend:** The Tooth Fairy keeps the teeth she collects away from witches and bad spirits who want the teeth to prepare evil potions!

**Name:** El Ratón Pérez

**Birthplace:** Spain (first appearing in a book in 1894, when Luis Colma wrote the story for a young King Alfonso XIII)

**What does he do with the teeth?** He uses them to build a rocket ship to go to the moon.

**Legend:** In exchange for taking their teeth, El Ratón Pérez promises children that their new teeth will grow in just as straight and healthy as his own.



# **ACTIVITY:**

## **Picture Book Evaluation**

Small group evaluation: 10 minutes

Sharing: 5 minutes

**PROMOTE**

**How to promote diverse  
materials**



COLLECTING ≠ PROMOTING

AMPLIFYING ≠ CENSORSHIP

- ◇ Code of Ethics
  - Intellectual Freedom
  - Providing materials vs. services



Anderson, K. (2015, August 21). *Diverse Books: The Case of Skippyjon Jones*

## Programming

- ◇ Broaden and diversify the titles, authors, and content you read in storytime or select and discuss in bookclub.
- ◇ When you have the opportunity to bring in performers, visiting authors, or other speakers, try to represent a variety of backgrounds as well as topics.
- ◇ When planning events and celebrations, remember to be inclusive with your selection of themes and activities.



*The Tooth Fairy Meets El Ratón Pérez*

*Performed by Will & Martín*



## Six Myths about Diversity in Early Childhood Storytimes

1. The books must be about diversity.
2. Holidays make the best time for diverse readalouds.
3. Diversity topics are only appropriate for “big kids.”
4. Diverse books are for diverse populations.
5. Diverse books = folktales.
6. Any books that reflect our patrons will interest them.

# Displays



## Readers' Advisory

READ DIVERSELY

PROVIDE DIVERSE OPTIONS

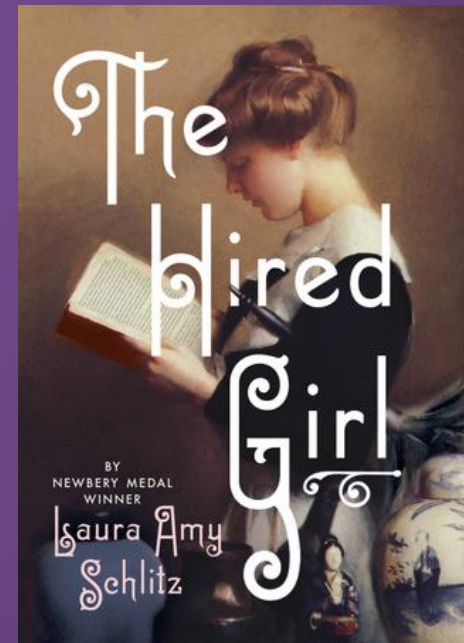
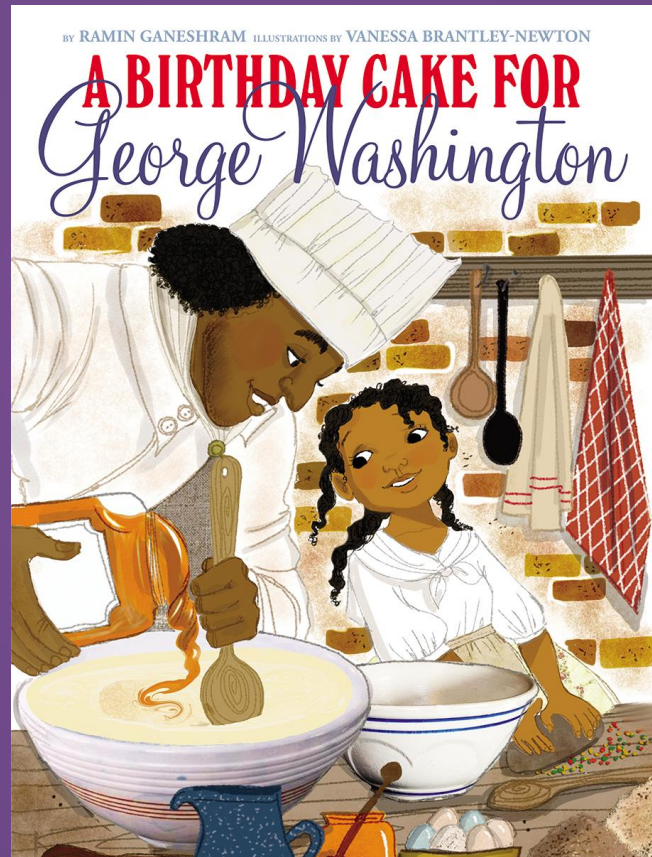
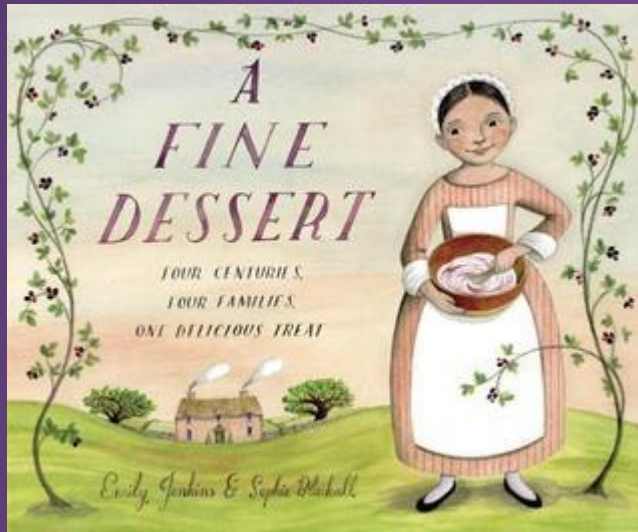
GET GUSHY

**NOW  
WHAT?**

**Actions to take**

5

# FOLLOW THE CONVERSATION




WE NEED  
**DIVERSE**  
BOOKS™

 richincolor

 LAMBDA  
LITERARY

# EXPLORE NEW RESOURCES

 disability  in Kidlit

  
aalbc.com

  
A **mighty** GIRL  
www.amightygirl.com

**STREET FICTION**  
author interviews, news & reviews of urban books

**CHECK YOURSELF**

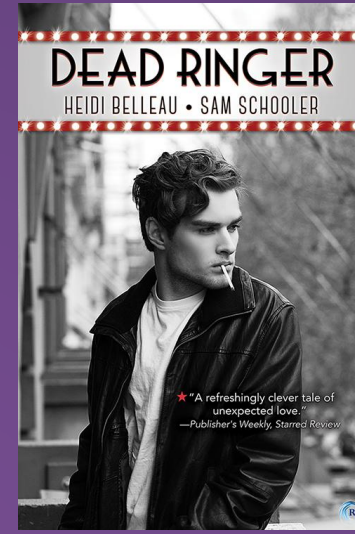
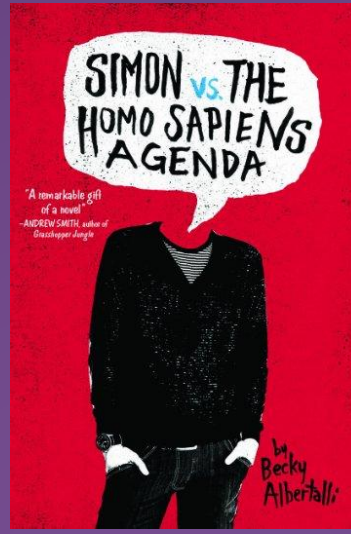
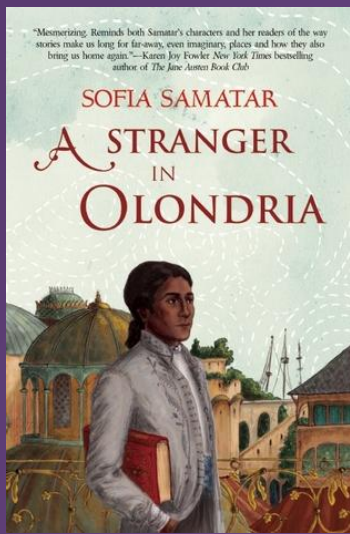


# Read It - Challenge Yourself

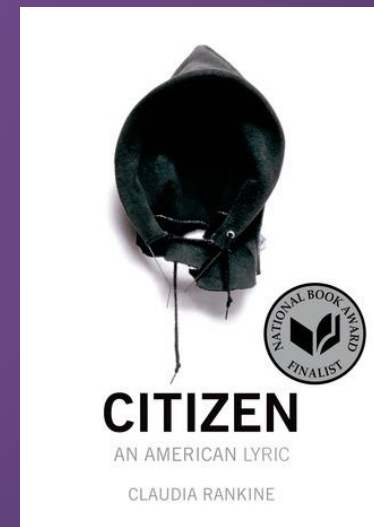
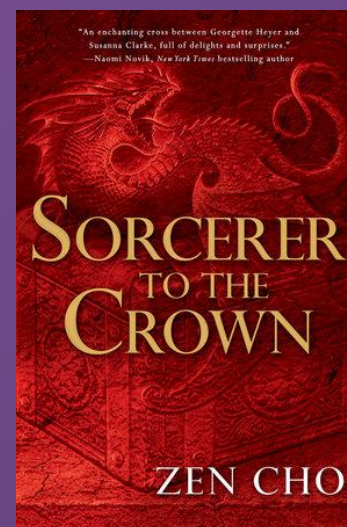
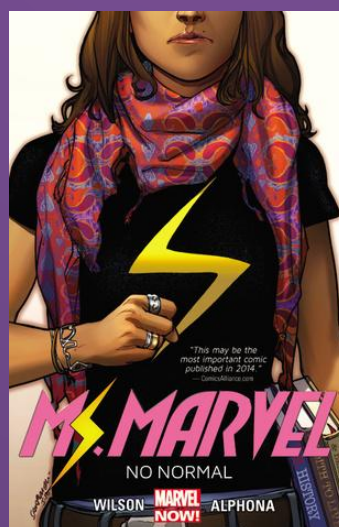
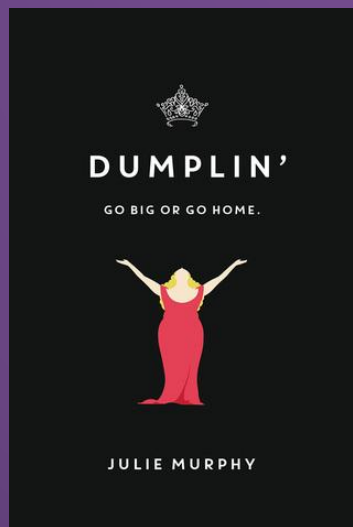
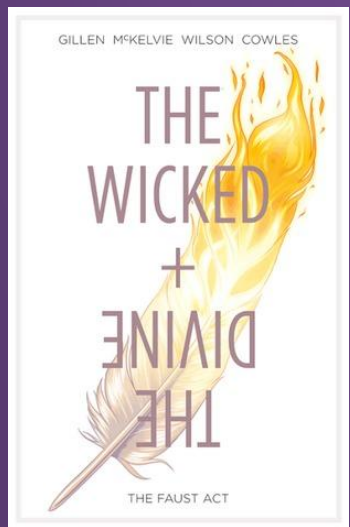


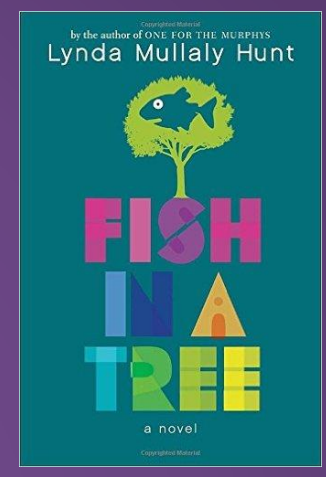
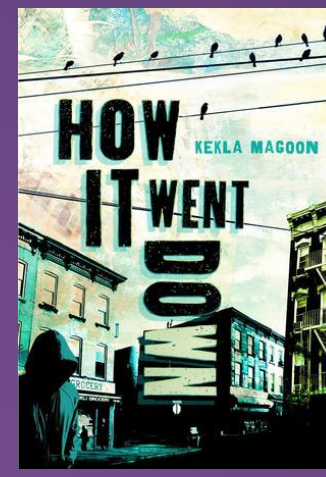
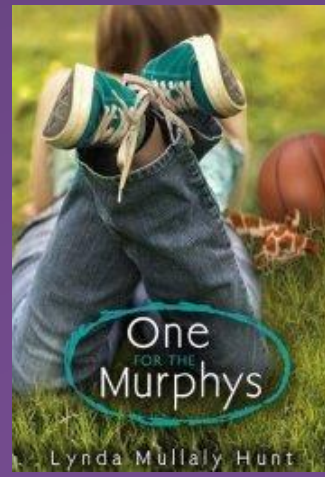
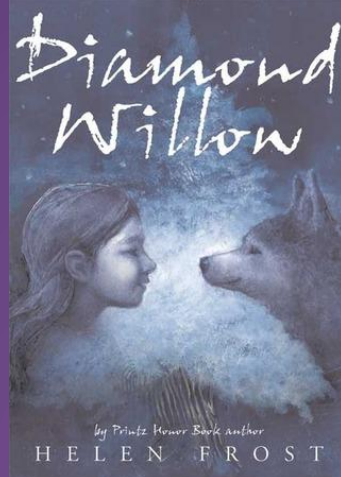
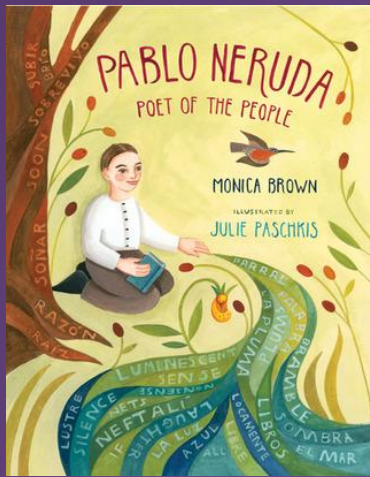
- ◇ [K. T. Bradford's challenge in xojane](#) - "Stop reading white, cis male authors for one year"
- ◇ [#BustleReads](#) - 2016 reading challenge with 25 categories
- ◇ One diverse book per month
- ◇ ...or create your own diverse reading plan!
  
- ◇ Don't forget to track your reading!



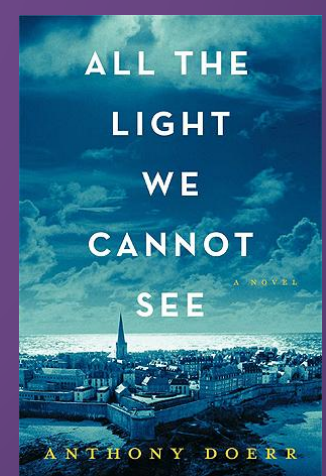
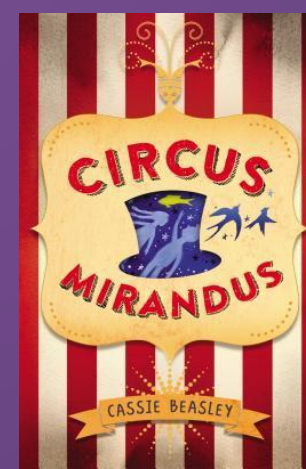
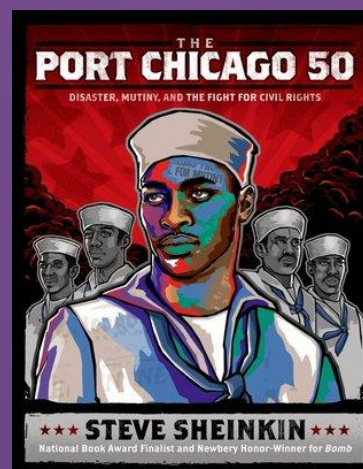
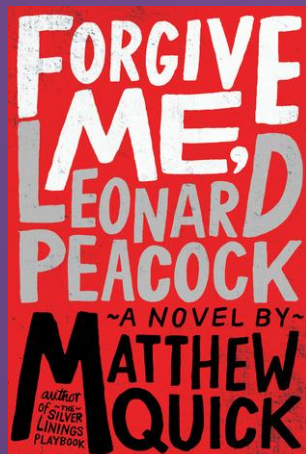


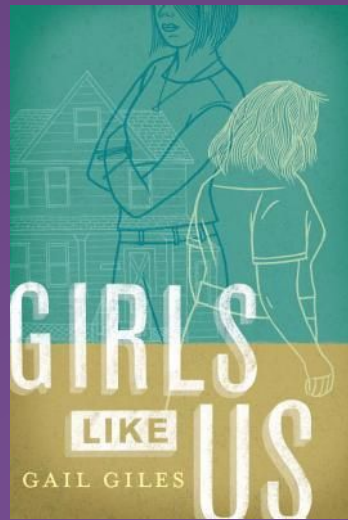
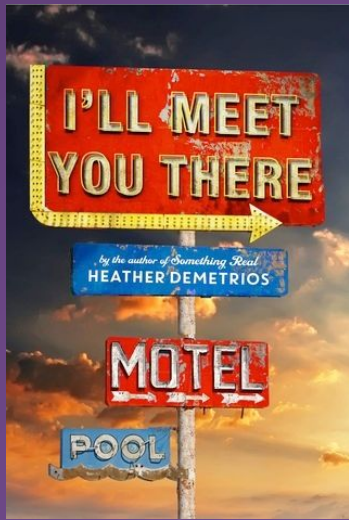
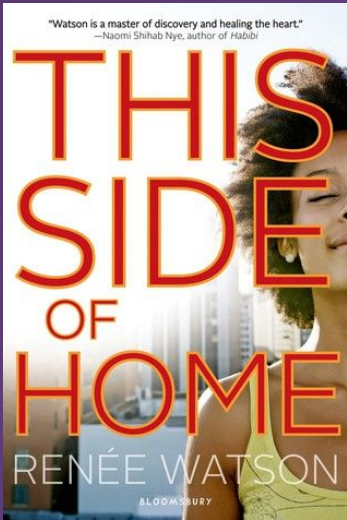
# READ IT - ELENA



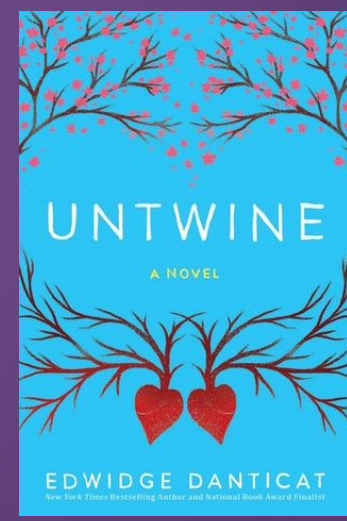
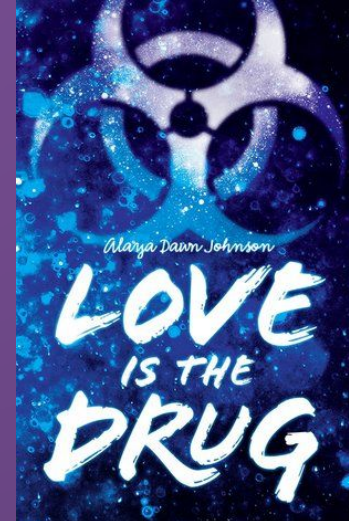
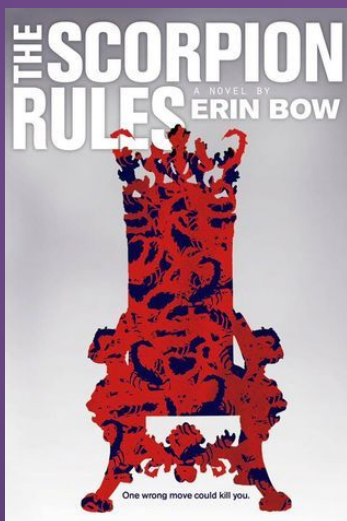
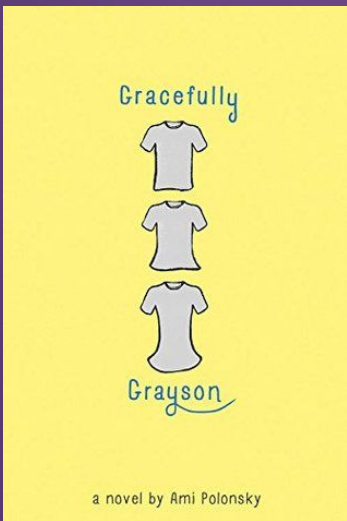


# READ IT - LORA





# READ IT - KATY



# WHAT ELSE?

**What is your favorite resource?  
Help us expand our list!**

# THANKS

**ANY QUESTIONS?**

You can reach us at

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# CREDITS

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2015 Data from CCBC: <https://ccbc.education.wisc.edu/books/pcstats.asp#USonly>

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