

ACTIVELY ANTI-RACIST
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Choosing High-Quality Multicultural Books

Considerations when incorporating
books from a variety of cultures in
your library



Why is it important?

Children use books to build their beliefs about themselves and others. Representation in multicultural books is important in helping children develop a positive self-identity.



Having a collection of multi-cultural books allows children to identify with characters who are like them and to acknowledge and appreciate the differences between people.

Swipe to see considerations when choosing books for your library to best represent a variety of peoples.

Indigenous Peoples

INSTEAD OF:

Books that only depict Thanksgiving scenes

Books that depict the culture of a single tribe/group

Book that only paint conflict between indigenous peoples and other groups

TRY:

Books that depict indigenous peoples from the past and present

Books that depict a variety of different cultures and tribes

Books that have a variety of different themes and focuses



Book Suggestions

Gluskabe and the Four Wishes retold by Joseph Bruchac

Ma'ii and Cousin Horned Toad by Shonto Begay

Fire Race: A Karuk Coyote Tale About How Fire Came to the People retold by Jonathan London





Latinos

INSTEAD OF:

Books that depict women and men in traditional roles

Books written with only words in English

Books written by white authors

TRY:

Books that depict women and men in a variety of roles

Books that include words in Spanish

Books written by Latin American/Hispanic authors

Book Suggestions

Borreguita and the Coyote: Tale from Ayutia, Mexico by Verna Aardema

Hairs/Pelitos by Sandra Cisneros

Too Many Tamales by Gary Soto



African Americans

INSTEAD OF:

Books that focus on the experiences of Black people from one geographic location

Books that support harmful stereotypes

Having only fictional books

TRY:

A variety of books that depict the experiences of Black people from a variety of locations

Books that defy stereotypes

Having books about Black activists to support conversations about those who have fought injustices

Book Suggestions

Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing by James Weldon Johnson
Hidden Figures: The True Story of Four Black Women
and the Space Race by Margot Lee Shetterly
Black, White, Just Right! by Marguerite W. Davol

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Asian American

INSTEAD OF:

Only books set in the United States

Books that depict only a select group of Asian people

Books that depict unlikely or not reasonable stories

TRY:

Books set in a variety of Asian countries

A variety of books that depict people from a variety of Asian cultures

Books that accurately reflect historical events or traditions

Book Suggestions

Round is a Mooncake by Roseanne Thong

The Name Jar by Yangsook Choi

I Live in Tokyo by Mari Takabayashi



Resources



[How to Choose Outstanding Multicultural Books](#)

[Beyond Good Intention: Selecting Multicultural Literature](#)

[Ten Tips for Selecting Multicultural Books for Reading Instruction](#)

