Windows & Mirrors:
Books highlighting DIVERSE families

http://stars.library.ucf.edu/diversefamilies/

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Some of the most powerful literacy tools we have to help transform lives are books that address **diversity**.
How Diverse are our collections?

“Sixth and seventh grade reading students at Gunston Middle School in Arlington, Virginia researched the lack of diversity in children’s and young adult books, in their classroom library and a selection of sports books to see which groups of people were under-represented.”

http://www.teachingforchange.org/ms-critique-books
Student Revelations:

“This unit actually taught me a lot and opened my eyes. I realized every single book I read when I was little actually had white characters and not other kinds of characters, like black, Hispanic, or Asian, Indian. And since it my opened my eyes, it made me realize I wanted to make a difference.” — Alize

“I learned that—when you told me about this problem, I never realized that there were not many races mentioned in books. It was mostly just a series of white people but with a different life or a different story. When I was little, I would always just be so interested in their lives, that I would even try to convince myself that I was American or white, just because I was born here.” — Abigail

“I really learned how the world is not shown in books. It’s kind of like people lie a lot in children’s books. They don’t show the real world. They show the fake world. To be honest, I don’t really like it. I don’t see me in books I read. I don’t see a lot of children that are mixed. I just see a lot of white people in children’s books. Maybe they think that being mixed is wrong or something like that, but I think they should show biracial people.” — Isabella
Diversity in Children’s Books 2015

Percentages of books depicting characters from diverse backgrounds. Based on the 2015 publishing statistics compiled by the Cooperative Children’s Book Center, School of Education, University of Wisconsin-Madison: ccbc.education.wisc.edu/books/postats.asp

0.9% American Indians/First Nations
2.4% Latinx
3.3% Asian Pacifics/Asian Pacific Americans
7.6% African/African Americans
12.5%* Animals, Trucks, etc.
73.3%** White

* About a quarter of the total children’s books published in 2015 were picture books, and about half of those depict non-human characters, like animals & trucks.
** The remainder depict white characters.

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Diversity in Children’s Books 2015

Percentages of books depicting characters from diverse backgrounds. Based on the 2015 publishing statistics compiled by the Cooperative Children’s Book Center, School of Education, University of Wisconsin-Madison. ccbc.education.wisc.edu/books/pcstats.asp

- <1% American Indians/First Nations
- 2.4% Latinx
- 3.3% Asian Pacific/Asian Pacific Americans
- 1.5% African/African Americans

- 93% White
- 12.5%* Animals, Trucks, etc.

* About a quarter of the total children’s books published in 2015 were picture books, and about half of those depict non-human characters, like animals & trucks.
** The remainder depict white characters.
Within the state of Florida, what is our student enrollment by race?

1,755,211

Florida Total Enrollment/Membership by Race
2017-18, Final Survey 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>1,077,904</td>
<td>38.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black or African American</td>
<td>626,568</td>
<td>22.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic/Latino</td>
<td>938,248</td>
<td>33.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>77,817</td>
<td>2.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific</td>
<td>4,744</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian or Alaska Native</td>
<td>8,501</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two or More Races</td>
<td>99,333</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

School populations are becoming increasingly diverse
Within Duvall County, what is our student enrollment by race?

85,181 = race other than white
44,403 = race is white
A reality check

• “Children of color now make up more than half of the kids in public schools in the United States, and their numbers continue to grow.”

• “According to the United States Census Bureau, by 2020 more than half of all children in the United States will be non-white, and the U.S. population as a whole will become “majority minority” by 2044.”
Windows and Mirrors

Kristine’s Story

Definition

Barnes & Noble / used book stores
Outcome of Discovery

- 4 grants
- 1 fellowship
- 5 student assistants
- Custom artwork
- Database and supporting website
DIVerse Families is a comprehensive bibliography that demonstrates the growing diversity of families in the United States. This type of bibliography provides teachers, librarians, counselors, adoption agencies, children/young adults, and especially parents and grandparents needing to empower their children with materials that reflect their families.

Browse by Family Relationship:
- Adoption
- Divorce
- Family Member Death
- Family Violence
- Foster Care
- Homelessness
- Incarceration
- Kinship Care
- Language Barrier
- Legal Guardianship
- Military Families
- Parental Rights Termination
- Poverty
- Separation
- Single Parent
- Step Parent
- Surrogacy
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Browse by Racial Diversity:

- Biracial
- Interracial
- Multiracial
- Race Discrimination
This collection contains materials on the topic of culture/ethnicity from the DIVerse Families bibliography.

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Browse by Culture/Ethnicity:
- Bicultural
- Biethnic
- Multicultural
- Multiethnic
DIVerse Families: LGBTQ

DIVerse Families is a comprehensive bibliography that demonstrates the growing diversity of families in the United States. This type of bibliography provides teachers, librarians, counselors, adoption agencies, children/young adults, and especially parents and grandparents needing to empower their children with materials that reflect their families.

Browse by LGBTQ:
- Homosexuality
- Transgender
- Intersex
- Bisexuality
- Gender Nonconformity
- Androgyny
Database Examples: Some of our favorites...
CHALLENGED BOOKS 2017
https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=195&v=yyd2kIl-8D4
WHO INITIATES CHALLENGES TO MATERIALS?

- 42% Patrons
- 14% Board/administration
- 6% Librarians/teachers
- 3% Political and religious groups
- 2% Elected officials
- 1% Students

Statistics based on 318 responses
1. What are you reporting? *

- Materials Challenge (books, movies, music, magazines, digital content)
- Internet-related Challenge (filtering issues, access to computers, use policies)
- Library Service (meeting rooms, programs, author visits, exhibits, displays, hold shelf practices)
- Patron Privacy or Confidentiality Issue (personally identifiable information, circulation records)
- Hate Crime (defacement of library property to target a specific group; use of swastikas or other symbols of intimidation, harassment or assault on library property)
- Other

If the previous response is "Materials Challenge":

- Title
- Author or Performer
- Type of Item

If this report needs to include multiple items, you can include them on a supplement form linked below.

2. Please describe the incident. *


3. When did this happen? *


4. Who initiated the challenge or raised the issue? *


http://www.ala.org/tools/challengesupport/report
Office of Intellectual Freedom – ALA

According to OIF data, half of the books on the 2016 list were removed from the libraries where they were challenged, marking a significant increase. “Typically we say that 10% of challenged books are banned—that is to say that 10% of the time they are successfully removed, usually from the school where they are being challenged,” LaRue says. “This time, of these top 10, five of them were removed.” This bump coincides with a 17% increase in the total number of reported challenges for the year.

- According to ALA and the 2016 Banned Book report the phrase most often used to complain about a book was “sexually explicit”
- Most challenges are reported for books being used in advanced English curricula
- Of the 323 challenges in 2016 only 46 were public
- Accordingly only between 3% and 18% of challenges are reported to ALA

http://eds.a.ebscohost.com/eds/pdfviewer/pdfviewer?vid=6&sid=394b3ef8-97cb-4e48-90b5-6e60b8501074%40sessionmgr4010
Book Talk
Sharing Time
Top 10 Challenged Books of 2017

1. *Thirteen Reasons Why* written by Jay Asher
   Originally published in 2007, this New York Times bestseller has resurfaced as a controversial book after Netflix aired a TV series by the same name. This YA novel was challenged and banned in multiple school districts because it discusses suicide.

2. *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* written by Sherman Alexie
   Consistently challenged since its publication in 2007 for acknowledging issues such as poverty, alcoholism, and sexuality, this National Book Award winner was challenged in school curriculums because of profanity and situations that were deemed sexually explicit.

3. *Drama* written and illustrated by Raina Telgemeier
   This Stonewall Honor Award-winning, 2012 graphic novel from an acclaimed cartoonist was challenged and banned in school libraries because it includes LGBT characters and was considered “confusing.”
Top 10 Challenged Books of 2017

4. *The Kite Runner* written by Khaled Hosseini
   This critically acclaimed, multigenerational novel was challenged and banned because it includes sexual violence and was thought to “lead to terrorism” and “promote Islam.”

5. *George* written by Alex Gino
   Written for elementary-age children, this Lambda Literary Award winner was challenged and banned because it includes a transgender child.

6. *Sex is a Funny Word* written by Cory Silverberg and illustrated by Fiona Smyth
   This 2015 informational children’s book written by a certified sex educator was challenged because it addresses sex education and is believed to lead children to “want to have sex or ask questions about sex.”
7. *To Kill a Mockingbird* written by Harper Lee

This Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, considered an American classic, was challenged and banned because of violence and its use of the N-word.

8. *The Hate U Give* written by Angie Thomas

Despite winning multiple awards and being the most searched-for book on Goodreads during its debut year, this YA novel was challenged and banned in school libraries and curriculums because it was considered “pervasively vulgar” and because of drug use, profanity, and offensive language.
9. *And Tango Makes Three* written by Peter Parnell and Justin Richardson and illustrated by Henry Cole

Returning after a brief hiatus from the Top Ten Most Challenged list, this ALA Notable Children’s Book, published in 2005, was challenged and labeled because it features a same-sex relationship.

10. *I Am Jazz* written by Jessica Herthel and Jazz Jennings and illustrated by Shelagh McNicholas

This autobiographical picture book co-written by the 13-year-old protagonist was challenged because it addresses gender identity.