



GUIDE TO CHOOSING DIVERSE BOOKS FOR KIDS: A PARENT'S HANDBOOK

PAULA Y. BANKS

*A guidebook designed to assist parents in purposefully
discovering diverse books for their children.*



Hey There,

Are you looking to enrich your child's reading experience with diverse and inclusive books? You're in the right place! As we know, reading opens up a world of imagination and understanding for our children, and by choosing diverse books, we can ensure that the literary journey reflects the beautiful diverse world we live in.

In this guide, we'll explore actionable steps you can take to select diverse books that celebrate a variety of cultures, and experiences. From researching and exploring diverse literature to engaging in meaningful discussions with your child, each step is designed to empower you to make informed choices and cultivate a love for reading that embraces diversity.

So, whether you're a seasoned bookworm or just starting to build your child's library, join me on this journey as we discover the joy of diverse reading together. Also, each section includes some Reflection Points to help guide you through the actionable steps! Okay now let's explore the wonderful world of diverse books for kids!

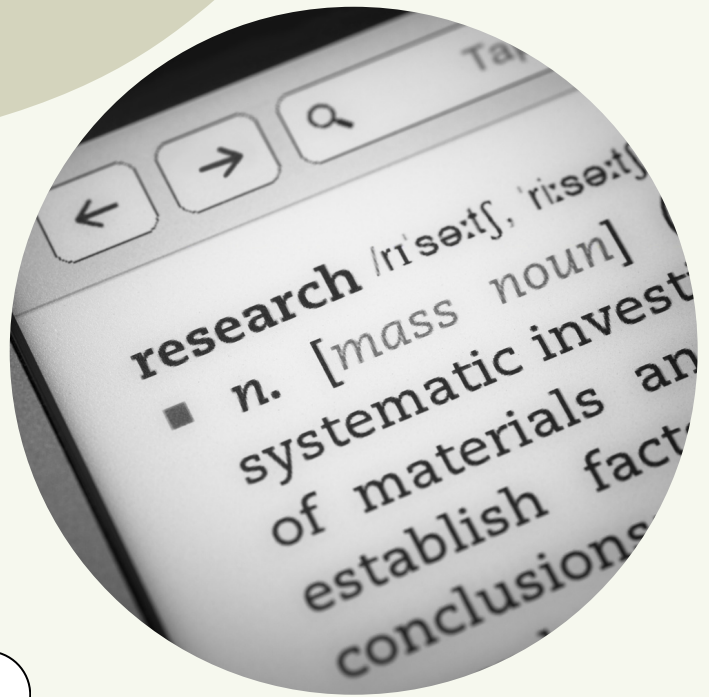
Paula Y. Banks



SECTION ONE

UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANCE OF DIVERSITY

Let's talk about why children need to read books that feature diverse characters and stories! When they read books that feature characters from different races, ethnicities, religions, and abilities, they can learn about the world around them and develop a sense of curiosity and respect for others. Research shows that exposure to diverse books can help develop empathy, understanding, and appreciation for different cultures and backgrounds. So, next time you're looking for a book to for your child to read, consider choosing one that celebrates diversity and promotes inclusivity. You never know what new things you might learn or who you might meet along the way! By reading books that feature protagonists from diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds, you can help promote inclusivity and representation.



ACTION STEP 1

RESEARCH AND UNCOVER

As parents, we need to actively seek out diverse books by doing research. This might involve browsing online, checking out diverse bookstores, or exploring library collections that put a strong emphasis on diversity and inclusion



REFLECTION POINTS

- Have you checked out online resources for diverse book recommendations?
- have you visited any diverse bookstores or libraries that focus on diversity?



ACTION STEP 2

REVIEWS & RECOMMENDATIONS

When seeking out diverse books for your kids, consider checking reviews and recommendations from trusted sources. These could include diverse authors (like yours truly 😊), educators, or organizations that actively promote inclusive literature



REFLECTION POINTS

- Have you checked out reviews or recommendations to find diverse children's books.?
- Are there any organizations or websites that you trust for diverse book recommendations? (If not I will have a few for you to start with at the end of the guide)



ACTION STEP 3

READ ALOUD TOGETHER

Share diverse books with your children by reading aloud together. This not only opens up opportunities for discussion but also allows you to explore different cultures and perspectives. It's a wonderful way to address any questions they might have about diversity and inclusion.



REFLECTION POINTS

- Have you considered reading diverse books aloud with your children?
- What discussions do you hope to have with your child while reading diverse books together?



Authors

ACTION STEP 4

SUPPORT DIVERSE AUTHORS & ILLUSTRATORS

If you want to find books that celebrate diversity and amplify diverse voices, look for books written and illustrated by diverse authors and illustrators. You can also explore different genres and styles of storytelling, such as picture books, chapter books, graphic novels, and poetry.



REFLECTION POINTS

- How can you support diverse authors and illustrations in your community?
- Are there any upcoming author events or book signings of diverse authors you can attend?



ACTION STEP 5

DISCUSS STEREOTYPES & REPRESENTATION

Have conversations with your child about stereotypes, representation, and the importance of seeing themselves reflected in the books they read, as well as encountering characters from diverse backgrounds.

- Encourage them to answer questions
- Discuss empathy



REFLECTION POINTS

- How do you plan to discuss stereotypes and representation with your child
- Are there any diverse characters or stories that resonate with your child?



ACTION STEP 6

SEEK BOOKS WITH MULTICULTURAL THEMES

Actively seek out books that explore multicultural themes, traditions, holidays, and celebrations, to help your child gain a deeper understanding and appreciation for different cultures.



REFLECTION POINTS

- What multicultural themes or traditions would you like to explore with your child through books?
- How can you incorporate diverse books into your family's traditions?



ACTION STEP 7

LEAD BY EXAMPLE

It is important that you model inclusive reading habits by reading diverse books yourself. It's one of the best habits your child could begin to copy.



REFLECTION POINTS

- How can you model inclusive reading habits with your child?
- Are you currently reading a diverse book if not when was the last time you did?

CONCLUSION

When you choose diverse books for your children, you're helping to shape their understanding of the world. Embrace the opportunity to expose your children to a wide range of voices, experiences, and perspectives through the books you select. Together, let's create a more diverse and inclusive literary landscape for future generations.

Happy Reading!



WAIT...WERE NOT DONE

Now that you have completed the guide, it's time for a fun and insightful activity to gauge the diversity of your child's book collection. Introducing our **Diversity Book Health Quiz!** This quiz is designed to help you evaluate the range of cultures, perspectives, and identities reflected in your child's library. This is an awesome way to ensure their library is inclusive and inspiring.



DIVERSITY BOOK HEALTH

*HOW DIVERSE ARE THE CHARACTERS IN
YOUR CHILD'S BOOKS?*

- A. MOST CHARACTERS ARE OF THE SAME RACE, CULTURE OR BACKGROUND.
- B. SOME DIVERSITY
- C. A GOOD MIX OF CHARACTERS FROM VARIOUS RACES, CULTURES AND BACKGROUNDS

*DO THE BOOKS IN YOUR CHILD'S LIBRARY
INCLUDE STORIES ABOUT CHARACTERS WITH
DISABILITIES*

- A. NO, WE HAVEN'T FOCUSED ON THIS ASPECT
- B. WE HAVE A FEW, BUT IT'S NOT A MAJOR EMPHASIS IN THE STORY
- C. YES, WE HAVE SEVERAL BOOKS THAT HIGHLIGHT CHARACTERS WITH DISABILITIES

*ARE THE AUTHORS OF THE BOOKS IN YOUR
CHILD'S LIBRARY DIVERSE?*

- A. MOST BOOKS ARE BY AUTHORS FROM A SIMILAR BACKGROUND AS OURS
- B. THERE IS SOME DIVERSITY
- C. WE CAN MAKE AN EFFORT TO INCLUDE BOOKS BY AUTHORS FROM DIVERSE BACKGROUNDS

*DO THE BOOKS IN YOUR CHILD'S LIBRARY
EXPLORE DIFFERENT CULTURES &
TRADITIONS*

- A. NOT REALLY, IT MAINLY REFLECTS OUR OWN CULTURE
- B. THERE ARE A FEW BOOKS THAT TOUCH ON OTHER CULTURES
- C. YES, WE ACTIVELY SEEK OUT BOOKS THAT CELEBRATE OTHER CULTURES & TRADITIONS



SCORING SYSTEM

For each A answer, assign 1 point

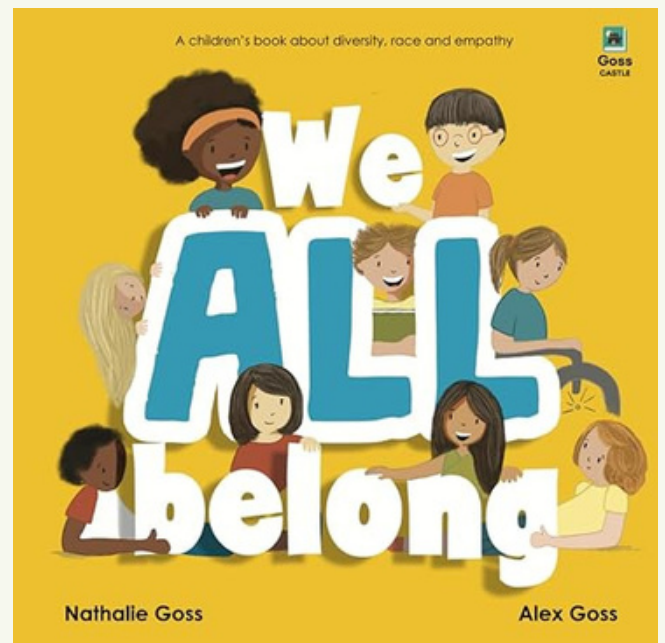
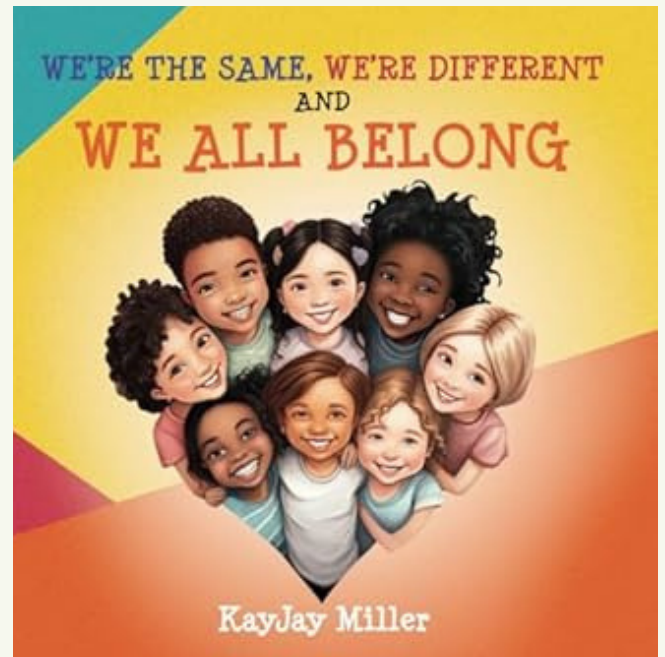
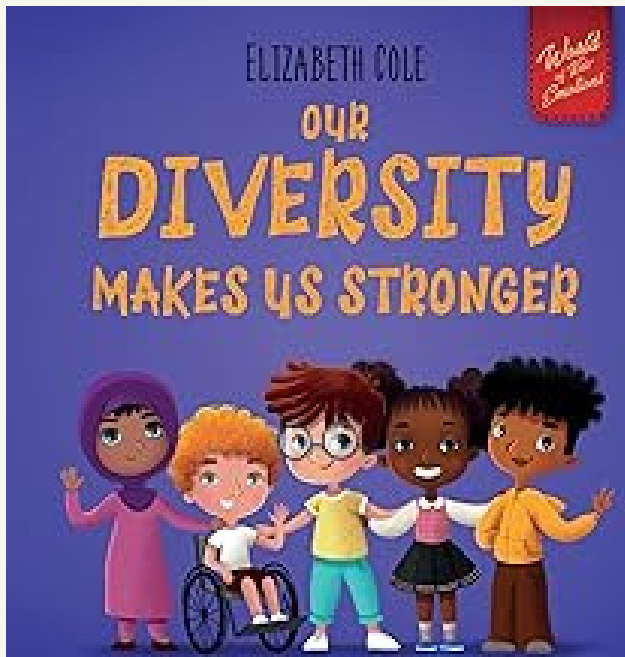
For each B answer, assign 2 points

For each C answer, assign 3 points

- **5-7 Points:** Your' child's library may benefit from having some more diversity. Think about adding books that feature characters and stories to enhance their reading experience.
- **8-11:** Your child's library has some diversity, but there is room for improvement. Try to look for more opportunities to incorporate more books with diverse characters and authors.
- **12-15:** Congratulations! Your child's library is already diverse and inclusive. Great job! Keep up the good work by continuing to seek out books that celebrate our differences.



DIVERSE CHILDREN'S BOOKS



For a more comprehensive list check out DiverseBookFinder.org



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