

BIPOC Representation in Picture Books: Asynchronous Tools to Engage with Diverse BookFinder's Framework

Diverse BookFinder supports building and evaluating diverse picture book collections with intentional BIPOC representation through prioritizing:

1. Moving away from framing books within the dichotomy of diverse vs. not diverse
2. Examining how racial/cultural groups are portrayed and identify patterns between texts
3. Valuing lived experiences of authors and illustrators as well as [#ownvoices](#) narratives
4. Seeking out independent publishers and books in translation that are less widely circulated

5. Actively challenging whiteness as the dominant narrative through steps 1-4

Existing Tools for Engagement

- Collection Analysis Tool (CAT)
- Diverse BookFinder Collection
- **Nine categories that depict dominant picture book messaging**
- Social media and blog posts
- Data on multicultural picture books
- **In-person and virtual professional development**

Challenge

Although book lists and other resources that identify diverse picture books are useful, how can librarians, educators, and caregivers grow their own awareness of BIPOC representation in picture books as well as recognize the impact of these depictions?

Solution

Develop accessible asynchronous teaching and learning materials that complement the existing tools for engagement. Using titles from the Diverse BookFinder collection, participants will be able to sort texts into the nine categories in order to critically engage with the spectrum of BIPOC representation in picture books.

SAMPLE TITLES



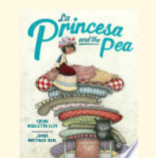
Are Your Stars Like My Stars? by Leslie Helakoski, illustrated by Heidi Woodward Sheffield
[Read Aloud](#)



Bilal Cooks Daal by Aisha Saaed, illustrated by Anoosha Syed
[Read Aloud](#)



Hosea Plays On by Kathleen M. Blasi, illustrated by Shane W. Evans
[Read Aloud](#)



La Princesa and the Pea by Susan Middleton Elya, illustrated by Juana Martinez-Neal
[Read Aloud](#)



Tomorrow by Nadine Kaadan (and illustrated, too!)
[Read Aloud](#)

Picture Book Categorization Activity

- 27 anchor picture books that encompass a range of categories and race/culture narratives
- Links to permissible online read-aloud options for each text
- Step-by-step instructions with guiding questions
- Resources for reflection and using this framework to evaluate other collections

RACE/CULTURE

CATEGORIES

	Asian/ Pacific Islander/ Asian American	Bi/ Multiracial/ Mixed Race	Black/ African/ African American	Brown- skinned and/or Race Unspecified	First/Native Nations/ American Indian/ Indigenous	Latinx/ Hispanic/ Latin American	Middle Eastern/ North African/ Arab	Multi-Racial Cast of Characters	White/ European American/ Caucasian
Any Child									
Beautiful Life									
Biography									
Cross Group									
Folklore									
Incidental									
Informational									
Oppression & Resilience									
Race/Culture Concepts									

Impact

Engaging in this asynchronous professional development activity is a step in growing the awareness and skills necessary to evaluate and expand diverse collections. Becoming more familiar with the full scope of picture books with BIPOC representation will contribute to decentering whiteness as well as equip participants to make intentional book selections with their communities.