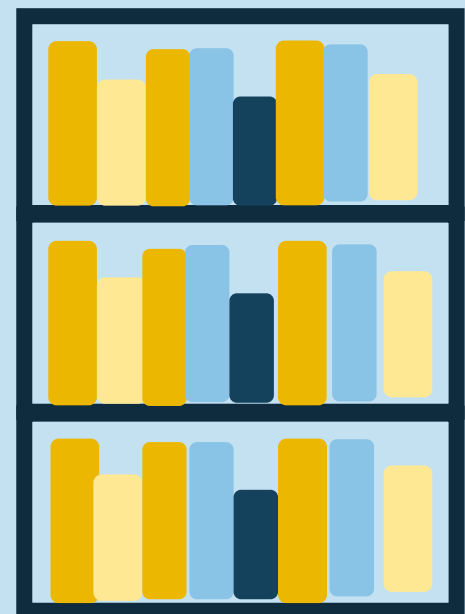


# Reading Between and Beyond the Lines: Analyzing African Children's Literature

## - 1 - PURPOSE



Reevaluate the Teacher Resource Center's current Fiction African Children's Literature collection for authenticity by creating a standardized worksheet that can be utilized within other collections

## - 2 - PROCESS



**Research** online resources, journal articles, publishers, and reach out to them

**Read** through findings in order to find commonalities between guidelines as well as understand their purposes in creating them

characters  
Illustrations  
cultures  
language  
representation  
accuracy  
minorities  
authors



**Reevaluate** the Fiction African Children's Literature collection by creating a worksheet that pulls from the commonalities of the different resources



**"Accurate, balanced books can change and expand what we know, think and feel about Africa" – Africa Access Review**



**"When there are enough books available that can act as both mirrors and windows for all our children, they will see that we can celebrate both our differences and our similarities, because together they are what makes us all human" – Rudine Sims Bishop**

## - 3 - PRODUCT

Worksheet for Evaluating Multicultural Children's Literature

### Language

- Does the author have experience with the specified culture and topic?
- Does the author avoid using loaded words?
- Is the author's tone sympathetic towards the culture and avoids oversimplification of the culture?

### Illustrations

- Does the illustrator have experience with the specified culture and topic?
- Do the illustrations show individuality of characters and do not exaggerate or minimize certain characteristics?
- Are the details of the environment, clothing, daily life, rituals, etc. accurate?

### Identity

- Does the culture have its own unique identity and not overgeneralized?
- Are the characters individualized and presented as interesting human beings?
- Do the characters solve their own problems without the assistance of a Western authority figure?

### Implications

- Does the story avoid placing Western culture as the ideal over others?
- Could the story positively affect a child's aspiration and self-concept?

## - 4 - POTENTIAL



- Step towards users being more confident, critical and cognizant when evaluating multicultural children's books
- Opportunity to branch out and tailor more towards specific cultures