

# We Need Diverse Books

Exploring Issues of Diversity  
in Children's & YA Literature

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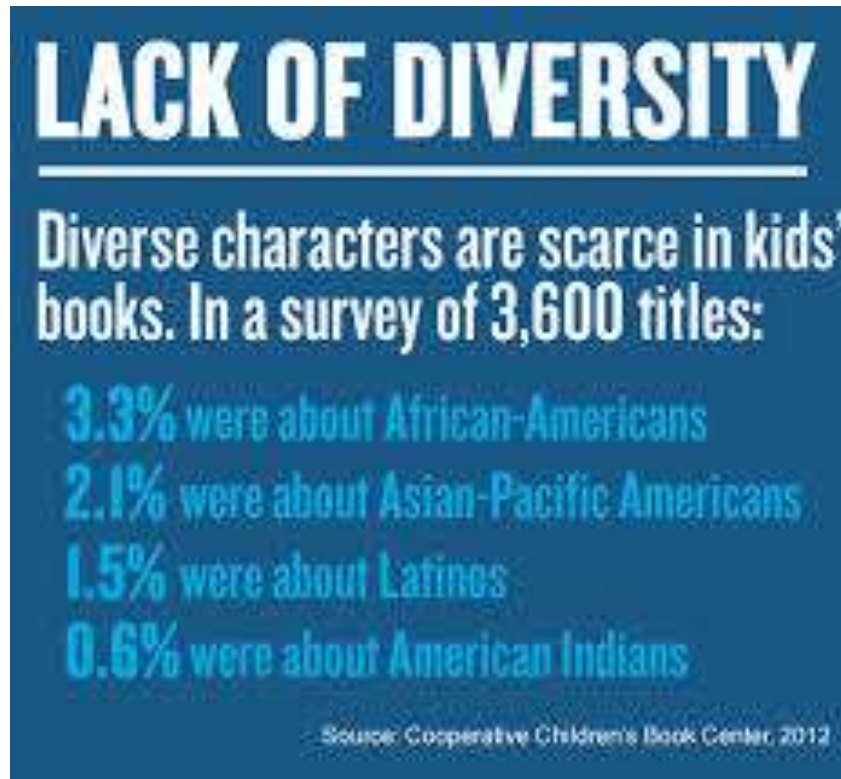
Tumblr: <http://sdiaz101.tumblr.com/>

LibraryLinkNJ Webinar

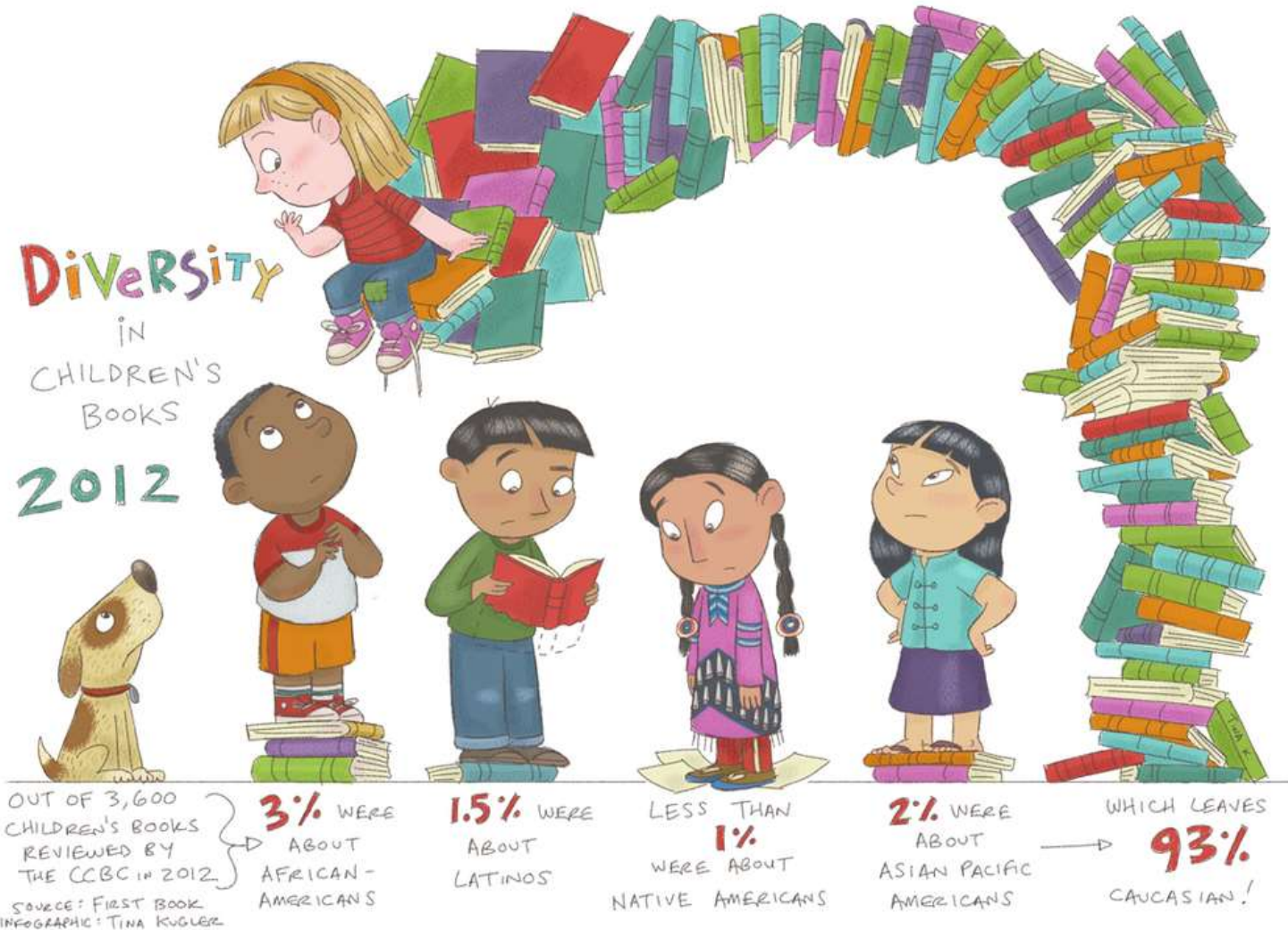
October 29, 2013

# Why Does Diversity in Kid Lit Matter?

- A 2012 study by the CCBC ([Cooperative Children's Book Center](#)) made a startling revelation:



# Why Does Diversity in Kid Lit Matter?



# Why Does Diversity in Kid Lit Matter?

The [U.S. Census Bureau](#) released a set of estimates May 2012 showing that 50.4% of the U.S. population younger than age 1 were minorities as of July 1, 2011. A minority is anyone who is not single-race white and not Hispanic.

The population younger than age 5 was 49.7 % minority in 2011.

# Why Does Diversity in Kid Lit Matter?

Diversity in children's literature isn't limited to race or ethnicity; it encompasses the inclusion of all perspectives, regardless of religious background, sexual orientation, gender, class, or disability.

We need [diverse "Diverse" books.](#)

# Why Now?

Since 1985, the CCBC has compiled [annual statistics](#) on the status of diversity in kid lit.

## Domino Effect:

First Book announces their [Stories for All](#) project.

Lee & Low, the largest publisher of multicultural children's books posts powerful blog entry: [Why Hasn't the Number of Multicultural Books Increased in Eighteen Years?](#)

Roger Sutton post: [A very good question](#)

Betsy Bird's call for [African American boy protagonists in MG lit](#)

# Why Now?

- Kids are part of the Global Community
  - War in the Middle East
- Kids are witnesses to History
  - First African American President
  - Supreme Court Decisions
  - DREAM Act
  - [Trayvon Martin](#)
- Social Media
  - [#DiversitySFF](#)
- Blogs
  - [Whitewashing](#) Book Covers outcry



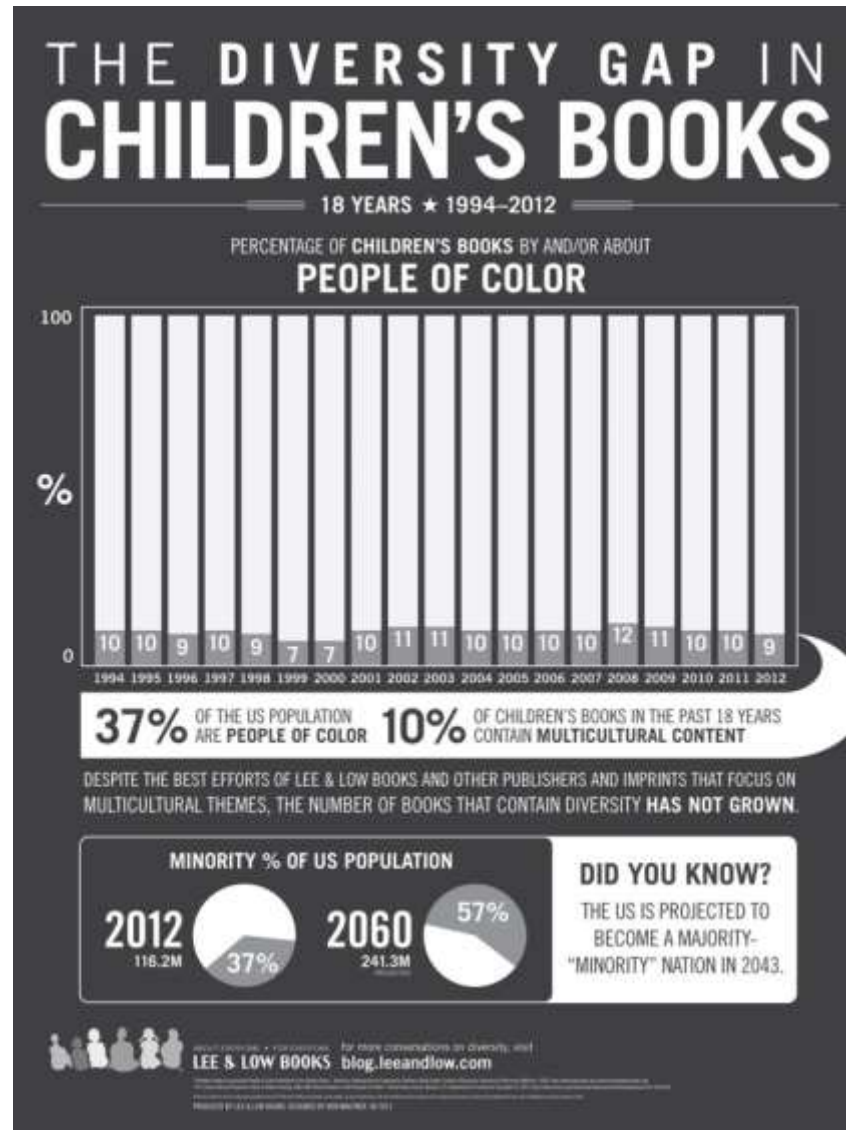
# Definition of Terms

- Diversity
- “Multicultural”
- People of Color
- Minority
- [“Race”](#)
- Hispanic v. Latino;  
Native American v.  
American Indian
- LGBT
- Special Needs
- On the Spectrum
- “Disabled”
- Hyphen
- [Window & Mirror Books](#)





# History of Diversity in Kid Lit



# History of Diversity in Kid Lit

1. Are the nonwhite characters too good to be true?
2. How and why does the author define race?
3. Is the cover art true to the story?
4. Who are the change agents?
5. How is beauty defined?

Perkins, Mitali. "[Straight Talk About Race: Challenging the Stereotypes in Kids' Books.](#)" *School Library Journal*. April 2009.

# How to Use Diverse Lit

## Poll

- **What are some of ways you already use “diverse” books in your library’s programs or collection?**



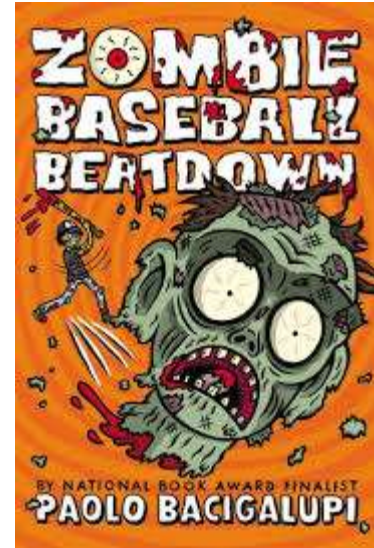
# How to Use Diverse Lit

## Book Displays

### Trick or Treat: Diverse Books for Halloween

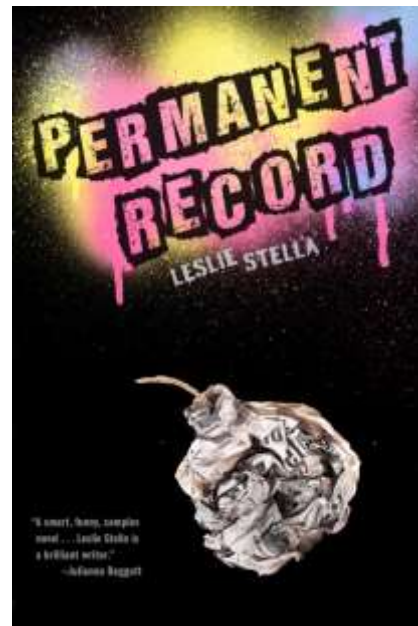
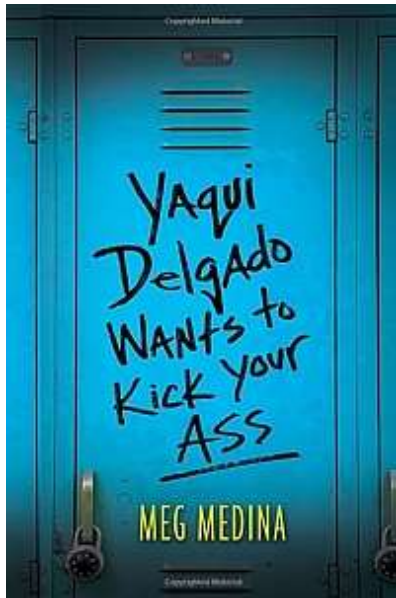
(Lee & Low)

### 5 Great Children's Books to Celebrate Día de los Muertos (Mamiverse)



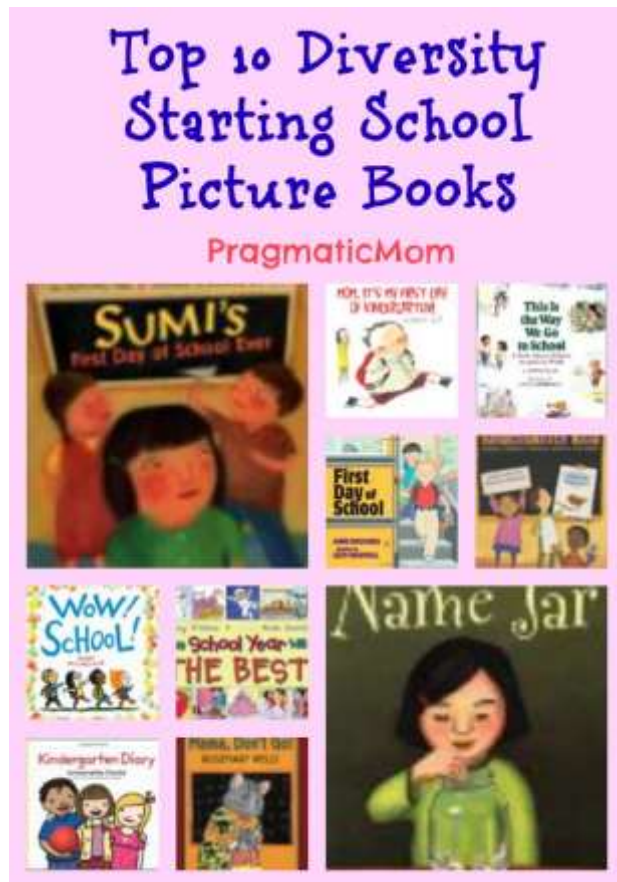
# How to Use Diverse Lit Book Displays

## Bullying Prevention Month

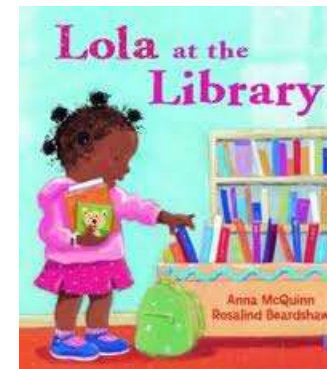
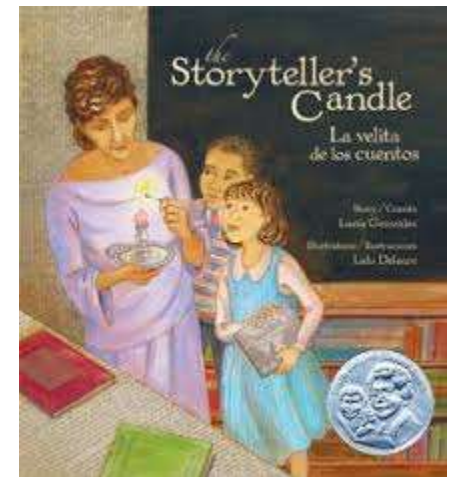
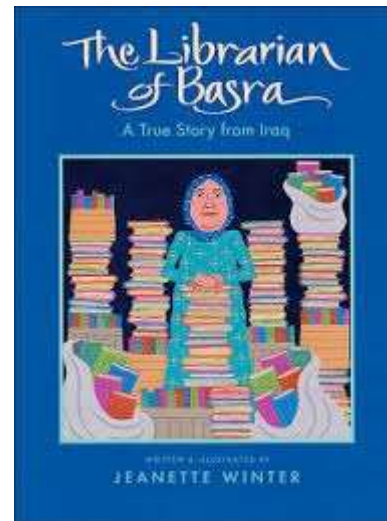


# How to Use Diverse Lit Book Displays

## Back-to-School



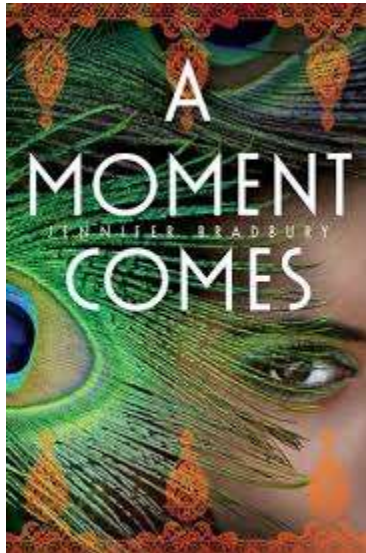
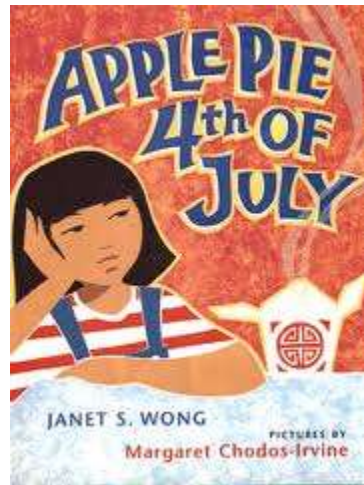
## Library Orientation



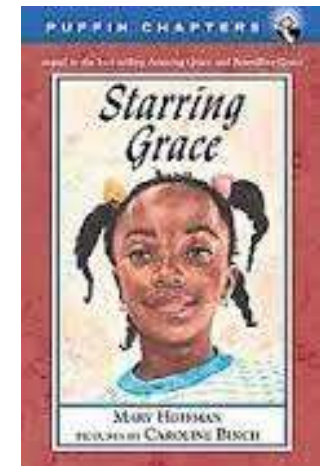
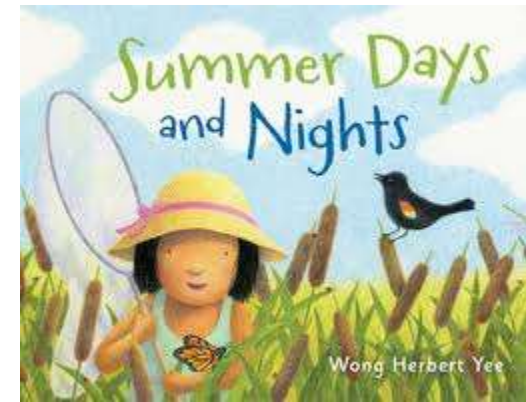
[Colorin Colorado. "Fun at the Library"](#)

# How to Use Diverse Lit Book Displays

## Independence Day

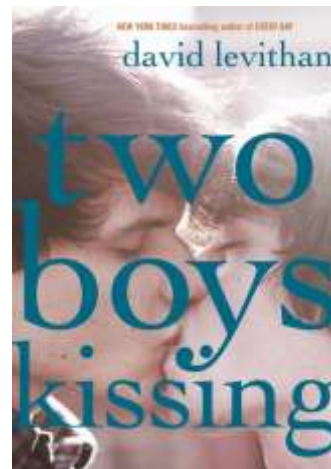


## Summer Reads

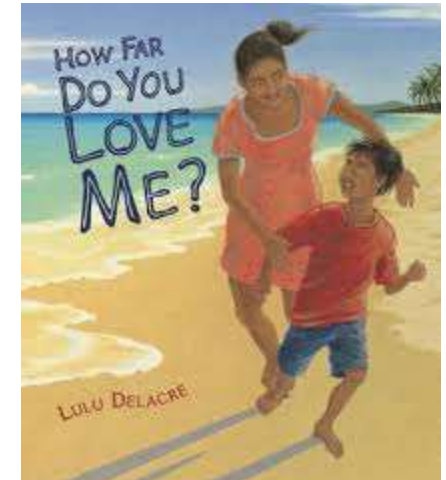


# How to Use Diverse Lit Book Displays

Valentine's Day



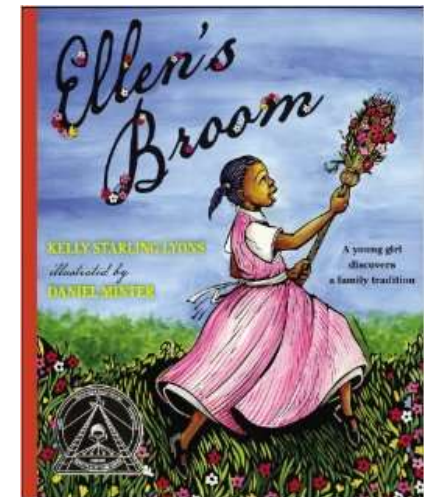
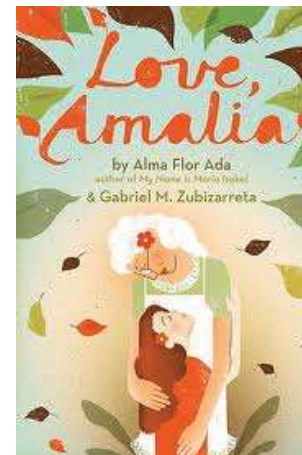
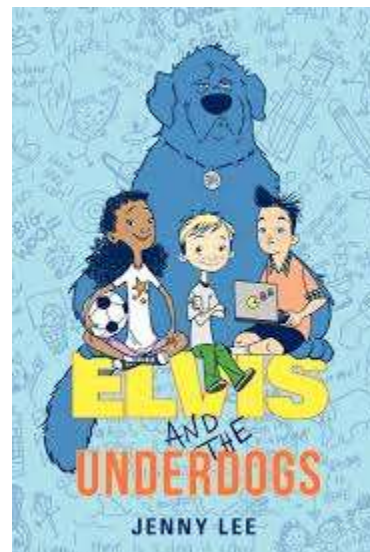
Mother's Day



Grandparent's Day

Weddings

Pets





# Yes or No?

**Is the “Medal” Effect true?  
Once a book has won an award, does it lose kid  
appeal?**



# How to Use Diverse Lit Booktalks

When Talking Up Diverse Books, Focus:

- On the Story
- Universal Appeal
- Fun Plot, Characters, Etc.
- Readalike-ability

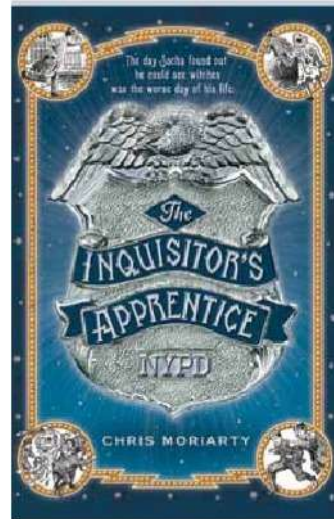
Not “How Good They Are For You”



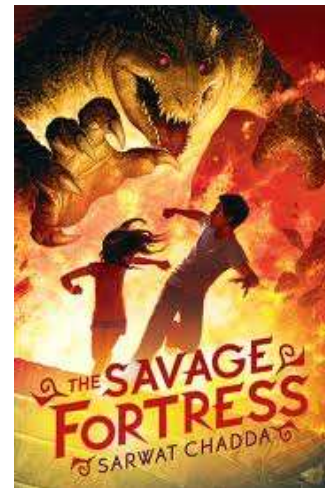
# How to Use Diverse Lit Booktalks

## Readalikes:

For Harry Potter Fans:



For Percy Jackson Fans:



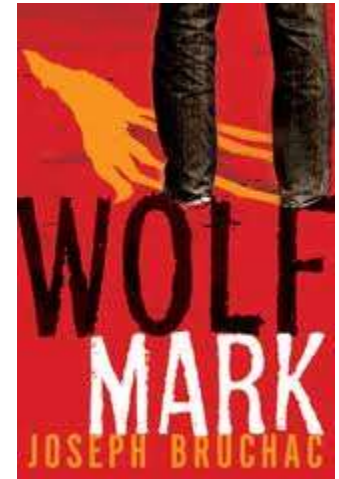
For Hunger Games Fans:



# How to Use Diverse Lit Booktalks

## Readalikes:

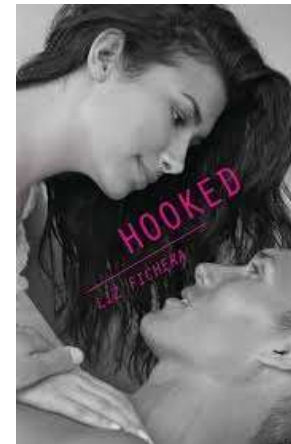
For Mystery Lovers



For Fans of Paranormal

For Retellings

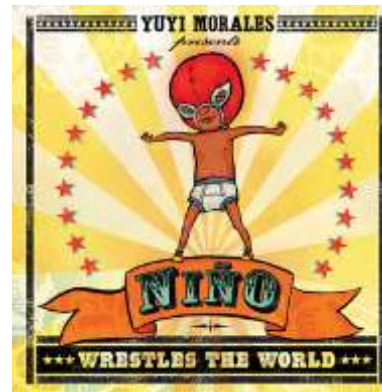
Sports Fans



# How to Use Diverse Lit Storytime

Incorporate Diverse Titles:

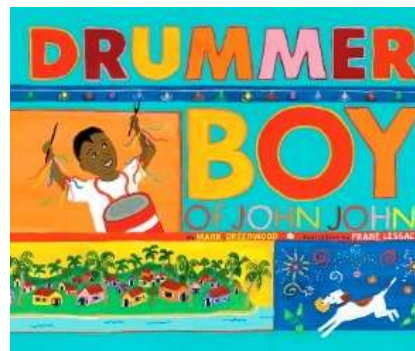
For Superhero-Themed



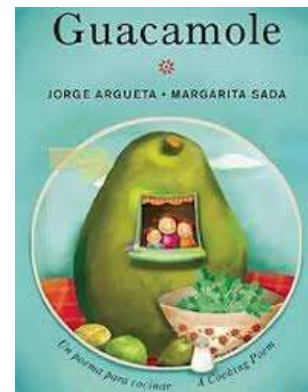
For Math-Themed



For Music-Themed



For Food-Themed



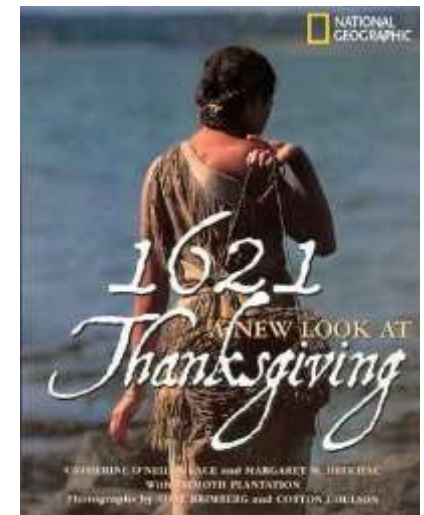
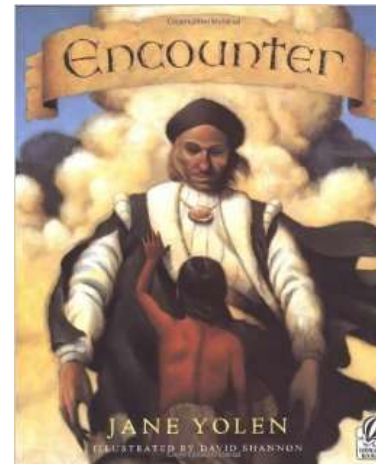
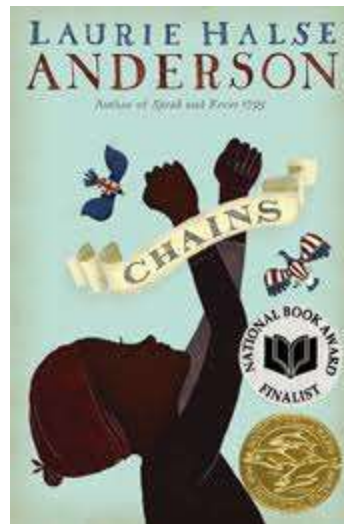
For Sports-Themed



# How to Use Diverse Lit Curriculum Connections

**Common Core: Offer Multiple Perspectives**

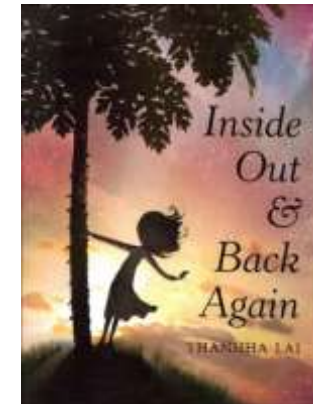
- Columbus Day
- Thanksgiving
- Revolutionary War



# How to Use Diverse Lit Curriculum Connections

## Common Core: Offer Multiple Perspectives

World War II



Civil Rights Movement

Vietnam War

Afghanistan



# What Can You Do in Your Library

**Let Your Voice Be Heard**

**Talk to Publishers About What Your Community Needs**



**Put Your \$\$ Where Your Mouth Is**

**Give Kids a Voice Too**





# What Can You Do in Your Library



# What Can You Do in Your Library



# Staples for Every Collection

## Poll

**What are some of the books that come to mind as must-have for strengthening your collection with “diverse” books?**



# Staples in Every Collection

African American Experience- More  
Than Black History Month

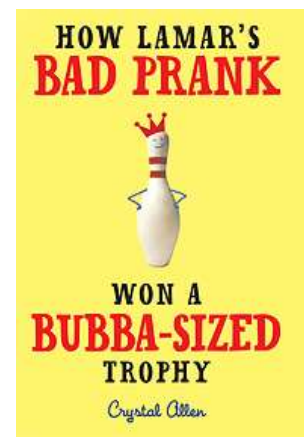
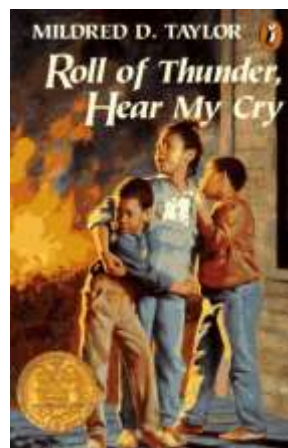
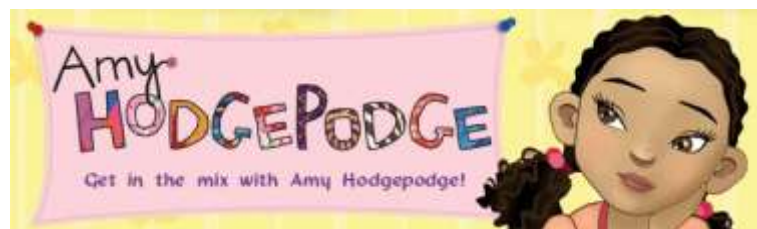


“Black History Month” [Readingrockets.org](http://Readingrockets.org)

# Staples for Every Collection

## African American Experience

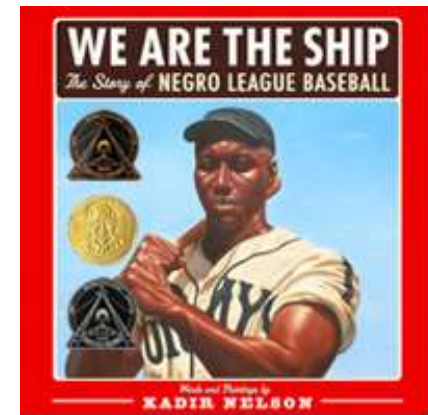
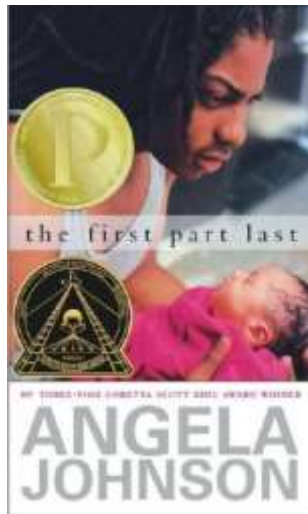
**Chp Bks/Early Readers:** Amy Hodge Podge by Kim Wayans & ElRay Jakes by Sally Warner



**MG:** *Roll of Thunder Hear My Cry* by Mildred Taylor  
*How Lamar's Bad Prank Won a Bubba-Sized Trophy* by Crystal Allen

# Staples for Every Collection

- **YA:** Angela Johnson's *First Part Last*, Walter Dean Myers's *Monster*



- **Nonfiction:** *Sweethearts of Rhythm* by Marilyn Nelson & Jerry Pinkney, *We Are the Ship* by Kadir Nelson

# Staples for Every Collection:

Children's Books Authors & Illustrators Who Write About African American Themes

Coe Booth

Walter Dean Myers

Virginia Hamilton

Jerry Pinkney

Brian Collier

E.B. Lewis

Kadir Nelson

Christopher Paul Curtis

Sharon Draper

Shane Evans

Sharon Flake

Nikki Grimes

Ashley Bryan

Angela Johnson

Andrea Davis Pinkney

Don Tate

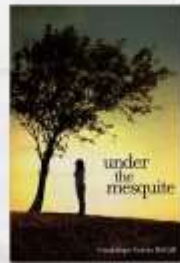
Christopher Myers

Rachel Isadora

# Staples in Every Collection

Latino Experience- More Than Hispanic Heritage Month

## LATIN@ MODELS ON 2011 YA COVERS

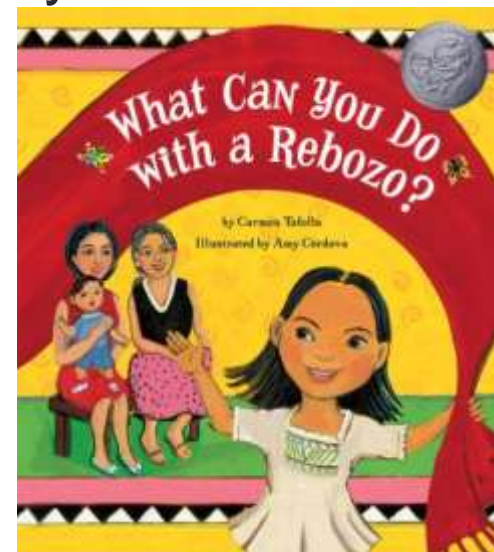
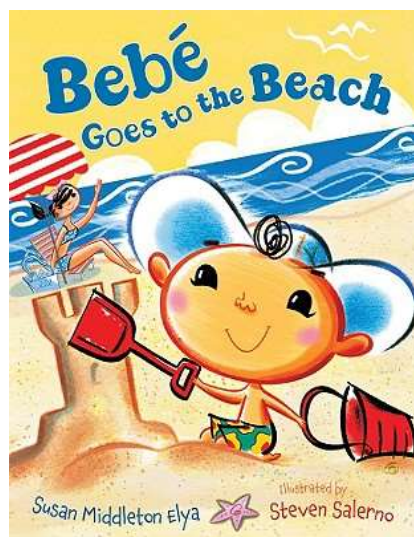
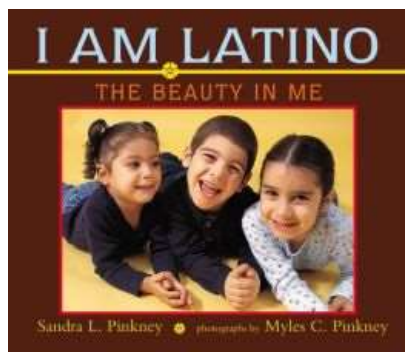




# Staples for Every Collection

## Latino Experience

**Board Bks:** *I Am Latino: The Beauty in Me* by Sandra Pinkney

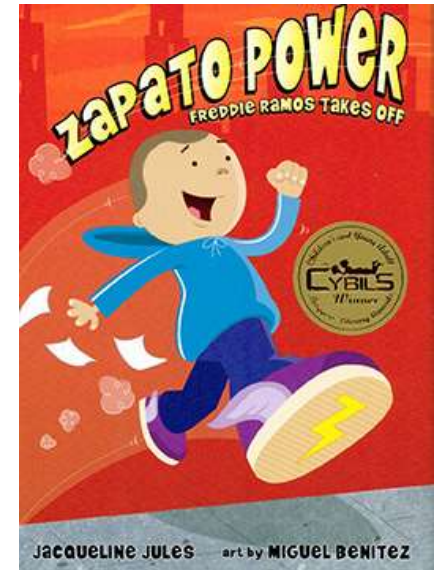
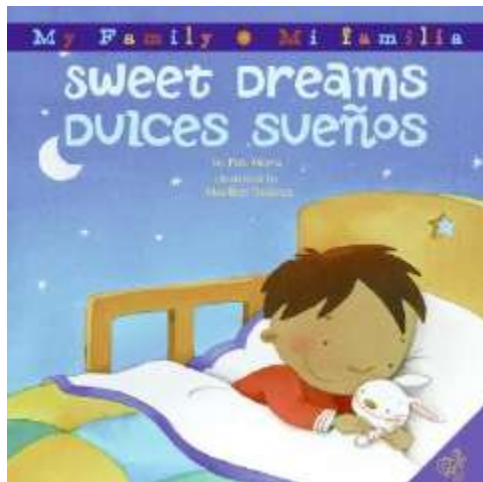


**Picture Bks:** *Bebé Goes to the Beach* by Susan Middleton Elya, *What Can You Do with a Rebozo?* by Carmen Tafolla;

# Staples for Every Collection

## Latino Experience

**Chapter Bks/Early Readers:** *Sweet Dreams/Dulces sueños* by Pat Mora, *Zapato Power* series by Jacqueline Jules

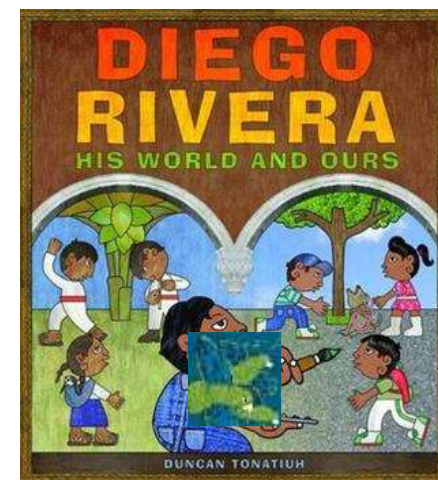
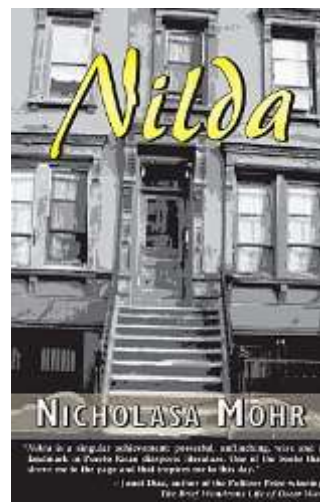
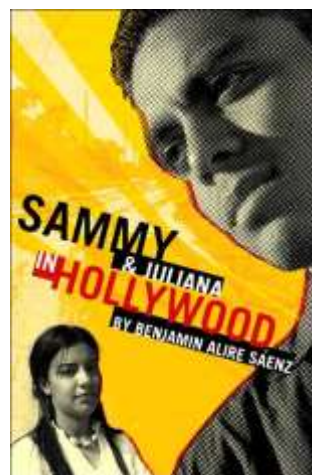


**MG:** *Tortilla Sun* by Jennifer Cervantes, *Esperanza Rising* by Pam Muñoz Ryan

# Staples for Every Collection

## Latino Experience

**YA:** *Sammy & Juliana in Hollywood* by Benjamin Alire Saenz, *Nilda* by Nicholasa Mohr



## Nonfiction:

Duncan Tonatiuh's *Diego Rivera: His World and Ours*  
*Parrots Over Puerto Rico* by Susan Roth & Cindy Trumbo

# Staples for Every Collection

## Children's Books Authors & Illustrators Who Write About Latino/Hispanic Themes

David Diaz

Ashley Hope Perez

Lulu Delacre

Jorge Aguirre

Guadalupe Garcia McCall

Sara Palacios

Nicholasa Mohr

Alma Flor Ada

Pam Munoz Ryan

Xavier Garza

John Parra

Diane Lopez

Pat Mora

Julia Alvarez

Meg Medina

Yuyi Morales

Gary Soto

Benjamin Alire Saenz

Judith Ortiz Cofer

Margarita Engle

Matt de la Pena

Duncan Tonatiuh

Monica Brown

Raul Colon

# Staples in Every Collection

## Asian American Experience

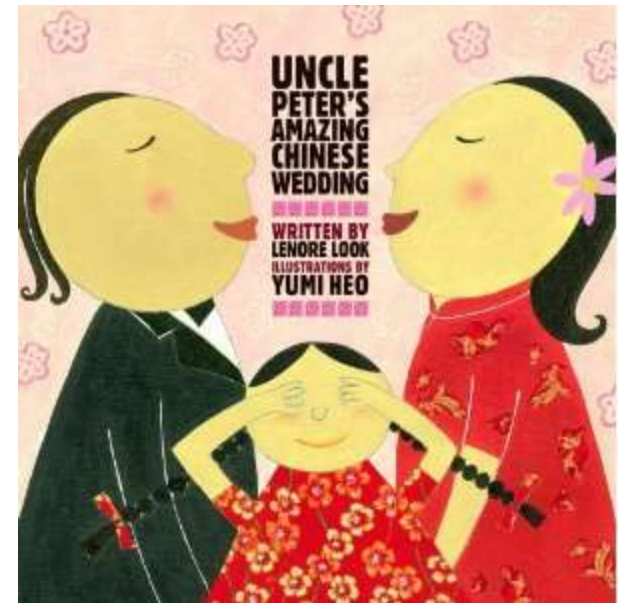
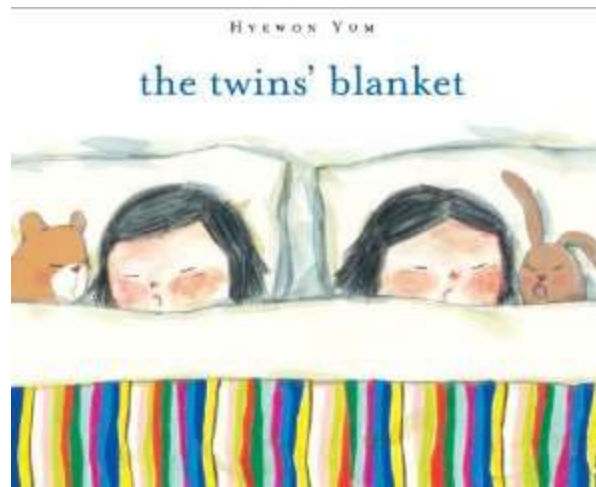
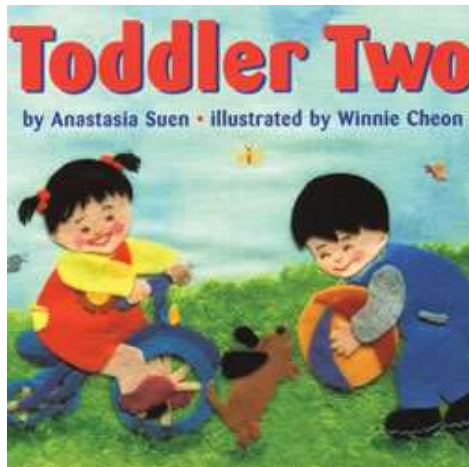
### ASIAN MODELS ON 2011 YA COVERS



# Staples for Every Collection

## Asian American Experience

**Board Bks:** *Toddler Two* by Anastasia Suen

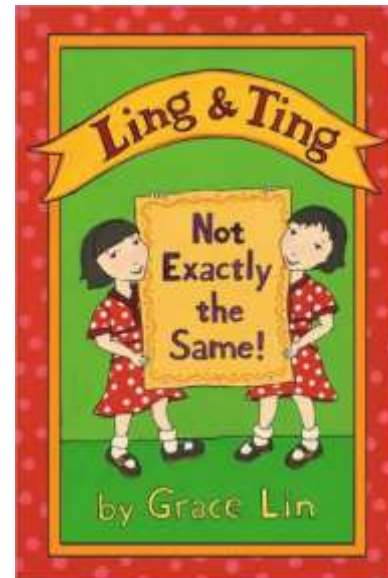
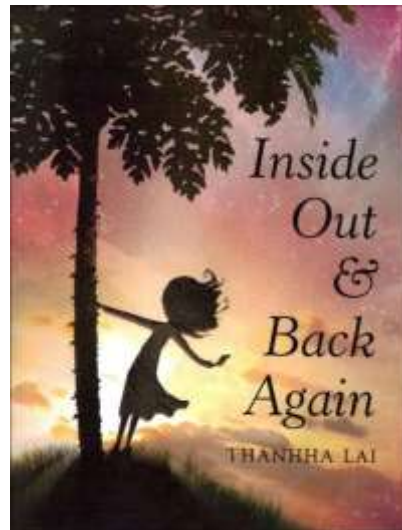


**Picture Bks:** Hyewon Yum's *The Twins' Blanket*, Lenore Look's *Uncle Peter's Amazing Chinese Wedding*

# Staples for Every Collection

## Asian American Experience

**Chapter Bks/Early Readers:** Ling & Ting series by Grace Lin, Katie Woo books

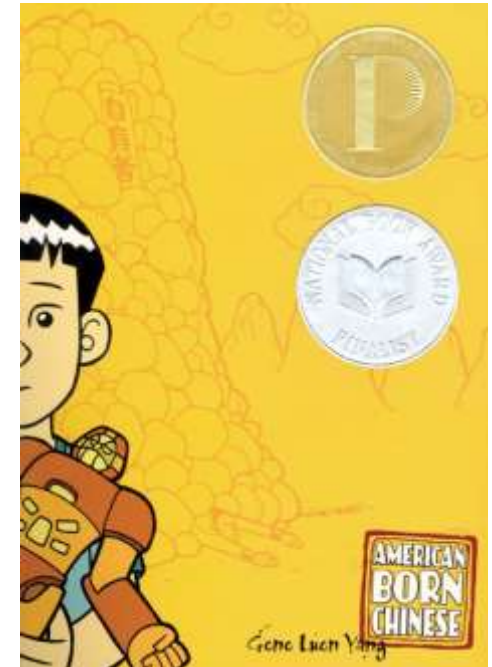
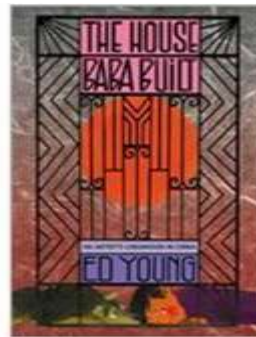
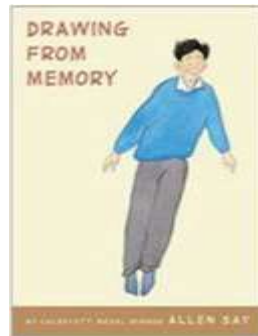


**MG:** *Clara Lee and the Apple Pie Dream* by Jenny Han, *Inside Out and Back Again* by Thanhha Lai

# Staples for Every Collection

## Asian American Experience

**YA:** An Na's *The Fold*, Gene Leun Yang's *American Born Chinese*



**NF:** Allen Say's *Draying from Memory*, Ed Young's *The House Baba Built*, William Low's *Chinatown*



# Staples for Every Collection

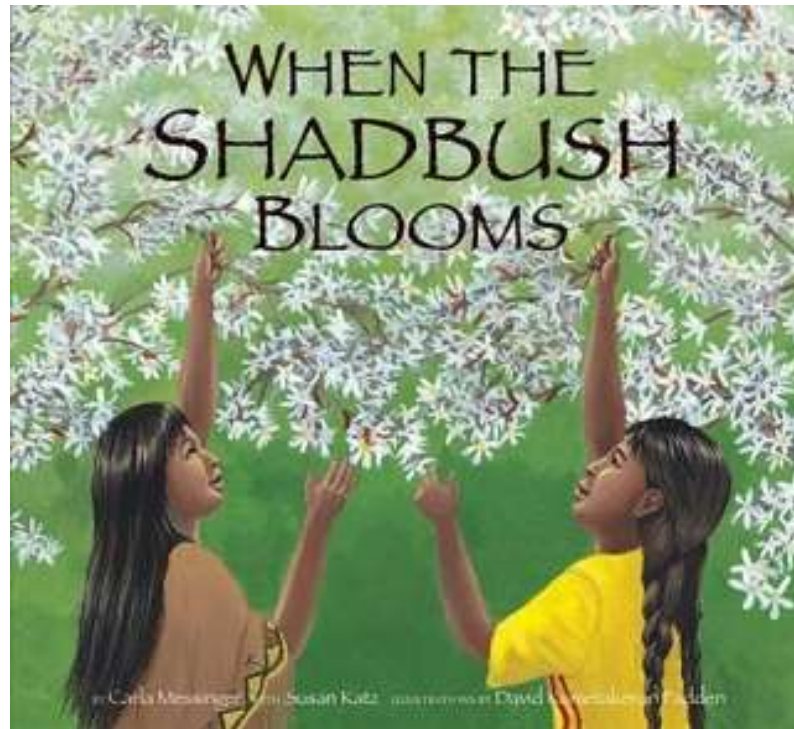
Children's Books Authors & Illustrators Who Write About Asian American Themes

Allen Say  
William Low  
Grace Lin  
Marie Lu  
Malindo Lo  
Grace Oh  
Shaun Tan  
Gene Leun Yang  
Lenore Look  
Thanhha Lai  
Andrea Cheng

Mitali Perkins  
Jenny Han  
Cynthia Kadohata  
An Na  
Ed Young  
Ying Chang Compestine  
Sarwat Chadda  
Justina Chen  
Darren Shan  
Kazuo Kibuishi  
Lisa Yee  
Cindy Pon  
Laurence Yep

# Staples in Every Collection

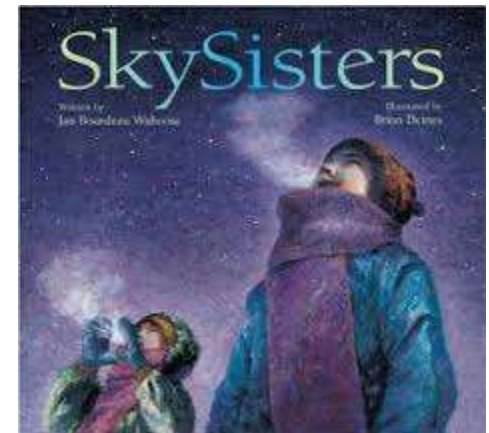
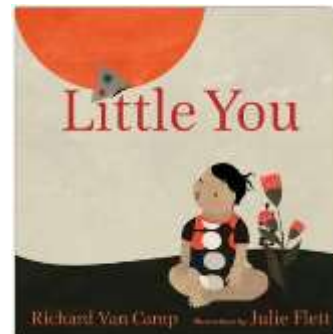
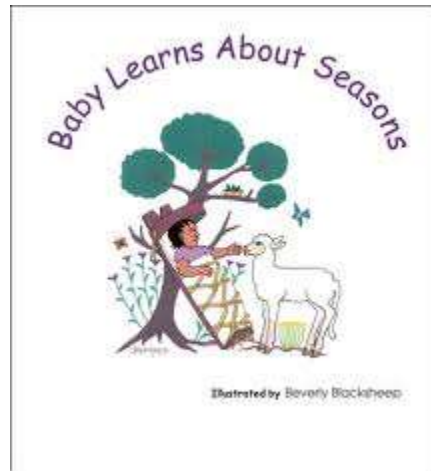
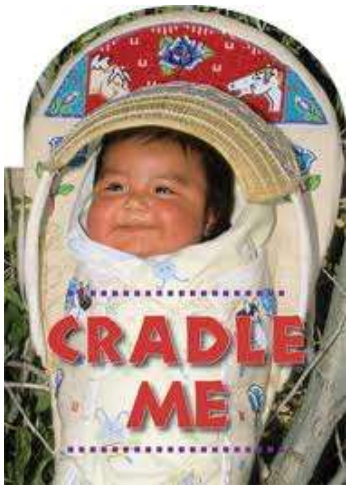
American Indian Experience



# Staples for Every Collection

## American Indian Experience

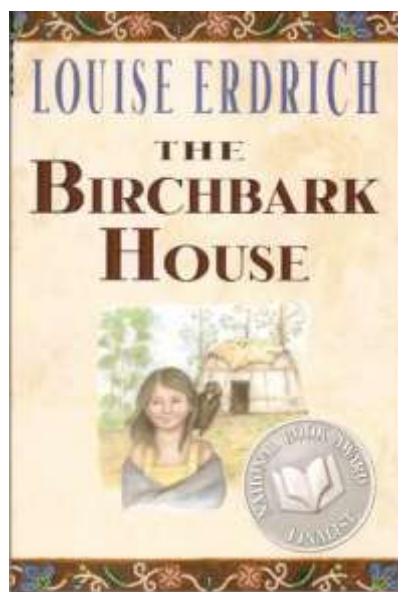
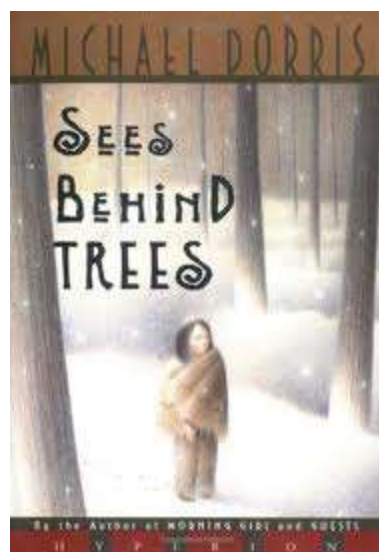
**Board Bks:** *Cradle Me* by Dabbie Slier, *Baby Learns About the Seasons* by Jessie Eve Ruffenach, *Little You* by Richard Van Camp



**Picture Bks:** *Crossing Bok Chitto* by Tim Tingle, *SkySisters* by Jan Bourdeau Waboose

# Staples for Every Collection

## American Indian Experience

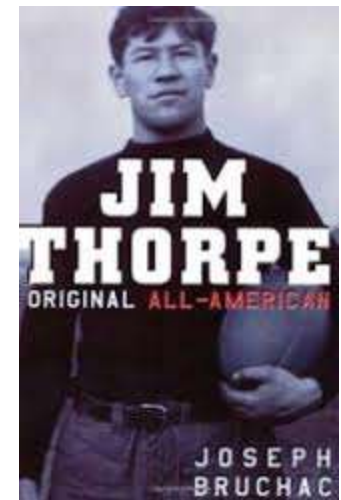
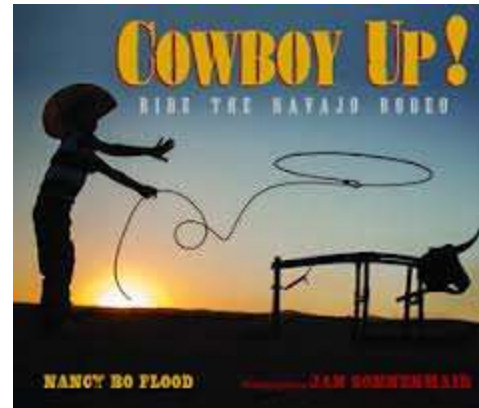
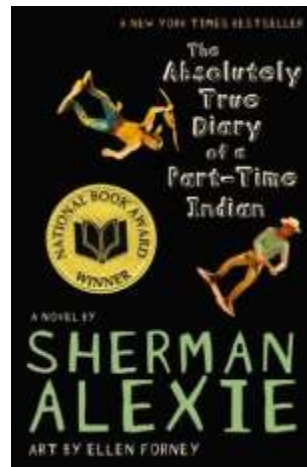


**MG:** *Sees Behind Trees* by Michael Dorris, *The Birchbark House* by Louise Erdrich, *Rain Is Not My Indian Name* by Cynthia Leitich Smith

# Staples for Every Collection

## American Indian Experience

**YA:** *My Name Is Not Easy* by Debby Dahl Edwardson, *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* by Sherman Alexie



**NF:** *Cowboy Up! Ride the Navajo Rodeo* by Nancy Bo Flood, *Jim Thorpe: Original All-American* by Joseph Bruchac

# Staples for Every Collection

Children's Books Authors & Illustrators Who Write About American Indian Themes

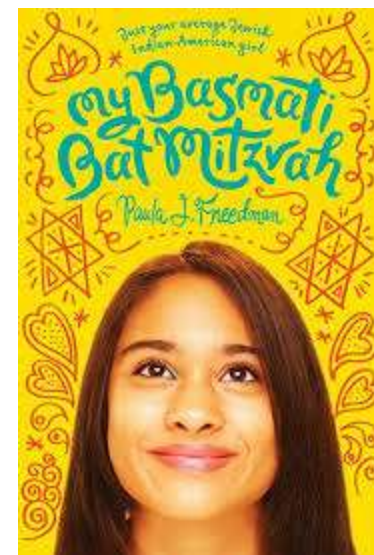
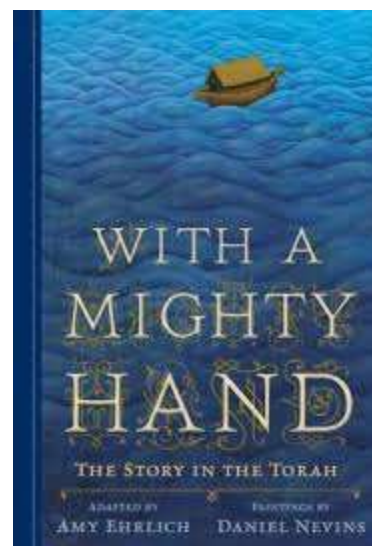
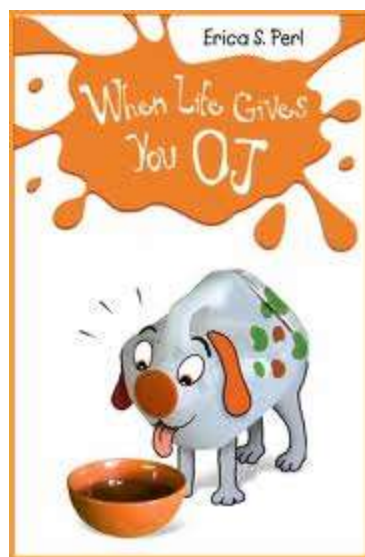
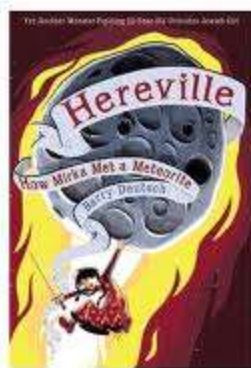
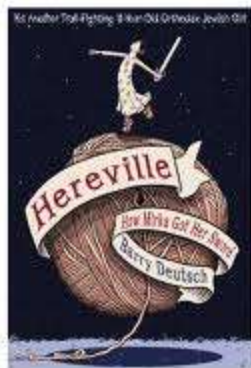
Cynthia Leitich Smith  
Jan Bourdeau Waboose  
Louise Erdrich  
Simon Ortiz  
Thomas King  
S.D. Nelson

Sherman Alexie  
Joseph Bruchac  
Eric Gainsworth  
Virginia Driving Hawk  
Sneve  
Tim Tingle  
Joseph Blasingame

# Staples for Every Collection

World Religions  
Judaism

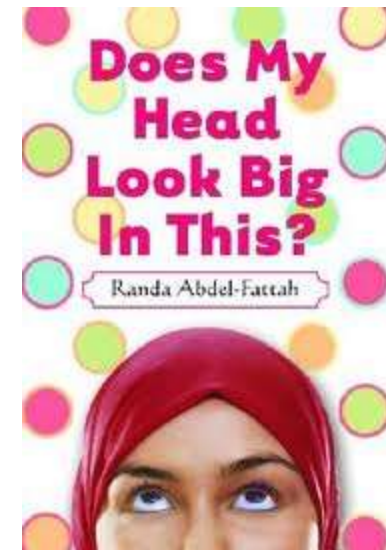
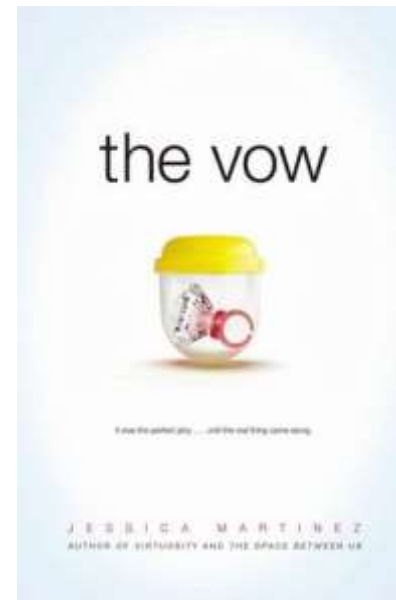
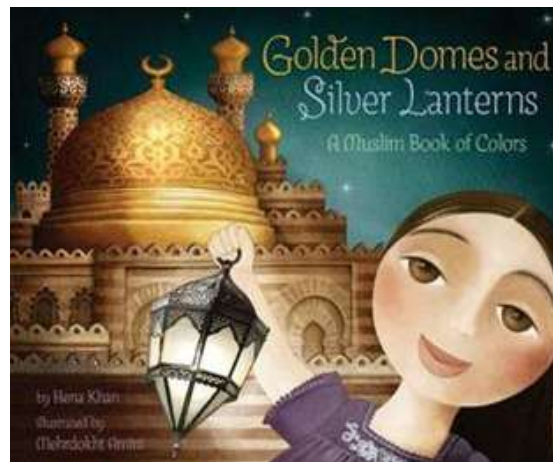
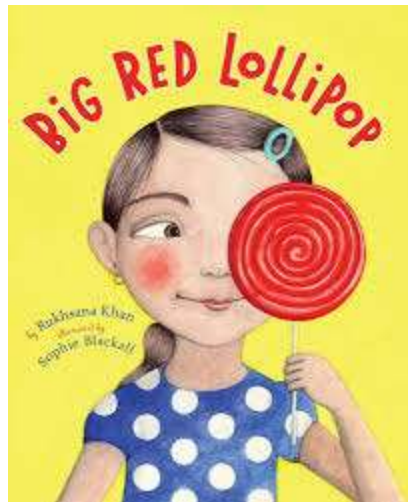
[Sydney Taylor Awards](#)



[National Jewish Book Award Winners](#)

# Staples for Every Collection

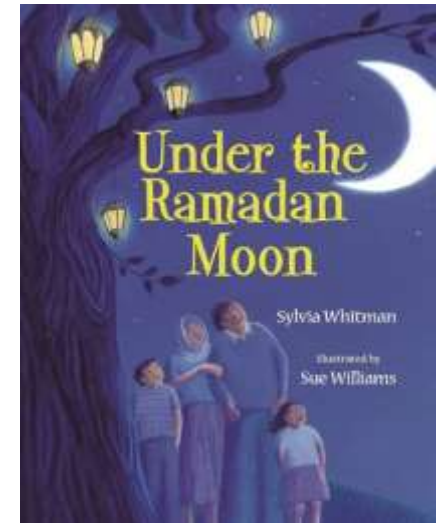
World Religions  
Islam





# Staples for Every Collection

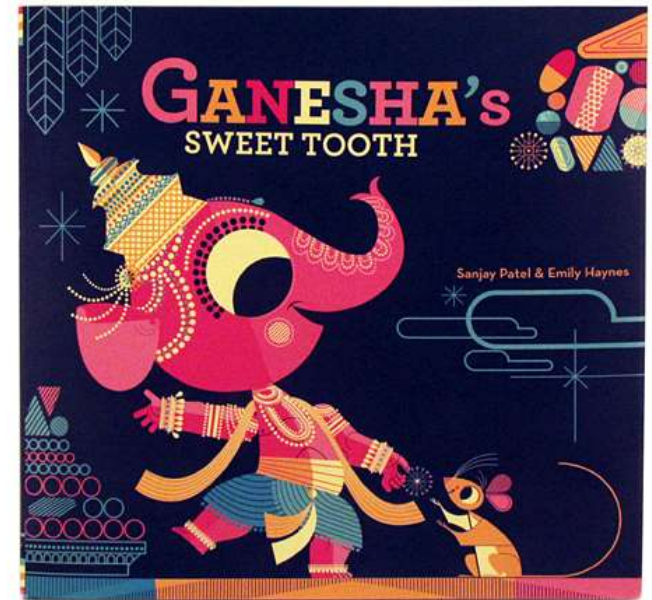
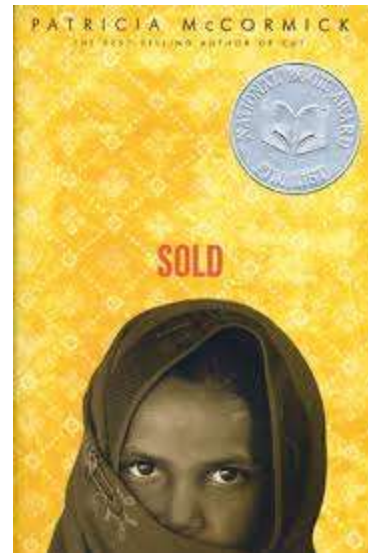
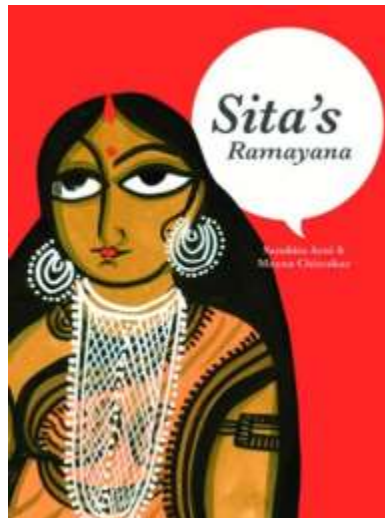
World Religions  
Islam



[The Muslim Writers Awards](#)  
[Arab American Book Award Winners](#)  
[Books on Islam for children and teens](#)

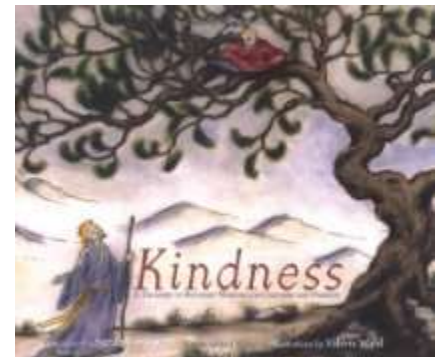
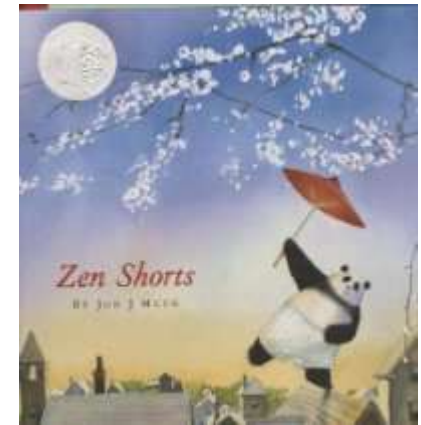
# Staples for Every Collection

World Religions  
Hinduism



# Staples for Every Collection

World Religions  
Buddhism



# Staples for Every Collection

## LGBTQ

Looking for Coming Out Stories  
or LGBTQ Romance?



*Ask the Passengers*  
A. S. King



*Sister Mischief*  
Laura Goode



*Far from Kanadi*  
Julie Anne Peters



*If You Could Be Mine*  
Sara Farizan



*Will Grayson, Will Grayson*  
John Green & David Levithan



*The Vast Fields of Ordinary*  
Nick Bard



*Two Boys Kissing*  
David Levithan

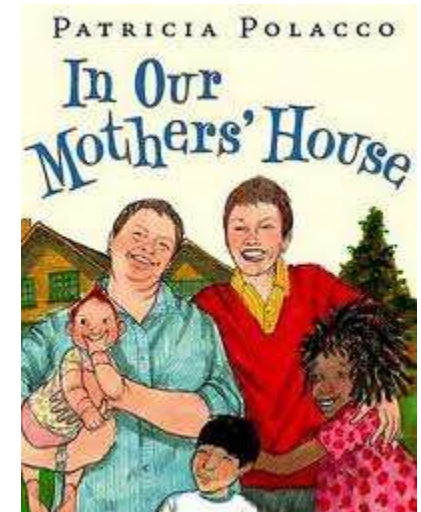
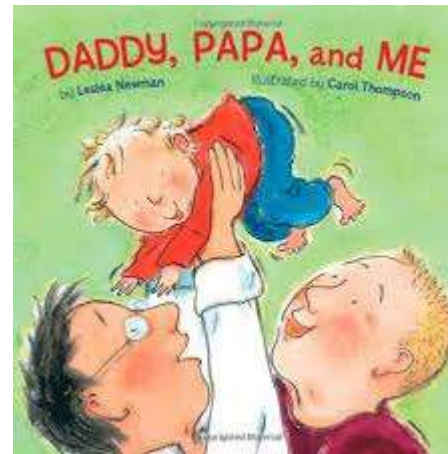
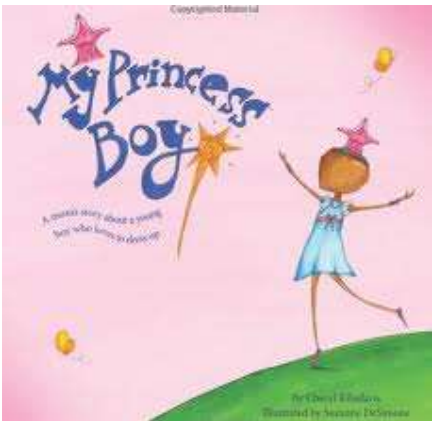


*The Difference  
Between You & Me*  
Madeline George

# Staples for Every Collection

## LGBT Experience

**Board Bks:** *Daddy, Papa, and Me* & *Mommy, Mama, and Me* by Lesléa Newman



**Picture Bks:** *My Princess Boy* by Cheryl Kilodavis, *It's Okay to Be Different* by Todd Parr, *In Our Mothers' House* by Patricia Polacco

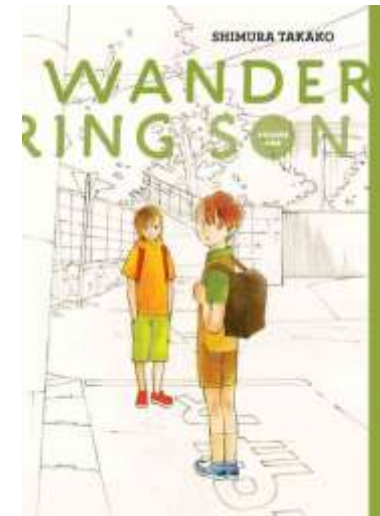
# Staples for Every Collection

## LGBT Experience

**MG:** *From the Notebooks of Melanin Sun* by Jacqueline Woodson, *Wandering Son: Vol. 1* by Shimura Takako

\* THREE-TIME \*  
Newbery Honor Author  
**JACQUELINE  
WOODSON**

From the Notebooks of Melanin Sun

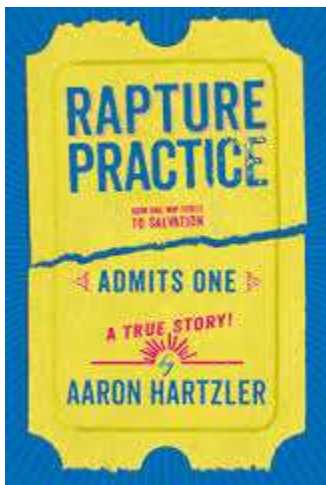


*My Mixed-Up Berry Blue Summer* by Jennifer Gennari, *The Misfits* by James Howe

# Staples for Every Collection

## LGBT Experience

**YA:** *Freakboy* by Kristin Elizabeth Clark, *If You Could Be Mine* by Sara Farizan, *Freak Show* by James St. James



**NF:** *The Letter Q: Queer Writers' Notes to Their Younger Selves.* Sarah Moon & James Leceesne, eds., *Rapture Practice* by Aaron Hartzler

# Staples for Every Collection

## Children's Books Authors & Illustrators Who Write About LGBTQ Themes

David Levithan

Julie Ann Peters

Malindo Lo

Benjamin Alire Saenz

Jacqueline Woodson

James Klise

Nick Burd

Steve Kluger

Alex Sanchez

James Lecesne

Alex London

emily m. danforth

Cassandra Clare

A.S. King

E.M. Kokie

Nancy Gardner

Lauren Myracle

Tamora Pierce

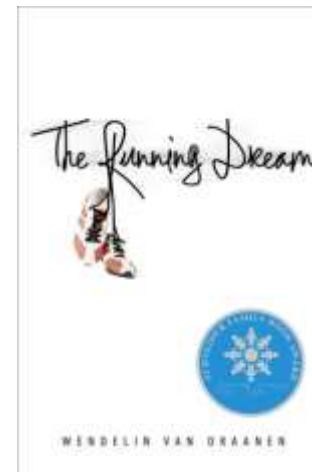
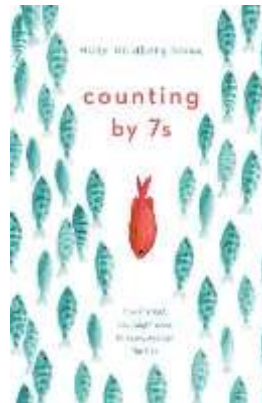
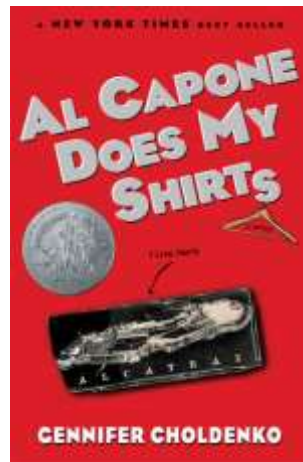
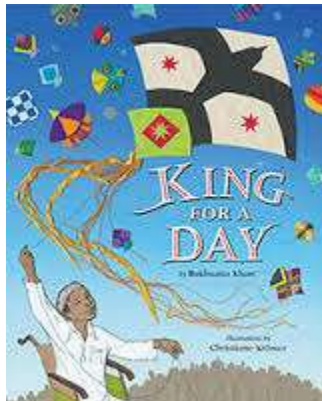
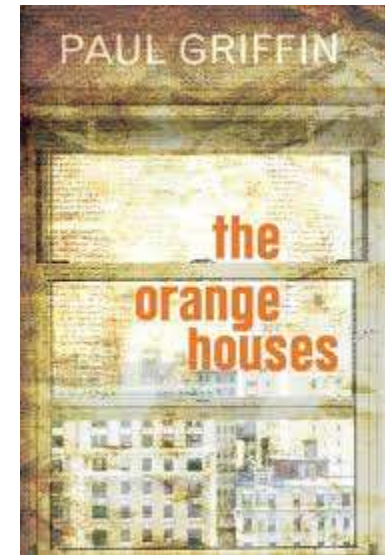
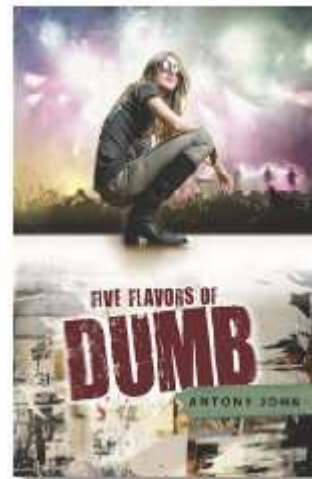
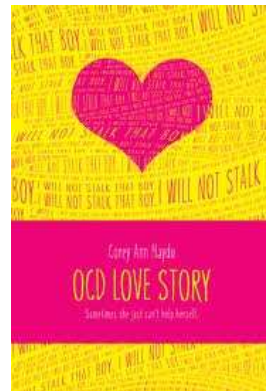
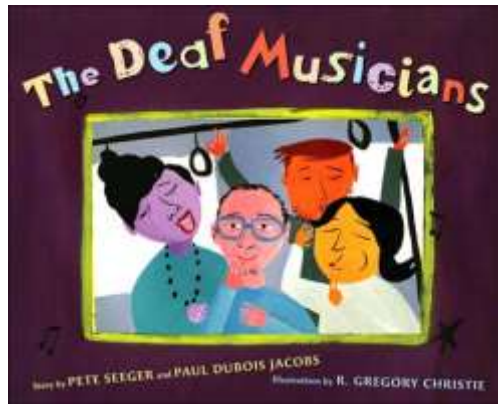
Sarah Ryan

Nico Medina



# Staples for Every Collection

## Disability in Kid Lit



# Staples for Every Collection

## Poll

**What resources do you use to strengthen your collection with “diverse” books?**



# Resources

## Professional Review Journals

*Kirkus, Booklist, VOYA, PW, The Horn Book*

*School Library Journal:*

[Embracing Diversity in YA Lit](#)

[Resources for Finding Latino Kid Lit](#)

**To Come:**

Collection Development piece by Debbie Reese on American Indians, LGBT Titles for Young Readers

# Resources

## Book Award Lists:

[Youth Media Awards](#)

[Lambda Awards](#)

[International Latino Book Awards](#)

[USSBY Outstanding International Books](#)

[Jane Addams Award](#)



# Resources

[Children's Books by and about People of Color Published in the United States \(CCBC\)](#)

[Michigan State University Libguide on Diverse Kid Lit](#)

[CBC Diversity](#)

[Stacy Whitman's Pinterest Board on Diverse YA Fantasy](#)



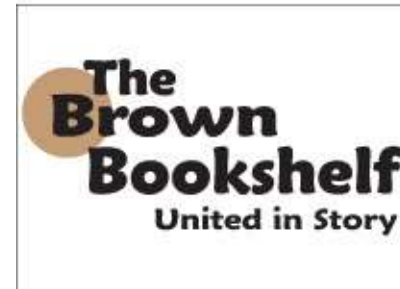
# Resources

[Disability in Kid Lit](#)

[The Brown Bookshelf](#)

[American Indians in Children's Literature](#)

[Rich In Color](#)



# Resources

[Gay YA](#)

[De Colores Blog](#)

[Diversify YA](#)

[Cynthia Leitich Smith](#)

[Colorin Colorado](#)



# Resources

[Forever Young Adult](#)



[Articles on Diversity on YALSA's Hub Blog](#)

[Lee & Low Blog](#)

[First Book Blog](#)

[Mitali Perkins's Blog](#)





# Resources

[Crazy QuiltEdi](#)

[Latinos in Kid Lit](#)

[Mamiverse](#)

[Diversity in YA](#)



# Contact Info

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