

Diversity in Youth Services

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**“The Literature of America should
reflect the children of America” Lucille
Clifton (1980’s)**

A quick history of Diversity in Children's Literature

- 1965, Nancy Larrick writes an article in the Saturday Evening Post about the all white world of children's books.
- 1985, the Children's Book Council began documenting the number of books written by African Americans: 18 out of 2500 books were by African Americans. Walter Dean Myers called upon the publishing industry about the perception of black writers not being able to sell books. In the 20 years since Larrick's article, Myers states the industry should have been revolutionized.

Why does it matter



Authors respond to the disparity

- Walter Dean Myers pens an Op-Ed (his 2nd) in 2014 wants to know where the children of color are in the literature.
- His son, Christopher Myers calls the disparity, the apartheid of children's literature.
- These articles came to be rallying cry to other diverse authors such as Ellen Oh, Grace Lin, John Green.

TED Talk from Grace Lin

This Ted Talk from author Grace Lin... – Sue Bradford Edwards, Author ...



Statistics

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



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

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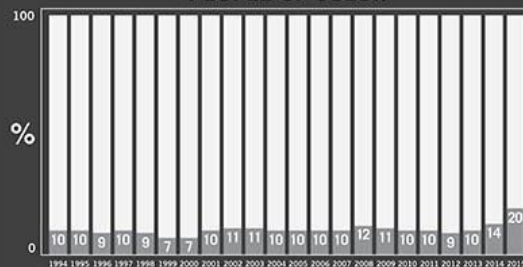
* About a quarter of the total children's books published in 2015 were picture books, and about half of those depict non-human characters, like animals & trucks.

** The remainder depict white characters.

THE DIVERSITY GAP IN CHILDREN'S BOOKS

22 YEARS ★ 1994 – 2015

PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN'S BOOKS BY AND/OR ABOUT
PEOPLE OF COLOR



37% OF THE US POPULATION ARE PEOPLE OF COLOR **10%** OF CHILDREN'S BOOKS IN THE PAST 22 YEARS CONTAIN MULTICULTURAL CONTENT

60% OF THE BOOKS PUBLISHED IN 2015 ABOUT PEOPLE OF COLOR WERE CREATED BY PEOPLE FROM OUTSIDE OF THOSE CULTURES

MINORITY % OF US POPULATION



DID YOU KNOW?

THE US IS PROJECTED TO BECOME A MAJORITY-"MINORITY" NATION IN 2043.



For more conversations on diversity, visit
LEE & LOW BOOKS blog.leeandlow.com

PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN'S BOOKS BY AND/OR ABOUT PEOPLE OF COLOR

We Need Diverse Books Movement is born

In 2014, an all white, male panel was assembled at BookCon to talk about children's book.

Author, Ellen Oh, sparks a conversation on Twitter that ignites a movement.

#Weneeddiversebooks is initiated and soon evolves into an organization.

<https://soundcloud.com/penguin-audio/q-a-with-phoebe-yeh-and-ellen>

Authors speak out about the movement



YA Authors are speaking out through their works and deeds

- John Green's latest book, *Turtles All the Way Down* has a protagonist with anxiety and obsessive compulsive disorder.
- Renee Watson, author of *Piecing Me Together*, launched the I, Too Arts movement:

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/langston-hughes-home-i-too-arts-collective-renee-watson/>

Things are getting better ... Librarians are leading the way



Brooklyn Public Library- Judith Zuckerman


- Positive feedback from patrons who attended the program; parents are thankful to the staff for offering the program.
- Had to be moved to a different room because of the large turnout
- Queens are trained by staff members and given a list of recommended books.
- Negative comments from those who have not actually attended the program.

<https://soundcloud.com/rowanhornbeck/drag-queen-story-hour-wants>

<https://www.dragqueenstoryhour.org/#organize>

Waseca-LaSeur Public Library- Waseca, Minnesota

YS Librarian, Dianne Pinney, at said the party had a great turnout and was well received by all who attended.




**Don't judge
a book
by its cover
his face**

WONDER PARTY

Celebrate the book *Wonder* by R.J. Palacio
before the movie comes out. We'll celebrate
WONDERfully kind acts, **WONDER**ful people,
and **WONDER**struck projects.

3:45 pm on Monday, October 16th
New Richland Public Library

 Call 507-465-3708 with questions. Registration required. Geared for ages 8-12.
Free and sponsored by Waseca-LeSeur Regional Library System.

Washington-Centerville

<https://www.wclibrary.info/diversity/>

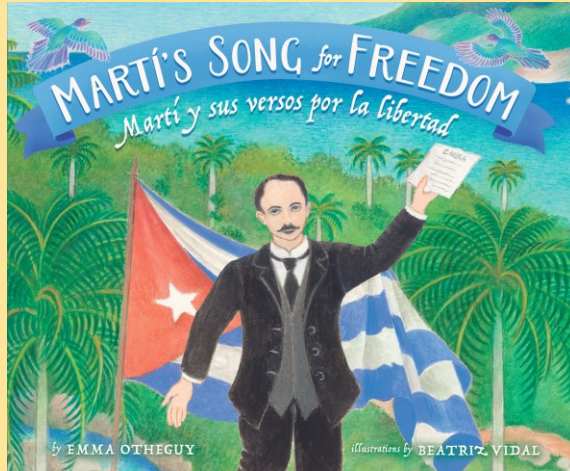
Shelly from the Washington-Centerville Library spoke about the Sensory Storytime that is geared toward children with special needs and their caregivers. The Library has a program called Cultural Day in cooperation with different cultural groups in the area such as A Day in India or A Day in Lebanon.

Libraries are welcoming places



Collection Development

- Lee and Low
- Book Buzz
- Lectorum
- Rosen Publishing- Powerkids
- Scholastics
- Random House Kids



“ Diversity in Youth Services is important because everyone working with children is charged with helping children to grow and learn about the world outside of their own experience. The more diverse the cultures and experiences of the adults serving children, the more children can learn and grow.” – Emma Otheguy

Dia Celebration

Dia de los niños y Dia de los libros (Day of the Child & Day of the Book) is celebrated on April 30th.

The purpose of this day is to celebrate literacy and children incorporating multiculturalism.



Every Family is Different

We are all different and our differences should be celebrated!



Recent Statistics compiled by the CBC

Year	Number of Books Received at CCBC (approx.)	African / African Americans		American Indians / First Nations		Asian Pacifics/ Asian Pacific Americans		Latinos	
		By	About	By	About	By	About	By	About
2017	3,700	122	340	38	72	274	310	116	216
2016	3,400	94	287	23	55	217	240	104	169
2015	3,400	108	270	19	42	176	113	60	85
2014	3,500	85	181	20	38	129	112	59	66
2013	3,200	69	94	18	34	90	69	49	58
2012	3,600	69	119	6	22	83	76	58	54
2011	3,400	79	123	12	28	76	91	52	58
2010	3,400	102	156	9	22	60	64	55	66
2009	3,000	83	157	12	33	67	80	60	61
2008	3,000	83	172	9	40	77	98	48	79
2007	3,000	77	150	6	44	56	68	42	59
2006	3,000	87	153	14	41	72	74	42	63
2005	2,800	75	149	4	34	60	64	50	76
2004	2,800	99	143	7	33	61	65	37	61
2003	3,200	79	171	11	95	43	78	41	63
2002	3,150	69	166	6	64	46	91	48	94

Sources

www.wndb.org

<https://www.nytimes.com/2014/03/16/opinion/sunday/the-apartheid-of-childrens-literature.html>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2014/03/16/opinion/sunday/the-apartheid-of-childrens-literature.html>

<https://www.slj.com/diversity/>