WE NEED DIVERSE CHILDREN’S BOOKS:
How To Ensure That Your Community Is Represented On Your Shelves

Marissa Blankinship
Roanoke Public Libraries
What Is Representation?

• Diversity: Having a composition of different elements.
  - Includes coming from different cultures and experiences
  - Latin Root is Diversus: Separate, opposite, different

• Representation: Acknowledging the presence of various groups and working to ensure that they all have an equal voice. Making sure that everyone has a seat at the table.
“Books transmit values. They explore our common humanity. What is the message when some children are not represented in those books?...Where are the future white loan officers and future white politicians going to get their knowledge of people of color? Where are black children going to get a sense of who they are and what they can be?”

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/pcestats.asp

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcome</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>American Indians/First Nations</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latinx</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian Pacifics/Asian Pacific Americans</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African/African Americans</td>
<td>7.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Animals, Trucks, etc.</td>
<td>12.5%*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>73.3%**</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* 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.
Let's Compare: U.S. Edition

Children's Books

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/postats.asp

0.9% American Indians/First Nations
2.4% Latinx
3.3% Asian Pacific Americans
7.6% African Americans
12.5%* Animals, Trucks, etc.
73.3%** White

The U.S. Population: 323 Million

- Native American: 1.3%
- Hispanic/Latino: 17.8%
- Asian Pacific: 5.9%
- African-American: 13.3%
- White Alone: 61.3%
- Two Or More Races: 2.6%

Census Data:
https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/US/PST045216
Let’s Compare: Virginia Edition

Children’s Books

Virginia’s Population: 8.4 Million

- Native American: 0.5%
- Hispanic/Latino: 9.1%
- Asian Pacific: 6.7%
- African-American: 19.8%
- White Alone: 70.0%
- Two Or More Races: 2.9%

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.

Data Source: [https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/VA](https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/VA)
What You Can Do

• Understand your community’s population and needs

• Work to ensure that your collection represents your community

• Ensure that your displays also reflect that diversity

• Encourage your patrons of all ages to read books by and about people from different cultures
Know Your Community

Children’s Literature

Diversity in Children’s Books 2015

Percentages of books depicting characters from diverse backgrounds. Based on the 2016 publishing statistics compiled by the Cooperative Children’s Book Center, School of Education, University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Roanoke’s Population: 100,000

- Native American: 0.4%
- Hispanic/Latino: 6.2%
- Asian Pacific: 3.1%
- African-American: 29.6%
- White Alone: 59.0%
- Two Or More Races: 2.9%

Data Source: https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/roanokecityvirginiacounty/PST045216
Demographics Research Tips

• Start: The U.S. Census Bureau: https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/community_facts.xhtml

• Info on ESOL: Your school district

• Your municipality’s website may have a demographics page
Community Facts - Find popular facts (population, income, etc.) and frequently requested data about your community.

Enter a state, county, city, town, or zip code: Roanoke city, Virginia

Roanoke city, Virginia
We found more results for your geography search >>

Population
Census 2010 Total Population

97,032 Source: 2010 Demographic Profile

Popular tables for this geography:

2010 Census
- General Population and Housing Characteristics (Population, Age, Sex, Race, Households and Housing, ...)
- Race and Hispanic or Latino Origin
- Hispanic or Latino by Type (Mexican, Puerto Rican, ...)
- Households and Families (Relationships, Children, Household Size, ...)
- Compare Cities and Towns for Population, Housing, Area, and Density
- Compare Census Tracts for Population, Housing, Area, and Density

2015 American Community Survey
- Demographic and Housing Estimates (Age, Sex, Race, Households and Housing, ...)

2016 Population Estimates Program
- Annual Population Estimates

Census 2000
- General Demographic Characteristics (Population, Age, Sex, Race, Households and Housing, ...)
- Compare Cities and Towns for Population, Housing, Area, and Density
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percent</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>HISPANIC OR LATINO</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total population</td>
<td>97,032</td>
<td>100.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hispanic or Latino (of any race)</td>
<td>5,345</td>
<td>5.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Hispanic or Latino</td>
<td>91,687</td>
<td>94.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>HISPANIC OR LATINO BY TYPE</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic or Latino (of any race)</td>
<td>5,345</td>
<td>5.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexican</td>
<td>2,273</td>
<td>2.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Puerto Rican</td>
<td>601</td>
<td>0.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cuban</td>
<td>352</td>
<td>0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dominican (Dominican Republic)</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central American (excludes Mexican)</td>
<td>1,333</td>
<td>1.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Costa Rican</td>
<td>22</td>
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<tr>
<td>Guatemalan</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honduran</td>
<td>936</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nicaraguan</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Panamanian</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salvadoran</td>
<td>166</td>
<td>0.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Central American</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South American</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Argentinean</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bolivian</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chilean</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colombian</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecuadorian</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paraguayan</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peruvian</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uruguayan</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Venezuelan</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other South American</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Roanoke city, Virginia

Foreign Born Population

7,066

Source: 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Popular tables for this geography:

2015 American Community Survey
- Selected Characteristics of the Native and Foreign-Born Populations (Sex, Age, Race, Language, Income, Poverty, ...)
- Language Spoken at Home (Age, Citizens, ...)
- Characteristics of People by Language Spoken at Home (Age, Foreign Born, Citizenship, Poverty, Education, ...)
- Selected Social Characteristics (Household and Family Type, Disability, Citizenship, Ancestry, Language, ...)

Census 2000
- Selected Social Characteristics (Household and Family Type, Disability, Citizenship, Ancestry, Language, ...)

Want more? Need help? Use Guided Search or visit Census.gov’s Quick Facts.
Virginia-Specific Resources

• UVA Weldon-Cooper Center Demographics Research Group: [http://demographics.coopercenter.org/](http://demographics.coopercenter.org/)

• Virginia Department of Health: [http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/data/demographics/](http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/data/demographics/)

Refugee Data

FFY 2013 Virginia Refugee Arrivals by Gender

- Male: 56%
- Female: 44%

FFY 2013 Virginia Refugee Arrivals by Resettlement Area

- Charlottesville: 227
- Fredericksburg: 102
- Hampton Roads: 245
- Harrisonburg: 260
- Northern VA: 748
- Richmond: 243
- Roanoke: 174

FFY 2013 Refugee Arrivals - Top 15 Countries of Origin

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Arrivals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Iraq</td>
<td>634</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bhutan</td>
<td>229</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethiopia</td>
<td>166</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Afghanistan</td>
<td>159</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burma</td>
<td>139</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iran</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cuba</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sudan</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Democratic Republic of Congo</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eritrea</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somalia</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colombia</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egypt</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pakistan</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ghana</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Collection Development Tools

- We Need Diverse Books Our Story App: http://www.diversebooks.org/ourstory/

- First Book Stories for All: https://www.firstbook.org/about-first-book/the-stories-for-all-project

- Cooperative Children’s Book Center: http://ccbc.education.wisc.edu/books/multicultural.asp
We Need Diverse Books™ is a grassroots organization of children’s book lovers that advocates essential changes in the publishing industry to produce and promote literature that reflects and honors the lives of all young people.
WHAT IDENTITIES & EXPERIENCES ARE YOU INTERESTED IN?

- Disability
- Diverse family structure
- LGBTQIA+
- Mental illness
- Racial / Ethnic Identity
- Religious identity
- Socioeconomic status
SIGN UP HERE: A STORY ABOUT FRIENDSHIP

Kathryn Cole

Publisher Summary:

When Dee-Dee finds herself excluded from various activities and clubs by the other kids, she and her teacher come up with a plan to show what good friends are and how they should treat each other.

...More

LOTUS AND FEATHER

Ji-li Jiang

Publisher Summary:

A winter illness left Lotus, a little girl, without a voice and without friends. A hunter's bullet left Feather, a crane, injured and unable to fly. As Lotus nurses Feather back to health, their bond grows.

...More
Additional Resources

- WNDB Book Lists: http://weneeddiversebooks.org/where-to-find-diverse-books/

- Reading Rockets Book Finder: http://www.readingrockets.org/bookfinder

- First Book Needs Index--Coming Soon: www.firstbook.org

Evaluate This Session!

Evaluation Link: tinyurl.com/th2017vla

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