

## Diverse Booklist

*This booklist is a collection of books to represent diversity in the following categories: race, culture, ability, non-traditional gender roles, and families. It is meant to be used as a resource to help increase diversity in the classroom so please feel free to pick out the books you feel apply to your classroom the most.*

### **Books about differing abilities:**

- ❖ *A Day With No Words* by Tiffany Hammond- a look inside the life of a boy who has autism and is nonverbal
- ❖ *The Black Book of Colors* by Menena Cottin- colors through the perspective of being blind
- ❖ *Brothers and Sisters* by Laura Dwight- children who have a sibling with a physical disability featuring real photographs
- ❖ *A Friend for Henry* by Jenn Bailey- a boy with autism looking for and finding a friend
- ❖ *Just Ask! Be Different, Be Brave, Be You* by Sonia Sotomayor- celebrating children with differing abilities
- ❖ *My City Speaks* by Darren Lebeuf- a child who is blind navigating their city
- ❖ *We Can Do It!* by Laura Dwight- children with disabilities doing activities featuring real photographs
- ❖ *We Move Together* by Anne McGuire and Kelly Fritsch- inclusion and accessibility for people with disabilities
- ❖ *Katie Can* by Erin Palmer- a child with Down Syndrome and what makes them unique outside of their disability
- ❖ *Meeting Mimi* by Francie Nolan- a child with a physical disability and how they navigate the classroom
- ❖ *We Are Little Feminists: On-the-Go* by Brook Sitgraves Turner- showcases people with disabilities using their mobility aids featuring real photographs

### **Books about age (the elderly):**

- ❖ *Last Stop On Market Street* by Matt de la Peña- a boy and his grandmother riding the bus through their city
- ❖ *All Around Us* by Xelena Gonzalez- a grandparent walking with his granddaughter discussing the different cycles of life
- ❖ *A Morning with Grandpa* by Sylvia Liu- a grandfather teaching tai chi to his granddaughter
- ❖ *When I Am Old With You* by Angela Johnson- a child imagining being older like their grandfather and the activities they will do
- ❖ *The Oldest Student: How Mary Walker Learned to Read* by Rita Lorraine Hubbard- a true story about a former slave who learned how to read at the age of 116
- ❖ *Sing, Don't Cry* by Angela Dominguez- a grandfather from Mexico who visits his grandchildren and sings to them about his stories

## Action for Children



- ❖ Mr. George Baker by Amy Hest- an inter-generational friendship forms when an older man who befriends a child as they are in the same reading class
- ❖ Effie's Image by N. L. Sharp- a child who volunteers at a nursing home and helps one of the residents find her new place in the world
- ❖ The Old Woman Who Loved to Read by John Winch- an older woman who tries to find time to read while keeping busy working on her farm
- ❖ The Patchwork Quilt by Valerie Flourney- a granddaughter who helps her grandmother make a quilt and the intergenerational relationship they have

### Books About Culture:

- ❖ Global Baby Girls by The Global Fund for Children- celebrating girls around the world for their diversity and potential, featuring real photographs
- ❖ Global Baby Boys by The Global Fund for Children- celebrating boys around the world for their diversity and potential, featuring real photographs
- ❖ Where Are You From? by Yamile Saied Mendez- a girl who asks about where she is from and learns about her culture
- ❖ The Proudest Blue by Ibtihaj Muhammad and S.K. Ali- a girl's first day of school and her older sister's first day of hijab and how they navigate prejudice around hijab
- ❖ Fry Bread by Kevin Noble Maillard- a Native American family making traditional fry bread
- ❖ The Name Jar by Yangsook Choi- a girl who contemplates picking a new name because hers is hard for her classmates to pronounce
- ❖ Loving Me by Debby Slier- multi-generational Native American family members caring for a child featuring real photographs
- ❖ Zahra's Blessing: A Ramadan Story by Shirin Shamsi- a girl celebrating Ramadan
- ❖ Bracelets for Bina's Brothers by Rajani LaRocca- a girl making bracelets for her brother to celebrate the Hindu holiday of Raksha Bandhan
- ❖ Bringing in the New Year by Grace Lin- a Chinese American family preparing for the Lunar New Year
- ❖ Holidays Around the World series- introduction of cultural holidays featuring real photographs
  - Celebrate Diwali: With Sweets, Lights, and Fireworks by Deborah Heiligman
  - Celebrate Cinco de Mayo: with Fiestas, Music, and Dance by Carolyn B. Otto
  - Celebrate Ramadan and Eid al-Fitr with Praying, Fasting, and Charity by Deborah Heiligman
  - Celebrate Chinese New Year: With Fireworks, Dragons, and Lanterns by Carolyn Otto
  - Celebrate Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur: With Honey, Prayers, and the Shofar by Deborah Heiligman
  - Celebrate Passover: With Matzah, Maror, and Memories by Deborah Heiligman

## Action for Children



- ❖ Day of the Dead by Tony Johnston- a family preparing for día de los Muertos
- ❖ We Are Little Feminists: Celebrations by Brook Sitgraves Turner- showcases people celebrating various holidays featuring real photographs
- ❖ We Are Little Feminists: How We Eat by Shuli de la Fuente-Lau- showcases how different people eat and what foods they eat featuring real photographs
- ❖ Holi Hai! by Chitra Soundar- a family preparing for Holi
- ❖ Festival of Colors by Surishtha Sehgal- siblings preparing for Holi
- ❖ Keepunumuk: Weeâchumun's Thanksgiving Story by Alexis C. Bunten, Anthony Perry, and Danielle Greendeer- the first Thanksgiving told from the point of view of the Native Americans
- ❖ Lailah's Lunchbox: A Ramadan Story by Reem Faruqi- a girl's first time fasting during Ramadan
- ❖ Measuring a Year: A Rosh Hashanah Story by Linda Elovitz Marshall- an introduction to Rosh Hashanah
- ❖ The Night Before Eid by Aya Khalil- a boy and his grandmother making a special treat for Eid
- ❖ Ramadan Moon by Na'ima B. Robert- explores the meaning of Ramadan and why it's celebrated
- ❖ Too Many Tamales by Gary Soto- a family making tamales on Christmas Eve
- ❖ Walk this World at Christmastime by Mary Sebag-Montefiori- looks at how Christmas is celebrated around the world in different cultures
- ❖ Namaste Is a Greeting by Suma Subramaniam- follows a girl as she explores the different meanings of namaste
- ❖ We All Sing With the Same Voice by J.P. Miller- drives home the message that no matter where we live or what we look like we're all the same at heart

### Books About Different Kinds of Families:

- ❖ A Chair for My Mother by Vera Williams- a girl, her mother, and her grandmother who work to save money to buy a new chair for their apartment
- ❖ And Tango Makes Three by Justin Richardson- two boy penguins who adopt a baby penguin
- ❖ A Family Like Ours by Frank Murphy- a celebration of all of the different kinds of families
- ❖ A Family Is a Family Is a Family by Sara O'Leary- children in the classroom talk about what makes their family special and unique
- ❖ Families Can by Dan Saks- celebrates the differences that make families unique and the similarities that make up a family
- ❖ My Family, Your Family! by Kathryn Cole- showcases different kinds of families
- ❖ Families by Shelley Rotner- showcases different kinds of families featuring real photographs
- ❖ Papa, Daddy, and Riley by Seamus Kirst- a girl who faces questions from her friends on why she has two dads

## Action for Children



- ❖ Heather Has Two Mommies by Leslea Newman- *a girl who grows up in a home with two moms*
- ❖ Two Homes by Claire Masurel- *a child with divorced parents who spends time at each parent's home*
- ❖ In Our Mothers' House by Patricia Polacco- *a lesbian couple who adopts children and explores their loving family dynamic*
- ❖ Our Wish for You: A Story About Open Adoption by Dano Moreno- *explains what adoption is*
- ❖ There's Always Room for One More by Robyn McGrath- *a family works on making a bigger dinner table as the grandfather prepares to move in with them*
- ❖ Some Daddies by Carol Gordon Ekster- *showcases different kinds of dads*
- ❖ Home by Tonya Lippert- *a family facing homelessness*
- ❖ Mi Casa Is My Home by Laureenne Sala- *gives a tour of a house where a multigenerational family lives*
- ❖ The New Small Person by Lauren Child- *a child struggling to accept a new sibling*
- ❖ We Are Little Feminists: Families by Archaa Shrivastav- *showcases different forms of families featuring real photographs*

### Books About Non-Traditional Gender Roles:

- ❖ Maybe You Should Fly a Jet! Maybe You Should Be a Vet (2020 version) by Theo LeSieg- *showcases men and women in different careers*
- ❖ Pink is for Boys by Robb Pearlman- *challenges the notion that colors and activities are gender specific*
- ❖ Sparkle Boy by Lesléa Newman- *a boy who likes to wear dresses and sparkly things like his sister and get pushback from friends at school*
- ❖ I Am René The Boy by René Colato Lainez- *a boy who handles growing up with a "girls" name*
- ❖ Elena's Serenade by Campbell Gleeson- *a girl who wants to be a glassblower despite being told that girls cannot be glassblowers*
- ❖ Introducing Teddy by Jessica Walton- *addresses transgender as a boy whose teddy bear is sad because they feel like girl and not a boy*
- ❖ Julian Is a Mermaid by Jessica Love- *a boy who likes to dress in "girl" clothes and costumes*
- ❖ My Princess Boy by Cheryl Kilodavis- *a boy who likes to dress as a princess and like to wear both "girl" and "boy" clothes*
- ❖ Ada Twist Scientist by Andrea Beaty- *a girl who likes to ask questions, is curious, and explores science*
- ❖ Rosie Revere Engineer by Andrea Beaty- *a girl who constructs different inventions*

## Action for Children



- ❖ *Sophie Valdez Future Prez* by Andrea Beaty- a girl who advocates for a landfill to be turned into a park to make a difference in her community
- ❖ *A is for Ambitious* by Meena Harris- turns words often used to undermine girls into positive affirmations
- ❖ *Ambitious Girl* by Meena Harris- a girl goes on a journey about the challenges women face and words used to knock women down
- ❖ *No Difference Between Us* by Jayneen Sanders- explores gender equality and respectful relationships
- ❖ *Big* by Vashti Harrison- a girl who is constantly being told she is too big to do things she enjoys

### Books About Differing Races:

- ❖ *Shades of Black: A Celebration of Our Children* by Sandra L Pinkney- celebrates and affirms the diversity among African-Americans featuring real photographs
- ❖ *The Story of Martin Luther King Jr* by Johnny Ray Moore- an introduction to Martin Luther King Jr. and the work that he did for the Civil Rights Movement
- ❖ *The Story of Rosa Parks* by Patricia A Pingry- an introduction to Rosa Parks and how she helped the Civil Rights Movement
- ❖ *Kindness Makes Us Strong* by Sophie Beer- showcases children being kind in different situations and to all people
- ❖ *Shades of People* by Shelley Rotner & Sheila M. Kelly- showcases people of different skin colors
- ❖ *Happy to Be Nappy* by Chris Raschka- affirmations for different styles and types of black hair
- ❖ *All People Are Beautiful* by Vincent Kelly- highlights the beauty in the differences among people
- ❖ *All Are Welcome* by Alexandra Penfold- follows a group of diverse children through their school day
- ❖ *I Like Myself!* by Karen Beaumont- a girl who appreciates everything about herself and encourages self-love and self-acceptance
- ❖ *Hair Love* by Matthew Cherry- celebrates natural hair as a father tries to style his daughter's hair
- ❖ *The Day You Begin* by Jacqueline Woodson- showcases children in the classroom and how they may feel different based on their appearance or language
- ❖ *All the Colors We Are* by Katie Kissinger- explains why we have different skin colors featuring real photographs
- ❖ *The Last Two Crayons* by Leah Freeman-Haskin- a girl wonders how she can create a picture for the art show with only brown crayons
- ❖ *My People* by Langston Hughes, Charles R. Smith Jr- the poem by Langston Hughes turned into a book featuring real photographs



## Action for Children



- ❖ *Two Eyes, a Nose, and a Mouth* by Roberta Grobel Intrater- showcases people who look different but have the same features featuring real photographs
- ❖ *Princess Hair* by Sharee Miller- celebrates different hair shapes, textures, and styles
- ❖ *Bedtime Bonnet* by Nancy Redd- a girl's nighttime hair routine with her bonnet
- ❖ *All Different Now: Juneteenth, the First Day of Freedom* by Angela Johnson- a story of the first Juneteenth and why it is celebrated
- ❖ *Hey You!: An Empowering Celebration of Growing Up Black* by Dapo Adeola- affirmations for black children
- ❖ *I Am Enough* by Grace Byers- message of self-acceptance and accepting other
- ❖ *All People Are Beautiful* by Vincent Kelly- an introduction to multicultural differences and what makes people unique
- ❖ *We All Belong* by Nathalie Goss- explores the difference and similarities among children
- ❖ *What If We Were All the Same* by C. M Harris- highlights how people are different in an accepting way
- ❖ *We Are Little Feminists: Hair* by Brook Sitgraves Turner- showcases different kinds of hair featuring real photographs

### Books That Address Multiple Topics:

- ❖ *Abuelita and Me* by Leonarda Carranza- a girl travels with her grandmother around town and notices how people treat her differently
- ❖ *Sunday Shopping* by Sally Derby- a girl who goes on a pretend shopping trip with her grandmother
- ❖ *Twas the Night Before Pride* by Joanna McClintick- a family gets ready for a Pride parade
- ❖ *The Girl Who Thought in Pictures: The Story of Dr. Temple Grandin* by Julia Finley Mosca- an introduction to Dr. Temple Grandin who was a female scientist with autism
- ❖ *The Doctor with an Eye for Eyes: The Story of Dr. Patricia Bath* by Julia Finley Mosca- an introduction to Dr. Patricia Bath who became a doctor despite challenges like poverty and racism
- ❖ *The Girl With a Mind for Math: The Story of Raye Montague* by Julia Finley Mosca- an introduction to Raye Montague who was an engineer for the Navy despite challenges like sexism and racial inequality
- ❖ *The Christmas Gift* by Francisco Jiménez- an immigrant family who discovers the true meaning of Christmas
- ❖ *The Boy and The Bindi* by Vivek Shraya- a boy who is fascinated by his mother's bindi even though boys do not typically wear a bindi
- ❖ *Eyes That Speak to the Stars* by Joanna Ho- a boy who comes to terms with his eye shape being different than his classmates