

Teaching Cultural Compassion

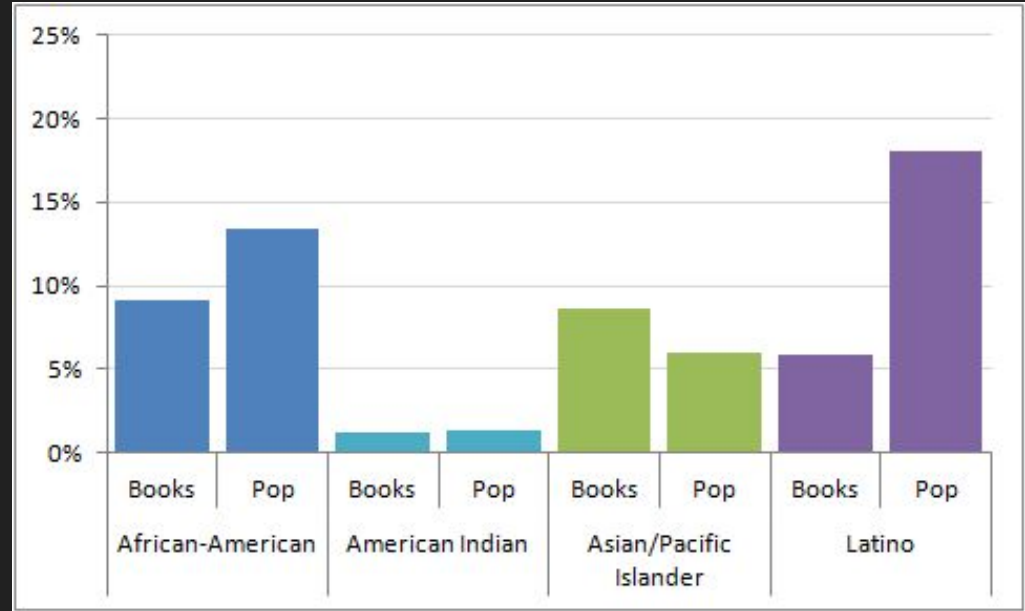
Rev. Tura Foster Gillespie

Former Bookseller, Former Children's Minister, Active Aunt of 5



Why are we doing this?

- In 2017, less than 25% of children's picture books published in the United States featured people of color and less than 15% were written and/or illustrated by people of color
- Though, these numbers have both grown significantly even since this project started in 2014, these numbers are still too low

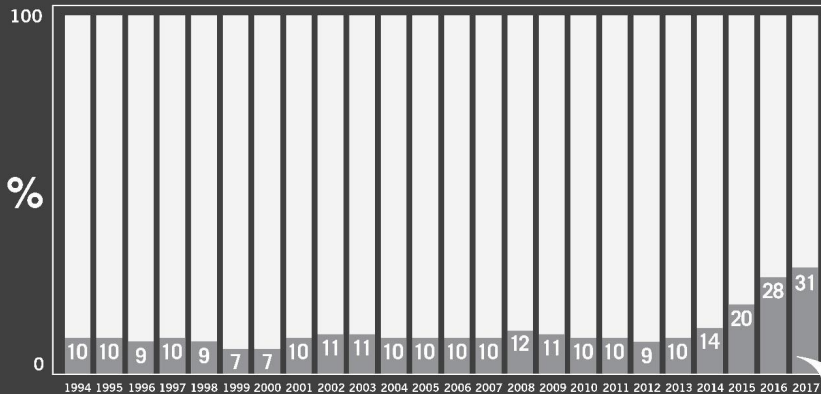


*An average of 25% of picture books tend to feature nonhuman characters

THE DIVERSITY GAP IN CHILDREN'S BOOKS

24 YEARS ★ 1994–2017

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



37% OF THE US POPULATION
ARE PEOPLE OF COLOR

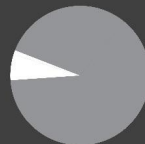
13% OF CHILDREN'S BOOKS IN THE PAST 24 YEARS
CONTAIN **MULTICULTURAL CONTENT**

DID YOU KNOW?

BLACK, LATINO, AND NATIVE AUTHORS COMBINED
WROTE **ONLY 7%** OF THE NEW CHILDREN'S
BOOKS PUBLISHED IN 2017.

7%

276 of 3700



ADD IT EVERYONE • FOR EVERYONE for more conversations on diversity, visit
LEE & LOW BOOKS blog.leeandlow.com

[illegible]

From all of this, Teaching Cultural Compassion was born.

What is Cultural Compassion?

Cultural competence refers to the ability to honor and respect the beliefs, language, interpersonal styles and behaviors of individuals and families.*

Cultural Compassion refers to the first step of this process. Before we can truly learn and honor about cultures outside our own, we must first learn to see all humans with dignity and respect. Cultural Compassion is the step we can teach our children to allow for their growth into cultural competence.

*definition comes from Denboba, Maternal and Child Health Bureau, 1993

So what can we do?

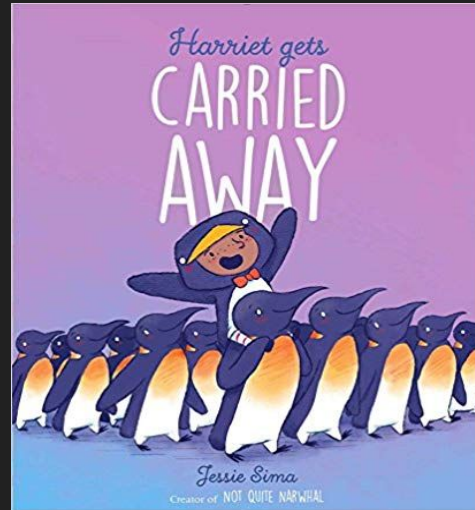
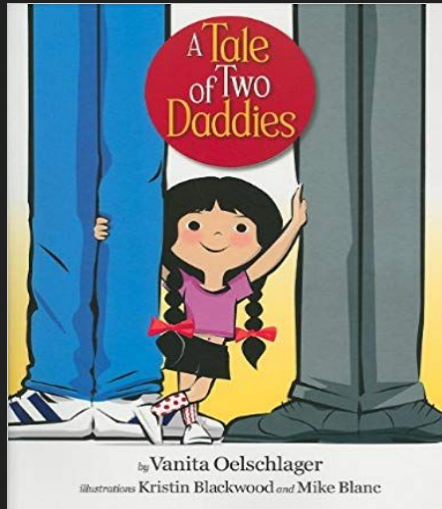
What Do You Do With A Problem?

**What Do You Do With a Problem?* Written by Kobi Yamada and Illustrated by Mae Besom

So what can we do?

- Make sure that the books you read to children are inclusive
 - do a quick inventory of your church library, do you have a church library? What books do your kids see at church?

Books ABOUT Vs Inclusive Books



So what can we do?

- If you are buying books for the church or suggesting books, buy books that feature girls, children of color, and other minority groups - the publishing companies mostly care about money

LEE & LOW BOOKS 30 YEARS 1st

Classroom Library Questionnaire

Educators, how culturally responsive and diverse is your classroom library? Use the following questions as a guide to analyze your classroom library book collections and determine where there are strengths and where there is room to grow.

To what extent do you agree with the following statements?

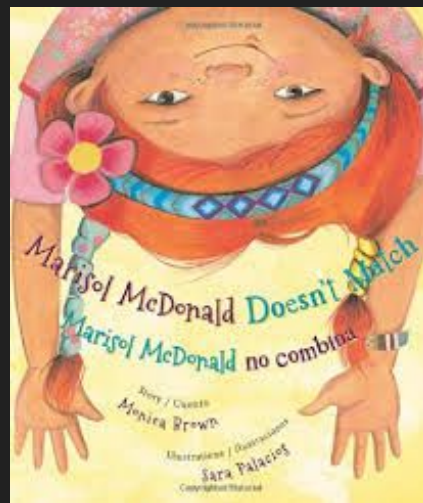
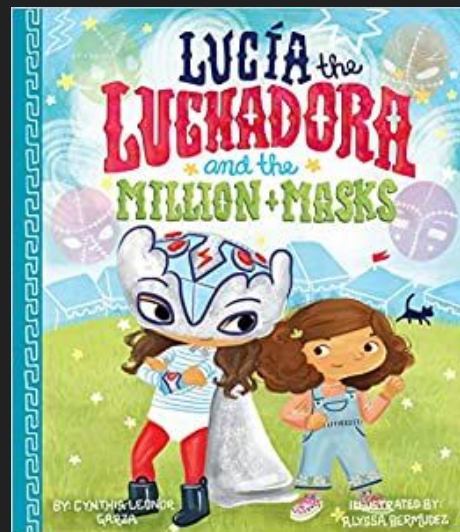
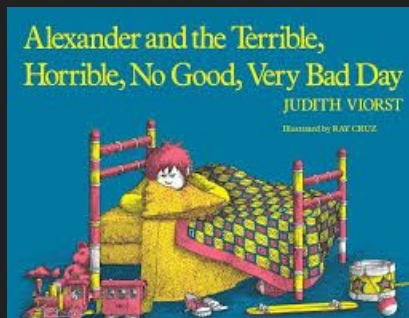
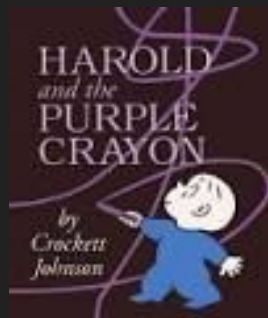
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
1 The classroom library contains multiple books that include ...					
non-human, anthropomorphic main characters (e.g., talking animals, talking trucks, talking vegetables, imaginary or science fiction creatures, etc.)					
2 The classroom library contains numerous books that include ...					
main characters who are Black, Native/Indigenous, or people of color					
main characters who identify as LGBTQIA					
main characters with disabilities					
3 The classroom library contains numerous books that ...					
are written or illustrated by a person of color or a Native/Indigenous person					
feature a person of color or a Native/Indigenous person on the front cover					
feature contemporary diverse characters and storylines					
feature a range of family structures and family configurations					

https://www.leeandlow.com/uploads/loaded_document/408/Classroom-Library-Questionnaire_FINAL.pdf



So what can we do?

- If you are having a book drive, think about the children who will receive the books, buy/encourage accordingly



So what can we do?

- Be courageous in using secular/non-faith-specific books in faith formation lessons

What is Mercy?

Notes for the Leader:
Read the scripture passages and book ahead of the lesson—make sure you are familiar with the stories and their context. Choose places to stop and make sure the kids are following the story. The lesson to emphasize is that humans can never earn God's love and mercy, and that we should not make other humans try to earn love from us, but we should try to show mercy like God does.

Guided Questions/background:
Do you know what Mercy means?
Simplified working definition for kids: compassion or forgiveness shown toward someone whom it is within one's power to ignore, punish, or harm.
"So it's compassion or forgiveness that's totally undeserved or unearned."

Scripture:
Genesis 32:22-32 (The Message)
While traveling, Jacob got all of his family safely across a brook along with all his possessions. But Jacob stayed behind by himself, and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. When the man saw that he couldn't get the best of Jacob as they wrestled, he deliberately threw Jacob's hip out of joint.
The man said, "Let me go; it's daybreak."
Jacob said, "I'm not letting you go 'til you bless me."
The man said, "What's your name?"
He answered, "Jacob."
The man said, "But no longer. Your name is no longer Jacob. From now on it's Israel (which means God-Wrestler) for you have wrestled with God and you've come through."
(Jacob asked, "And what's your name?")



Teaching Cultural Compassion
Suggested lesson order:
Ask the basic questions to set the stage for expectations.
Read the scripture passage(s), stopping along the way to discuss as needed.
Read one of the suggested books, stopping along the way to discuss as needed.
Ask follow-up/digging deeper questions.
Optional: Choose an activity to help drive the lesson home.
Pray with the kids (a repeat-after-me fashion may be appropriate, depending on context).

Book Suggestions:
Four Feet, Two Sandals by Karen Lynn Williams, illustrated by Sharon Green
Suggested questions:
Would Lina and Feroza have been able to become friends if...

Josh by Peter H. Reynolds
Who shows Ramon more mercy, his little sister or him?

Beatrice's Goat by Page McBrier, illustrated by Lori Lotz
Boxes for Katie by Candace Fleming, illustrated by Stan
Why would you send presents to people you don't even like?

Adrian Sincos Does NOT Have a Horse by Marcy Campbell
Chloe has a choice to make. Does she make the mercy choice?
How would the book change if Chloe was trying to have a horse?

Who is My Neighbor? by Amy-Jill Levine & Sandy Eisenberg Saper
Who is mercy for? Who can practice mercy?

Digging in deeper:
-Where do you see mercy in the book we just read?
-Where do you see mercy in the scripture(s) we just read?

-Why is that mercy?
-Why do you think God's mercy is important?
-Can you think of a time when someone showed you mercy?

Activity Suggestions:
Knocking over the crayons
If you have a youth or adult audience, have that person come in with crayons, throwing papers on the kids. Why do you think the mess to do? What would be the message? Maybe act better in the future? This will hopefully lead to a discussion about how to clean it up—is it necessarily a good idea, why, using empathy, and helping others?

With Lots of Time:
Plan a mercy ministry

What Do You Do With A Problem?

By Kobe Yamada, Illustrated by Mae Besom

Notes for the Leader:

Everyone is afraid sometimes. Courage is not the absence of fear, but the facing of it. With God's help, we can face our fears. Remembering that God is bigger than our problems and that God is always near is a good lesson for even our littlest disciples to learn! When we are willing to try new things and face our problems, we often get to learn something new.

Guided Questions/background:

Have you ever had a problem?

Did it kind of feel like this? Like a storm cloud?

How did you face your problem?

Did you have help?

This kid didn't ask a grownup. Did you ask a grownup?


Did you remember that God is always with you to help?

What if someone asked for your help with a problem? What would you say?



How to use secular books at church:

- Be aware of books with good representation
 - Make friends with local children's librarians and teachers
 - Get on School Library Journal or Publisher's Weekly email lists
 - Web search




IDENTIFY & EXPLORE MULTICULTURAL PICTURE BOOKS

[START HERE](#)

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Search the Collection




Our collection of picture books featuring Black and Indigenous people and People of Color (BIPOC) is available to the public. **Inclusion of a title in the collection DOES NOT EQUAL a recommendation.** [Click here](#) for more on book evaluation.

COVID-19 info: Currently, our collection is [only available](#) via Interlibrary Loan (ILL). However, we appreciate your patience as these services are still limited and you may find inactive links to the Bates Library Catalog and MARC record on certain book pages.

Find titles using a keyword search below (e.g. adoption, birthday, holidays, etc.), or by selecting one or a combination of filters on the lefthand sidebar below.

First time here? Start [here!](#)



Teaching Cultural Compassion

Research has shown us that representation matters in media; yet children of color, girls, and other diverse backgrounds are still drastically underrepresented in picture books published in the United States. Below is a search to help you navigate these waters!

By narrowing your search of over 1,000 books, this tool will help you find something new, something exciting, something perfect for you. You can filter by the age of the child you'll read with, ethnicity or gender you are hoping to see represented, or topics you want to take on with your young reader. By showing a child they are represented and can save the day, you give them a mirror in which to see their own worth and power. By showing a child someone who doesn't look like them as the hero of the story gives them a window through which they can learn the worth and power of others. Join me in teaching our children cultural compassion.

Title:

Age: to

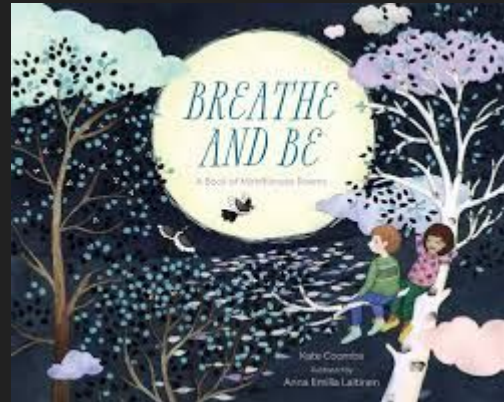
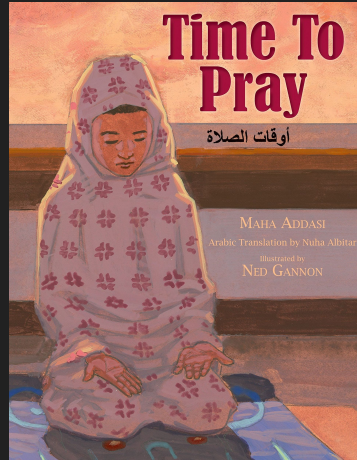
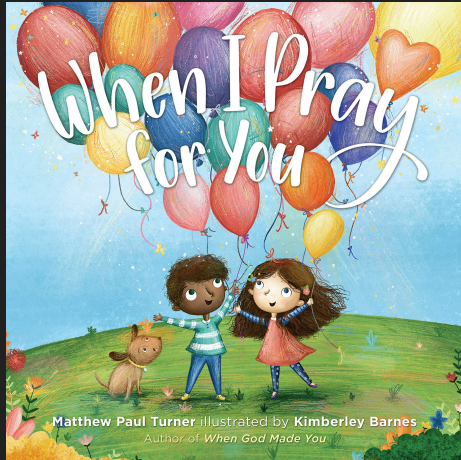
Ethnicity: Gender: Topics:

1154 matching books

Title	Author	Age	Gender	Ethnicity	ISBN
11 Experiments That Failed	Jerry CBS	4-5	Female	White	9780375847622

How to use secular books at church:

- After reading a new book and enjoying it, read it again with a theological hat on
 - What scripture does this make me think about?
 - What lesson will the listeners be able to glean from this that will inform their faith?



Ways to Pray Unit

How to use secular books at church:

- If it passes both of those tests, consider reading it with a kid to make sure they're following the way you want to go!

How to use secular books at church:

- If the book seems a bit of a stretch and you know you have time, consider a craft or activity that might help reiterate the intersection.



“Friendship is a precious thing.
For only in friendship built upon mutual respect
does the tree of peace grow great and tall.”

- Oneida Storyteller,

“Allies in War, Partners in Peace,”
Smithsonian’s National Museum of the American Indian

TeachingCulturalCompassion.org

Please share with family and friends.

If you're willing to join my team to be the first to see and try
any new curricula:

TeachingCulturalCompassion.org/beta-testers

Email me if you have a success story or if you think
something amazing is missing! I'm always adding in!

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