Why

We Need Diverse Books

(Used with Permission)
Kimberly A. Patton is the Youth Services Supervisor at the Kansas City, Kansas Public Library‘s Main Branch in Kansas City, KS. Kim is currently serving as a Councilor-at-Large on the Council of the American Library Association (ALA). As a Councilor, Kim serves on the Diversity Committee as was appointed to serve on the Resolution Committee.

She graduated from Baker University with a B.A. in Business Administration and a Master of Science in Management and a Master of Library Information and Science from Emporia State University. Before moving to the Kansas City, Kansas Public Library, she was employed as the Teen Specialist at the KC Public Library’s Central Branch in Kansas City, MO and as the Young Adult Specialist at the Lawrence (KS) Public Library.

In addition to serving on several ALA and KLA committees, Kim served as the 2010 President of the Young Adult Library Services Association, (YALSA) and is the immediate past chair of the Coretta Scott King Book Award Jury. She has co-authored A Year of Programming for Teens and A Year of Programming for Teens 2 with Amy Alessio, and published by American Libraries Editions.
Peggy Hendershot is a Teen Specialist at the Blue Valley Branch of the Johnson County Library. She began her library career as a clerk at the West Des Moines library in 1993, a part-time job after her youngest daughter started school. She never imagined she would still be in libraries over 20 years later! After moving to Kansas City, Peggy spent four years in the library at Olathe East High School before hiring on at Johnson County Library. She has been with JCL fifteen years and spent most of that time in Youth Services. Peggy lives in Olathe with two dogs, a cat, a rabbit and a very patient husband.
April Roy is the Manager of the L.H. Bluford Library, located in the heart of Kansas City’s Urban Core.

When April isn’t busy being a librarian and reading children’s books, she enjoys cardio kickboxing and seeing new places.

April is a life-long member of the NAACP and sometimes has trouble keeping her mouth shut.
Julie Robinson is the Refugee and Immigrant Services Outreach Manager for the Kansas City Public Library. Prior to accepting this new position in September 2014, Julie served as the embedded librarian in the Westside community (a predominantly Hispanic neighborhood) for eleven years. She has a wealth of experience in community outreach and service to immigrant populations.

Julie received her MLS and MA-History degrees from UCLA. Julie’s career has included being a Corporate Librarian for an economics firm; a children’s librarian, a children and teen librarian, branch librarian and branch manager. During her tenure at the Irene H. Ruiz Biblioteca de las Americas branch, Julie successfully managed a variety of projects including the opening of The Seed Library at Ruiz.
Jean Hatfield is a long-time Kansas Librarian. She is a former chair of the Pura Belpre committee, and a member of Reforma. Jean is currently a branch manager at the Wichita Public Library.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n8-X66KCyTY
Diversity and YA Literature Programming

Young Adult Advisory Council Diversity Panel Program
Untitled

I have a passion for the stars
And when I, on a moonlit night,
Gaze up into the dark and vast expanse,
I gaze unknowingly into infinity.

I have a passion, too, for the words of others.
And when I, on a thoughtful night,
Find myself immersed in fantasy,
I gaze unknowingly at rejection.

Were it not for my reflection,
That I had never known I was not like others,
That their words, through ignorance,
Could not limit and define me.
Were it only that I was as infinite as the stars,
And it were not mere fantasy
You want to know why we didn’t choose these books? Because we’re sick of white, heterosexual love stories!!!

So what do you want to do about it?
Link to the recorded Panel Discussion:
http://youtu.be/IKwx8YlXUjc
I think it’s really hard for teenagers who aren’t straight/white/cis to find characters who are like them, and when they are, the story is often all about the fact that they’re a minority. Most kids don’t want to see minority angst. We want to see kids hunting monsters and overthrowing dystopian governments and they’re also into girls. That’s why Kamal Khan is so cool - there’s a lot about her identity, but the main story is that

SHE’S A SUPER COOL SUPERHERO!
A. K. 16 yo

For me personally, I think the importance of quality diverse literature is that it allows children of color, disabled children, queer or trans children, etc. to see themselves represented in books. Often children resort to projecting their own race (or other qualities) onto characters when they simply can’t find anything to read that reflects themselves, as I recall doing as a child.

S. M. 14 yo

I personally have things about myself, like a disability, that are not represented in YA literature. I wish that I could just say,” I have this and that, just like the main character in that book.” I wish people would say, “Oh yeah, I know all about that because I read that book.”
Book Tasting Party
Ray Bradbury, the famous author of Fahrenheit 451, once wrote, “You don’t have to burn books to destroy a culture. Just get people to stop reading them.” We fall into this same trap when we don’t write diverse books, except instead of burning books we destroy the cultures of those people of color, the perspectives of those sexually marginalized people, and the stories of the disabled...we are destroying these perspectives, thoughts and feelings and stories as efficiently through ignorance as books are destroyed by flame. Ignorance not of what books hold, but of what books could hold.
We want change! If nothing else is achieved at least let us acknowledge the disparity within our books. Let us have a dialogue.
Use your programming to spark that dialogue!

WE ARE ALL MADE UP OF THE SAME COLORS!

TANNER COLBY PROGRAM
Books are part of our collective dialogue. If we refuse to acknowledge diversity in those most free and creative environments, art, books, and movies then what hope do we have to achieve (acceptance of) diversity in the greater world?

Favor Diversity, Change our Books, Change the Dialogue, Change the World!
Welcome to the Pura Belpré Award home page!

The award is named after Pura Belpré, the first Latina librarian at the New York Public Library. The Pura Belpré Award, established in 1996, is presented annually to a Latino/Latina writer and illustrator whose work best portrays, affirms, and celebrates the Latino cultural experience in an outstanding work of literature for children and youth. It is co-sponsored by the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC), a division of the American Library Association (ALA), and REFORMA, the National Association to Promote Library and Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish-Speaking, an ALA affiliate.

2015 Author Award Winner

I Lived on Butterfly Hill, written by Marjorie Agosín, illustrated by Lee White and published by Atheneum Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing Division.

I Lived on Butterfly Hill is a memoir of Agosín's childhood and young adulthood in Santiago, Chile, under the rule of the Pinochet regime. The story is told from the perspective of Celeste, a young girl who witnesses the harsh realities of life under dictatorship.

"With her poet’s eye, Marjorie Agosín gives this tale of exile and return an epic feel," said Wacham. "Though she is a refugee, Celeste learns she belongs anywhere there are things she loves."

2015 Illustrator Award Winner

Viva Frida, illustrated and written by Yuyi Morales and published by Roaring Brook Press, a Neal Porter Book.

Viva Frida is an illustrated biography of Frida Kahlo. The book follows Kahlo's life from childhood through her adult years, capturing her struggles, her art, and her spirit.

"Viva Frida is a beautiful, biographical work that is truly stunning in design," said Wacham. "This book helps us learn about a strong woman who never gave up on her dreams."
Américas Award

2015 AWARD WINNERS
LOS PREMIOS AMÉRICAS 2015

Separate is Never Equal: Sylvia Mendez & Her Family’s Fight for Desegregation by Duncan Tonatiuh. (Abrams Books, 2014)

Curriculum

History of the Award (Historia del Premio Américas)
CLASP founded the Américas Award in 1993 to encourage and commend authors, illustrators and publishers who produce quality children’s and young adult books that portray Latin America, the Caribbean, or Latinos in the United States, and to provide teachers with recommendations for classroom use. CLASP offers up to two annual book awards, together with a recommended list of titles.

Criteria
Up to two awards (for primary and secondary reading levels) are given in recognition of U.S. published works of fiction, poetry, folklore, or selected non-fiction (from picture books to works for young adults) that authentically and engagingly portray Latin America, the Caribbean, or Latinos in the United States. By linking the Americas, the intent is to reach beyond geographic borders, as well as multicultural-international boundaries, focusing instead upon cultural heritages within the hemisphere.

Books will be judged for: 1) distinctive literary quality; 2) cultural contextualization; 3) exceptional integration of text, illustration and design; and 4) potential for classroom use.

2015 award ceremony celebrating books published in 2014 will be held on Friday, September 18, 2015. All are welcome to attend the ceremony. A K-12 teacher workshop will take place before the ceremony on September 17th and is open to any educator or librarian. Please visit the event webpage for more information.

Process
Call for Submissions
About the Award

Texas State University College of Education developed the Tomás Rivera Mexican American Children’s Book Award to honor authors and illustrators who create literature that depicts the Mexican American experience. The award was established in 1995 and was named in honor of Dr. Tomás Rivera, a distinguished alumnus of Texas State University.

Tomás Rivera Legacy

Tomás Rivera, a native of Crystal City, Texas, is the first Mexican American to have been selected Distinguished Alumnus at Texas State University–San Marcos. Graduating with a M.Ed. in Educational Administration (1954) after having received his B.S. degree in English (1958), both from Texas State, he went on to the University of Oklahoma where he received his Ph.D. in Romance Languages and Literature in 1959. Within ten years after receiving his Ph.D., he quickly rose to become Chancellor of the University of California, Riverside in 1979. During this time, he published extensively in various locations, including his landmark novel ¡y no se lo tragó la tierra... And the Earth Did Not Part (1971), short stories and poetry posthumously gathered in The Harvest/Ha cosecha, and The Searchers: Collected Poetry, respectively. All of his works are now found collected with his essays in Tomás Rivera: The Complete Works, edited by Julián Olivares in 1992.

While his life as an educator and university administrator would take him away from his creative writing, he nevertheless travelled extensively, reading and promoting Mexican American Literature throughout the United States, Mexico, and Europe. Indeed, during his adulthood he became known as the Dean of Mexican American Literature wherever he went. His writings, in both English and Spanish, mainly deal with the difficult lives of Mexican American migrant farm workers, but what he emphasizes most is their enduring, highly resilient human spirit. It should also be noted that his writings mainly focus on the lives of Mexican American farm working children, as his foremost and unwavering concerns were for their education and liberation from oppressive living conditions.
WE NEED DIVERSITY IN BOOKS

Languages Other Than English

Julie Robinson
Refugee and Immigrant Outreach Manager
julierobinson@kclibrary.org
816.701.3587
Languages in KCPL service area

- KCPS – over 40 languages
- Top 5
  - Spanish
  - Somali
  - Burmese (Karen, Karenni, Chin)
  - Vietnamese
  - Arabic

Books that address the immigrant experience are primarily printed in English. Why??

Many of these students do not read English. However, they can read in their native languages. The publishing world has not caught up to the need for multilingual books for all levels of readers.
Carmen Learns English
Judy Cox
Illustrated by Angela Dominguez.
Holiday, hardcover, $16.95
(9780823421749)
PreS-Grade 2

The Orange Houses
Paul Griffin.
Dial, paper, $7.99 (9780142419823)
e-book, $7.99 (9781101052730)
Gr. 10–12
Bilingual Children's Products in Over 40 Languages

BILINGUAL BOOKS / CDs

MULTILINGUAL POSTERS

FREE RESOURCES

SHOP OUR AWARD-WINNING PRODUCTS
In English with: Albanian, Arabic, Bengali, Bulgarian, Chinese, Czech, Dutch, Farsi, French, German, Gujarati, Hungarian, Italian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Malay, Norwegian, Panjabi, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Somali, Spanish, Tamil, Turkish, Urdu.

Many languages available but a limited number of books – one book in Burmese
- Bilingual Books
- Diversity
- S.E.L.
- Special Needs
- S.T.E.A.M.
- Board Books
- ebooks
- Early Readers
- Holiday Books
- Paperbacks
- Picture Books
- Non-Fiction
- Authors
- Illustrators
Below is a complete list of languages available. Click on a language to see what titles are available.

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<th>Language</th>
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<tr>
<td>Amharic/English</td>
<td>Korean</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arabic/English</td>
<td>Korean/English</td>
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<td>Bengali/English</td>
<td>Navajo</td>
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<td>Burmese Karen/English</td>
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<td>Burmese/English</td>
<td>Portuguese/English</td>
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<td>English</td>
<td>Somali/English</td>
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<td>Farsi/English</td>
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<td>Haitian Creole/English</td>
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<td>Hmong/English</td>
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Xist Publishing

10 English/Spanish books only

Si yo tuviera un Pequeño Barco/ If I had a Little Boat
$9.99

Te Amo / I Love You
$9.99

Petunia, La Chica que NO era una Princesa / Petunia, the Girl who was NOT a Princess
$9.99

¿Quién viene a cenar, Pequeño Hoo? / Who’s Coming for Dinner, Little Hoo?
$9.99
“Props” that build school-readiness, support language skills and invite connections with families

Learning Props resources include:

**Learning Games:** Learning Prop’s durable, educational games and books are designed for Bilingual and English early learning. Innovative bag design combines easy storage with game components to “Make Learning Fun”! These literacy kits were developed to invite parent involvement, but they also support learning in classrooms, libraries, and other educational programs.

**Books:** Colorful photo based books support the Learning Props learning games or can be used independently in building language skills and early learning concepts. Dual-language books support Spanish, Arabic and Chinese learning. Follow us as we add more languages.

**Door Hangers:** These positive communication tools will support anyone who makes home visits with families. The unique carbon style design will document missed connections so families are never completely missed.

**Calendar Dots / Letter and Number Dots:** Place sticker dots on calendars to serve as date reminders OR use the letter & number stickers to create “Props” for learning.

Looking to strengthen Parent Engagement? Check out staff development...
These colorful, 20 page, picture books were designed for early childhood and language learners. Concepts are related to 3-6 year old learners. Language learning covers a broader age range.

Titles are available with **English only** or Bilingual – **Spanish / English text** **Chinese / English text** **Arabic / English text** **Hmong Language Labels** and other language needs

Books can be purchased separately, in book sets, or with Learning Game Kits.

Features:
• realistic full color pictures
• 20 sturdy weight pages
• English, Spanish, and 4 Chinese are hard cover/library binding measuring 8” x 9”
• Arabic and some Chinese are paperback measuring 7” x 7” Pronunciation pages
THE BLUFORD LIBRARY!

KANSAS CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Lucile H. Bluford Branch
Books to appeal to my demographic
Books that appeal to my demographic in many different areas
Creating special sections but putting the same books in two or three sections
It’s not just books!
It worked!
Why it matters to me...

Reading While White

Allies for Racial Diversity & Inclusion in Books for Children & Teens
Book Awards for Diverse Books

- Coretta Scott King Book Award
- Black Caucus of ALA Literary Awards
- Ezra Jack Keats Award
- Anti-Defamation League Books Matter/Race and Racism
- Street Literature Awards
AFRICAN, AFRICAN AMERICAN

- THE BROWN BOOKSHELF
- AFRICA ACCESS REVIEW
- THE DARK FANTASTIC
AMERICAN INDIANS IN CHILDREN’S LITERATURE

A CRITICAL BIBLIOGRAPHY OF NORTH AMERICAN INDIAN FOR K-12

SLJ’S RESOURCES AND KID LIT ABOUT AMERICAN INDIANS
PURU BELPRE AWARD
SOUTH ASIA BOOK AWARD
ARAB AMERICAN BOOK AWARD
THE JANE ADDAMS CHILDREN’S BOOK AWARDS
NEW VOICES AWARD
STONEWALL BOOK AWARDS
CHILDREN’S AFRICANA BOOK AWARDS
ASIAN/PACIFIC AMERICAN AWARD FOR LITERATURE
NAACP IMAGE AWARDS FOR OUTSTANDING CHILDREN’S LITERATURE
- Americas Book Awards
- The American Indian Youth Literature Awards
- The Scholastic Asian Book Award
- Schneider Family Book Award
- Tomas Rivera Book Award
- Carter G. Woodson Book Award
- Coretta Scott King Book Awards
- Lambda Literary Award (LGBTQI Literature)
- Sydney Taylor Book Award
DISABILITIES

- DISABILITY IN KIDLIT
- ISLAM
- SLJ’S ISLAM IN THE CLASSROOM
GREAT GAY TEEN BOOKS
ALA’S RAINBOW LIST
SLJ’S LGBTQ BOOK LIST
I’M QUEER I’M HERE, WHAT THE HELL DO I READ?
LATINO

- SLJ: LIBRO POR LIBRO
- SLJ’S GATEWAY LATINO BOOKS
- VAMOS A LEER
- MAMIVERSE BOOKS
- LATIN@S IN KID LIT
- COLORIN COLORADO
NOTABLE BOOKS FOR A GLOBAL SOCIETY
This list is produced by the Children’s Literature and Reading Special Interest Group of the International Reading Association.

CYNTHIA LEITICH SMITH’S BLOG

THE GUARDIAN: LIST OF 50 BEST CULTURALLY DIVERSE CHILDREN’S BOOKS

I’M YOUR NEIGHBOR

BOOKDRAGON

This site is connected to the Smithsonian’s Asian Pacific American Center

DIVERSITY IN YA

CRAZY QUILTEDI

CHILDREN’S PEACE AND ANTI-BIAS LIBRARY OF CABRILLO COMMUNITY COLLEGE

CRYSTAL BRUNELLE’S RECOMMENDATIONS

SLJ EXPANDED CULTURAL DIVERSITY LIST