Diversity

Teaching Resources Center, Joyner Library
A Selective Annotated Bibliography

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<tr>
<th>Lexile Score</th>
<th>Title Information</th>
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<tbody>
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<td><strong>BIG BOOKS</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Harry sits on the porch with Mr. George Baker, an African American who is one hundred years old but can still dance and play the drums, waiting for the school bus that will take them both to the class where they are learning to read.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Paty and her family, who left Mexico to settle in California as migrant workers, prepare for her birthday celebration.</td>
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<td>A small boy tries to discover the meaning of &quot;memory&quot; so he can restore that of an elderly friend.</td>
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<td>Russ, a five-year-old with Down syndrome, visits his uncle's firehouse and gets to help with the daily chores.</td>
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EASY


Although Alzheimer's disease makes it difficult for Callie's grandfather to remember things, his family keeps him occupied, and Callie's special task is to help him enjoy playing the piano and singing favorite songs.


Although it appears to be a children's book with exceptional, colorful pictures and easy to read vocabulary, it doubles as a teaching tool for adults to help them not only understand the autism spectrum better, but give them strategies to help the autistic individual be more successful in his or her environment.


A boy wakes up one morning to find his father gone. At first, he feels lost. But his father has left him a letter filled with advice to guide him through the times he cannot be there.


Two Latino boys experience carefree camaraderie despite one boy's disability. Fun and friendship overpower physical limitations.


Chloë is jealous and sad when her favorite uncle announces that he will be getting married, but as she gets to know Jamie better and becomes involved in planning the wedding, she discovers that she will always be special to Uncle Bobby—and to Uncle Jamie, too.


Janine is one of a kind. She focuses on the positive while navigating life with disabilities. She makes a difference just by being herself.

Although her Mexican-American grandmother now forgets many things, Luciana finds that she still remembers the things that are important to the two of them. Includes glossary of Spanish words used.


Now that she is ten, Lailah is delighted that she can fast during the month of Ramadan like her family and her friends in Abu Dhabi, but finding a way to explain to her teacher and classmates in Atlanta is a challenge until she gets some good advice from the librarian, Mrs. Carman.


Xavier is unhappy when his mother remarries and he suddenly has a new stepbrother, as well as a stepfather, in his home.


A rhyming celebration of ancestry and of the diversity that flourishes in this country.


In 1865, members of a family start their day as slaves, working in a Texas cotton field, and end it celebrating their freedom on what came to be known as Juneteenth.


Max takes a class in sign language so that he can talk with his friend, Susan, who cannot hear.


A homesick little girl who has recently moved to an unfamiliar country
comforts herself by clinging to an old blanket, but when she meets a new friend, the relationship helps her take her first steps into a new culture.

Carlota is anxiously awaiting the arrival of the family who is adopting her. She imagines that they might be astronauts, pastry chiefs or even pirates. And then Carlota finds out that the Lopez family is the best family in the world.

Having lost their home, a fox and her daughter move in with a badger and his three children, but when the youngsters throw a big party hoping to prove that they are incompatible, their plan backfires.

Emma and Pop have been tap dancing together since before she could talk, but Pop becomes very forgetful and can no longer dance until one special day when he hears Emma's steps and they find a way for him to join in.

In turn-of-the-twentieth-century New York City, a shoeshine boy tries to find the owner of a piece of red cloth, venturing up and down fire escapes, back and forth across clotheslines, and into the company of the diverse people who live in the tenement buildings.

Aneesa and her grandmother come up with a plan to help two girls who are refugees celebrate Eid in America.

A baby enjoys a number of fun activities with her two mothers.
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<td>Photographs and poetic text celebrate the beauty and diversity of Latino children.</td>
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<td>Three young children experience the joys and challenges of being raised by two mothers.</td>
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<td>At New York City's Central Park Zoo, two male penguins fall in love and start a family by taking turns sitting on an abandoned egg until it hatches.</td>
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<td>Yoda the Persian cat oversees the foster cats but learns a lot when Buddy, a new kitten, joins the group.</td>
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<td>Mr. and Mrs. Stein and their young sons Gabe and Jacob adopt a baby girl from Vietnam.</td>
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**FICTION**

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<th>1050L</th>
<th>Ada, Alma. <em>Yes! We are Latinos</em>. Watertown, MA: Charlesbridge, 2013. (Race – Latinos)</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A collection of twelve narrative poems/stories about the young Latino and</td>
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Latina's experiences in the United States. Supplemented with nonfiction sections outlining the history, culture, triumphs and challenges of the Latino people.


When she learns that her mother is sick in Ohio, Mim confronts her demons on a thousand-mile odyssey from Mississippi that redefines her notions of love, loyalty, and what it means to be sane.


A young disabled girl and her brother are evacuated from London to the English countryside during World War II, where they find life to be much sweeter away from their abusive mother.


In the historic town of Norvelt, Pennsylvania, twelve-year-old Jack Gantos spends the summer of 1962 grounded for various offenses until he is assigned to help an elderly neighbor with a most unusual chore involving the newly dead, molten wax, twisted promises, Girl Scout cookies, underage driving, lessons from history, typewriting, and countless bloody noses.


Contest-crazed twelve-year-old Ben uses his wits and way with words in hopes of winning a prize that will keep his family from being evicted until his mother can pass her final CPA examination.


Graduating from their school's special education program, Quincy and Biddy are placed together in their first independent apartment and discover unexpected things they have in common in the face of past challenges and a harrowing trauma.


When people look at George, they think they see a boy. But she knows she's not a boy. She knows she's a girl. George thinks she'll have to keep this a secret.
forever. Then her teacher announces that their class play is going to be
Charlotte's Web. George really, really, REALLY wants to play Charlotte. But
the teacher says she can't even try out for the part . . . because she's a boy. With
the help of her best friend, Kelly, George comes up with a plan. Not just so she
can be Charlotte -- but so everyone can know who she is, once and for all

       and Giroux, 2010. (Age, Disability – Mental)

       During a summer visit, twelve-year-old Lucy must come to terms with both her
grandmother's failing memory and how her mentally-challenged neighbor will
impact her popularity when both enter the same middle school in the fall.

       (Socioeconomics)

       Noor has lived all of her fourteen years in the fifteen lanes of Mumbai's red
light district. Born into a brothel, she is destined for the same fate as her
mother: a desperate life trapped in the city's sex trade. She must act soon to
have any chance of escaping this grim future. Across the sprawling city, fifteen-
year-old Grace enjoys a life of privilege. Her father, the CEO of one of India's
largest international banks, has brought his family to Mumbai where they live
in unparalleled luxury. But Grace's seemingly perfect life is shattered when she
becomes a victim of a cruel online attack. When their paths intersect, Noor and
Grace will be changed forever. Can two girls living in vastly different worlds
find a common path?

       (Disability – Mental)

       While recuperating in a Baghdad hospital from a traumatic brain injury
sustained during the Iraq War, eighteen-year-old soldier Matt Duffy struggles to
recall what happened to him and how it relates to his ten-year-old friend, Ali.

       Physical, Family Status – Single Parent)

       Althea and Oliver, who have been friends since age six and are now high school
juniors, find their friendship changing because he has contracted Kleine-Levin
Syndrome.

       (Multiculturalism)

       When Aref, a third-grader who lives in Muscat, Oman, refuses to pack his
suitcase and prepare to move to Michigan, his mother asks for help from his
grandfather, his Siddi, who takes Aref around the country, storing up memories
he can carry with him to a new home.


A handless teen escapes from a cult, only to find herself in juvenile detention and suspected of knowing who murdered her cult leader.


While growing up in the 1960s, Laura uses art to cope with her mother's mental illness.


Having lost her beloved pony in a traumatic accident, thirteen-year-old Ali is reluctant to help her parents care for a neglected, malnourished Appaloosa but working with Wind Dancer is a good distraction from problems surrounding her brother, who recently returned from Afghanistan with a missing leg and PTSD.


Greg is crippling shy, afraid of spiders, and obsessed with Breakfast at Tiffany's. He's not exactly the most popular kid at his high school. In fact, he pretty much goes out of his way to avoid talking to anybody he doesn't have to. And it doesn't help that he has a severe lisp. But Greg's English teacher, Miss Hayes, can see that there's something different about him. He's insightful and sensitive beyond his years, and maybe, just maybe, he'll use these strengths to break out of his shell someday. When Greg begins to take an interest in a girl at his school named Alice, he realizes that he will have to face his most paralyzing anxieties if he wants to befriend Alice and help her escape from her tumultuous family life.


As fifteen-year-old Garth is wrestling with the promise he made his mother to wait a while before coming out, his somewhat secretive uncle shows up unexpectedly for an extended visit.


A London teenager who is blind and her younger brother travel to New York to
find their missing father, using clues from his notebook.


After enduring his father's suicide, his own suicide attempt, broken friendships, and more in the Bronx projects, Aaron Soto, sixteen, is already considering the Leteo Institute's memory-alteration procedure when his new friendship with Thomas turns to unrequited love.


After an injury ends former star pitcher Peter Friedman's athletic dreams, he concentrates on photography which leads him to a girlfriend, new fame as a high school sports photographer, and a deeper relationship with the beloved grandfather who, when he realizes he's becoming senile, gives Pete all of his professional camera gear.


A girl's struggle amid the African AIDS pandemic, Chanda, is an astonishingly perceptive girl living in the small city of Bonang, a fictional city in Southern Africa. When her youngest sister dies, the first hint of HIV/AIDS emerges, Chanda must confront undercurrents of shame and stigma. Not afraid to explore the horrific realities of AIDS, Chanda's Secrets also captures the enduring strength of loyalty, friendship and family ties.


Fourteen-year-old Shawn McDaniel, who suffers from severe cerebral palsy and cannot function, relates his perceptions of his life, his family, and his condition, especially as he believes his father is planning to kill him.


In India, a girl who excels at Bharatanatyam dance refuses to give up after losing a leg in an accident.
BIOGRAPHY


With acerbic wit ... Shane Burcaw describes the challenges he faces as a twenty-one-year-old with spinal muscular atrophy. From awkward handshakes to having a girlfriend and everything in between, Shane handles his situation with humor and a 'you-only-live-once' perspective on life. While he does talk about everyday issues that are relatable to teens, he also offers an eye-opening perspective on what it is like to have a life-threatening disease.

N/A Herthel, Jessica and Jennings, Jazz. *I am Jazz*. New York: Dial Books for Young Readers, 2014. (Sexual Orientation)

Presents the story of a transgender child who traces her early awareness that she is a girl in spite of male anatomy and the acceptance she finds through a wise doctor who explains her natural transgender status.


Born in Ghana, West Africa, with one deformed leg, he was dismissed by most people--but not by his mother, who taught him to reach for his dreams. As a boy, Emmanuel hopped to school more than two miles each way, learned to play soccer, left home at age thirteen to provide for his family, and, eventually, became a cyclist. He rode an astonishing four hundred miles across Ghana in 2001, spreading his powerful message: disability is not inability. Today, Emmanuel continues to work on behalf of the disabled.

NONFICTION


Tells the story in pictures of a family newly immigrated to the United States and the challenges of starting a life in a new place.


Author and photographer Susan Kuklin met and interviewed six transgender or gender-neutral young adults and represents them before, during, and after their personal acknowledgment of gender preference. Includes portraits,
family photographs, and candid images. Each honest discussion and disclosure, whether joyful or heartbreaking, is completely different from the other because of family dynamics, living situations, gender, and the transition these teens make in recognition of their true selves.


A four-year-old boy loves dressing up in princess clothing. A nonfiction picture book about acceptance ... to give children and adults a tool to talk about unconditional friendship.

N/A Fields, Julianna. *Families Living with Mental and Physical Challenges*. Broomhall, PA: Mason Crest, 2010. (Disability – Mental and Physical, Genetic Information) 306.85 F4607F

Describes the benefits and challenges facing families with members living with mental and physical disabilities, including mental illness, learning difficulties, and genetic diseases.


This tactful volume looks at the issues and feelings triggered by a family breakup. It explores the complicated emotions that a breakup can cause and the methods for dealing with these situations.


Beginning with the women's suffrage movement and going all the way through the results of the 2012 election, Ilene Cooper deftly covers more than a century of U.S. history in order to highlight the influential and diverse group of female leaders who opened doors for women in politics as well as the nation as a whole.

**PROFESSIONAL COLLECTION**

Using the treasured books Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl and Zlata's Diary: A Child's Life in Sarajevo as their guides, undertook a life-changing, eye-opening, spirit-raising odyssey against intolerance and misunderstanding. They learned to see the parallels in these books to their own lives, recording their thoughts and feelings in diaries and dubbing themselves the "Freedom Writers" in homage to the civil rights activists "The Freedom Riders."


Drawing from the selection of quality global literature chosen for the Notable Books for a Global Society booklists, this book explores key themes in global literature, offering ideas, activities, and strategies for your K-12 English language arts classrooms.


Topics include Race, Sexual Orientation, Ageism, Gender, Religion, Exceptionalities, and Socio-Economic Status.

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