# Diversity

**Teaching Resources Center, Joyner Library**  
**A Selective Annotated Bibliography**

Titles in the Teaching Resources Center are cataloged with Dewey call numbers and are preceded by Curric. Please ask someone at the Teaching Resources Service Desk if you need any assistance.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Level</th>
<th>Title Information</th>
<th>Call Number</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>BIG BOOKS</strong></td>
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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.

| N/A         | Díaz, Katacha. *Hello! I'm Patty*. Barrington, IL: Rigby, 2004. (Multiculturalism, Race – Mexican Americans) | BB D5436H   |

Patty and her family, who left Mexico to settle in California as migrant workers, prepare for her birthday celebration.


A small boy tries to discover the meaning of "memory" so he can restore that of an elderly friend.


Russ, a five-year-old with Down syndrome, visits his uncle's firehouse and gets to help with the daily chores.
**EASY**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Publisher</th>
<th>Age/Disability</th>
<th>Call Number</th>
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<td>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.</td>
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<tr>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Avis, J.I.</td>
<td><em>Morty the Meerkat Has Autism.</em> Norfolk, VA: Child Heroes Pub., 2011.</td>
<td>(Disability – Mental)</td>
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<td>AV56M</td>
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<td>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.</td>
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<td>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.</td>
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<td>Two Latino boys experience carefree camaraderie despite one boy's disability. Fun and friendship overpower physical limitations.</td>
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<td>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.</td>
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<td>Presented as a thoughtful, poetic exchange between two characters -- who don't realize they are thinking and asking the very same questions -- this beautiful celebration of our humanity and diversity invites readers of all ages to imagine a world where there is no you or me, only we.</td>
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<td>K - 2</td>
<td>Cocca-Leffler, Maryann.</td>
<td><em>Janine.</em> Chicago, IL: Albert Whitman &amp; Company,</td>
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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.


A lyrical celebration of multiculturalism as a parent shares with a child the value of their heritage and why it should be a source of pride, even when others disagree.


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.

N/A Jo, Jong-soon. *Festival of the Sun: Peru*. Strathfield, NSW: Big & Small, 2016. (Peruvian culture)

The Festival of the Sun is a story about Peruvian people preparing for their annual sun festival. Let’s follow the sun festival with Yana in this story.

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.

E K5272C

In simple rhyming text a young Muslim girl guides the reader through the traditions and shapes of Islam.

E K6722ML

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

E K791M

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.

E L8818B

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.

E L9635M

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.

E L9937T

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.

E M31663L

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.

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<tr>
<th>ISBN</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author(s)</th>
<th>Publisher</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Series</th>
<th>Call Number</th>
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<td>PreK - 2</td>
<td>Yokki and the Parno Gry</td>
<td>O’Neill, Richard</td>
<td>Auburn, ME: Child’s Play Ltd</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>(Romanies; Traveling Cultures)</td>
<td>ON29Y</td>
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<td>PreK - 1</td>
<td>Shades of Black: A Celebration of Our Children</td>
<td>Pinkney, Sandra L.</td>
<td>New York: Scholastic</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>(Race – African Americans)</td>
<td>P65617S.A</td>
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<td>1 – 4</td>
<td>In Our Mothers’ House</td>
<td>Polacco, Patricia</td>
<td>New York: Philomel Books</td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>(Family Status – Alternative Families)</td>
<td>P7569I</td>
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<td>PreK - 3</td>
<td>And Tango Makes Three</td>
<td>Richardson, Justin and Parnell, Peter</td>
<td>New York: Simon &amp; Schuster Books for Young Readers</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>(Family Status – Alternative Families)</td>
<td>R39486A</td>
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Aneesah 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.

When a Traveler family experiences a run of bad luck, an imaginative boy called Yokki lifts their spirits with tales of a magical white horse. A traditional Traveler-family folk tale which inspires hope and celebrates creativity. Told by a Romani storyteller together with a picture book author to positively reflect Traveling cultures.

Photographs and poetic text celebrate the beauty and diversity of Latino children.

Photographs and poetic text celebrate the beauty and diversity of African-American children.

Three young children experience the joys and challenges of being raised by two mothers.

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.
(Multiculturalism; Immigration)  
Celebrates United States immigration and the country's diverse immigrant heritage.

(Disability)  
Yoda the Persian cat oversees the foster cats but learns a lot when Buddy, a new kitten, joins the group.

(Family Status – Adoption)  
Mr. and Mrs. Stein and their young sons Gabe and Jacob adopt a baby girl from Vietnam.

FICTION

4 - 8  Ada, Alma. *Yes! We are Latinos*. Watertown, MA: Charlesbridge, 2013.  
(Race – Latinos)  
A collection of twelve narrative poems/stories about the young Latino and Latina's experiences in the United States. Supplemented with nonfiction sections outlining the history, culture, triumphs and challenges of the Latino people.

(Mental Illness)  
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.

(Mental Disability, Abusive Families)  
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.

(Immigration; Homelessness)  
Anais, who has recently emigrated from Africa to Maine with her mother and young brother, copes with acclimating herself to a new country, understanding
American culture, learning English, figuring out how to fit in at school, and moving from motel to shelter and finally to a permanent apartment.


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.


When Julia finds a slur about her best friend scrawled across the back of the Kingston School for the Deaf, she covers it up with a beautiful (albeit illegal) graffiti mural. Her supposed best friend snitches, the principal expels her, and her two mothers set Julia up with a one-way ticket to a school in the suburbs, where she’s treated like an outcast as the only deaf student. The last thing she has left is her art, and not even Banksy himself could convince her to give that up. Out in the ’burbs, Julia paints anywhere she can, eager to claim some turf of her own. But Julia soon learns that she might not be the only vandal in town. Someone is adding to her tags, making them better, showing off -- and showing Julia up in the process. She expected her art might get painted over by cops. But she never imagined getting dragged into a full-blown graffiti war.


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.


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.


A Pakistani-American Muslim girl struggles to stay true to her family's vibrant culture while simultaneously blending in at school. After her local mosque is vandalized, she is devastated. Her friend Soojin is talking about changing her name. Does Amina need to become more "American" and hide who she really is?


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?


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.


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.
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.

Five girls. Three generations. One great American love story. You Bring the Distant Near explores sisterhood, first loves, friendship, and the inheritance of culture—for better or worse. Ranee, worried that her children are losing their Indian culture; Sonia, wrapped up in a forbidden biracial love affair; Tara, seeking the limelight to hide her true self; Shanti, desperately trying to make peace in the family; Anna, fighting to preserve Bengal tigers and her Bengali identity.

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.


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.

The son of a Pentecostal preacher faces his personal demons as he and his two outcast friends try to make it through their senior year of high school in rural Forrestville, Tennessee, without letting the small-town culture destroy their creative spirits and sense of self.

**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.


Born in Mexico City in 1942, Graciela Iturbide wants to be a writer, but her conservative family has a different idea. Although she initially follows their wishes, she soon grows restless. After tragedy strikes, she turns to photography to better understand the world. The photographic journey she embarks on takes her throughout Mexico and around the globe, introducing her to fascinating people and cultures, and eventually bringing her success and fame.

1 - 3  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


Follows the daily lives of seven children from around the world, including such places as Japan, India, Uganda, and Italy, and discusses how schools, meals, and play can be different or similar in different places in the world.

7 - 12 Jensen, Kelly. [Ed.] *Here We Are: Feminism for the Real World.* Chapel Hill, NC: Algonquin Young Readers, 2017. (Feminists; Social Conditions)

A scrapbook-style teen guide to understanding what it really means to be a feminist packed with contributions from a diverse range of voices, including celebrities and public figures, and featuring more than forty-four pieces.


National Book Award-winner Jesmyn Ward takes James Baldwin's 1963 examination of race in America, The Fire Next Time, as a jumping off point for this groundbreaking collection of essays and poems about race from the most important voices of her generation and our time.


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.


When Mikey is young, the Sullivans are a closely-knit unit, all of them devoted to caring for her. But as Mikey grows older, she also grows increasingly violent. By the time she's twelve, institutionalization is the only available option--and without the shared purpose of caring for Mikey, the family begins to unravel. As her family falls apart, Teresa searches for relief and connection during a time of sweeping cultural change. Lacking maturity or guidance, she makes choices that lead her down a sometimes-perilous path. But regardless of the circumstances at home and the tumult in their individual lives, the Sullivans are united in their love and concern for Mikey.


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)

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**


Freedom Writers. *The Freedom Writer’s Diary: How a Teacher and 150 Teens Used Writing to Change Themselves and World Around* 305.235 F875F.A


Last Updated: Dec -06, OW