

Windows & Mirrors:

Books highlighting **DIVERSE** families



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Some of the most powerful literacy tools we have to help transform lives are books that address **diversity**.

Customs

Language

Diversity

Culture

Traditions

Definition

Diversity encompasses those human characteristics that make us unique, as well as the many universal qualities that make us the same.



Why are diverse books powerful tools?



<https://www.slj.com/2014/05/diversity/culturally-diverse-books-selected-by-sljs-review-editors/>

- Mirrors & Windows
- **Rudine Sims Bishop**
- *Shadow and Substance: Afro-American Experience in Contemporary Children's Literature* (1982)
- *used the metaphor of “**windows and mirrors**” to explain the ways in which children experience other cultures and see their own culture reflected and validated through the books they read*

Tallulah's Tutu



by MARILYN SINGER

Illustrations by ALEXANDRA BOIGER



Ballerina Girl

Copyrighted Material



My First
READER

By Kirsten Hall

Illustrated by Anne Kennedy

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Children's picture books are some of the earliest forms of media that teach children about diversity in the world. Social messages that young children glean from picture books will likely stay with them for the rest of their lives (Roethler 1998; Henderson 1991).

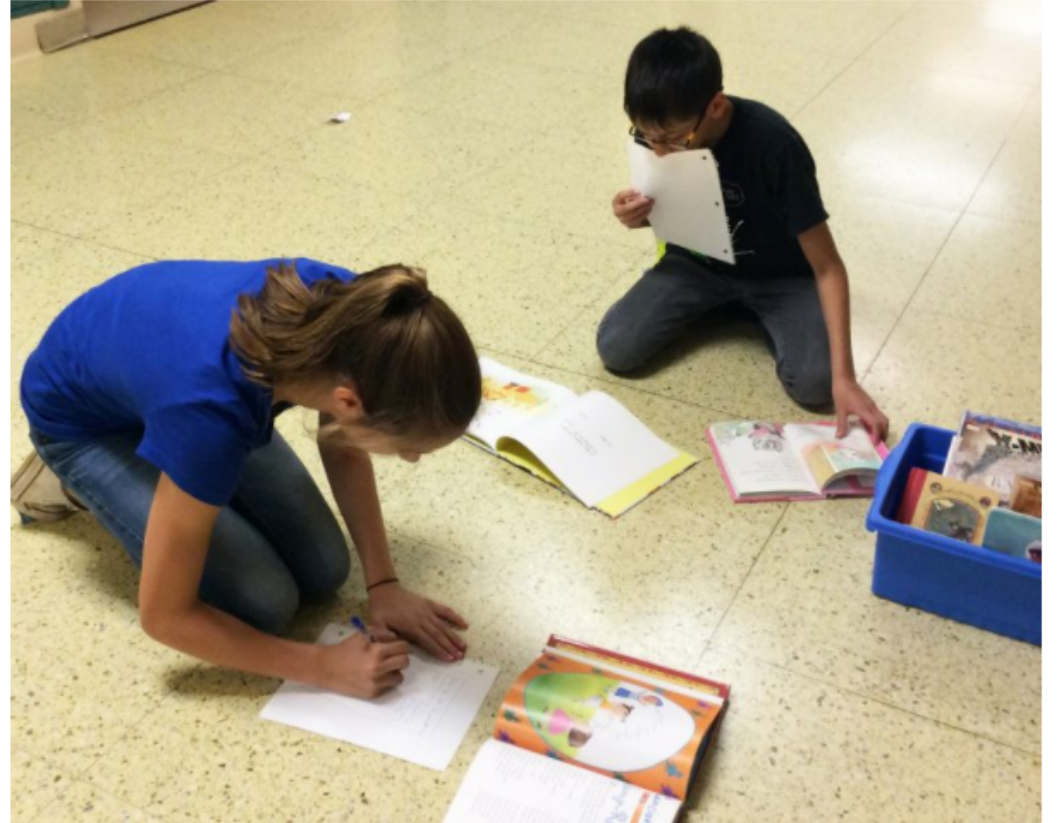


How Diverse are our collections?

“Sixth and seventh grade reading students at Gunston Middle School in Arlington, Virginia researched the lack of diversity in children’s and young adult books, in their classroom library and a selection of sports books to see which groups of people were under-represented.”

<http://www.teachingforchange.org/ms-critique-books>

Virginia Middle School Students Critique Lack of Diverse Books



By Allison Bell

This spring my sixth and seventh grade reading students at Gunston Middle School in Arlington, Virginia researched the lack of diversity in children’s and young adult books. After learning about the [statistics on diversity](#) in books and the “We Need Diverse Books” and [#StepUpScholastic](#) campaigns, students did surveys of our classroom library and a selection of sports books to see which groups of people were under-represented.

Student Revelations:

“This unit actually taught me a lot and opened my eyes. I realized every single book I read when I was little actually had white characters and not other kinds of characters, like black, Hispanic, or Asian, Indian. And since it my opened my eyes, it made me realize I wanted to make a difference.” — Alize

“I learned that—when you told me about this problem, I never realized that there were not many races mentioned in books. It was mostly just a series of white people but with a different life or a different story. When I was little, I would always just be so interested in their lives, that I would even try to convince myself that I was American or white, just because I was born here.” — Abigail

“I really learned how the world is not shown in books. It’s kind of like people lie a lot in children’s books. They don’t show the real world. They show the fake world. To be honest, I don’t really like it. I don’t see me in books I read. I don’t see a lot of children that are mixed. I just see a lot of white people in children’s books. Maybe they think that being mixed is wrong or something like that, but I think they should show biracial people.” — Isabella

Diversity in Children's Books 2015

Percentages of books depicting characters from diverse backgrounds. Based on the 2015 publishing statistics compiled by the Cooperative Children's Book Center, School of Education, University of Wisconsin-Madison: ccbc.education.wisc.edu/books/pcstats.asp



0.9%
American
Indians/
First Nations

2.4%
Latinx

3.3%
Asian Pacifics/
Asian Pacific
Americans

7.6%
African/
African
Americans

12.5%*
Animals, Trucks, etc.

73.3%**
White

Illustration by David Huyck, in consultation with Sarah Park Dahlen & Molly Beth Griffin
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* About a quarter of the total children's books published in 2015 were picture books, and about half of those depict non-human characters, like animals & trucks.

** The remainder depict white characters.

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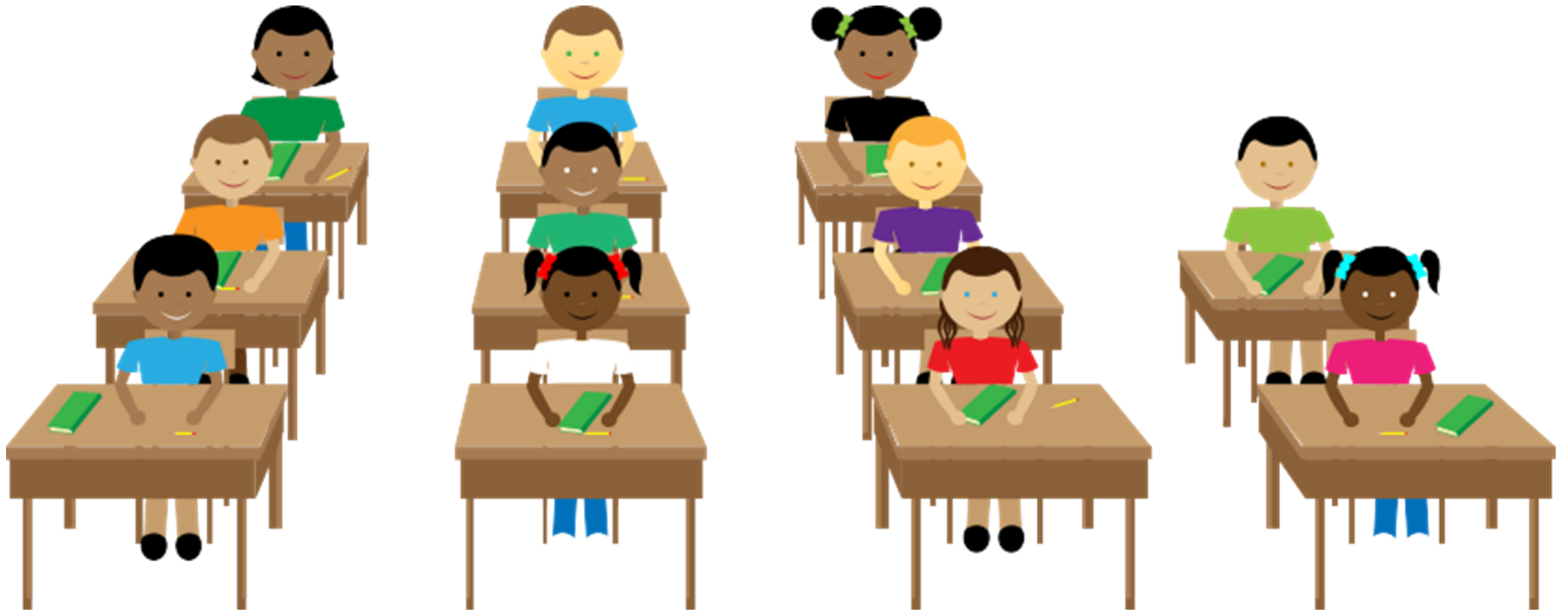
<1% 0.9%	1.5% 2.4%	2% 3.3%	3% 7.6%
American Indians/ First Nations	Latinx	Asian Pacifics/ Asian Pacific Americans	African/ African Americans

12.5%*	93%**
Animals, Trucks, etc.	White

Illustration by David Huyck, in consultation with Sarah Park Dahlen & Molly Beth Griffin
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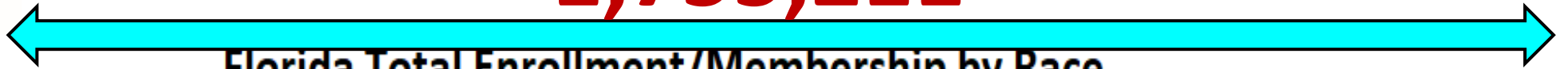
Within the State of Florida,
what is our student enrollment by race?



Within the state of Florida what is our student enrollment by race?



1,755,211



Florida Total Enrollment/Membership by Race

2017-18, Final Survey 2

White		Black or African American		Hispanic/Latino		Asian		Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific		American Indian or Alaska Native		Two or More Races	
Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1,077,904	38.0%	626,568	22.1%	938,248	33.1%	77,817	2.7%	4,744	0.2%	8,501	0.3%	99,333	3.5%

School populations are becoming increasingly diverse.

A reality check

- “Children of color now make up more than half of the kids in public schools in the United States, and their numbers continue to grow.”
- “According to the United States Census Bureau, by 2020 more than half of all children in the United States will be non-white, and the U.S. population as a whole will become “majority minority” by 2044.”

What Can We Do to Help?

Purchase and share diverse themed titles



“Sales matter to publishing. The books themselves matter to children and teens, who deserve to see the rich diversity of their lives and the world in which they live reflected in the books around them each and every day.”

CCBC, Cooperative Children’s Book Center



“Necessity is the mother
of invention,”
but this time necessity’s
name is Nuri.

Outcome of Discovery

4 grants

1 fellowship

15 student assistants

Custom artwork

Database and supporting website



Why DIVERse Families?

DIVERse Families is a comprehensive bibliography that demonstrates the growing diversity of families in the United States. This type of bibliography provides teachers, librarians, counselors, adoption agencies, children/young adults, and especially parents and grandparents needing to empower their children with materials that reflect their families.

DIVERse Families: Family Relationships

DIVERse Families is a comprehensive bibliography that demonstrates the growing diversity of families in the United States. This type of bibliography provides teachers, librarians, counselors, adoption agencies, children/young adults, and especially parents and grandparents needing to empower their children with materials that reflect their families.

Browse by Family Relationship:

- [Adoption](#)
- [Divorce](#)
- [Family Member Death](#)
- [Family Violence](#)
- [Foster Care](#)
- [Homelessness](#)
- [Incarceration](#)
- [Kinship Care](#)
- [Language Barrier](#)
- [Legal Guardianship](#)
- [Military Families](#)
- [Parental Rights Termination](#)
- [Poverty](#)
- [Separation](#)
- [Single Parent](#)
- [Step Parent](#)
- [Surrogacy](#)

DIVerse Families: Racial Diversity

DIVerse Families is a comprehensive bibliography that demonstrates the growing diversity of families in the United States. This type of bibliography provides teachers, librarians, counselors, adoption agencies, children/young adults, and especially parents and grandparents needing to empower their children with materials that reflect their families.

Browse by Racial Diversity:

- [Biracial](#)
- [Interracial](#)
- [Multiracial](#)
- [Race Discrimination](#)

DIVerse Families: Culture/Ethnicity

This collection contains materials on the topic of culture/ethnicity from the DIVERse Families bibliography.

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Browse by Culture/Ethnicity:

- [Bicultural](#)
- [Biethnic](#)
- [Multicultural](#)
- [Multiethnic](#)

DIVERse Families: LGBTQ

DIVERse Families is a comprehensive bibliography that demonstrates the growing diversity of families in the United States. This type of bibliography provides teachers, librarians, counselors, adoption agencies, children/young adults, and especially parents and grandparents needing to empower their children with materials that reflect their families.

Browse by LGBTQ:

- [Homosexuality](#)
- [Bisexuality](#)
- [Transgender](#)
- [Gender Nonconformity](#)
- [Intersex](#)
- [Androgyny](#)

Let's take a look at the spreadsheet


<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1jKTRLKFhL5Vw3vYTny9oAD-WWKle8uYW33rdxX9FCzI/edit?usp=sharing>



Sammy goes flying

Author: [Odette Elliott](#); [Georgina McIntyre](#)

Publisher: London : Tamarind, 2011.

Edition/Format:  Print book : Fiction : Juvenile audience : English [View all editions and formats](#)

Summary: Sammy dreams of flying. His older siblings are going on a school trip to an aeroplane museum. But Sammy is too small to go. Then Grandma plans a magical day out just for Sammy.

Rating:  (not yet rated)  [0 with reviews - Be the first.](#)

Subjects [Sammy \(Fictitious character : Elliott\) -- Pictorial works -- Juvenile fiction.](#)
[Dreams -- Pictorial works -- Juvenile fiction.](#)
[Dreams.](#)

Sammy Goes Flying

[Odette Elliott](#)

Illustrator

Georgina McIntyre

Publisher

Transworld Publishers

Publication Year

2011

ISBN

9781848530508

Pages

32 pages

Genre

realism

Format

picture book

Item Type

Fiction

Annotation

Sammy dreams of flying. His older siblings are going on a school trip to an aeroplane museum. But Sammy is too small to go. Then Grandma plans a magical day out just for Sammy.

Grade Level

PK-1

Topic

Racial Diversity; Biracial; Interracial; biracial child; interracial parents; interracial marriage; mixed race

Main Character

male child

Race/Ethnicities

Black / White

Family Formation

mother and father

Keywords

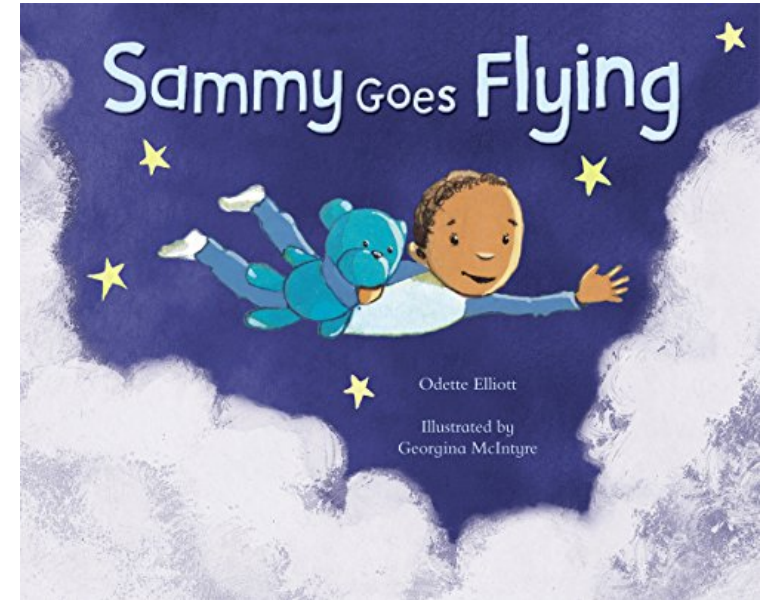
dreams; flight; hot air balloons; jealousy; sibling rivalry; grandmother and grandson relationship

Diversity Impact

indirect

STARS Citation

Elliott, Odette, "Sammy Goes Flying" (2011). *Diverse Families*. 240.
<https://stars.library.ucf.edu/diversefamilies/240>





Grandma was waiting at the station.

Theater -- Comic books, strips, etc.

Theater -- Juvenile fiction.

Interpersonal relations -- Comic books, strips, etc.

Interpersonal relations -- Juvenile fiction.

Middle school students -- Comic books, strips, etc.

Middle school students -- Juvenile fiction.

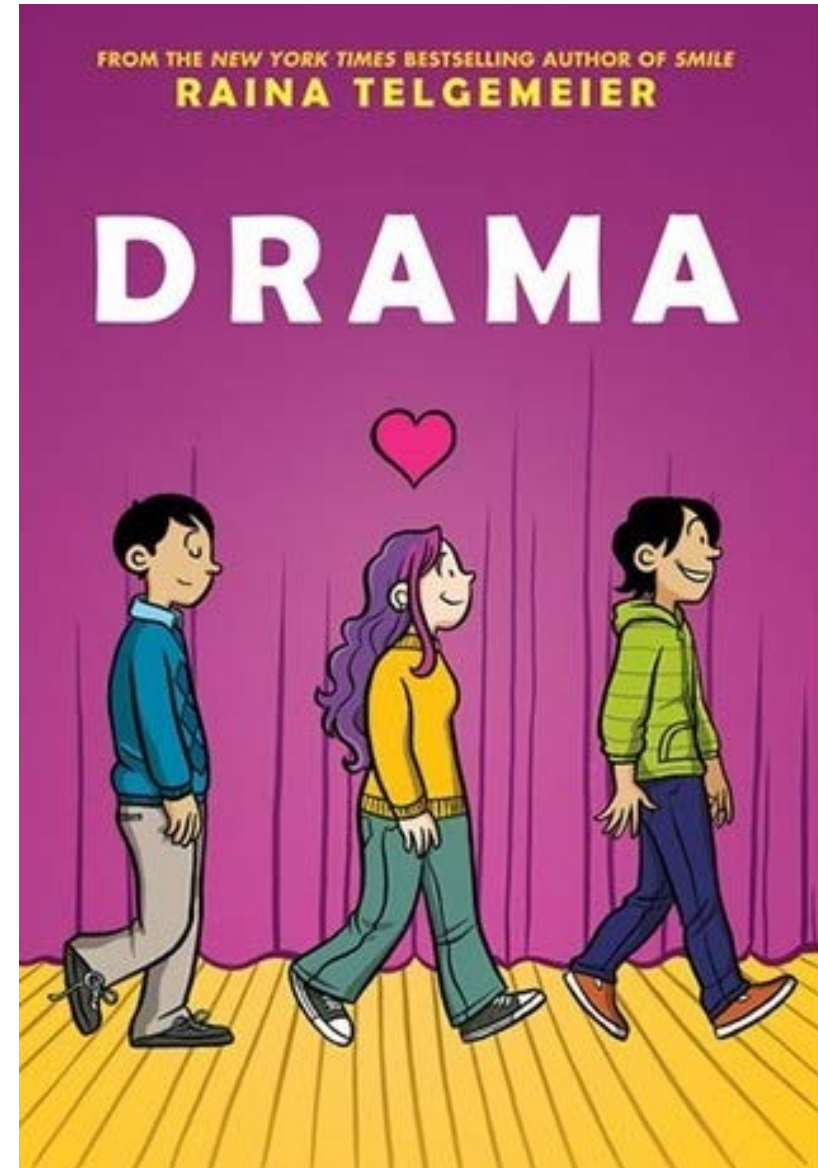
Teenage girls -- Comic books, strips, etc.

Teenage girls -- Juvenile fiction.

Teenage boys -- Comic books, strips, etc.

Teenage boys -- Juvenile fiction.

Spanish language materials.



Topic

LGBTQ (Gender and Sexuality); Homosexuality; Bisexuality; gay child; bisexual child

Annotation

Callie loves theater. And while she would totally try out for her middle school's production of *Moon Over Mississippi*, she's a terrible singer. Instead she's the set designer for the stage crew, and this year she's determined to create a set worthy of Broadway on a middle-school budget. But how can she, when she doesn't know much about carpentry, ticket sales are down, and the crew members are having trouble working together?

Grade Level

6-8

Family Formation

mother and father

Main Character

girl

Diversity Impact

direct

LGBTQ+

male/male

Race/Ethnicities

Black / White

Keywords

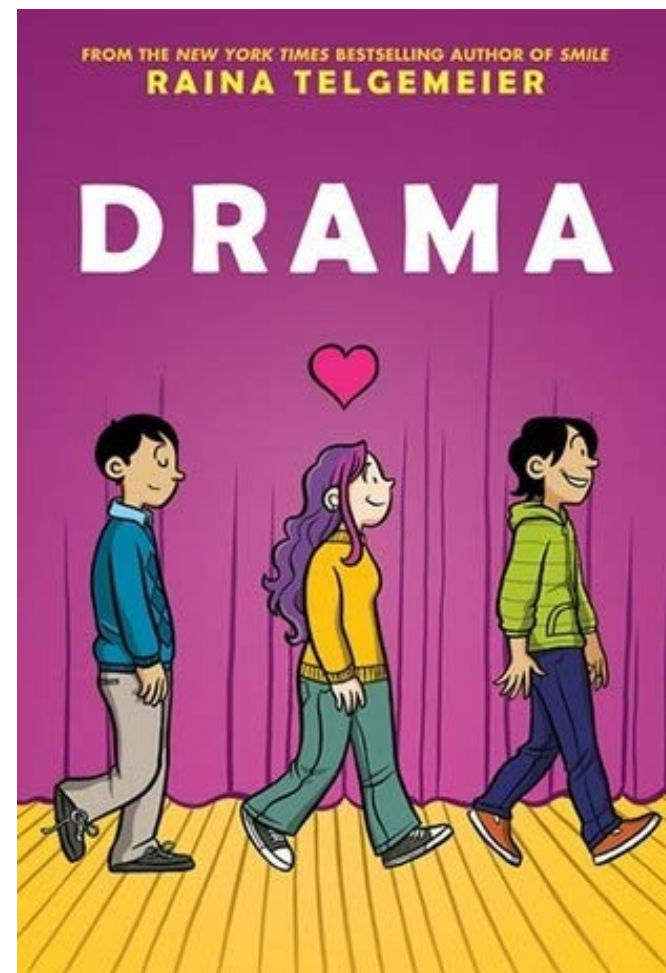
theater; interpersonal relations; middle schools; teenage girls; teenage boys

Item Type

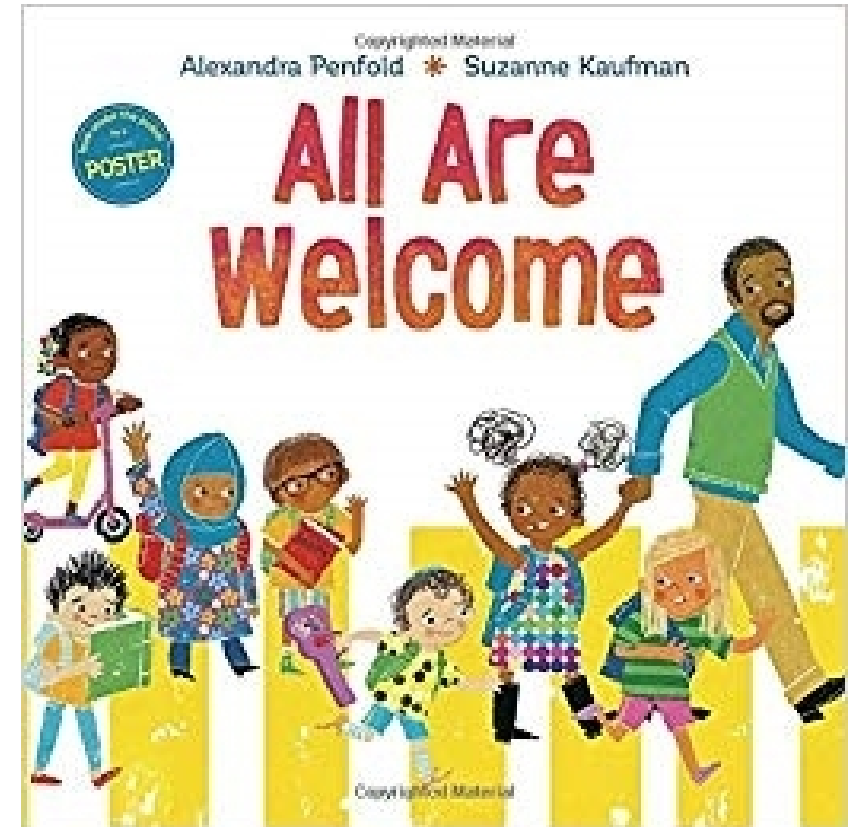
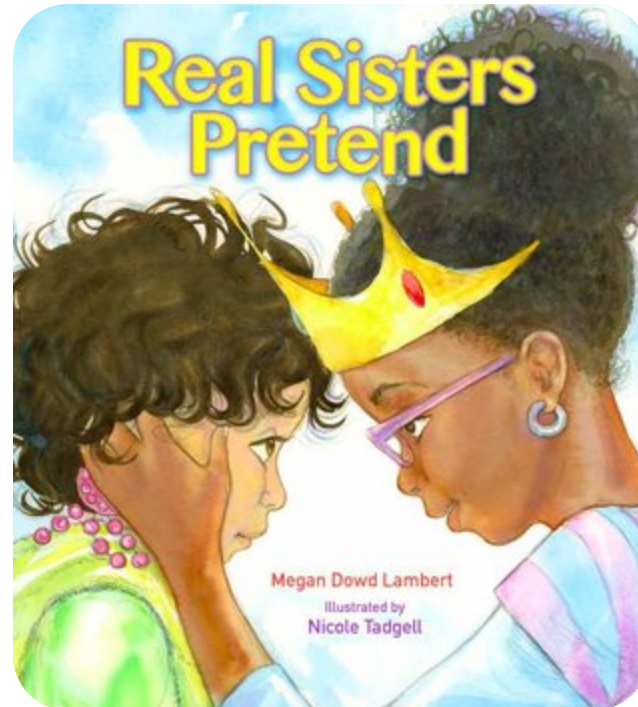
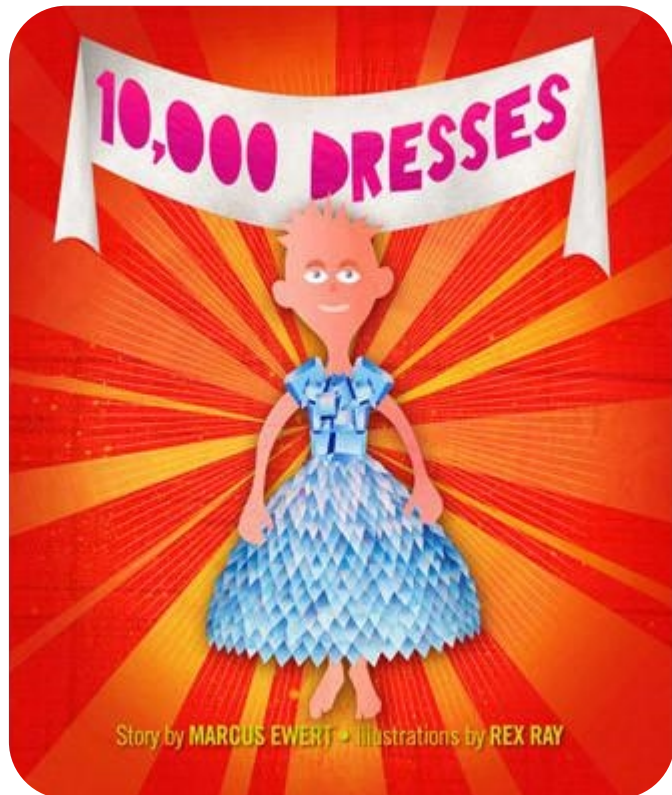
Fiction

Format

graphic novel



Database Examples: Some of our favorites...





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