

Diversity in Youth Literature

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Part 1: Picture Books & Early Chapter Books

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Brief History of Diversity In Children's Literature

1965 - "Why are they always white children?" <http://www.unz.org/Pub/SaturdayRev-1965sep11-00063>

1985 - Cooperative Children's Book Center starts collecting stats on African-American children's books; added other minorities in 1994

1989 - *Heather Has Two Mommies* by Lesléa Newman and Diana Souza

2004 - Schneider Family Award for representation of disability started

2005 - *And Tango Makes Three* published

2014 - We Need Diverse Books movement takes off

<http://www.slj.com/2014/05/diversity/childrens-books-still-an-all-white-world/#>

2015 - Author Corinne Duyvis creates #OwnVoices <http://www.corinneduyvis.net/ownvoices/>

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

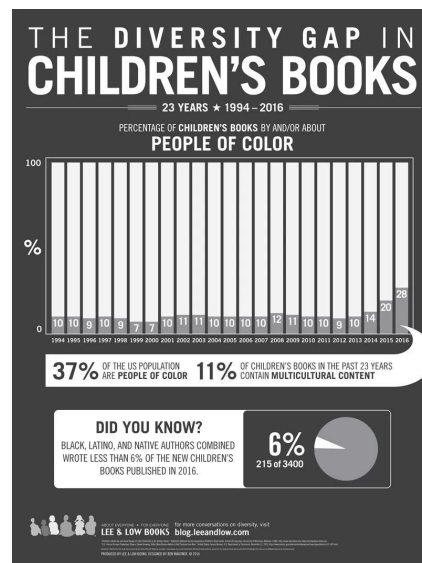
7.6%
African/
African
Americans

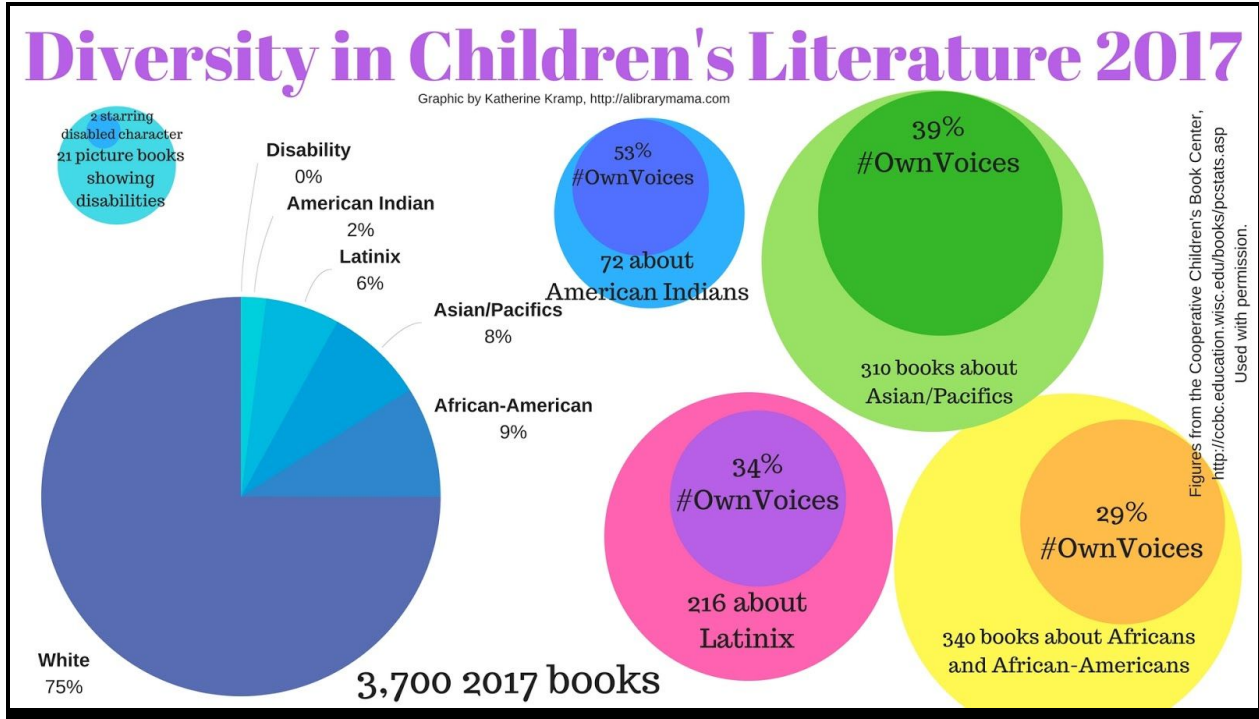
12.5%*
Animals, Trucks, etc.

73.3%**
White

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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.





Definition Of Diversity
From We Need Diverse Books:

The Vision: A world in which all children can see themselves in the pages of a book.

The Definition: We recognize all diverse experiences, including (but not limited to) LGBTQIA, Native, people of color, gender diversity, people with disabilities*, and ethnic, cultural, and religious minorities.

Intersectionality



Graphic by Katherine Kramp, <http://alibrarymama.com>

Picture Books

Benny Doesn't Like to Be Hugged by Zetta Elliott and Purple Wong
Crown: an Ode to the Fresh Cut by Derrick D. Barnes and Gordon C. James
Cora Cooks Pancit by Dorina K. Lazo Gilmore and Kristi Valiant
When We Were Alone by David Alexander Robertson and Julie Flett
Mango, Abuela, and Me by Meg Medina and Angela Dominguez
Big Red Lollipop by Rukhsana Khan
Hey Black Child by Useni Eugene Perkins and Bryan Collier
Hello Goodbye Dog by Maria Gianferrari and Patrice Barton
Love by Matt de la Peña and Loren Long

Classic Picture Books

Thunder Rose by Jerdine Nolan and Kadir Nelson
Jingle Dancer by Cynthia Leitich Smith, Ying-Hwa Hu and Cornelis Van Wright
The Name Jar by Yangsook Choi

Nonfiction Picture Books

The Youngest Marcher by Cynthia Levinson and Vanessa Brantley-Newton
The Water Walker by Joanne Robertson
Whoosh: Lonnie Johnson's Super-Soaking Stream of Inventions by Chris Barton. Illustrated by Dan Tate
Drum Dream Girl by Margarita Engle and Rafael Lopez

Early Chapter Books

Jasmine Toguchi series by Debbi Michiko Florence and Elizabet Vukovic
Juana & Lucas by Juana Medina
Zapato Power series by Jacqueline Jules and Miguel Benitez
Alvin Ho series by Lenore Look and LeUyen Pham
Jaden Toussaint the Greatest series by Marti Dumas and Marie Muravski
Jada Jones series by Kelly Starling Lyons and Vanessa Brantley-Newton
Anna Hibiscus series by Atinuke
Desmond Cole: Ghost Patrol series by Andres Miedoso and Victor Rivas
Sofia Martinez series by Jacqueline Jules and Kim Smith
Lulu series by Hilary McKay
Critter Club series by Callie Barkley and Tracy Bishop
The Zero Degree Zombie Zone by Patrik Henry Bass and Jerry Craft

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