

1. Author
   * Are the author(s)/ illustration(s) qualified to write or illustrate materials relating to the culture(s) portrayed? How?
   * Have the author(s)/ illustration(s) conducted related research? If not, have they lived among (either as a member of or as a visitor to) the groups of people represented in the book?
2. Story
   * Is the story interesting to children?
   * Does the story contain authentic language?
   * Are factual and historical details accurate?
   * Overall, is this a high-quality story, independent of its multicultural aspects?
3. Character
   * Are the characters believable?
   * Are universal human emotions, attitudes, needs, and experiences reflected?
   * Do the characters represent people from a variety of cultural groups?
   * Are the lifestyles realistic?
   * Are females as well as males depicted in leadership roles?
4. Setting
   * Does the story reflect a variety of places and times?
   * Are urban, suburban, and rural setting represented realistically?
   * Are cultural settings and geographical features represented accurately?
5. Plot
   * Are real situations depicted?
   * Are rigid boundaries of class, culture, religion, and ethnicity dismissed?
   * Are various conflicts presented for children to explore and discuss?
   * How are conflicts resolved?
6. Theme
   * Does the story offer children a variety of situation, concepts, and new ideas on which to reflect, question, and consider?
   * Are values explored rather preached?
   * Are there lessons to be learned?
   * Are children exposed to multiple respective and values?
   * How does the story promote understanding of our diverse society>
7. Illustration
   * Are diverse population represented?
   * Is there diversity represented within cultural groups?
   * Are characters realistically and genuinely represented?
   * Do the illustration avoid reinforcing societal stereotypes?
   * Do the illustration and text use authenticity to demonstrate respect for other cultures?
   * Do the illustration and text convey characteristics common to all people and cultures?
8. Developmental Appropriateness
   * Is the story age appropriate; can children understand what is presented?
   * Is the story individually appropriate in terms of children’s family backgrounds?
   * Does the story reflect the social, linguistic and cultural context in think children live or to which children can relate?
   * Will the story encourage meaningful and relevant discussion?

Checklist for Selecting and Evaluating Multicultural Picture Book