

Checklist for Selecting and Evaluating Multicultural Picture Book

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 which children live or to which children can relate?
- Will the story encourage meaningful and relevant discussion?