

Blindspots: Serving Your Multicultural Students

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Blindspots, Windows, and Mirrors

Our schools are full of multicultural families, but most popular children and young adult novels are about monocultural teens. As educators, we have a responsibility to be diverse readers -- reading books across genres featuring characters of different ethnicities, nationalities, genders, orientations, religions, and abilities, that also inspire. Yet it is challenging to present books and resources which reflect your readers and encourages them to experience a wider world. This interactive program includes criteria for diverse collections, programming and unit suggestions, and strategies for proposing changes to your curriculum. Learn how to engage your students with recent controversial topics like: whitewashed book covers, gender-flips, and genre-mashing.

Monoculturalism, Book lists, #weneeddiversebooks, Whitewashing

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Biographical Note: ReAnna Laney is the Head Librarian at St. Patrick's Episcopal Day School in Washington D.C. Before moving to D.C., she worked in independent schools in New York City and Providence, Rhode Island. ReAnna has presented internationally, including the European Council of Independent School's Triennial Librarian Conference in Brussels, Belgium, as well as at Catholic University in Washington, D.C.. She has a passion for education technology and multicultural education. Follow ReAnna on twitter @librarystpatsdc!