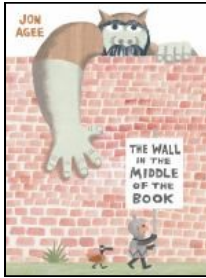
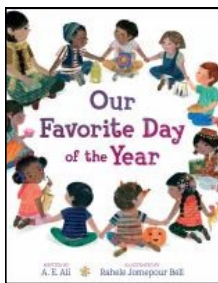


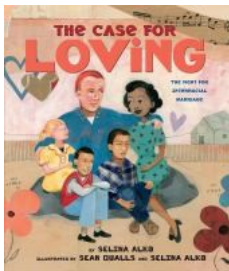
Tolerance and Diversity



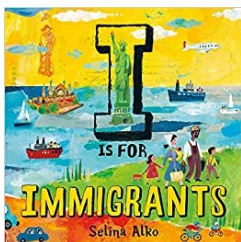
Agee, J. The Wall in the Middle of the Book. There's a wall in the middle of the book, and our hero--a young knight--is sure that the wall protects his side of the book from the dangers of the other side--like an angry tiger and giant rhino, and worst of all, an ogre who would gobble him up in a second! But our knight doesn't seem to notice the crocodile and growing sea of water that are emerging on his side. When he's almost over his head and calling for help, who will come to his rescue? An individual who isn't as dangerous as the knight thought--from a side of the book that might just have some positive things to offer after all! jP Agee



Ali, A. Our Favorite Day of the Year. Musa's feeling nervous about his first day of school. But over the course of the year, the four boys learn more about each other, the holidays they celebrate, their favorite foods, and what they like about school. In this charming story of friendship and celebrating differences, young readers can discover how entering a new friendship with an open mind and sharing parts of yourself brings people together. jP Ali

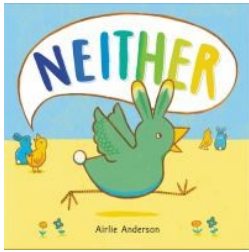


Alko, S. The Case for Loving: The Fight for Interracial Marriage. Most children don't know that before 1967, a person could not marry someone of a race different from their own. This is the story of one brave family: Mildred Loving, Richard Perry Loving, and their three children. It is the story of how Mildred and Richard fell in love, and got married in Washington, D.C. But when they moved back to their hometown in Virginia, they were arrested for violating that state's laws against interracial marriage. The Lovings refused to allow their children to get the message that their parents' love was wrong, so they fought the unfair law, taking their case all the way to the Supreme Court - and won! j 306.84



Alko, S. I is for Immigrants. What do African dance, samosas, and Japanese gardens have in common? They are all gifts the United States received from immigrants: the vibrant, multifaceted people who share their heritage and traditions to enrich the fabric of our daily lives. From Jewish delis to bagpipes, bodegas and Zen Buddhism, this joyful ABC journey is a celebration of immigrants: our neighbors, our friends. jP Alko, S.

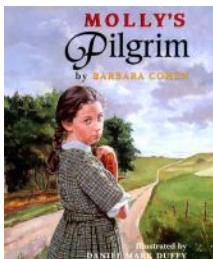
Tolerance and Diversity



Anderson, A. Neither. In the Land of This and That, there are only two kinds: blue bunnies and yellow birds. But one day a funny green egg hatches, and a little creature that's not quite a bird and not quite a bunny pops out. It's neither! Neither tries hard to fit in, but its bird legs aren't good for jumping like the other bunnies, and its fluffy tail isn't good for flapping like the other birds. It sets out to find a new home and discovers a very different place, one with endless colors and shapes and creatures of all kinds. But when a blue bunny and a yellow bird with some hidden differences of their own arrive, it's up to Neither to decide if they are welcome in the Land of All. jP Anderson



Bates, A. The Big Umbrella. Lush illustrations and simple, lyrical text subtly address themes of inclusion and tolerance in this sweet story. By the door there is an umbrella. It is big. It is so big that when it starts to rain there is room for everyone underneath. It doesn't matter if you are tall. Or plaid. Or hairy. It doesn't matter how many legs you have. Don't worry that there won't be enough room under the umbrella. Because there will always be room. jP Bates

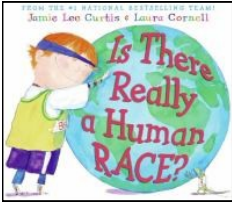


Cohen, B. Molly's Pilgrim. As Molly nears her first Thanksgiving in the New World, she doesn't find much to be thankful for. Her classmates giggle at her accent and make fun of her unfamiliarity with American ways. And Molly's mother only makes things worse when she creates a doll for Molly's school Thanksgiving project that looks more like a Russian refugee than a New England Pilgrim. But the tiny modern-day pilgrim just might help Molly to find a place for herself in America. j 304.8 Cohen

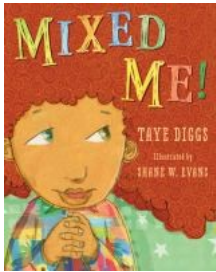


Couric, K. The Brand New Kid. Everyone remembers feeling excited and nervous each fall on the first day of school. But this year, there's not only a new teacher to meet, but a brand new kid as well. Lazlo S. Gasky doesn't look or speak quite like the other kids, and no one is sure what to make of him. But when one girl realizes how tough it is for Lazlo, she reaches out, and after school one day they share an afternoon of soccer, strudel, and chess. Besides making a new friend, she and Lazlo teach their classmates an important lesson about accepting people who are different...and in getting to know Lazlo, the kids learn that people aren't that different from each other after all. jP Couric

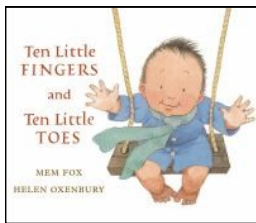
Tolerance and Diversity



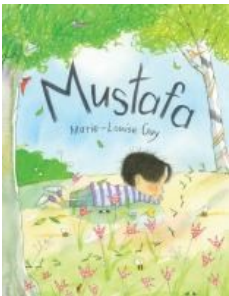
Curtis, J. Is There Really a Human Race? Starting with a series of questions and ending with the advice: "Sometimes it's better not to go fast. / There are beautiful sights to be seen when you're last." And maybe trying one's best is better than being first." The book presents strong messages about making the world a better place rather than just making it your oyster. jP Curtis



Diggs, T. Mixed Me! Mike has awesome hair. He has LOTS of energy! His parents love him. And Mike is a PERFECT blend of the two of them. "Mom and Dad say I'm a blend of dark and light: 'We mixed you perfectly, and got you just right.'" Still, Mike has to answer LOTS of questions about being mixed. And he does, with LOTS of energy and joy in this charming story about a day in the life of a mixed-race child. jP Diggs

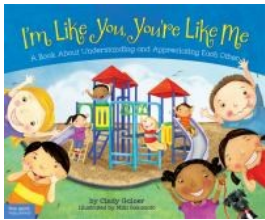


Fox, M. Ten Little Fingers and Ten Little Toes. A standout for its beautiful simplicity, this picture-book aims a message of diversity and tolerance at very young children. Clusters of adorable multicultural babies from around the world toddle across the pages, and even those who seem like polar opposites, have "ten little fingers and ten little toes." As the global brood of toddlers grows (two cast members are introduced with every new stanza), readers will savor each addition both as beguiling individualist and giggly, bouncy co-conspirator. jP Fox

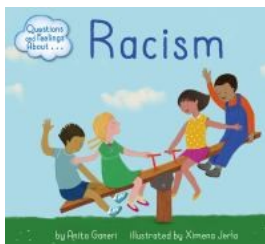


Gay, M. Mustafa. Mustafa and his family traveled a long way to reach their new home. Some nights Mustafa dreams about the country he used to live in, and he wakes up not knowing where he is. Then his mother takes him out to the balcony to see the moon — the same moon as in their old country. In the park, Mustafa sees ants and caterpillars and bees — they are the same, too. He encounters a "girl-with-a-cat," who says something in a language that he can't understand. He watches an old lady feeding birds and other children playing, but he is always looking in from the outside and he feels that he is invisible. But one day, the girl-with-the-cat beckons to him, and Mustafa begins to become part of his new world. jP Gay

Tolerance and Diversity

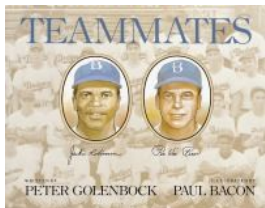


Gainer, C. I'm Like You, You're Like Me. "It's fun to find ways I'm like you and you're like me. It's fun to find ways we're different." In this colorful, inviting book, kids from preschool to lower elementary learn about diversity in terms they can understand: hair that's straight or curly, families with many people or few, bodies that are big or small. With its wide-ranging examples and fun, highly detailed art, I'm Like You, You're Like Me helps kids appreciate the ways they are alike and affirm their individual differences. A two-page adult section in the back provides tips and activities for parents and caregivers to reinforce the themes and lessons of the book. j 158.2 Gainer



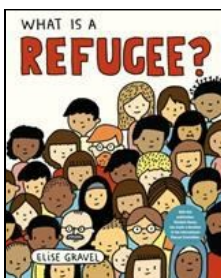
Ganeri, A. Racism. The effects of racism last a lifetime, and it cannot be tolerated. Using child-friendly text and encouraging child participation and interaction, this picture book from the Questions and Feelings About ... series teaches this valuable lesson in a memorable way. It includes a helpful section with advice, practical tips, and activities for caregivers and teachers.

j 305.8 Ganeri



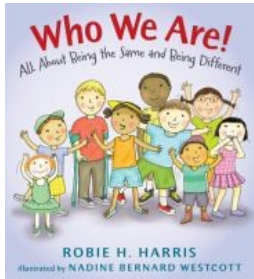
Golenbock, P. Teammates. In the 1940s segregation and racial discrimination were rampant, and in order to play professional baseball, blacks had to form their own league. This is the moving story of how Jackie Robinson became the first black player on a Major League baseball team when he joined the Brooklyn Dodgers. Robinson was severely taunted and even suffered threats to his life. During one such ugly moment, one of his teammates had courage enough to take a stand and declare Jackie his teammate.

j 796.357 Golenbock

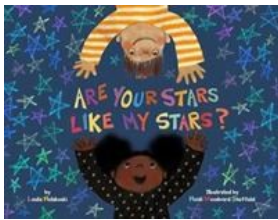


Gravel, E. What is a Refugee? This picture book simply and graphically introduces the term 'refugee' to curious young children and helps them better understand the world in which they live. It answers questions like: who are refugees, why they are called that, why they need to leave their country and why they are sometimes not welcome in their new country. This is the perfect tool to introduce an important and timely topic to children. j 304.8 Gravel

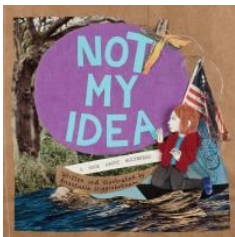
Tolerance and Diversity



Harris, R. Who We Are! All About Being the Same and Being Different. Join Nellie, Gus, baby Jake, and their parents at Funland as they go on rides, watch performers, and play games along with many other children and grown-ups. As they enjoy their excursion, they notice that people are the same as one another in lots of ways, and different in lots of ways too. Helps children realize why it's important to treat others the way they want to be treated whether a person is a lot like you or different from you, a good friend or someone you have just met or seen for the first time. j 158.2 Harris



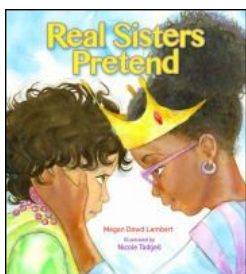
Helakoski, L. Are Your Stars Like My Stars? No matter where they live, all children gaze at the blue sky, bask in the warmth of the golden sun, dig in the rich dirt, and watch clouds grow soft and rosy at end of day. Through the eyes of one inquisitive and thoughtful young narrator, young readers explore the idea of perspective, and come to realize that all of us, everywhere, share the colors of the world. jP Helakoski



Higginbotham, A. Not My Idea: A Book About Whiteness. This picture book invites white children and parents to become curious about racism, accept that it's real, and cultivate justice. The text intersperses firm declarations that the structure of whiteness oppresses people of color with gentle reassurances that growth and change are possible when bolstered by honesty and accountability. The inclusion of a relatable narrative alongside age-appropriate language and direct explanations makes this an essential children's book about whiteness, white supremacy, and resistance. j 305.8 Higginbotham

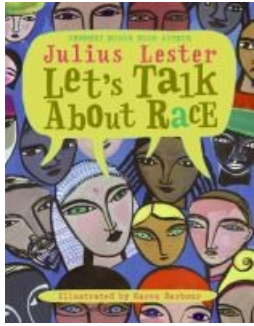


Ikegami, A. Friends. A girl from a faraway place begins her first day at school. She doesn't speak the language and she looks different. She just doesn't fit in. But one day, she makes an unexpected friend—a squirrel! Then a rabbit joins them. Soon the girl's fuzzy woodland friends are followed by human ones and school becomes more fun! When a surprising new student joins the class, the girl and her new friends know just how to make him feel at home. jP Ikegami

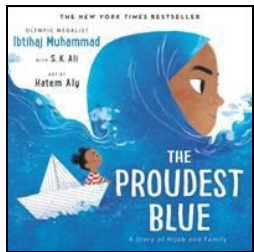


Lambert, M. Real Sisters Pretend. As they play, Mia and Tayja confirm that there's one thing they don't have to pretend: They know in their hearts that they're real sisters, even though others don't always recognize this since they're adopted and don't look alike. Safe in the knowledge that adoption has made them "forever family," the sisters end their make-believe journey with a joyful homecoming to a real home with their two moms. j PAR PIC Lambert

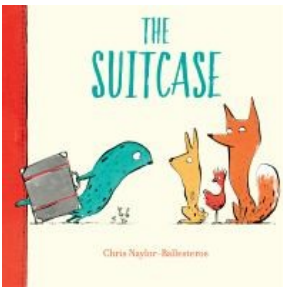
Tolerance and Diversity



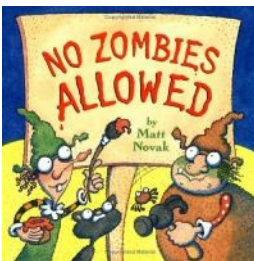
Lester, J. Let's Talk About Race. Lester writes in a deeply personal way about how we are much more than our skin color: asking readers to think of themselves as stories, and to consider the elements of their stories: families, favorite foods, hobbies, etc.. Only then does he address race: "There's something else that is part of my story. It's part of yours, too. That's what race we are." Simply and confidently, the narrative encourages readers to reject the false stories-"I'm better than you because . . ." -and to focus on the stories that lie beneath the skin. This remarkable book will spark a conversation with your child about not only racism but prejudice of any kind. j 305.8 Lester



Muhammad, I. The Proudest Blue: A Story of Hijab and Family. With her new backpack and light-up shoes, Faizah knows the first day of school is going to be special. It's the start of a brand new year and, best of all, it's her older sister Asiya's first day of hijab--a hijab of beautiful blue fabric, like the ocean waving to the sky. But not everyone sees hijab as beautiful, and in the face of hurtful, confusing words, Faizah will find new ways to be strong. jP Muhammad

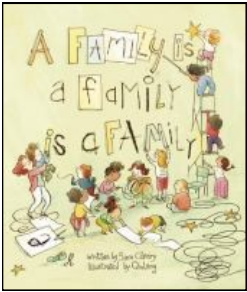


Naylor-Ballesteros, C. The Suitcase. A powerful story about immigration, trust, and new beginnings, full of heart and humanity, for anyone who has ever felt unwelcome or out of place. When a weary stranger arrives one day, with only a suitcase, everyone is full of questions: To learn the answers, they can either trust the newcomer or discover what they risk by not believing him. A story about hope and kindness, truth and perception—and most importantly, about how we treat those in need. jP Naylor-Ballesteros

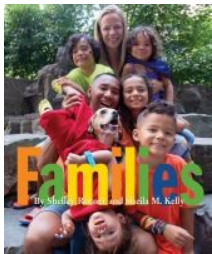


Novak, M. No Zombies Allowed. As wart-nosed and pop-eyed witches Wiz-zle and Woddle prepare to host a party, they discover photos from last year's soiree that make them reconsider the guest list. "Those zombies kept dropping their eyes into the punch bowl," they recall, and "the skeletons kept calling everyone Fatso." The pair posts one sign after another ("No zombies allowed") until they recognize each other as the culprits in a pair of pranks, and the guest list grows once again. Novak delivers a message about acceptance and tolerance cleverly hidden in this spoof on spookiness. jP Novak

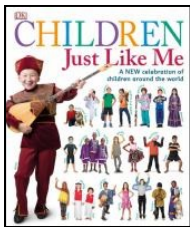
Tolerance and Diversity



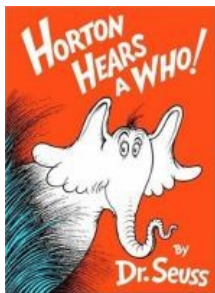
O'Leary, S. A Family Is a Family Is a Family. When a teacher asks the children in her class to think about what makes their families special, the answers are all different in many ways -- but the same in the one way that matters most of all. One child is worried that her family is just too different to explain, but listens as her classmates talk about what makes their families special. One is raised by a grandmother, and another has two dads. One is full of stepsiblings, and another has a new baby. j 306.85 O'Leary



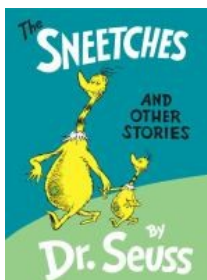
Rotner, S. Families. Big or small, similar or different-looking, there are all kinds of families. Some have one parent, some have two, and many include extended family. This inclusive look at many varieties of families will help young readers see beyond their own immediate experiences. j 306.85 Rotner



Saunders, C. Children Just Like Me. Highlighting 36 different countries, Children Just Like Me profiles 44 children and their daily lives. From rural farms to busy cities to riverboats, this celebration of children around the world shows the many ways children are different and the many ways they are the same, no matter where they live. j 305.23 Saunders



Seuss, D. Horton Hears a Who! Everyone's favorite elephant stars in this heartwarming and timeless story for readers of all ages. In the colorful Jungle of Nool, Horton discovers something that at first seems impossible: a tiny speck of dust contains an entire miniature world--Who-ville--complete with houses and grocery stores and even a mayor! But when no one will stand up for the Whos of Who-ville, Horton uses his elephant-sized heart to save the day. This tale of compassion and determination proves that any person, big or small, can choose to speak out for what is right. jP Seuss

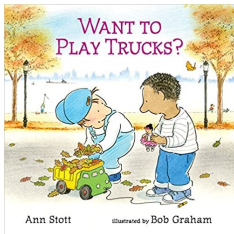


Seuss, D. The Sneetches and Other Stories. In these four energetic stories, Dr. Seuss challenges the idea that we have to look the same or be the same to find common ground. Full of Dr. Seuss's signature rhymes and lively humor, this story collection is a must-have for any reader, young or old. jP Seuss

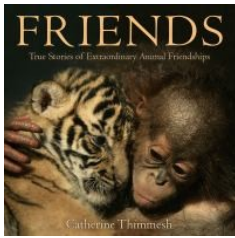
Tolerance and Diversity



Spier, P. People. In this encyclopedic picture book, Spier celebrates mankind in all its diversity-how we are similar and how we are different; in what we wear, eat, play, and how we worship. Small vignettes fill each page, illustrating the wonderful variety that exists among peoples of different cultures and races. j 155.2 Spier



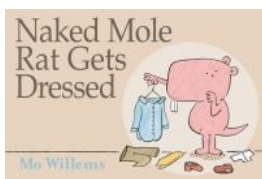
Stott, A. Want to Play Trucks? Jack and Alex meet almost every morning in the sandbox at the playground. Jack likes trucks -- big ones, the kind that can wreck things. Alex likes dolls -- pink ones, with sparkles. And tutus. But Jack doesn't want to play dolls, and Alex doesn't want to play. Luckily for Jack and Alex, the day is saved with a little bit of compromise -- what about dolls who drive trucks? jP Stott



Thimmesh, C. Friends: True Stories Of Extraordinary Animal Friendships. What makes a camel friends with a Vietnamese pig? Or a wild polar bear pals with a sled dog? This photo exploration of unlikely animal friendships, not only gives readers insight into animals but challenges preconceived notions about compatibility. This book also expresses tolerance of differences and makes us look at the kindness of animals—and humans—a little differently. jP Thimmesh

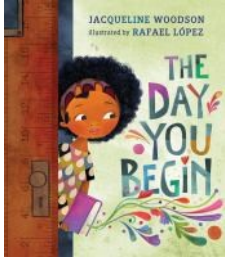


Wiles, D. Freedom Summer. Joe and John Henry are a lot alike. They both like shooting marbles, they both want to be firemen, and they both love to swim. But there's one important way they're different: Joe is white and John Henry is black, and in the South in 1964, that means John Henry isn't allowed to do everything his best friend is. Then a law is passed that forbids segregation and opens the town pool to everyone. Joe and John Henry are so excited they race each other there...only to discover that it takes more than a new law to change people's hearts. j 323 Wiles



Willems, M. Naked Mole Rat Gets Dressed. Willems informs readers that "for this story" they need only know three things about naked mole rats: "1. They are a little bit rat. 2. They are a little bit mole. 3. They are all naked." The exception to point number three, however, is Wilbur, who revels in a wardrobe that ranges from a turtleneck and beret to an astronaut suit--infuriating his brethren. When the naked mole rats complain to their leader, Grand-pah, he gathers the colony and issues a proclamation. Happily for Wilbur, it's a call for tolerance. jP Willems

Tolerance and Diversity



Woodson, J. The Day You Begin. There are many reasons to feel different. Maybe it's how you look or talk, or where you're from; maybe it's what you eat, or something just as random. It's not easy to take those first steps into a place where nobody really knows you yet, but somehow you do it. The lyrical text and dazzling art remind us that we all feel like outsiders sometimes-and how brave it is that we go forth anyway. And that sometimes, when we reach out and begin to share our stories, others will be happy to meet us halfway.

jP Woodson

Compiled by the Rochester Public Library Children's Room.

Updated November 2021