



“Books are Mirrors, Windows and Sliding Glass Doors” -Rudine Sims Bishop

A while back, I was lucky enough to attend the largest annual national conference, held in Providence, RI entitled Literacy for All. Every year I try to go, to see the latest and greatest in reading research. One topic that continues to get a lot of interest and chatter is the need to create a diverse library of books in a classroom and in your home. Rudine Sims Bishop, a renowned Literacy teacher and advocate, is known for explaining the need for diverse books through this metaphor:

Books are mirrors (where we see ourselves)

Books are windows (where we see the world)

Books are like sliding glass doors, (that open new opportunities to learn and change our perspective).

To see her speak directly about this, check out this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AAu58SNSyc> Another interesting speech is given by well known picture book author and illustrator, Grace Lin, and her experience as a young Asian-American and how she has personally experienced the need, and created texts to fill this need, of diverse books: <https://ed.ted.com/on/a0o0BODb>

If you are looking for books specifically featuring characters of color and diverse storylines, check out the following link. We Need Diverse Books is a nonprofit group working on building resources and author opportunities: <https://diversebooks.org/resources/where-to-find-diverse-books/>. One of my new favorites is this book: All Are Welcome by Alexandra Penfold. You can listen to the book in entirety at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IztFGeGu0bU&disable_polymer=true

The more you read, the more you learn- about yourself, the world,
and about others.- Emily Darby, MSS Reading Specialist