

All children need to see themselves reflected in the stories they read. Books with accurate and respectful representation of identities play a critical role in raising informed, inclusive children. Books, whether in your home or local library, offer an opportunity to offset societal prejudices, marginalization and historical disenfranchisement through the power of story. Use the following prompts to guide a review of your book selection and evaluate where there are strengths and where there is room to grow.

In the past year, we read/shared books that ...

	Often	Sometimes	Never
Feature main characters who are Black, Indigenous, or people of color (BIPOC)			
Feature main characters who identify as LGBTQIA			
Feature main characters with disabilities			
Feature main characters who live outside the U.S.			
Are written or illustrated by a BIPOC creator			
Are written or illustrated by a member of the group the book depicts			
Include illustrations or images that depict distinctive individuals, rather than stereotypically represented groups			
Feature contemporary diverse characters and storylines			
Reflect cultures or heritages outside of your family's own			
Feature diversity throughout the year, not just during heritage and observation months (e.g., Black History Month, Indigenous People's Day)			
Avoid tokenism of racial or ethnic minorities			
Offer a counternarrative to inaccurate or outdated stories and information about a group of people			

In the past year, we read/shared books that ...

	Often	Sometimes	Never
Reflect the richness and diversity of a culture rather than portraying that group as a monolith, i.e., depicting tribal specificity rather than a generic portrayal of First Nations characters			
Include women, BIPOC, and people of various socio-economic statuses and abilities in strong leadership roles			
Reflect religious practices or holidays of non-Christian heritage			
Depict a variety of living environments, including rural and urban, geographic diversity, and dwelling type			
Depict a variety of family structures, including single parent, relative caregiver, and same-sex couples			
Include high-interest storylines with child appeal, such that a reader will want to revisit the book repeatedly			
Balance informational texts with literature about identities beyond your family's own			
Avoid casting members of lower incomes or those with disabilities as victims, incomplete, pitiful, or helpless			
Avoid celebrating allies as saviors			
Reject the model minority myth			
Celebrate a range of body types and positive body image			
Explore the immigrant experience beyond the Ellis Island narrative			
Celebrate the contributions of historically marginalized groups (including women and BIPOC) to STEAM fields			

If you find that your book selection is not as diverse or culturally responsive as you would like, you are not alone! Use these prompts as a roadmap to guide your future selection of books that will fill gaps in your reading experience. For more resources to help your family grow your book collection visit [PTA.org/FamilyReadingExperience](https://www.pta.org/FamilyReadingExperience).