Engage Students in Discussions on Bias and Bullying with Diverse Picture Books



All Are Welcome. Alexandra Penfold. (Pre-K – 1) Follow a diverse group of children from all kinds of families through a day at school, where everyone is welcomed with open arms. It lets young children know that no matter what, they have a place, they have a space, they are welcome in their school.



Amazing Grace. Mary Hoffman. (Pre-K – 1) Although classmates say that she cannot play Peter Pan in the school play because she's black and a girl, Grace discovers that she can do anything she sets her mind to.



A Bad Case of Stripes. David Shannon. (Pre-K – 1) Camilla Cream loves lima beans, but doesn't eat them because she is very, very worried about what other people think. She's so worried that she's about to break out in... a bad case of stripes! A fun way to learn about accepting who you are, being yourself. and not putting too much thought into what other people think.



Be Who You Are. Todd Parr. (Pre-K – K) With Parr's signature silly and accessible style, Parr encourages readers to embrace all their unique qualities – reminding them that their unique traits are what make them so special.



Beautiful Skin: A Children's Book About Overcoming Racism. Colleen Thomas. (Pre-K – 2) Everyone's skin is beautiful. In this book, a biracial girl learns about race, how to respond to racism and the importance of accepting each other's differences. This book is a tool for parents to start the difficult conversation with their children about overcoming racism.



Wendy Ewald. (1-3) An award-winning photographer asked several children "What is the best part of you?", and presents their answers in this sometimes funny, sometimes moving, deeply personal book. Great to use for writing prompts and to

The Best Part of Me: Children Talk About their Bodies in Pictures and Words.

discuss body image and diversity with children.



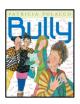
Big Bob, Little Bob. James Howe. (Pre-K – 2) Despite the fact that they share a name, they are different. Big Bob likes trucks and throwing balls and being loud. Little Bob likes dolls and jingling bracelets and being quiet. Yet, they become friends. When a neighbor teases Little Bob about dolls, Big Bob steps in with "Boys can do whatever they want."



The Big Umbrella. Amy June Bates. (Pre-K – 1) By the door there is an umbrella. 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. Don't worry that there won't be enough room under the umbrella. Because there will always be room.



Bling Blaine: Throw Glitter, Not Shade. Rob Sanders. (Pre-K – 1) Blaine's a boy who loves to shine . . . well actually, he loves to sparkle. But when his bling rubs some people the wrong way, and the bullying begins, Blaine—along with the entire school—starts to lose his shine. Can Blaine's friends help bring back his glimmer?



Bully. Patricia Polacco. (3 - 6) Lyla finds a great friend in Jamie. But when Lyla makes the cheerleading squad, she joins the clique of popular girls leaving Jamie behind. But Lyla knows bullying when she sees it and becomes friends with Jaime again. The mean girls take revenge. Focuses on cyberbullying.



Chocolate Me! Taye Diggs. (Pre-K – 1) Teased for looking different than the other kids—his skin is darker, his hair curlier—he tells his mother he wishes he could be more like everyone else. And she helps him to see how beautiful he really, truly is.



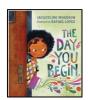
The Christmas Menorahs: How a Town Fought Hate. Janice Cohn. (2 – 6) Based on real events that happened in Billings, Montana, in 1993. This powerful narrative tells how two children, two families – one Jewish, one Christian – and a community resolve to stand together against the shameful actions that have been happening in their town.



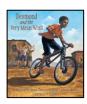
Chrysanthemum. Kevin Henkes. (Pre-K – 1) Chrysanthemum thinks her name is absolutely perfect—until her first day of school. "You're named after a flower!" teases Victoria. Chrysanthemum wilted.



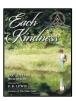
Confessions of a Former Bully. Trudy Ludwig. (2-5) Told from the unusual point of view of someone who bullied rather than the target. Highlights bullying with words. Provides kids with real life tools they can use to identify and stop relational aggression. Mentions taunting for being perceived as gay.



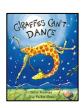
The Day You Begin / El Día en Que Descubres Quién Eres. Jacqueline Woodson. (K – 3) Follow a series of students who feel like they stand out and are teased by their classmates. Woodson reminds us that we all feel like outsiders sometimes—and how brave it is that we go forth anyway. English and Spanish editions.



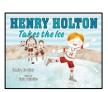
Desmond and the Very Mean Word: A Story of Forgiveness. Desmond Tutu and Douglas Abrams. (K − 3) Based on a true story from Archbishop Tutu's childhood. When he took his new bicycle out for a ride through his neighborhood, his pride and joy turned to hurt and anger when a group of boys shouted a very mean word at him.



Each Kindness. Jacqueline Woodson. (1 - 3) Every time Maya tries to join Chloe and her friends, they reject her. Eventually she stops coming to school. When Chloe's teacher gives a lesson about how even small acts of kindness can change the world, Chloe is stung by the lost opportunity for friendship.



Giraffes Can't Dance. Giles Andreae. (Toddler – Pre-K) Gerald the tall giraffe would love to join in with the other animals at the Jungle Dance, but he doesn't until finds his own tune and finds acceptance on his own terms.



Henry Holton Takes the Ice. Sandra Bradley. (Pre-K – 1) Henry's family is crazy for hockey – except for Henry. After seeing an ice dancing performance, he realizes he can do something on the ice. But first, he has to convince his family to let him follow his own path.



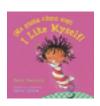
I Am Every Good Thing. Derrick Barnes. (Pre-K – 2) I am. a nonstop ball of energy. Powerful and full of light. I am a go-getter. A difference maker. A leader. The confident Black narrator of this book is proud of everything that makes him who he is. He's got big plans, and no doubt he'll see them through--as he's creative, adventurous, smart, funny, and a good friend



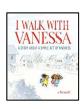
I am Jazz. Jessica Herthel and Jazz Jennings. (K − 5) From the time she was two years old, Jazz knew that she was a girl although others saw her as a boy. She loved pink and dressing up as a mermaid and didn't feel like herself in boys' clothing. Based on the real-life experience of Jazz Jennings as a child.



I Didn't Stand Up. Lucy Falcone. (1 – 4) First they went after Jalal. But I'm not black. So I didn't stand up for him. Then they went after Mariana. I was born in this country -- So I didn't stand up for her. This poem looks at common circumstances of oppression that children encounter through the eyes of the bystander -- until he or she becomes a victim.



Like Myself! / iMe gusta cómo soy! Karen Beaumont. (Pre-K – K) Inside, outside, upside down: Young readers will discover the many ways to celebrate the joy of loving who you are! Encourages kids to appreciate everything about themselves—inside and out. Messy hair? Beaver breath? So what! Here's a little girl who knows what really matters.



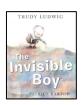
I Walk with Vanessa: A Story About a Simple Act of Kindness. Kerascoët. (Pre-K − 1) In the wake of seeing a classmate treated badly, one girl inspires a community to stand up to bullying by being allies. Inspired by real events.



Ignore the Trolls. Jordan Gershowitz. (Pre-K - 2) In a majestic kingdom Tim the Timid longs to join the jousting team so he can be one of the Knights, the coolest and most valiant kids at Ye Olde Elementary School. When tryouts are announced, Tim's friend Bethany the Brave offers him some advice: whatever Tim does, he must ignore the trolls. A funny fairytale with a serious message about online bullies and how to deal with them.



In Our Mothers' House. Patricia Polacco. (K – 2) Marmee, Meema, and their kids cook, laugh, and dance together in their home. But some families don't accept them, saying they are different. Yet Marmee and Meema's house is full of love. And they teach their children that different doesn't mean wrong.



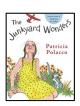
The Invisible Boy. Trudy Ludwig. (K - 3) Nobody ever seems to notice Brian or think to include him in their group, game, or birthday party . . . until, that is, a new kid comes to class.



It's OK to be Different. Todd Parr. (Pre-K – K) Delivers the important messages of acceptance, understanding, and confidence with Parr's bold, bright colors and silly scenes.



Jacob's New Dress. Sarah and Ian Hoffman. (Pre-K – 2) Jacob loves playing dress-up, when he can be anything he wants to be. Some kids at school say he can't wear "girl" clothes, but Jacob wants to wear a dress. Can he convince his parents to let him wear what he wants?



Junkyard Wonders. Patricia Polacco. (1-4) Tricia's new class is called "the junkyard" because everyone has special needs and is considered odd so they get bullied. But their teacher believes in them as they grow into wonders.



Just Askl: Be Different, Be Brave, Be You. Sonia Sotomayor. (Pre-K – 2) Feeling different, especially as a kid, can be tough. But in the same way that different types of plants and flowers make a garden more beautiful and enjoyable, different types of people make our world more vibrant and wonderful. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor celebrates the different abilities kids (and people of all ages) have using sing her own experience as a child.



Just Kidding. Trudy Ludwig. (1 - 3) D.J. progresses from feeling helpless to taking positive action, undermining the power of two seemingly harmless words.



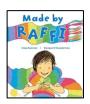
Llama Glamarama. Simon James Green. (Pre-K – 1) Larry the llama has a secret: he loves dancing! But have you ever seen a llama dance? Well, neither had Larry until he hears about and joins Llama Glamarama. Will this raucous, joyful celebration give Larry the courage to embrace his inner dancer? How would the other llamas back at the barn react, if he ever revealed his secret?



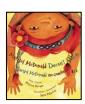
Looking Like Me. Walter Dean Myers. (K - 3) An African American boy celebrates all of who is, including a dancer, an artist and a writer. Colorful collage illustrations and catchy rhymes.



M is for Melanin. Tiffany Rose. (Toddler – K) Each letter of the alphabet contains affirming, Black-positive messages, from A is for Afro and F is for Fresh to P is for Pride and W is for Worthy. Teaches children their ABCs while encouraging them to love the skin they're in. Be bold. Be fearless. BE YOU.



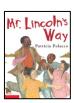
Made by Raffi. Craig Pomranz. (Pre-K - 1) Raffi is a shy boy who doesn't like noisy games and is often teased at school. But when he gets the idea of making a scarf for his dad's birthday, he is full of enthusiasm.



Marisol McDonald Doesn't Match / Marisol McDonald no combina. Monica Brown. (K – 2) Marisol, a multiracial girl, loves to be creative, eating peanut butter and jelly burritos, for example. But at times she is misunderstood and teased by peers. Bilingual.



Morris Micklewhite and the Tangerine Dress. Christine Baldacchino. (Pre-K – 2) Morris loves wearing the tangerine dress in the dress-up center, but the others don't understand. When Morris feels all alone and sick from their taunts, he stays home. With help from his mom and his imagination, he returns to school and begins to connect with others.



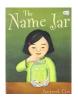
Mr. Lincoln's Way. Patricia Polacco. (2-4) "Mean Gene" hates everyone who's different. He's a bully, a bad student, and he calls people awful, racist names. When Mr. Lincoln, "the coolest principal in the whole world," discovers that Eugene knows a lot about birds, he uses this to help Eugene overcome his intolerance.



Muskrat Will Be Swimming. Cheryl Savageau. (2 – 4) A Native American girl's feelings are hurt when classmates make fun of the children who live at the lake, but then her grampa tells her a Seneca folktale that reminds her how much she appreciates her home and place in the world.



My Name Is Bilal. Asma Mobin-Uddin & Barbara Kiwak. (3 - 5) A brother and sister are the only Muslim students at their school. When the sister is teased for wearing a headscarf, Bilal finds the courage to stand up for her.



The Name Jar. Yangsook Choi. (K - 2) The new kid in school needs a new name! Or does she? Having just moved from Korea, Unhei is anxious that American kids won't like her.



Not Quite Snow White. Ashley Franklin. (Pre-K – K) When Tameika's school announces their *Snow White* musical, she auditions for the lead role. But the other kids think she's "not quite" right to play the role—the right color, the right size... They whisper, they snicker, and they glare. Will Tameika let their harsh words be her final curtain call?



One. Kathryn Otoshi. (Pre-K - 1) Red picks on Blue. The other colors don't know what to do until One shows them how to stand up, stand together, and count. Also see, **Zero**.



The Orange Shoes. Trinka Hakes Noble. (1 - 4) Delly walks to school barefoot. In class, she sits next to a girl who has lots of everything. Prejudice and cruelty are explored in this tale but staying true to oneself wins out.



The Other Side. Jacqueline Woodson. (K - 2) Clover's mom says it isn't safe to cross the fence that segregates their African American side of town from the white side where Anna lives. But the two girls strike up a friendship and get around the grown-up's rules by sitting on top of the fence together.



Perfectly Norman. Tom Percival. (Pre-K – 1) Norman is normal. That's until he grows a pair of wings! Norman loves his new wings, but he's worried about everyone will think. Hiding such a big part of his life makes him feel miserable. Can Norman find the courage to be himself?



Pinky and Rex and the Bully. James Howe. (K - 2) Pinky learns the importance of identity as he defends his favorite color, pink and his friendship with a girl, Rex, from the neighborhood bully.



Phoenix Goes to School: A Story to Support Transgender and Gender Diverse Children. Michelle and Phoenix Finch. (K – 1) Phoenix is excited but scared of being bullied at school because of her gender identity and expression. Yet when she arrives, she finds help and support and finds she is brave enough to talk to other kids about her gender.



The Proudest Blue: A Story of Hijab and Family. Ibtihaj Muhammad. (Pre-K – 1) It's the first day of school and Asiya will wear her first-day hijab. "Some people won't understand your hijab, Mama had said. But if you understand who you are, one day they will too." Olympic medalist, Ibtihaj Muhammad writes of the unbreakable bond between siblings, and of being proud of who you are.



Red. Jan De Kinder. (Pre-K-1) A girl finds it funny when her classmate starts blushing on the school playground. Her friends laugh along with her, but one student takes the teasing too far. Torn between her sympathy for her classmate and her fear of the bully, the girl must make a difficult choice



Red: A Crayon's Story. Michael Hall. (PreK – 1) A blue crayon mistakenly labeled as "red" suffers an identity crisis. Almost everyone tries to "help" him be red until a friend offers a new perspective. He's blue! About finding the courage to be true to your inner self. This can be read on multiple levels.



Ritu Weds Chandni. Ameya Narvankar. (1-3) Ayesha is excited to attend her cousin Ritu's wedding. But not everyone is happy that Ritu is marrying her girlfriend Chandni. Some have even vowed to stop the celebrations. Will Ayesha be able to save her cousin's big day?



Say Something. Peggy Moss. (K - 4) A child who never says anything when other children are being teased or bullied finds herself in their position one day when jokes are made at her expense and no one speaks up.



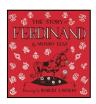
The Sneetches and Other Stories. Dr. Seuss. (Pre-K – 3) The Sneetches are bamboozled by Sylvester McMonkey McBean, who teaches them that pointless prejudice can be costly.



Spaghetti in a Hot Dog Bun: Having the Courage to Be Who You Are. Maria Dismondy. (Pre-K – 2) How can Ralph be so mean? Lucy is one of a kind and Ralph loves to point that out. Lucy's defining moment comes when Ralph truly needs help. Because she knows what she stands for, Lucy has the courage to make a good choice.



Speak Up. Miranda Paul. (Pre-K – 1) Join a diverse group of kids on a busy school day as they discover so many different ways to speak up and make their voices heard! When something really matters, one voice can make a difference.



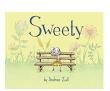
Story of Ferdinand / El cuento de Ferdinando. Munro Leaf. (Pre-K – 1) A timeless classic first published in 1936. All the other bulls run and jump and butt their heads together, but Ferdinand would rather sit and smell the flowers.



Strictly No Elephants. Lisa Mantchev, Taeeun Yoo. (Toddler – Pre-K) A sweet lesson in tolerance, acceptance, and inclusion for even the youngest readers.



Sulwe. Lupita Nyong'o. (Pre-K – 2) Sulwe has skin the color of midnight. Sulwe just wants to be beautiful and bright, like her mother and sister. Then a magical journey in the night sky opens her eyes and changes everything. Actress Lupita Nyong'o inspires children to see their own unique beauty.



Sweety. Andrea Zuill. (Pre-K – 2) The story of a charming, mushroom-loving, totally awkward naked mole rat who is looking for like-minded peeps. But her peers don't always get her. But surely there are other mushroom lovers out there? As Sweety sets out to find her peeps, she realizes that being Sweety is actually pretty awesome.



Teammates. Peter Golenbock. (1-3) The moving story of how Jackie Robinson became the first black player on a major league baseball team and how, on a fateful day, PeeWee Reese took a stand and declared Jackie his teammate.



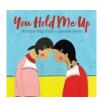
Thank You, Mr. Falker. Patricia Polacco. (1 – 2) Fifth-grader Trisha can't read, and a bully who ridicules her magnifies her shame, until a new teacher helps Trisha understand and overcome her problem.



William's Doll. Charlotte Zolotow. (Pre-K – 1) To the dismay of his parents, and jeering of his brother, young William wants a doll. His grandmother convinces his father that it's an acceptable toy for a boy because it will help teach him how to be a father.



Wings. Christopher Myers. (1 - 5) Take flight with Ikarus Jackson, the boy with wings who remains true to his dreams despite taunts. One girl realizes he must be lonely and resolves to stop the hurtful words.



You Hold Me Up. Monique Gray Smith. (Pre-K – 1) This vibrant picture book encourages children to show love and support for each other and to consider each other's well-being in their everyday actions. The book prompts a dialogue among young people, their care providers and educators about reconciliation and the importance of the connections children make.



You Matter. Christian Robinson (Pre-K – 1) Many different perspectives around the world are deftly and empathetically explored—from a pair of birdwatchers to the pigeons they're feeding to see how everyone is connected.



Your Name is a Song. Jamilah Thompkins-Bigelow. (Pre-K – 2) Frustrated by a day full of teachers and classmates mispronouncing her name, a girl tells her mother she never wants to go back to school. In response, her mother teaches her about the musicality of Asian, Black-American, Latinx, and Middle Eastern names on their walk home. Includes a link to the author pronouncing all the names in the book.