



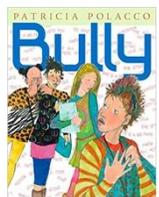
Essential Diverse Children's Books to Engage Students in Discussions About Bias and Bullying



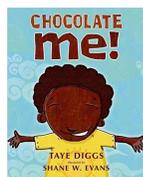
Beautiful Skin: A Children's Book About Overcoming Racism. Colleen Thomas. (Pre-K – 2) Everyone's skin is beautiful. In this book, a biracial girl learns about race, how to respond to racism and the importance of accepting each other's differences. This book is a tool for parents to start the difficult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



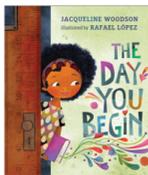
Bling Blaine: Throw Glitter, Not Shade. Rob Sanders. (Pre-K – 1) Blaine's a boy who loves to shine . . . well actually, he loves to sparkle. But when his bling rubs some people the wrong way, and the bullying begins, Blaine—along with the entire school—starts to lose his shine. Can Blaine's friends help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



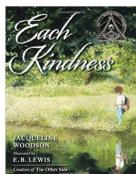
Bully. Patricia Polacco. (1 – 4) Lyla finds a great friend in Jamie, but when Lyla joins a clique of popular girls, Jamie is left behind. Lyla knows bullying when she sees it, and when she sees the girls viciously teasing classmates on Facebook, she is smart enough to get out. But no one dumps these girls, and now they're out for revenge.



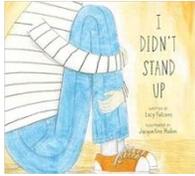
Chocolate Me! Taye Diggs. (Pre-K – 1) Teased for looking different than the other kids—his skin is darker, his hair curlier—he tells his mother he wishes he could be more like everyone else. She helps him to see how beautiful he really, truly is.



The Day You Begin / El día en que descubres quién eres. Jacqueline Woodson. (K – 3) Follow the experience 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.



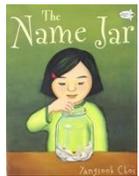
Each Kindness. Jacqueline Woodson. (1 – 3) Every time Maya tries to join Chloe and her friends, they reject her until she stops coming to school. When the teacher gives a lesson on how even small acts of kindness can change the world, Chloe is stung by the lost opportunity for friendship.



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.



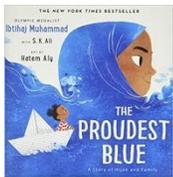
Muskrat Will Be Swimming. Cheryl Savageau. (2 – 4) A Native American girl's feelings are hurt when classmates make fun of children who live at the lake. Her grandfather tells her a Seneca folktale reminding her how much she appreciates her home and place in the world.



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.



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**.



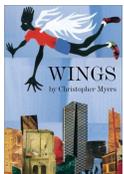
The Proudest Blue: A Story of Hijab and Family. Ibtihaj Muhammad. (Pre-K – 1) It's the first day of school and Asiya will wear her first-day hijab. "Some people won't understand your hijab, Mama had said. But if you understand who you are, one day they will too." Olympic medalist, Ibtihaj Muhammad writes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



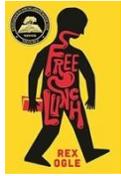
Red: A Crayon's Story. Michael Hall. (Pre-K – 1) A blue crayon mistakenly labeled as "red" suffers an identity crisis. Almost everyone tries to "help" him be red until a friend offers a new perspective. He's blue! About finding the courage to be true to your inner self. Can be read on multiple levels.



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.



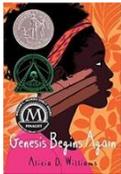
Wings. Christopher Myers. (1 – 5) Take flight with Ikarus Jackson, the boy with wings who remains true to his dreams despite taunts. One girl realizes he must be lonely and resolves to stop the hurtful words.



Free Lunch. Rex Ogle. (5 – 9) Based on his own experience as a poor kid in a wealthy school district, Rex vividly tells of his first semester of sixth grade as he tries to hide that he doesn't have much money while classmates and a teacher take one look at him and decide he's trouble. Life at home is punctuated by outbursts of violence. 2020 YALSA Excellence in Nonfiction Award.



Friend Me. Sheila M. Averbuch. (3 – 7) Roisin hasn't made a single friend since moving to the U.S.. In fact, she is falling apart under constant abuse from Zara, who torments her in person and on social media. Finally, Roisin bonds with Haley online. But, what happens when an online friend becomes a real-life nightmare?



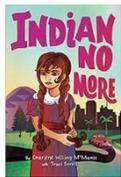
Genesis Begins Again. Alicia D. Williams. (4 – 8) There are ninety-six things Genesis hates about herself. She knows the exact number because she keeps a list. This sensitive and powerful novel tells the story of a thirteen-year-old who must overcome internalized racism and a verbally abusive family to learn to love herself.



Ghost. Lu. Patina. Sunny. Jason Reynolds. (4 – 8) A series of books about four kids from very different backgrounds with personalities that are explosive when they clash. All are a part of an elite middle school track team that goes to the state championships. They all have a lot to lose, but they also have a lot to prove, not only to each other, but to themselves.



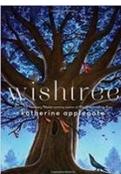
Hurricane Child. Kheryn Callender. (4 – 6) Feeling lonely and bullied daily with cruel remarks about her dark skin tone, Caroline finally befriends a new student, Kalinda. As Caroline develops a crush on Kalinda, they work together to find Caroline's mother.



Indian No More. Charlene Willing McManis. (4 – 7) After their tribe is "terminated" by the government, Regina's father signs the family up for the Indian Relocation program and moves them to Los Angeles. Regina finds a whole new world. For the first time in her life, Regina comes face to face with the viciousness of racism.



The Skin I'm In. Sharon G Flake. (5 – 7) Maleeka suffers every day from the taunts. If they're not getting at her about her homemade clothes or her good grades, it's about her dark, black skin. But the new teacher's attitude surprises her. Miss Saunders loves the skin she's in. Can Maleeka learn to do the same?



Wishtree. Katherine Applegate. (3 – 7) Trees can't tell jokes, but they can certainly tell stories. After a Muslim girl and her family move in, an oak tree and a crow help two children and their neighbors embrace their differences and handle bullying and hate speech.