**Children’s Literature for Social Justice Teaching**

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| Title | Summary  (from Amazon) |
| LGBTQ Characters |  |
| *In our mothers' house*  Polacco, P. | Marmee, Meema, and the kids are just like any other family on the block. In their beautiful house, they cook dinner together, they laugh together, and they dance together.But some of the other families don't accept them. They say they are different. How can a family have two moms and no dad? But Marmee and Meema's house is full of love. And they teach their children that different doesn't mean wrong. And no matter how many moms or dads they have, they are everything a family is meant to be. |
| *Heather has two mommies*  Newman, L. | Heather’s favorite number is two. She has two arms, two legs, and two pets. And she also has two mommies. When Heather goes to school for the first time, someone asks her about her daddy, but Heather doesn’t have a daddy. Then something interesting happens. When Heather and her classmates all draw pictures of their families, not one drawing is the same. It doesn’t matter who makes up a family, the teacher says, because “the most important thing about a family is that all the people in it love one another.” |
| *King and king*  De Haan, L. & Nijland, S. | When a grouchy queen tells her layabout son that it's time for him to marry, he sighs, "Very well, Mother.... I must say, though, I've never cared much for princesses." His young page winks. Several unsatisfactory bachelorettes visit the castle before "Princess Madeleine and her brother, Prince Lee" appear in the doorway. The hero is smitten at once. "What a wonderful prince!" he and Prince Lee both exclaim, as a shower of tiny Valentine hearts flutters between them. First-time co-authors and artists de Hann and Nijland matter-of-factly conclude with the royal wedding of "King and King," the page boy's blushing romance with the leftover princess and the assurance that "everyone lives happily ever after." |
| *A tale of two daddies*  Oelschlager, V. | A Tale of Two Daddies is a playground conversation between two children. The boy says he heard that the girl has two dads. The girl says that is right. She has Daddy and Poppa. True to a child’s curiosity, practical questions follow. “Which dad helps when your team needs a coach? / Which dad cooks you eggs and toast?” To which she answers: “Daddy is my soccer coach. / Poppa cooks me eggs and toast.” |
| Gender Identity |  |
| *10,000 dresses*  Ewert, M. | Every night, Bailey dreams about magical dresses: dresses made of crystals and rainbows, dresses made of flowers, dresses made of windows. . . . Unfortunately, when Bailey's awake, no one wants to hear about these beautiful dreams. Quite the contrary. "You're a BOY!" Mother and Father tell Bailey. "You shouldn't be thinking about dresses at all." Then Bailey meets Laurel, an older girl who is touched and inspired by Bailey's imagination and courage. In friendship, the two of them begin making dresses together. And Bailey's dreams come true! |
| *My princess boy*  Kilodavis, C. | Dyson loves pink, sparkly things. Sometimes he wears dresses. Sometimes he wears jeans. He likes to wear his princess tiara, even when climbing trees. He's a Princess Boy.   Inspired by the author's son, and by her own initial struggles to understand, this is a heart-warming book about unconditional love and one remarkable family. It is also a call for tolerance and an end to bullying and judgments. The world is a brighter place when we accept everyone for who they are. |
| *I am Jazz*  Herthel, J. | From the time she was two years old, Jazz knew that she had a girl's brain in a boy's body. She loved pink and dressing up as a mermaid and didn't feel like herself in boys' clothing. This confused her family, until they took her to a doctor who said that Jazz was transgender and that she was born that way. Jazz's story is based on her real-life experience and she tells it in a simple, clear way that will be appreciated by picture book readers, their parents, and teachers. |
| Slavery, Segregation, and Civil Rights |  |
| *Separate is never equal*  Tonatiuh, D. | A 2015 Pura Belpré Illustrator Honor Book and a 2015 Robert F. Sibert Honor Book Almost 10 years before *Brown vs. Board of Education*, Sylvia Mendez and her parents helped end school segregation in California. An American citizen of Mexican and Puerto Rican heritage who spoke and wrote perfect English, Mendez was denied enrollment to a “Whites only” school. Her parents took action by organizing the Hispanic community and filing a lawsuit in federal district court. Their success eventually brought an end to the era of segregated education in California. |
| *Henry’s freedom box*  Levine, E. | Henry Brown doesn't know how old he is. Nobody keeps records of slaves' birthdays. All the time he dreams about freedom, but that dream seems farther away than ever when he is torn from his family and put to work in a warehouse. Henry grows up and marries, but he is again devastated when his family is sold at the slave market. Then one day, as he lifts a crate at the warehouse, he knows exactly what he must do: He will mail himself to the North. After an arduous journey in the crate, Henry finally has a birthday -- his first day of freedom. |
| *Freedom song: The story of Henry “Box” Brown*  Walker, S.M. | Henry “Box” Brown’s ingenious escape from slavery is celebrated for its daring and originality. Throughout his life, Henry was fortified by music, family, and a dream of freedom. When he seemed to lose everything, he forged these elements into the song that sustained him through the careful planning and execution of his perilous journey to the North.  Honoring Henry’s determination and courage, Sibert Medal–winning author Sally M. Walker weaves a lyrical, moving story of the human spirit. And in nuanced illustrations, Sean Qualls captures the moments of strength, despair, and gratitude that highlight the remarkable story of a man determined to be free. |
| *Freedom on the menu*  Weatherford, C.B. | There were signs all throughout town telling eight-year-old Connie where she could and could not go. But when Connie sees four young men take a stand for equal rights at a Woolworth’s lunch counter in Greensboro, North Carolina, she realizes that things may soon change. This event sparks a movement throughout her town and region. And while Connie is too young to march or give a speech, she helps her brother and sister make signs for the cause. Changes are coming to Connie’s town, but Connie just wants to sit at the lunch counter and eat a banana split like everyone else. |
| *The other side*  Woodson, J. | 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-ups' rules by sitting on top of the fence together. |
| *Goin’ someplace special*  McKissack, P.C. | There's a place in this 1950s southern town where all are welcome, no matter what their skin color...and 'Tricia Ann knows exactly how to get there. To her, it's someplace special and she's bursting to go by herself.  When her grandmother sees that she's ready to take such a big step, 'Tricia Ann hurries to catch the bus heading downtown. But unlike the white passengers, she must sit in the back behind the Jim Crow sign and wonder why life's so unfair.  Still, for each hurtful sign seen and painful comment heard, there's a friend around the corner reminding 'Tricia Ann that she's not alone. And even her grandmother's words -- "You are somebody, a human being -- no better, no worse than anybody else in this world" -- echo in her head, lifting her spirits and pushing her forward. |
| *The story of Ruby Bridges*  Coles, R. | The year is 1960, and six-year-old Ruby Bridges and her family have recently moved from Mississippi to New Orleans in search of a better life. When a judge orders Ruby to attend first grade at William Frantz Elementary, an all-white school, Ruby must face angry mobs of parents who refuse to send their children to school with her. |
| *Rosa*  Giovanni, N. & Collier, B. | Fifty years after her refusal to give up her seat on a Montgomery, Alabama, city bus, Mrs. Rosa Parks is still one of the most important figures in the American civil rights movement. This tribute to Mrs. Parks is a celebration of her courageous action and the events that followed.  Award-winning poet, writer, and activist Nikki Giovanni's evocative text combines with Bryan Collier's striking cut-paper images to retell the story of this historic event from a wholly unique and original perspective. |
| *Heart and Soul: The Story of America and African Americans*  Nelson, K. | The story of America and African Americans is a story of hope and inspiration and unwavering courage. This is the story of the men, women, and children who toiled in the hot sun picking cotton for their masters; it's about the America ripped in two by Jim Crow laws; it's about the brothers and sisters of all colors who rallied against those who would dare bar a child from an education. It's a story of discrimination and broken promises, determination, and triumphs.  Told through the unique point of view and intimate voice of a one-hundred-year-old African-American female narrator, this inspiring book demonstrates that in gaining their freedom and equal rights, African Americans helped our country achieve its promise of liberty and justice—the true heart and soul of our nation. |
| *We march*  Evans, S. W. | On August 28, 1963, a remarkable event took place--more than 250,000 people gathered in our nation's capital to participate in the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. The march began at the Washington Monument and ended with a rally at the Lincoln Memorial, where Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his historic "I Have a Dream" speech, advocating racial harmony. Many words have been written about that day, but few so delicate and powerful as those presented here by award-winning author and illustrator Shane W. Evans. When combined with his simple yet compelling illustrations, the thrill of the day is brought to life for even the youngest reader to experience. |
| *Malcolm Little: The boy who grew up to become Malcom X*  Shabazz, I. | Malcolm X grew to be one of America’s most influential figures. But first, he was a boy named Malcolm Little. Written by his daughter, this inspiring picture book biography celebrates a vision of freedom and justice.  Bolstered by the love and wisdom of his large, warm family, young Malcolm Little was a natural born leader. But when confronted with intolerance and a series of tragedies, Malcolm’s optimism and faith were threatened. He had to learn how to be strong and how to hold on to his individuality. He had to learn self-reliance. |
| *She Stood for Freedom: The Untold Story of a Civil Rights Hero, Joan Trumpauer Mulholland*  Mullholand, L. & Fairwell, A. | Joan Trumpauer Mulholland was a white teenager in the South during Segregation who put herself on the front lines of the Civil Rights struggle. This is the first biography about her experiences, published simultaneously in picture book and middle grade editions, detailing the many events she participated in. She attended demonstrations and sit-ins and was one of the Freedom Riders in 1961 who was arrested and put on death row for months at the notorious Parchman Penitentiary. She was the first white person to join in the 1963 Woolworth's lunch counter sit-ins in Jackson, Mississippi, and that same year participated in the March on Washington with Dr. Martin Luther King and the Selma to Montgomery march in 1965 which contributed to the passage of the landmark Voting Rights Act that year. Her willingness to stand up for justice has been an inspiration, ''Anyone can make a difference. It doesn't matter how old or young you are. Find a problem, get some friends together, and go fix it. Remember, you don't have to change the world . . . just change your world.'' |
| *Nelson Mandela*  Nelson, K. | In this lush, acclaimed book, award-winning author-illustrator Kadir Nelson tells the story of global icon and Nobel Peace Prize winner Nelson Mandela in poignant free verse and glorious illustrations.  It is the story of a young boy's determination to change South Africa, and of the struggles of a man who eventually became the president of his country. Mandela believed in equality for all people, no matter the color of their skin. Readers will be inspired by Mandela's triumph and his lifelong quest to create a more just world. |
| Cultural Differences (food) |  |
| *The sandwich swap*  Queen Rania, DiPucchio, K. | Lily and Salma are best friends. They like doing all the same things, and they always eat lunch together. Lily eats peanut butter and Salma eats hummus-but what's that between friends? It turns out, a lot. Before they know it, a food fight breaks out. Can Lily and Salma put aside their differences? Or will a sandwich come between them? |
| *Chocolate milk, por favor*  Dismondy, M. | It's Gabe's first day of school in America, and he doesn't speak English. This story shows how a simple act of kindness is worth more than a thousand words. Kindness really is a universal language. |
| *Everybody cooks rice*  Dooley, N. | A child is sent to find a younger brother at dinnertime and is introduced to a variety of cultures through encountering the many different ways rice is prepared at the different households visited |
| *Hot hot roti for dadaji*  Zia, F. | Overflowing with family, food, and a tall stack of fun, Hot, Hot Roti for Dada-ji is sure to warm the heart and tickle the tummy. A fun way for children to learn about the cultural traditions and foods of India to be enjoyed by the whole family. |

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| Migrant Experience |
| *Pancho rabbit and the coyote*  Tonatiuh, D. |
| *Harvesting Hope: The Story of Cesar Chavez*  Krull, K. & Morales, Y. |
| Muslim Characters |
| *My name is Bilal*  Mobin-Uddin, A. |
| *One green apple*  Bunting, E. |
| Cultural Identity |
| *My name is Yoon*  (Korea)  Recorvits, H.  (\*has not arrived yet) |
| *The name jar*  (Korea)  Choi, Y. |
| *Dear juno*  (Korea)  Pak, S. & Hartung, S.K. |
| *Mixed me: A tale of a girl who is both black and white*  Catledge, T. |
| *The colors of us*  Katz, K. |
| *I’m new here*  O’Brien, A.S. |
| *So far from the sea*  Bunting, E. |
| *My name is Sangoel*  Williams, K. &Mohammed, K |
| Socioeconomic Class |
| *Each kindness*  Woodson, J. |
| *Those shoes*  Boelts, M |
| *Last stop on market street*  de la Pena, M. |
| Women's Rights |
| *For the Right to Learn: Malala Yousafzai's Story*  Langston-George, R. |
| *She persisted*  Clinton, C. & Boigner, A. |
| *The librarian of basra*  (Iraq)  Winter, J. |
| Misc. |
| *When the Beat Was Born: DJ Kool Herc and the Creation of Hip Hop*  Carrick Hill, L. |
| *Knock knock: My dad’s dream for me (dad in jail)*  Beaty, D. |
| *14 cows for America (Sept 11 & Kenya)*  Agra Deedy, C |
| *Coolies*  Yin |
| *Trombone Shorty*  Andrews, T. & Collier, B. |
| *Crown: An ode to the fresh cut*  Barnes, D. & Collier, B. |
| *Radiant child: The story of young artist jean-Michel Basquiat*  Steptoe, J. |

**Books for Promoting Critical Consciousness**

**Biography**

*Martin’s Big Words* by Doreen Rappaport

*If A Bus Could Talk* by Faith Ringgold

*Vision of Beauty: The Story of Sarah Breedlove Walker* by Kathryn Lasky

*Only Passing Through: The Story of Sojourner Truth* by Anne Rockwell

*Zora Hurston and the Chinaberry Tree* by William Miller

*Wilma Unlimited* by Kathleen Krull

*Mary McLeod Bethune* by Eloise Greenfield

**History**

*Encounter* by Jane Yolen

*The Great Migration* by Jacob Lawrence

*Many Thousand Gone: African Americans from Slavery to Freedom* by Virginia Hamilton

*The Story of Ruby Bridges* by Robert Coles

*Sweet Clara and the Freedom Quilt* by Deborah Hopkinson

*Richard Wright and the Library Card* by William Miller

*More Than Anything Else* by Marie Bradby

*Dinner at Aunt Connie’s House* by Faith Ringgold

*My Heroes, My People: African Americans and Native Americans in the West* by Morgan Monceaux and Ruth Katcher

*Remember: The Journey to School Integration* by Toni Morrison

*Building a New Land: African Americans in Colonial America* by James Haskins and Kathleen Benson

*One More River to Cross: An African American Photograph Album* by Walter Dean Myers

*The People Shall Continue* by Simon Ortiz

*I Am An American: A True Story of Japanese Internment* by Jerry Stanley

*Almost to Freedom* by Vaunda Micheau Nelson

**Books for Exploring Race/Racism**

*Grandpa, Is Everything Black Bad?* by Sandy Lynne Holman

*Bright Eyes, Brown Skin* by Cheryl Willis Hudson and Bernette G. Ford

*Nina Bonita* by Ana Maria Machado

*You Be Me, I’ll Be You* by Pili Mandelbaum

*Tar Beach* by Faith Ringgold

*This Land Is My Land* by George Littlechild

*The Black Snowman* by Phil Mendez

**Gender Issues**

*She Persisted: 13 American Women Who Changed the World* by Chelsea Clinton

*The Paper Bag Princess* by Robert Munsch

**Immigration**

*A Day’s Work* by Eve Bunting

*Jo, Alejandro* by Alejandro Gac-Artigas

*My Name is Maria Isabel* by Alma Flor Ada

*My Name is Sangoel* by Karen Lynn Williams and Khadra Mohammed

**Books About Other Issues**

*Sometimes My Mommy Gets Angry* by Bebe Moore Campbell

*Sadako* by Eleanor Coerr

*Our Gracie Aunt* by Jacqueline Woodson

*Which Side Are You On?* by George Ella Lyon