



WHY CHILDREN NEED DIVERSE CHARACTERS AND STORIES

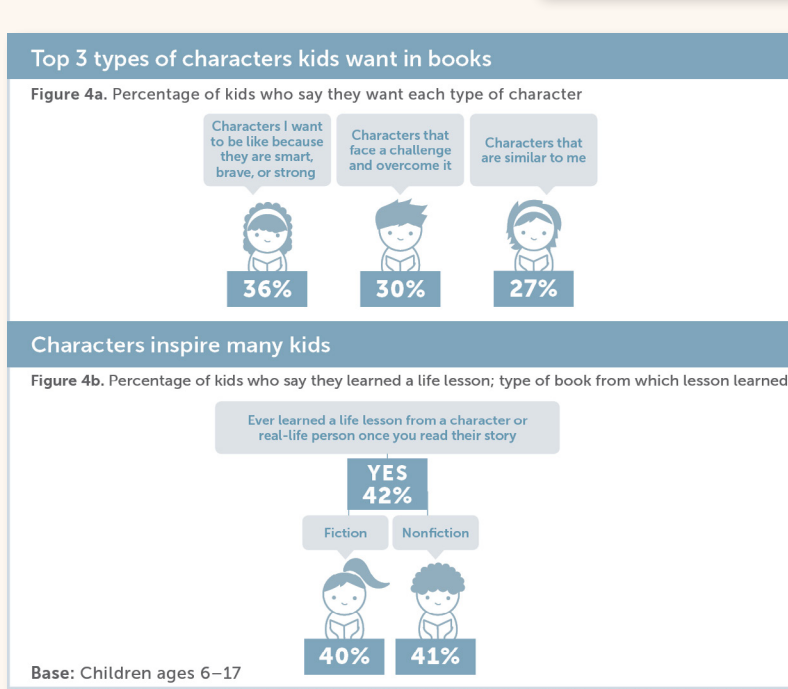
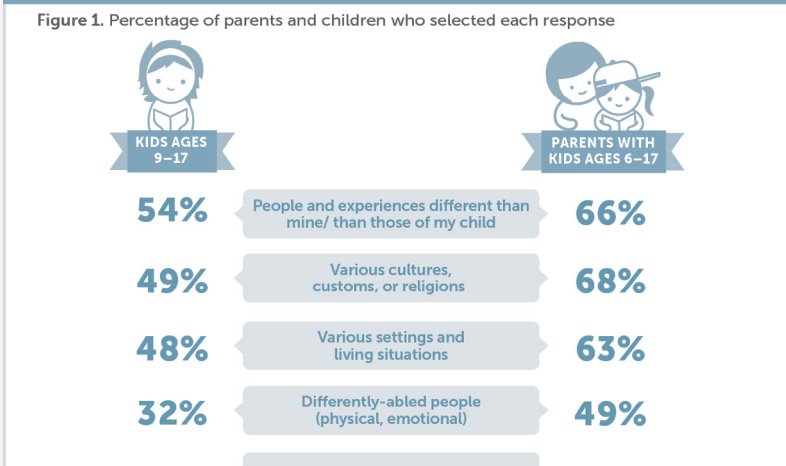
"Books are sometimes windows, offering views of worlds that may be real or imagined, familiar or strange... Literature transforms human experience and reflects it back to us, and in that reflection we can see our own lives and experiences as part of a larger human experience. Reading, then, becomes a means of self-affirmation, and readers often seek their mirrors in books."

— Rudine Sims Bishop, Professor Emerita, Ohio State University

Books act as mirrors and windows to children as they allow children the opportunity to see themselves reflected in the stories and provide them with new experiences that they might not have otherwise known.

Research shows that both parents and children are interested to read from a diverse range of books.

Reading stories about different cultures and backgrounds provides opportunities for children to interact and share with one another about how they might identify similarities and differences, learn about new environments and experiences, and understand the world better.



Children are especially drawn to books with interesting characters.

From reading stories that not just reflect themselves, children understand that their place in this world is just a small part of a multicultural society.

They thus learn to become empathetic and understand differences instead of being fearful or develop the need to alienate anything not like themselves.

As such, "a book's characters are an important driver of preference and integral to the overall social-emotional benefits of reading." (KFR Report, 7th edition).

*Kids & Family Reading Report™ : 7th Edition
scholastic.com/readingreport

Bringing a diversity of books into your students' libraries is vital to help them grow and empower them with positive values from young.

Here's how you can promote diversity in your students' reading habits:

- ### 1 Introduce them to a wider range of books.

Literacy Pro's elibrary has a wide range of books that both you and your students can browse through. Check out our Feature Highlight below for more information on our Book Collections! Also check out our Editor's Pick for highlighted titles that you can recommend to your students!
- ### 2 Promote discussion amongst peers.

Consider hosting book clubs and/or discussion forums for students to share their reads with one another to build their own library banks and wishlists. Knowing what their peers read also encourages them to understand how others think and prompt them to try reading out of their own comfort zones.
- ### 3 Have students create a Cultural Reading Passport.

Inspired by our Literacy Pro Library Collection "A Trip Around the Globe", a fun exercise to consider is to have students fill in a mock passport as they read titles from all over the world. Try this activity to encourage students to read titles from different parts of the world to populate these passports! Expose students to diverse stories and help them expand their knowledge, cultivate empathy, and build a broader perspective.

Sources
<https://scenicregional.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Mirrors-Windows-and-Sliding-Glass-Doors.pdf>
<https://diversebooks.org/5-reasons-why-you-should-read-a-diverse-book-for-your-next-community-read/>
<https://www.purdueglobal.edu/blog/education/promote-classroom-diversity/>
<https://www.scholastic.com/readingreport/our-diverse-world.html>

Feature Highlight

SEARCH FILTERS + BOOK COLLECTION

Put together by educators for educators, the Search Filters and Book Collection in Literacy Pro Library allows for easy search into our wide range of diverse titles that are sure to delight your students!



Reading Lists

- New Read & Think Titles**
[Download here](#)
- Latest Book and Quiz List**
[Download here](#)
- New Interactive Read-Aloud Titles**
[Download here](#)

Editor's Pick

The Editor's Pick this month focuses on diversity, featuring titles with characters living in various cultures and geographical regions. These books come with collaborative activities that support family engagement. Try these today to make reading an entertaining and enriching activity for your students!

- Lower Primary**
Fire and Wind
By Barbara Lawson
- Middle Primary**
Lilu's Bright Diwali
By Anita Nahta Amin
- Upper Primary**
Kwajo and the Brassman's Secret
By Meshack Asare
- Secondary**
Farewell
By Marnie K. Jorenbey

[Download all resources here](#)

INSIGHTS AND INSPIRATION FROM THE LITERACY PRO ADVISORY CIRCLE MEMBERS

Hello! My name is Fernanda Villicaña, I am from Mexicali, Baja California, México. I am an Educational Psychologist with a Masters in Education with the Use of Technology.

I was an English teacher for 16 years, and currently I work at Knotion as Partnership Coordinator and Trainer. Part of my job consists in training and creating content for more than 200 schools using our ecosystem, and implementing strategies for a successful Scholastic program.

I believe reading opens a wide variety of possibilities for kids and adults, and definitely grows their minds.

I feel very honored to be part of the Scholastic Advisory Circle, and share thoughts and ideas to make reading a priority.

How does Literacy Pro support reading in your school?

"The reports are really useful to understand how the students' reading activities impact their progress in comprehension."