

# COMMUNITY READ

## TALKING ABOUT DIVERSITY WITH YOUR CHILDREN



### READ AND TALK

Diversity activities teach young children to respect and celebrate the differences in all people. Learning about different cultural backgrounds helps children realize we are all humans, despite differences in how we look, eat, or celebrate. -Penn State Extension

### WHY READING AND TALKING AT A YOUNG AGE IS SO IMPORTANT?

At about 2 years of age, children begin to notice gender and racial differences. Around 3 years of age children notice physical disabilities. -Penn State Extension

### EXPLORE YOUR COMMUNITY

Explore opportunities in your community, such as cultural events and festivals. This is the perfect way to learn about different holidays, celebrations, food, etc. The earlier you expose your children to diversity and acceptance the more it will become a part of their values as they grow.

### INFORM ABOUT DIVERSITY

Children are not colorblind-nor should they be! Rather than pretending differences don't exist, let's recognize and celebrate differences, as well as noting the things we have in common with others. Discuss other differences, too: abilities, beliefs, religions, etc.

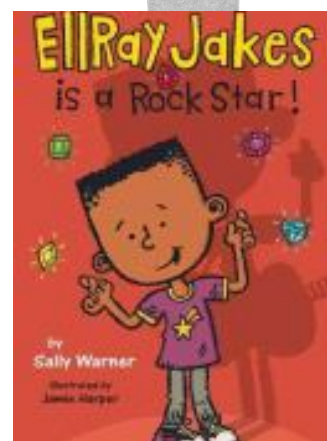
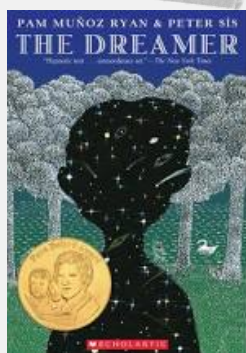
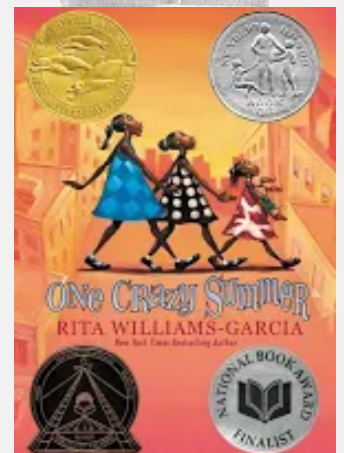
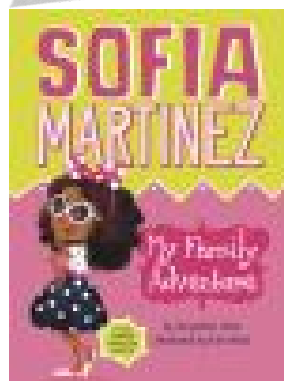
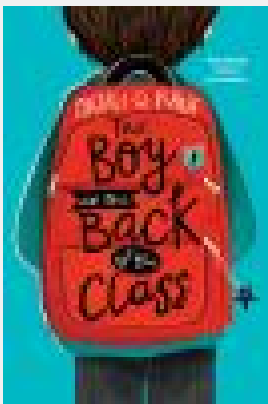
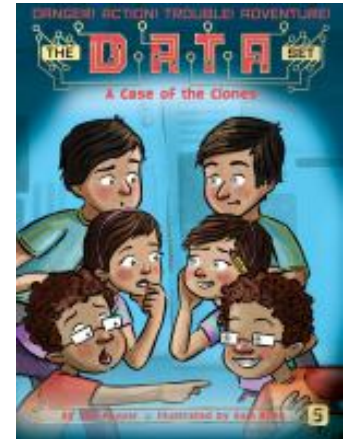
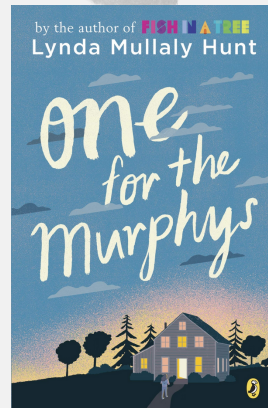
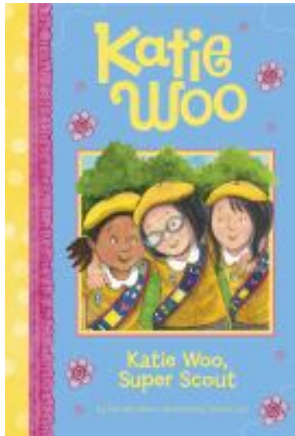
### BE A ROLE MODEL

Children become culturally sensitive and respectful when they see their parents model these qualities and behaviors. Let your child witness you being an advocate for peace and equality. Take a strength based approach when discussing others who are different: that is, focusing on the positive traits and abilities of the person as well as their sameness.

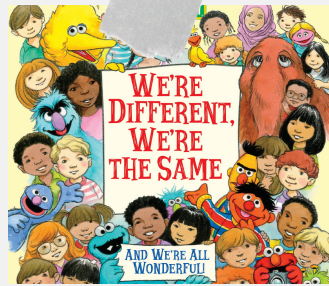
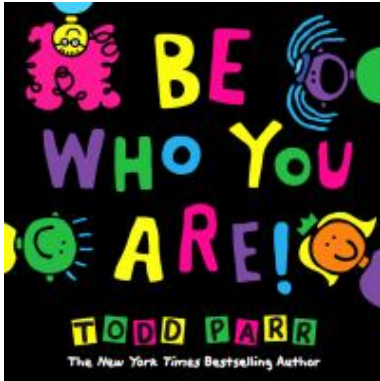
### DIVERSITY= DIFFERENCES

Don't be afraid to talk to your kids about race. Dismissing questions makes them feel that something is wrong. Research shows that having open dialogue with children about difference in race and ethnicity actually helps decrease prejudice, and increase acceptance.

# BOOKS FOR EARLY CHAPTER BOOK READERS DIVERSITY

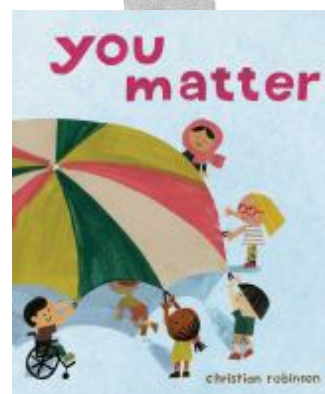
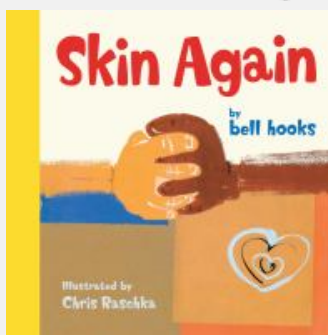
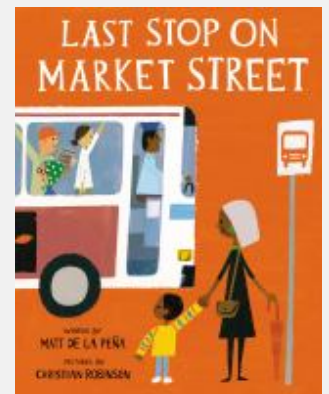
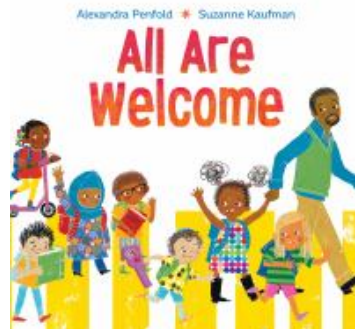
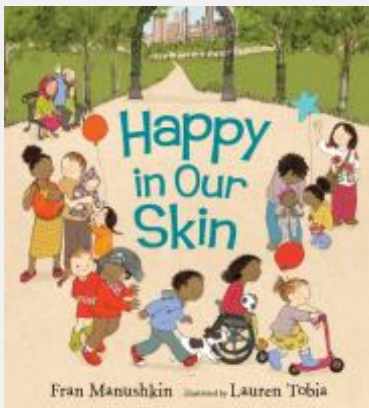


# BOOKS FOR CHILDREN ABOUT DIVERSITY



## STORY TIME!

Read together as a family and then talk about the book when you are done.





# m arvelous m e

Tell the table about yourself based on  
which color m&m you pull out of your bag



something  
about  
yesterday



things  
you do  
well



toiletries  
you could  
not live  
without



favorite  
movie, book  
or food



your favorite  
thing(s) about  
your child(ren)



something  
you would  
like to do  
in the next  
6 months



\*With the help of  
an adult, cut open  
the m&m's.

Some m&m's are green,  
some m&m's are blue.

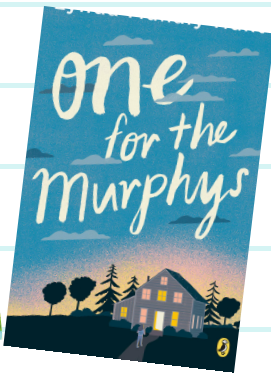
But on the **inside**, they're the  
same, just like me and you!

Some people are brown, some  
people are white. But on the  
**inside** our hearts are just alike.

So always remember...

no matter what you do,  
It's not the outside that counts.  
it's what's **inside** that makes you,  
YOU!

# COMMUNITY READ FAMILY KIT



M&M Diversity  
Family Activity

Books to Read and talk about  
together! After your done  
share with friends and start a  
conversation with them too!



Diversity colored crayons and a  
coloring book with activities  
and coloring sheets.

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