



***Just** is for justice

DREAM is for:

Diversity
anti-Racism
Equality
Acceptance
Motivation

Just DREAM* Committee

Last updated 9/18/2016

JUST DREAM Toolkit – *DRAFT*

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Introduction

This is a set of resources for parents compiled by The Children's School's Just DREAM Committee and Polly Smith, the TCS Librarian. This list includes books for children, books for parents, websites and resource lists that members of the committee think will be helpful in starting/continuing conversations about issues related to diversity and social justice. While book links included in the site are to Amazon or Goodreads, we encourage you to use your local library. Most of the books mentioned in this list are available for order through the [SWAN Library system](#).

We recognize that this list is not comprehensive, and we welcome suggestions for topics and resources that we are missing. We see this as a growing and evolving list that benefits from the collective knowledge of members of the TCS community.

Have a resource to add? Wonder why a resource is included? We welcome your thoughts and insights as well as your experiences as you use this list. Please e-mail us at tcsjustdream@gmail.com.

Resource Lists

[TCS Library Resource Page](#): This TCS Library web page is full of great resources on diversity. Check it out!

[We Need Diverse Books](#): From Polly Smith, the TCS Librarian: If I were to add a single resource on the topic of diversity in children's books it would be the (new but growing) campaign called We Need Diverse Books--which is a jumping off point to many resources via Twitter, Tumblr, Pinterest, etc.

[University of Wisconsin's Children's Book Center; 50 Multicultural Books Every Child Should Know](#)

[TCS Best New Books in Diversity and Social Justice](#): This is a list from the TCS library of the best new books in diversity and social justice, which are all a part of the TCS collection.

Anti-bias and Diversity Parenting Resources (General)

[A Guide to Selecting and Sharing Books for Diversity](#): TCS librarian Polly Smith created this guide about diversity in kids' books: what to look for and how to talk about them with children. Includes links to resources.

[Teaching Tolerance: Beyond the Golden Rule](#): This is the parenting guide for the Teaching Tolerance Curriculum that is being used at TCS. It has different sections for talking with kids about tolerance during the preschool years, the elementary and preteen years, and the teen years.

It also has a section on reflecting upon our own biases. This could be very useful for helping to answer questions that our kids have when the curriculum is used in the classroom.

[*Far From the Tree: Parents, Children and the Search for Identity*](#), by Andrew Solomon. Solomon writes about families coping with deafness, dwarfism, Down syndrome, autism, schizophrenia, or multiple severe disabilities; with children who are prodigies, who are conceived in rape, who become criminals, who are transgender. While each of these characteristics is potentially isolating, the experience of difference within families is universal, and Solomon documents triumphs of love over prejudice in every chapter. (Amazon)

Anti-Racism and White Privilege Resources

[**A Family Guide to Talking About Race**](#): This is the family guide for the Understanding Race exhibit, which talks about how to discuss issues of race with children ages 3-10 and provides some suggested activities for the different age groups.

[*Mixed: Portraits of Multiracial Kids*](#), by Kip Fulbeck: From TCS Just DREAM Member Miranda Johnson: This book is a collection of pictures, drawings, and vignettes that celebrate the voices and stories of multiracial children. My children—who are biracial—always enjoy flipping through this book, seeing the children featured in it, and hearing their stories. I think children regardless of their race would enjoy this book and seeing all the things they have in common with the children featured in the book (like sports, hobbies, clothing choices, interest in art, challenges with siblings, etc.). This book is as much about multiethnic children (which so many children in the U.S. are) as it is about multiracial children, and it features children of all different types of ethnic backgrounds and mixes.

[**Challenging White Supremacy Workshop \(CWS\)**](#): A set of workshops and resources created by white anti-racist organizers who are dedicated to helping white social justice activists build their capacity to counteract white privilege and to work for racial justice in their social justice work.

[**The Race Institute for k-12 Educators**](#): The Race Institute's resource list contains books, films, websites and blog posts focused on anti-racist education.

[**Crossroads Anti-Racism Organizing and Training**](#): This organizing and training institute based out of Matteson, IL has developed a book list and other resources on anti-racism.

[**The New Voters: Identity and U.S. Politics**](#): A team of 12 journalism fellows at the University of Maryland, including two visiting fellows from the University of Missouri and University of Texas at Austin, spent the summer of 2009 taking an in-depth look at how demographic trends are influencing American voting behavior and attitudes as part of News21, a national journalism program.

Civil Rights and Social Justice

[*Freedom on the Menu: The Greensboro Sit-Ins*](#), by Carole Boston Weatherfield. Set in Greensboro, North Carolina, in 1960, this picture book about the Greensboro sit-ins tells a story of desegregation from the viewpoint of one little girl. Simple and straightforward, the first-person narrative relates events within the context of one close-knit family. Gr. 1-3. (Booklist)

[*Separate is Never Equal: Sylvia Mendez and Her Family's Fight for Desegregation*](#), by Duncan Tonatiuh. When Sylvia Mendez moved to Westminster, California, in the 1940s, she quickly found out that not everyone was welcome in her new neighborhood. Sylvia and her brother have to attend the "Mexican" school—Hoover School. Eventually, the Mendez family and others filed a lawsuit, *Mendez v. Westminster*, that predated *Brown v. Board of Education* by almost 10 years. It would desegregate schools in California, affecting more than 5,000 Latino children. Gr 1–4. (School Library Journal).

[*Who Was Nelson Mandela?*](#), by Pam Pollack and Meg Belviso. As a child he dreamt of changing South Africa; as a man he changed the world. Nelson Mandela spent his life battling apartheid and championing a peaceful revolution. He spent twenty-seven years in prison and emerged as the inspiring leader of the new South Africa. He became the country's first black President and went on to live his dream of change. (Amazon)

* Check out the [Who Was? series](#) for lots of other great books like [*Who Was Jackie Robinson?*](#), [*Who Was Marie Curie?*](#), and many others.



[*Child of the Civil Rights Movement*](#):*¹ by Paula Young Shelton. Paula Young Shelton, daughter of Civil Rights activist Andrew Young, brings a child's unique perspective to an important chapter in America's history. Paula watched and listened to the struggles, eventually joining with her family—and thousands of others—in the historic march from Selma to Montgomery. (Goodreads)



[*A Dream Of Freedom*](#):* by Diane McWhorter. In this history of the modern Civil Rights movement...Beginning with an overview of the movement since the end of the Civil War,

¹ An asterisk next to the book title indicates that TCS owns this title.

McWhorter also discusses such events as the 1956 MTGS bus boycott, the 1961 Freedom Rides, and the 1963 demonstration in Birmingham, Alabama, among others. (Goodreads)



Discovering Black America: From the Age of Exploration to the Twenty-First Century:*

“Discovering Black America” offers readers an unprecedented account of more than 400 years of African American history set against a background of American and global events... (Goodreads)



Brave Girl: Clara and the Shirtwaist Makers' Strike of 1909:* by Michelle Markel and Caldecott Honor...comes this true story of Clara Lemlich, a young Ukrainian immigrant who led the largest strike of women workers in U.S. history...It follows the plight of immigrants in America in the early 1900s, tackling topics like activism and the U.S. garment industry, with handstitching and fabric incorporated throughout the art. (Amazon)



Sit-In: How Four Friends Stood Up by Sitting Down:* This picture book is a celebration of the 50th anniversary of the momentous Woolworth's lunch counter sit-in, when four college students staged a peaceful protest that became a defining moment in the struggle for racial equality and the growing civil rights movement.



Profiles #6: Peace Warriors:* Featuring men and women who have worked passionately to pioneer peaceful solutions to violent conflicts throughout history. Our peace warriors will include Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Dalai Lama, Desmond Tutu, Dorothy Day, and Ellen Sirleaf Johnson. Six inspiring tales of courage and conviction.



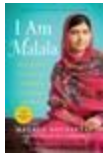
This Is the Rope: A Story From the Great Migration:* The story of one family's journey north during the Great Migration starts with a little girl in South Carolina who finds a rope under a tree one summer...for three generations, that rope is passed down, used for everything from jump rope games to tying suitcases onto a car for the big move north to New York City, and even for a family reunion where that first little girl is now a grandmother.



Rosa's Bus: The Ride to Civil Rights:* The story of the bus--and the passengers who changed history.



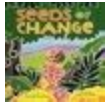
A Picture Book of Cesar Chavez:* As a child growing up in California during the Great Depression, Cesar Chavez picked produce with his family. Cesar saw firsthand how unfairly workers were treated. As an adult, he organized farmworkers into unions and argued for better pay and fair working conditions. He was jailed for his efforts, but he never stopped urging people to stand up for their rights. Young readers will be inspired by the fascinating life story of this champion of social justice.



I Am Malala: How One Girl Stood Up for Education and Changed the World:* In this Young Reader's Edition of her bestselling memoir...we hear firsthand the remarkable story of a girl who knew from a young age that she wanted to change the world -- and did. Malala's powerful story will open your eyes to another world and will make you believe in hope, truth, miracles and the possibility that one person -- one young person -- can inspire change in her community and beyond. (Amazon)



The Tree Lady: The True Story of How One Tree-Loving Woman Changed a City Forever:* Unearth the true story of green-thumbed pioneer and activist Kate Sessions, who helped San Diego grow from a dry desert town into a lush, leafy city known for its gorgeous parks and gardens. (Amazon)



Seeds of Change: Planting a Path to Peace:* A picture book biography of scientist Wangari Maathai, the first African woman and first environmentalist to win a Nobel Peace Prize (in 2004), for her work planting trees in her native Kenya. (Amazon)



Real Kids, Real Stories, Real Change: Courageous Actions Around the World: Thirty true stories profile kids who used their heads, their hearts, their courage, and sometimes their stubbornness to help others and do extraordinary things. As young readers meet these boys and girls from around the world, they may wonder, “What kind of hero lives inside of me?” (Goodreads)



Nasreen's Secret School: A True Story from Afghanistan:* Based on a true story from Afghanistan...Young Nasreen has not spoken a word to anyone since her parents disappeared. In despair, her grandmother risks everything to enroll Nasreen in a secret school for girls. Will a devoted teacher, a new friend, and the worlds she discovers in books be enough to draw Nasreen out of her shell of sadness? (Amazon)

Gender/Gender Identity²

I am Jazz, by Jessica Herthel and Jazz Jennings. 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. (Amazon)

² The aim of this section is to include books that speak to the experience of being a transgender youth, as well as other experiences of being gender expansive or of challenging conventional gender expectations. The idea is that the expression of one's gender identity is on a spectrum from cisgender (expressing the identity of one's sex assigned at birth) to transgender (expressing a gender identity different than one's sex assigned at birth), with a range of gender expressions that fall in the large gray area in between.

* Also check out the “I Am Jazz” TV series on [TLC](#) and Jazz Jennings’ [YouTube channel](#).

[***The Paper Bag Princess***](#), by Robert Munsch. This bestselling modern classic features a princess who rescues a very snooty—and ungrateful—prince. (Amazon).

[***Not All Princesses Dress in Pink***](#), by Jane Yolen. Princesses come in all kinds. Exuberant text from Jane Yolen and her daughter Heidi Yolen Stemple paired with charming illustrations prove that girls can jump in mud puddles and climb trees, play sports and make messes—all while wearing their tiaras! Not every girl has a passion for pink, but all young ladies will love this empowering affirmation of their importance and unlimited potential. (Amazon).

[***Jacob’s New Dress***](#), by Sarah and Ian Hoffman. Jacob likes to play dress up with his friend Emily, but he prefers to pretend that he is a princess rather than a knight, firefighter, or policeman. The boys in his class tease him and wonder why he wears dresses. His teacher and parents support him, and an author’s note explains how parents, educators, and counselors can make a difference in the lives of gender-nonconforming children...PreS-Gr 2. (Melissa Smith, Royal Oak Public Library, MI, School Library Journal).

[***Lily and Dunkin***](#), by Donna Gephart. Award-winning author Donna Gephart crafts a compelling dual narrative about two remarkable young people: Lily, a transgender girl, and Dunkin, a boy dealing with bipolar disorder. Their powerful story will shred your heart, then stitch it back together with kindness, humor, bravery, and love. (Amazon)

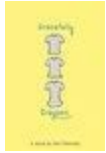
[***A Story of Change: Helping Kids Understand Transgender People***](#), by Kayce Wahl (Author). This book is a guide for parents who need help beginning conversations about adults in the family who are transgender or currently undergoing the transformation from aunt to uncle, dad to mom, etc. It encourages acceptance of change and unconditional love for the transgender community in a way small children can understand. (Amazon)

[***Hello, It’s Only Me! The Diary Of A Transgendered Kid***](#), by Layde Aphrodite. This book lends an authentic look into the lives of Transgendered children, while promoting self love and social acceptance.



[***Morris Micklewhite and the Tangerine Dress***](#):* ...Morris loves wearing the tangerine dress in his classroom’s dress-up center. The children in Morris’s class don’t understand...And Morris certainly isn’t welcome in the spaceship some of his classmates are building. Astronauts, they say, don’t wear dresses...He builds his own spaceship, hangs his painting on the front of it and

takes two of his classmates on an outer space adventure. Isabelle Malenfant perfectly captures Morris's vulnerability and the vibrancy of his imagination. (Amazon)



Gracefully Grayson:* Grayson Sender has been holding onto a secret for what seems like forever: "he" is a girl on the inside, stuck in the wrong gender's body...Debut author Ami Polonsky's moving, beautifully-written novel about identity, self-esteem, and friendship shines with the strength of a young person's spirit and the enduring power of acceptance. (Amazon)



Beyond Magenta: Transgender Teens Speak Out:* Author and photographer Susan Kuklin met and interviewed six transgender or gender-neutral young adults and used her considerable skills to represent them thoughtfully and respectfully before, during, and after their personal acknowledgment of gender preference...Each honest discussion and disclosure, whether joyful or heartbreaking, is completely different from the other because of family dynamics, living situations, gender, and the transition these teens make in recognition of their true selves. (Sexual content and strong language—older grades)



Better Nate Than Ever:* A small-town boy hops a bus to New York City to crash an audition for *E.T.: The Musical*. Tim Federle's "hilarious and heartwarming debut novel" (*Publishers Weekly*) is full of broken curfews, second chances, and the adventure of growing up—because sometimes you have to get four hundred miles from your backyard to finally feel at home. (Amazon)

Parts and Hearts: A Kids (and Grown-Ups) Guide to Transgender Transition: This book, by author Jenson Hillenbrand, helps readers understand transgender transformation, both male to female and female to male. Aimed at children between the ages of nine and twelve, this work helps readers understand what transgender transformation means and what it involves. Parents can use it as a resource to explain the subject to their children in an age-appropriate manner as well as prepare themselves to answer the many questions children will likely have. Transgender

transformation can be difficult for children and some adults to understand. This book shows it's natural and not a scary thing as some may think.

Gender Spectrum: Gender Spectrum has a wonderful assortment of resources on this topic for parents and educators. They also have a great booklist on their resources page [here](#).

A Mighty Girl: The world's largest collection of books, toys and movies for smart, confident and courageous girls. You can subscribe to their weekly e-newsletter [here](#).

Sexuality and Sexual Orientation



Worm Loves Worm:* When a worm meets a special worm and they fall in love, you know what happens next: They get married! But their friends want to know—who will wear the dress? And who will wear the tux? The answer is: It doesn't matter. Because Worm loves Worm.

Other books?

Families and Their Diversity

[Books about Incarcerated Parents:](#)

Visiting Day: by Jacqueline Woodson. A young girl and her grandmother prepare for a very special day--the one day a month they get to visit the girl's father in prison...As the little girl and her grandmother get ready, her father, who adores her, is getting ready, too, and readers get to join the community of families who make the trip together, as well as the triumphant reunion between father and child. (Amazon)

Kofi's Mom: Kofi's Mom is a story about Kofi whose mother is sent to prison. It explores his feelings of loss and confusion. Through friends at school, Kofi begins to talk about his mom and to look forward to her return. (Amazon)

The Night Dad Went to Jail: What to Expect When Someone You Love Goes to Jail: When someone you love goes to jail, you might feel lost, scared, and even mad. What do you do? No matter who your loved one is, this story can help you through the tough times. (Amazon)

My Daddy Is in Jail: Story, Discussion Guide, and Small Group Activities for Grades K-5: "My Daddy is in Jail" is a long overdue resource for helping children cope with the incarceration of a loved one. It includes a read-aloud story, discussion guide, caregiver suggestions and optional small group counseling activities. With this book, helping professionals, and other caring adults, will find themselves better equipped to provide information and support to these vulnerable children and their families. (Amazon)

[What Will Happen to Me: Every Night, Approximately Three Million Children Go To Bed With A Parent In Prison](#): What is life like for a child who has a parent in prison? This book brings together photographic portraits of 30 children whose parents are incarcerated, along with their thoughts and reflections, in their own words. (Amazon)

[Adoption:](#)

[Yafi's Family: An Ethiopian Boy's Journey of Love, Loss and Adoption](#): A tender story of a six-year-old Ethiopian boy's adoption and family history is a celebration of the all-encompassing love for each child that original families and adoptive parents, grandparents, brothers and sisters share.

*****Others? It would be great to add more titles on adoption as well as other types of families – LGBT families, single parent families, extended families, etc.*****

Immigration and Refugees

[How Many Days To America? A Thanksgiving Story](#), by Eve Bunting. After a threatening visit from the police, a Caribbean family decides they must flee to the U.S. Ages 4 to 8

[Pancho Rabbit and The Coyote: A Migrant's Tale](#), by Duncan Tonatiuh. A children's picture book featuring a family of rabbits living in near poverty. Papa Rabbit traveled north to find work two years ago and hasn't returned. Pancho then leaves to go find him, with the help of a coyote. Ages 4 to 8

[Inside Out And Back Again](#), by Thanhha Lai. Há has grown up in Saigon, the only place she's ever known. But the war is approaching and she and her family flee to America by ship. This is the story of Há's encounter with America. Ages 8 and up

[Home of the Brave](#), by Katherine Applegate. The story of a 10 year old Sudanese boy who immigrates to the U.S. to live with his aunt and cousin. Kek harbors much guilt as he thinks about the people he left behind and those who died. As he slowly learns to adapt to his new home, he encounters both racism and kindness. Ages 10 and up



[The Matchbox Diary](#):* Newberry Medalist Paul Fleischman and Bagram Ibatoulline tell a breathtaking immigration tale with appeal across generations. (Goodreads)



Barbed Wire Baseball:* As a boy, Kenichi “Zeni” Zenimura dreams of playing professional baseball, but everyone tells him he is too small. Yet he grows up to be a successful player, playing with Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig! When the Japanese attack Pearl Harbor in 1941, Zeni and his family are sent to one of ten internment camps where more than 110,000 people of Japanese ancestry are imprisoned without trials. Zeni brings the game of baseball to the camp, along with a sense of hope. This true story, set in a Japanese internment camp during World War II, introduces children to a little-discussed part of American history. (Amazon)

Remix: Conversations with Immigrant Teenagers, by Marina Budhos. As the title implies, this is a collection of 14 interviews with teenage immigrants from many different countries on 4 different continents. Ages 12 and up

Scholastic—Immigration: Stories of Yesterday and Today. A website with interactive features for kids, including a virtual tour of Ellis Island, stories of young immigrants and statistics and data on immigration. Designed for elementary school age kids.

Education World. A website with a collection of online articles and activities related to immigration. Elementary and middle school kids.



The Red Pencil:* Finally, Amira is twelve...But life in her peaceful Sudanese village is shattered when the Janjaweed arrive. The terrifying attackers ravage the town and unleash unspeakable horrors. After she loses nearly everything, Amira needs to...make the long journey-- on foot-- to safety at a refugee camp. Her days are tough at the camp, until the gift of a simple red pencil opens her mind--and all kinds of possibilities. This is an inspiring tale of one girl's triumph against all odds. (Amazon)



A Long Walk to Water: Based on a True Story:* ...begins as two stories, told in alternating sections, about two eleven-year-olds in Sudan, a girl in 2008 and a boy in 1985. The girl, Nya, is fetching water from a pond that is two hours' walk from her home: she makes two trips to the pond every day. The boy, Salva, becomes one of the "lost boys" of Sudan, refugees who cover the African continent on foot as they search for their families and for a safe place to stay. Enduring every hardship from loneliness to attack by armed rebels to contact with killer lions

and crocodiles, Salva is a survivor, and his story goes on to intersect with Nya's in an astonishing and moving way.

Socioeconomic Diversity

Crenshaw, by Katherine Applegate. Jackson and his family have fallen on hard times. There's no more money for rent. And not much for food, either. His parents, his little sister, and their dog may have to live in their minivan. Again. Crenshaw is a cat. He's large, he's outspoken, and he's imaginary...But is an imaginary friend enough to save this family from losing everything? (Amazon)

Death by Toilet Paper, by Donna Gephart. Benjamin is about to lose a whole lot more than good toilet paper. But even with his flair for clever slogans, will he be able to win a cash prize large enough to keep a promise he made to his dad before he died? (Amazon)

Last Stop on Market Street, by Matt de la Pena. Every Sunday after church, CJ and his grandma ride the bus across town. But today, CJ wonders why they don't own a car like his friend Colby. Why doesn't he have an iPod like the boys on the bus? How come they always have to get off in the dirty part of town? Each question is met with an encouraging answer from grandma, who helps him see the beauty—and fun—in their routine and the world around them. (Amazon)

Maddi's Fridge, by Lois Brandt. Best friends Sofia and Maddi live in the same neighborhood, go to the same school, and play in the same park, but while Sofia's fridge at home is full of nutritious food, the fridge at Maddi's house is empty. Sofia learns that Maddi's family doesn't have enough money to fill their fridge and promises Maddi she'll keep this discovery a secret. But because Sofia wants to help her friend, she's faced with a difficult decision: to keep her promise or tell her parents about Maddi's empty fridge...A call to action section, with six effective ways for children to help fight hunger and information on anti-hunger groups, is also included. (Amazon)



Stella's Starliner:* Though she is teased about her silver trailer home, a little girl never loses sight of life's true gifts in Rosemary Wells's sensitive, ultimately uplifting story.



Uncle Willie and the Soup Kitchen:* "A straightforward fictional view of an urban soup kitchen, as observed by a boy visiting it with his 'Uncle Willie,' who works there every day....The difficult lives of those fed (including children)--as well as the friendly, non-intrusive attitude of the kitchen workers toward them--are presented sensitively but without sentimentality.



Migrant:* Anna is the child of Mennonites from Mexico, who have come north to harvest fruit and vegetables. Sometimes she feels like a bird, flying north in the spring and south in the fall, sometimes like a jackrabbit in an abandoned burrow, since her family occupies an empty farmhouse near the fields, sometimes like a kitten, as she shares a bed with her sisters..



Mutt Dog!* Mutt Dog is brave and fast and gentle and loyal and smart, but he's also hungry, and he doesn't have a home. Then one day his luck changes, and he at last finds a family--and a cozy, loving place to belong.

Religious Diversity

Hannah's Way, by Adam Gustavson. After Papa loses his job during the Depression, Hannah's family moves to rural Minnesota, where she is the only Jewish child in her class. When her teacher tries to arrange carpools for a Saturday class picnic, Hannah is upset. Her Jewish family is observant, and she knows she cannot ride on the Sabbath. What will she do? (Amazon).

One World, Many Religions: The Ways We Worship, by Mary Pope Osborne. One World, Many Religions covers the history, beliefs, and practices of Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, and Taoism. Best-selling children's author Mary Pope Osborne presents an accessible and elegantly crafted volume that introduces young readers to the world's seven major religions...this book provides a thorough and thoughtful presentation of the diverse ways people worship around the world. (Amazon).

Religion (DK Eyewitness), by Myrtle Langley. Explore the fascinating practices, the sacred rituals, and the important role religion plays in cultures around the world. From the relationship between gods and nature in Greece to the goddess festivals in India to the emergence of the Christian community in America, this stunning book offers a wonderful overview of the world's major religions.

Relax, It's Just God: How and Why to Talk to Your Kids About Religion When You're Not Religious, by Wendy Thomas Russell. For nonreligious parents looking to raise critically thinking, religiously literate, and highly tolerant children capable of making up their own minds about what to believe...seamlessly merges scientific thought, scholarly research, and everyday experience in a book that gives nonreligious parents a toolkit to assist with their unique and complex issues. (Goodreads)

Teaching Tolerance: The Teaching Tolerance website has many classroom resources that teachers and parents can use to frame discussions of different religious beliefs and the First Amendment and religious freedom in the United States. Lesson plans can be sorted by grade level.

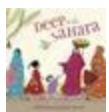
Muslim Culture:³



Does My Head Look Big In This?* When sixteen-year-old Amal decides to wear the hijab full-time, her entire world changes, all because of a piece of cloth...Can she handle the taunts of "towel head," the prejudice of her classmates, and still attract the cutest boy in school? Brilliantly funny and poignant, Randa Abdel-Fattah's debut novel will strike a chord in all teenage readers, no matter what their beliefs. (Goodreads)



1001 Inventions and Awesome Facts from Muslim Civilization* ...People living in the Muslim world saw what the Egyptians, Chinese, Indians, Greek, and Romans had discovered and spent the next one thousand years adding new developments and ideas. Each page is packed with information on this little-known history, but also shows how it still applies to our world today. (Goodreads)



Deep in the Sahara* Lalla lives in the Muslim country of Mauritania, and more than anything, she wants to wear a *malafa*, the colorful cloth Mauritanian women, like her mama and big sister, wear to cover their heads and clothes in public. But it is not until Lalla realizes that a *malafa* is not just worn to show a woman's beauty and mystery or to honor tradition—a *malafa* is for faith—that Lalla's mother agrees to slip a long cloth as blue as the ink in the Koran over Lalla's head, under her arm, and round and round her body. Then together, they pray. (Goodreads)

³ A special section on Muslim culture was added here by Polly Smith, who noted “I am always seeking books that celebrate Muslim culture, to balance out our Christian-centric culture.”



[Golden Domes and Silver Lanterns: A Muslim Book of Colors](#):* With breathtaking illustrations and informative text, *Golden Domes and Silver Lanterns* magnificently captures the world of Islam, celebrating its beauty and traditions for even the youngest readers. Sure to inspire questions and observations about world religions and cultures, this entrancing volume is equally at home in the classroom as it is being read to a child on a parent's lap.



[The Librarian of Basra: A True Story from Iraq](#):* Alia Muhammad Baker is a librarian in Basra, Iraq. For fourteen years, her library has been a meeting place for those who love books. Until now. Now war has come, and Alia fears that the library--along with the thirty thousand books within it--will be destroyed forever. In a war-stricken country where civilians--especially women--have little power, this true story about a librarian's struggle to save her community's priceless collection of books reminds us all how, throughout the world, the love of literature and the respect for knowledge know no boundaries.

Mental Health/Disability

[Disabilities \(general\)](#)

[How to Talk to Kids \(and Parents\) About Disability](#), by Amy Julia Becker. A good archived piece on conversation examples with children about differences they see with peers and people in the community. Emphasizes strengths-based approach. The author has several books available and a blog with a Christian focus (but this PBS piece does not include that).

[BabyCenter, How to talk to your child about disabilities \(ages 5 to 8\)](#). More ways to answer children's questions about people they see in the community.

[Mental Health](#)

[My Happy Sad Mummy](#), by Michelle Vasiliu. My Happy Sad Mummy is a sensitive story, told from a child's viewpoint about her mother who has bipolar disorder. It's easy to understand and beautifully illustrated. Importantly, it fills a major gap: explaining to a young child the impact on a parent of a mental illness such as bipolar disorder. This is a great resource for parents, teachers and mental health workers.

[National Alliance on Mental Illness \(NAMI\), Learning to Help Your Child and Your](#)

[Family](#): A resource page for parents concerned about potential symptoms of mental illness and how to address them. NAMI is a very good resource organization with lots of local chapters.

[Children of Parents with a Mental Illness \(COPMI\), Talking About Mental Illness with](#)

[Your Child](#). Thoughtful and thorough website for families with a parent with a mental illness.

[Resource List: Books for Children and Youth on Parent Mental Illness](#).

Almost two dozen books--fiction and nonfiction--for school-age children and teens about parents with a mental illness or neighbors/friends with a mental illness and/or are homeless. Some older titles, some more recent.

[Disabilities \(physical\)](#)



[As Brave As You](#):*...Genie's summer is full of surprises. The first is that he and his big brother, Ernie, are leaving Brooklyn for the very first time to spend the summer with their grandparents all the way in Virginia—in the COUNTRY! The second surprise comes when Genie figures out that their grandfather is blind. Thunderstruck and—being a curious kid—Genie peppers Grandpop with questions about how he covers it so well (besides wearing way cool Ray-Bans). (Goodreads)



[El Deafo](#):* Going to school and making new friends can be tough. But going to school and making new friends while wearing a bulky hearing aid strapped to your chest? That requires superpowers! In this funny, poignant graphic novel memoir, author/illustrator Cece Bell chronicles her hearing loss at a young age and her subsequent experiences with the Phonic Ear, a very powerful--and very awkward--hearing aid. (Goodreads)



[The Black Book of Colors](#):* Living with the use of one's eyes can make imagining blindness difficult, but this innovative title invites readers to imagine living without sight through remarkable illustrations done with raised lines and descriptions of colors based on imagery.

Braille letters accompany the illustrations and a full Braille alphabet offers sighted readers help reading along with their fingers... (Goodreads)



The Deaf Musicians:* Poor Lee! He used to be a jazzman who could make the piano go yimbatimba- TANG—zang-zang. But now he's lost his hearing, and the bandleader had to let him go. So Lee goes to a school for the deaf to learn sign language. There, he meets Max, who used to play the sax. Riding the subway to class, they start signing about all the songs they love. A bass player named Rose joins in and soon they've got a little sign language band. And in no time they're performing for audiences in the subway, night after night. (Goodreads)

Any books about physical disability in addition to hearing and vision impairments?