

## They Look Like ME!!

### Supporting Positive Identity Formation Through Children's Literature

When children see themselves portrayed in positive ways within the books they are reading they are able to identify with the book's protagonist. This expands their view of themselves and build's their self-concept (i.e., how they define who they are) supporting their positive identity formation.

When children see their peers portrayed in positive ways within the books they are reading it helps them frame their peers more positively. They learn that their peers have value and deserve respect; this also reinforces overall positive identity formation.

Join the Pioneers to explore how children's literature can promote and support positive identity formation for young children. The focus will be on children from Black, Latinx, and Indigenous families and children with disabilities.

Finding children's literature that is culturally appropriate and responsive can be challenging.



The Cooperative Children's Book Center, at the University of Wisconsin- Madison, School of Education, 2018 review of children's books discovered that it is easier to find children's books that depict animals than it is to find books that about children of color (<https://ccbc.education.wisc.edu/booklists/>).

Here are some websites that have booklists that you might want to check-out!!

**1. Cooperative Children’s Book Center, at the University of Wisconsin- Madison, School of Education**

This great resource offers a menu of options, organized by topics and themes, for readers of all ages. Readings address racial and ethnic diversity, dis-ability status, gender nonconformity and LGBTQ. <https://ccbc.education.wisc.edu/booklists/>

**2. American Indians in Children’s Literature (AICL)**

Established in 2006 by Dr. Debbie Reese of Nambé Pueblo, this amazing resource provides critical analysis of Indigenous peoples in children's and young adult books. Dr. Jean Mendoza joined AICL as a co-editor in 2016.

[americanindiansinchildrensliterature.blogspot.com](http://americanindiansinchildrensliterature.blogspot.com)

**3. Rebekah Gienapp Nurturing Antiracist Kids**

Rebekah Gienapp takes that lead on addressing “ableism” and all the beliefs, behaviors, and laws in our society that devalue and discriminate against people with disabilities.

[20 children's books about disability that shatter stereotypes \(rebekahgienapp.com\)](http://20childrensbooksaboutdisabilitythatshatterstereotypes(rebekahgienapp.com))

Pioneers are encouraged to read with young children and these activities will offer some starting place with a great culturally responsive literature!

**Additional Resources include:**

1. Book List Developed by Pioneer President Candace Borger
2. Ultimate Inclusion Books for Children
3. Sample Lesson Plan for teaching Elementary Science Content with Culturally Responsive Literature
4. Links for more information on Culturally Relevant Readings with the Engage Webinar Series On Demand: Engaging Reluctant Readers Three Part Series
  - Session 1 ~ Selecting Appropriate Classroom Literature for All Grands
  - Session 2 ~ Strategies for Supporting Reluctant Readers in the Classroom and at Home
  - Session 3 ~ Strategies for Integrating Literature Across the Curriculum