

The Framework of Cultural Diversity Categories

Category	Indicators
Culturally authentic/ specific/conscious	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Books ‘illuminate the experience of growing up a member of a particular, non-White cultural group’ (Bishop 1992). • Books have potential to increase appreciation and understandings of those not from this culture. • Books are written by people of the culture reflected in the book.* • Books are ‘written with a primary goal of speaking to and representing the experiences of underrepresented/marginalised groups’ (Crisp et al. 2016:34).
Culturally generic/ socially conscious	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Books ‘featuring characters who are members of so-called minority groups, but contain few, if any specific details that might serve to define those characters culturally’ (Bishop 1992). • The book’s assumed audience is White. • Themes often present white European/American/Australian values and activities. • Characters may be portrayed in stereotypical ways in illustrations. • Books are ‘written with a social agenda, intended to promote acceptance and harmony, or at least tolerance of different groups’ (Crisp et al. 2016:34).
Culturally neutral/ melting pot	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Books ‘feature people of colour but are fundamentally about something else’ (Bishop 1992). • ‘Cultural authenticity is not likely to be a major consideration’ (Bishop 1992). • The character(s) ‘of colour’ could be replaced with a white character with no impact on the overall story. • Books ‘presenting a colour-blind view of the world and/or depicting people across the rainbow of cultural identities without acknowledging it explicitly’ (Crisp et al 2016:34).
Solely Caucasian	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All humans/characters are Caucasian.
No people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-human characters or no characters at all, e.g. animal stories. • Concept books.

*Some books are written as a collaboration between an author and members of an underrepresented group. Such books usually contain an endorsement or a statement of permission or collaboration from the member(s) of the underrepresented group.

Note: In nonfiction and informational texts, don’t look at ‘characters’, but at the representation of people.