

Harper and Brand's Checklist for Selecting and Evaluating Multicultural Literature

Checklist criteria <small>(Harper and Brand 2010)</small>	
Are the author/illustrator qualified to write or illustrate material relating to the culture(s) portrayed? How?	
Have the author/illustrator conducted related research? If not, have they lived among (either as a member of or as a visitor to) the groups of people represented in the book?	
Is the story interesting to children?	
Does the story contain authentic language?	
Are factual and historical details accurate?	
Overall, is this a high-quality story, independent of its multicultural aspects?	
Are characters believable?	
Are universal human emotions, attitudes, needs, and experiences reflected?	
Do characters represent people from a variety of cultural groups?	
Are lifestyles realistic?	
Are females as well as males depicted in leadership roles?	
Does the story reflect a variety of places and times?	
Are urban, suburban, and rural settings represented realistically?	
Are cultural settings and geographical features represented accurately?	
Are real situations depicted?	

Are rigid boundaries of class, culture, religion and ethnicity dismissed?	
Are various conflicts presented for children to explore and discuss?	
How are conflicts resolved?	
Does the story offer children a variety of situations, concepts, and new ideas on which to reflect, question, and consider?	
Are values explored, rather than preached?	
Are there lessons to be learned?	
Are children exposed to multiple perspectives and values?	
How does the story promote understanding of our diverse society?	
Are diverse populations represented?	
Is there diversity within cultural groups?	
Are characters realistically and genuinely represented?	
Do the illustrations avoid reinforcing societal stereotypes?	
Do the illustrations and text use authenticity to demonstrate respect for other cultures?	
Do the illustrations and text convey characteristics common to all people and cultures?	
Is the story age appropriate; can children understand what is presented?	
Is the story individually appropriate in terms of children's family backgrounds?	
Does the story reflect the social, linguistic, and cultural contexts in which children live or to which they can relate?	
Will the story encourage meaningful and relevant discussions?	