

Assignment 1: Recommended Books for Young Children

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Recommended Books for Young Children

Section 1

Children start developing an understanding of identity from a very young age. It is ideal for children and families to see themselves represented in books as it allows them to build connections. By having the ability to relate to characters in a book, children will be more likely to understand the text since they will form connections with their own lives. In an early childhood setting, children may feel like they have to hide their cultures to fit in and be accepted, but children should be able to recognize who they are and be proud of it. They should be able to choose books that let them feel connected to the content; offering books that allow them to see themselves in the pages help support their development, confidence, and self-esteem. If children do not see their lives and interests reflected in the books around their setting, such as a classroom or early childhood setting, they may feel that reading is not for them (Cole & Verwayne, 2018).

By portraying the groups that have endured systemic bias in children's literature, professionals may educate children about these groups in a way that makes them curious and willing to learn more. Children's literature can provide a way for them to learn about significant historical events and honour the contributions of major influencers in the struggle for racial equality. For instance, when a child reads about people of colour experiencing difficulties such as racism, discrimination, or unfairness, they may begin to ask more questions: "What makes them different from other people?", "Why is this person experiencing this but not this person?" as they become curious. The most important thing a child can do is ask questions about the material they read. Children are naturally curious about the world around them, enabling them to be more open to connections. When children ask questions, educators and/or professionals can learn what the children are thinking and feelings about the new information they have learned. Children are introduced to a new environment, but by learning about individuals' negative experiences, they can

also learn about equity and begin treating other people and children fairly because children do what they are taught and pass on what they learn. Most importantly, children can reflect on what they can do to change the world for the better.

Section 2

The specific group that I have chosen to highlight in this assignment is immigrants. Immigrant refers to a person who is, or who has ever been, a landed immigrant or permanent resident in a foreign country (Polanyi et al., 2017). Examples of inequities and challenges experienced by immigrants include: unemployment or underemployment, discrimination, language barriers (Bernhard et al., 2007), transportation difficulties, lack of resources, including lack of access to public services and social programs, access to medical services, cultural differences, and racism. Families who immigrate have language and cultural limitations that prevent them from fully engaging and being involved in their children's participation in available early learning programs and/or schools (Kirova, 2010). Children who immigrate also face inequities and challenges such as identity confusion, a lack of understanding of new customs in schools, making new friends, language barriers, and academic difficulties. Families that immigrate also leave some family members behind, not knowing when they will see each other again, and they leave their home country, possibly the only home they have ever known which can lead to anxiety and depression. It is difficult to settle as an immigrant, and I believe we need better resources to ensure their safety and living standards. Organizations that fund housing can help immigrants find affordable housing, and schools or early childhood programs can provide translators for families who do not know how to communicate in English. Educators or professionals can help the children they see struggling individually. Overall, the government and publicly funded organizations must do a better job of assisting immigrant families because they come to a country such as Canada in search of better and safer opportunities, not more struggles.

Section 3

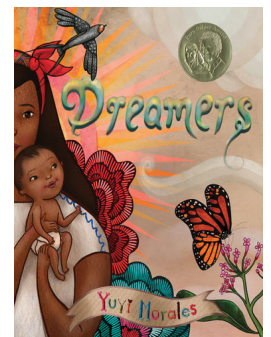
Book 1. All Are Welcome:

- The book, All Are Welcome celebrates the diversity and inclusion of children that come from around the world. The book gives an insight about children going to school, an environment where everyone is treated with respect. A place where children from different cultures can celebrate and learn one another's traditions. This book shows young children that they are always welcome and have a safe place in their school, no matter what.
- A positive feature of the book is that it includes children and their families wearing patkas, hijabs, baseball caps and yarmulkes. This allows the readers to learn about different cultural and religious clothing which they may want to learn more about.
- **Author:** Alexandra Penfold.
- **Illustration:** Suzanne Kaufman.
- **Publisher:** Knopf Books for Young Readers.
- **Year of Publication:** 2018.
- **Reading Age:** 4-8 years.
- **Grade Level:** Preschool to Grade 3.



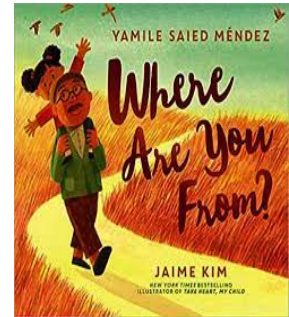
Book 2. Dreamers:

- This book is about the author's experience of immigrating to America from Mexico with her young son. Dreamers is a celebration of establishing your home with the things you always carry: your resilience, your dreams, your hopes, and your history. It was difficult for her to learn a new language, pick up new customs, and leave the only home she had ever known. She left everything behind, but she carried stories, passion, strength, and hopes with her. It tells the story of figuring out how to live in a foreign environment and discovering its positive aspects.
- A positive feature of this book is the illustrations full of colour. As a result of the images' vibrant colours, readers may find it easier on their emotions to read this touching and emotional story.
- **Author:** Yuyi Morales.
- **Illustrator:** Yuyi Morales.
- **Publisher:** Neal Porter Book.
- **Year of Publication:** 2018.
- **Reading Age:** 4 to 8 years.
- **Grade Level:** Preschool to Grade 3.



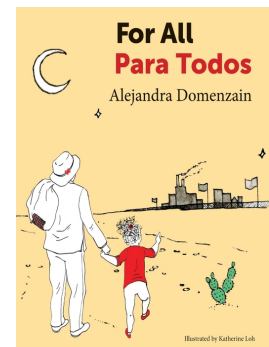
Book 3. Where Are You From? :

- This book is about how a little girl does not know what to answer when someone asks where she is from. As someone who immigrated to the United States from Puerto Rico, she turns to her grandfather for guidance because she is unsure of who she is and does not know where she belongs. This book promotes acceptance, identity, and a sense of belonging.
- A positive feature of this book is the illustrations, specifically the two-page watercolour spreads of the landscapes the grandpa tells the little girl about when she asks him where she is from. It catches the readers' attention, thus engaging the intended user.
- **Author:** Yamilé Saied Méndez.
- **Illustrator:** Jaime Kim.
- **Publisher:** HarperCollins.
- **Year of Publication:** 2019.
- **Reading Level:** 4 to 8 years.
- **Grade Level:** Preschool to Grade 3.



Book 4. For All: Para Todos:

- This book is about a father and his daughter who are forced to immigrate to the United States from Mexico. The young girl is forced to witness how her father deals with injustice because her father works long hours for little compensation, and she will not have the same possibilities that other children may. In a new school, she tries to find her position and her voice. Before immigrating to the United States, the young girl is exposed to several optimistic representations of what life is apparently like "over there" in the United States, but she is unaware of the difficulties that come with being an immigrant.
- A positive feature of this book is that it is a bilingual book, English and Spanish. It is a fantastic book for children who speak Spanish as it can help them learn both languages and expand their vocabulary. Some children may be drawn towards the book as they see the language used in a well-known book.
- **Author:** Alejandra Domenzain.
- **Illustrator:** Katherine Loh.
- **Publisher:** Hard Ball Press.
- **Year of Publication:** 2021.
- **Reading Age:** 5 to 12 years.
- **Grade Level:** Kindergarten to Grade 7.



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