

A Problem of Diversity



- Research by the Cooperative Children's Book Center shows only 10% of books published for children in the last ten years feature a person of color (POC) as the protagonist; studies by Lee and Low show that trend going back 21 years at least.
- 2014 and 2015 show improvement, with about 14% of children's books featuring a POC protagonist
- Lee and Low's Diversity Baseline Survey shows that the publishing industry is overwhelmingly white (79%), [cis-]female (78%), heterosexual (88%) and non-disabled (92%).
- Note that US Census data shows that the US is 38% POC

Books by POC



- ❧ Interestingly, the Cooperative Children's Book Center also reported that
 - ❧ Of 398 books about POC published in 2014, only 168 were written/illustrated by POC – that means 57% were created by someone from *outside* of the culture.
 - ❧ Note that POC produced 292 books. Not all were about POC.
 - ❧ Of 495 books about POC published in 2015, only 186 were written/illustrated by POC – that means 62% were created by someone from *outside* of the culture.
 - ❧ Note that POC produced 348 books. Not all were about POC.

Cultural Content



☞ Latino kid lit in 2014

- ☞ 66 books were published about Latinos
- ☞ Only 36 of these were written/illustrated by Latinos
- ☞ 23 of those 36 had no significant Latino cultural content
- ☞ So just 13/66 (20%) have true cultural relevance (key for struggling learners of English).

☞ Latino kid lit in 2015

- ☞ 82 books were published about Latinos
- ☞ 57 of these were written/illustrated by Latinos
 - ☞ 17 had no significant Latino cultural content, so 40/82 (49%) have true cultural relevance.

Where to Find Them



We're looking for true cultural relevance in Latino speculative or genre fiction. Select texts in which Latino identity isn't superficial, but deeply woven into narrative and characterization.

- ☞ A good place to start is Latin@s in Kid Lit, which keeps good track of existing/upcoming titles:
<https://latinosinkidlit.com>
- ☞ Look at the books selected for the Pura Belpré, Tomás Rivera, Las Américas, etc.
- ☞ REFORMA, ALSC, CLASP and other organizations have useful lists as well