



CELEBRATE DIVERSITY
Multicultural Picture Books
The Urbana Free Library 4/06

E/ADOFF

Black is brown is tan.

Arnold Adoff.

Illustrations by Emily Arnold McCully.

This newly illustrated version of an old favorite, depicts a family celebrating “all the colors of the race.”

E / AJMERA

To be a kid.

Maya Ajmera and John D. Ivanko.

Text and photographs from countries around the world illustrate some of the activities children everywhere have in common.

j468 / ANC

Mi casa = my house.

George Ancona.

The ways and customs of a Mexican-American family come to life in photographs and descriptive text.

E / ASHLEY

Cleversticks.

Bernard Ashley.

Illustrated by Derek Brazell.

Wishing he had something to be clever at like each of the other children in his class, Ling Sung unexpectedly and happily discovers the others admire his prowess with chopsticks.

E / BELAFONTE

Island in the sun.

Harry Belafonte and Lord Burgess.

Illustrations by Alex Ayliffe.


Illustrations accompany the words to a song made popular by Harry Belafonte, paying tribute to his island childhood.

j398.2096894 / BRY

Beautiful blackbird.

Ashley Bryan.

In a story of the Ila people, the colorful birds of Africa ask Blackbird, whom they think is the most beautiful of birds, to decorate them with some of his “blackening brew.”



j305.23 / CAS

For every child.

Caroline Castle.

This book, published by UNICEF and illustrated by various artists from around the world, enumerates the rights of the child in words and pictures.

J398.8 / CRE

The neighborhood Mother Goose.

This collection of nursery rhymes, both familiar and lesser known, is illustrated with photographs in a city setting.

j398.20951 / DEM

The donkey and the rock.

Demi.

In this version of a tale with many Asian variations, a wise king, who rules a town full of foolish people in the mountains of Tibet, puts a donkey and a rock on trial to settle the dispute between two honest men.

j468 / DOM

The perfect piñata.

Kelli Kyle Dominguez.

Illustrated by Diane Paterson.

Marisa picks out a butterfly piñata for her birthday party, but by the day of the party, she decides it is too beautiful to break.

j468 / GUY

Fiesta!

Ginger Foglesong Guy.

Illustrated by Rene King Moreno.

This bilingual text describes a children's party and provides practice counting in English and Spanish.

E / HAMANAKA

All the colors of the Earth.

Sheila Hamanaka.

This poetic verse reveals that, despite outward differences, children everywhere are essentially the same and all are lovable.

E / HAYES

Happy Christmas, Gemma.

Sarah Hayes.

Illustrated by Jan Ormerod.

Little Gemma and her family prepare for Christmas all week and have a merry day.



E / HOOKS

Be boy buzz.

Bell Hooks.

Illustrated by Chris Raschka.

A celebration of being in love with being a boy, this title enumerates how a boy is a bold all bliss boy, an all bad boy beast, a boy running, a boy jumping, and even a boy sitting down.

E / HOOKS

Happy to be nappy.

Bell Hooks.

Illustrated by Chris Raschka.

Colorful illustrations celebrate the joy and beauty of nappy hair.

E / HOOKS

Homemade love.

Bell Hooks.

Illustrated by Shane W. Evans.

Through the constant love and support of her parents, Girlpie learns not to be afraid of the dark.

E / INTRATER

ABC look at me: a lift and learn book.

Robert Grobel Intrater.

Lift the letters and discover an expression for every mood.

E / JOHNSON

Daddy calls me Man.

Angela Johnson.

Illustrated by Rhonda Mitchell.

Inspired by his family experiences and his parents' paintings, a young boy creates four poems.

E / JOHNSON

Do like Kyla.

Angela Johnson.

Illustrated by James E. Ransome.

A little girl imitates her big sister Kyla all day, until in the evening Kyla imitates her.

E / JOHNSON

Tell me a story, Mama.

Angela Johnson.

Illustrated by David Soman.

A young girl and her mother remember together all the girl's favorite stories about her mother's childhood.



E / JOHNSON

Violet's music.

Angela Johnson.

Illustrated by Laura Huliska-Beith.

From the day she banged her rattle in the crib, Violet has been looking for friends to share her love of music.

E / JOHNSON

When I am old with you.

Angela Johnson.

Illustrated by David Soman.

A child imagines being old with Granddaddy and joining him in such activities as playing cards all day, visiting the ocean, and eating bacon on the porch.

E / KATZ

The colors of us.

Karen Katz.

Seven-year-old Lena and her mother observe the variations in the color of their friends' skin, which remind them of foods and things found in nature.

E / KATZ

My first Chinese New Year.

Karen Katz.

A girl and her family prepare for and celebrate Chinese New Year.

J306.874/KER

You and me together; moms, dads, and kids around the world.

Barbara Kerley.

Moms, dads, and kids from all over the world share their everyday lives.

E / KIMMEL

The magic dreidels; a Hanukkah story.

Eric A. Kimmel.

Illustrated by Katya Krenina.

When an old lady swindles him out of his magic dreidels, Jacob tries to get them back in time for the family's Hanukkah celebration.

E / LEE

In the leaves.

Huy Voun Lee.

On a visit to a farm, Ming shows his friends the new Chinese characters he has learned by explaining that they are like pictures.



E / LIN

Dim sum for everyone.

Grace Lin.

A child describes the various little dishes of dim sum that she and her family enjoy on a visit to a restaurant in Chinatown.

E / LIN

Kite flying.

Grace Lin.

The joy of making and flying a kite with her family is described by a small girl.

E / MANDELBAUM

You be me, I'll be you.

Pili Mandelbaum.

A brown-skinned daughter and her white father experiment to see what it would be like to have the other's skin color.

E / MCDONALD

Baya, baya, lulla-by-a.

Megan McDonald.

Illustrated by Vera Rosenberry.

As a mother in rural India sings to her baby, a weaverbird builds a nest for its young.

E / MILLER

We all sing with the same voice.

J. Philip Miller and Sheppard M. Greene.

Illustrated by Paul Meisel.

This joyful Sesame Street song embraces the notion that no matter where children live, what they look like, or what they do, they're all the same where it counts – at heart.

E / MORRIS

Bread, bread, bread.

Ann Morris.

Photographs by Ken Heyman.

Simple text and illustrations celebrate many different kinds of bread and tell how each may be enjoyed.

E/MORRIS

Shoes, shoes, shoes.

Ann Morris

Photographs by Ken Heyman.

Shoes for dancing, playing, walking, and more are shown in photographs of people around the world.



E / NEWMAN

The eight nights of Chanukah.

Leslea Newman.

Illustrated by Elivia Savadier.

The wondrous days of Chanukah come to life through the eyes of a young child, whose family gathering grows bigger and bigger as the holiday progresses.

E / NIKOLA-LISA

Bein' with you this way.

W. Nikola-Lisa.

Illustrated by Michael Bryant.

While visiting the park, a little girl and her friends celebrate diversity through the irresistible beat of playground rap and exuberant verse.

j306.85 / OMM

Families: around the world, one kid at a time.

Uwe Ommer.

Portraits and profiles of children and their family life around the world are featured in this oversize title.

j468 / ORO

Diez deditos = ten little fingers & other play rhymes and action songs from Latin America.

Jose-Luis Orozco.

Illustrated by Elisa Kleven.

Finger rhymes and action songs include both English and Spanish text.

E / PAK

Sumi's first day of school ever.

Soyung Pak.

Illustrated by Joung Un Kim.

By the time Sumi finishes her first day of school, she decides that school is not as lonely or scary as she had thought.

E / PINKNEY

Hush, little baby.

Brian Pinkney.

In this illustrated version of the original folk song, the father promises the world to his restless baby daughter.



E / PINKNEY

Shades of black.

Sandra L. Pinkney.

Photographs by Myles C. Pinkney.

Photographs and poetic text celebrate the beauty and diversity of African American children.

j468 / PIO

Pio peep!: traditional Spanish nursery rhymes.

Selected by Alma Flor and F. Isabel Campoy.

Illustrated by Vivi Escriva.

This collection of more than two dozen nursery rhymes in Spanish, from Spain and Latin America, includes English translations.

j 303.66 / RAD

What does peace look like?

Vladimir Radunsky.

Simple text and illustrations portray what peace looks, sounds, tastes, feels, and smells like to children around the world.

E / RAFFI

This little light of mine.

Raffi.

Illustrated by Stacey Schuett.

In this illustrated version of the traditional song about letting one's light shine around the world, children of all ages work together to put on a school play, while encouraging a shy star to let her own light shine in the grand finale.

E / RECORVITS

My name is Yoon.

Helen Recorvits.

Illustrated by Gabi Swaitkowska.

Disliking her name as written in English, Korean-born Yoon, refers to herself as "cat," "bird," and "cupcake," as a way to feel more comfortable in her new school and new country.

j468 / REI

Tortillas and lullabies.

Lynn Reiser.

Illustrated by Corazones Valientes.

A young girl describes things that her great-grandmother, grandmother, and mother all did for their daughters, and that she does for her doll.



E / ROSEN

Chanukah lights everywhere.

Michael J. Rosen.

Illustrated by Melissa Iwai.

A young boy counts the candles on the family menorah and the lights he sees in the world around him on each night of Hanukkah.

E / ROTNER

Lots of dads.

Shelley Rotner and Sheila M. Kelly.

Photographs depict a variety of fathers engaged in different activities, with an emphasis in the brief text on the similarities of fathers everywhere.

E / ROTNER

Lots of moms.

Shelley Rotner and Sheila M. Kelly.

A variety of mothers engaged in different activities are depicted in photographs, with an emphasis on the similarities of mothers everywhere.

E / ROTNER

Many ways: how families practice their religion.

Shelley Rotner and Sheila M. Kelly.

Photographs highlight the differences and similarities among various religions.

E / SAY

Tree of cranes.

Allen Say.

A Japanese boy learns of Christmas when his mother decorates a pine tree with paper cranes.

E / SHEA

Ten mice for Tet.

Peg Shea and Cynthia Weill.

Illustrated by To Ngoc Trang.

A village of mice prepares for Tet, or Vietnamese New Year, as different numbers of mice give gifts, cook food, and celebrate in other traditional ways. An afterward with facts about the holiday is included.

E / SIS

Madlenka.

Peter Sis.

Madlenka, whose New York City neighbors include a French baker, an Indian news vendor, the Italian ice-cream man, the South American grocer, and the Chinese shopkeeper, goes around the block to show her friends her loose tooth and finds it is like taking a trip around the world.



E / STOJIC

Hello world: greetings in 42 languages from around the globe!

Manya Stojic.

Children from around the world say “hello” in forty-two languages, from Amharic to Zulu.

E / STUVE-BODEEN

Elizabeti’s doll.

Stephanie Stuve-Bodeen.

Illustrated by Christy Hale.

When a young Tanzanian girl gets a new baby brother, she finds a rock, which she names Eva, and makes it her baby doll.

E / TABACK

Joseph had a little overcoat.

Simms Taback.

A very old overcoat is recycled numerous times into a variety of garments.

E / TARPLEY

I love my hair!

Natas`ha Anastasia Tarpley

Illustrated by E.B. Lewis.

A young African American girl describes the different, wonderful ways she can wear her hair.

E / TORRES

Liliana’s grandmother.

Leyla Torres.

Because one of her grandmothers lives down the street and the other in a far away country, Liliana experiences two very different ways of life when she visits them.

E / TRINCA

One woolly wombat.

Rod Trinca and Kerry Argent.

Illustrated by Kerry Argent.

Humorous illustrations depict fourteen Australian animals, introduced in rhyme, along with the numbers from one to fourteen.

E / TYLER

The skin you live in.

Michael Tyler.

Illustrated by David Lee Csicsko.

The concept of skin is explored in verse to encourage self-esteem and celebrate the ways in which children are both similar and unique.



E / WEISS

The world turns round and round.

Nicki Weiss.

Children describe the gifts that they have received from relatives around the world.

E / WELLS

Yoko's paper cranes.

Rosemary Wells.

When Yoko moves from Japan to California, she decides to make and send origami cranes to her grandmother for her birthday.

E / WONG

Apple pie 4th of July.

Janet S. Wong.

Illustrated by Margaret Chodos-Irvine.

A Chinese American child fears that the food her parents are preparing to sell on the Fourth of July will not be eaten.

E / WONG

Buzz.

Janet S. Wong.

Illustrated by Margaret Chodos-Irvine.

As mommy and daddy begin their day and get ready for work, a child observes this morning routine at home as well as the buzzing of a busy bee outside the window.

E / WONG

This next new year.

Janet S. Wong.

Illustrated by Yangsook Choi.

A family prepares to celebrate the Lunar New Year and look forward to the good luck they hope it will bring.

E / WONG

From my window.

Olive Wong.

Illustrated by Anna Rich.

A boy looks out at snow, trees, people, and other things from his apartment window.

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