

# Supercharge Your Collection

## **A Boy and a Jaguar** by Alan Rabinowitz

A boy at the Bronx Zoo is sad because he is afraid the big cats are being punished. He wants to be their champion, but he has a stutter – except when he talks to animals. This story comes from the real-life experience of the author who had a stutter when he was growing up. A 2015 Schneider Family Book Award Winner.

## **A Chair for My Mother** by Vera B. Williams

A wonderful story, incorporating racial and economic diversity.

## **Baby Tamer** by Mark Teague

Amanda Smeedy is in charge as the babysitter intent on letting the kids wear themselves ragged trying to taunt her.

## **Bee-Bim Bop!** by Linda Sue Park

The book has a wonderful, cheerful rhythm and the phrase, "bee-bim bop" that kids love to chant whenever it comes up in the story.

## **Bippity Bop Barbershop** by Natasha Tarpley

A wonderful story about a boy getting his first haircut, and his father going with him to the barbershop on Saturday. It is a book about a typical event that boys and their fathers may share, showing people of color engaged in activities that children can relate to. The camaraderie of the shop, the desire of the boy to be like his dad, the warm sharing of time, and the encouragement of older men form a great story to share anytime.

## **The Crayon Box that Talked** by Shane DeRolf

This story really makes it hit home that we all have something to offer no matter how different we may be.



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## **Everywhere Babies** by Susan Meyers & Maria Frazee

Frazee's illustrations show all kinds of babies as well as all kinds of families. It would be a great read for a storytime about families or babies.

## **Feast for 10** by Cathryn Falwell

Shows a family shopping and preparing a large dinner. The family is just like any preparing a large meal. The father and the children are also included in the preparation from shopping, cooking and setting up the table. A fun reality read showing diversity of people, ages, and roles. Thanksgiving theme.

## **Flower Garden** by Eve Bunting

This is a favorite read-aloud. It's a short book, vivid colors, and a story illustrated with characters that are all races. The main character, a young girl, is black, but her skin color has nothing to do with the story other than to show her helping buy flowers with an adult to take home and plant in a window box. It is a story that is universal and not dependent on the character's race or skin color. I especially like that many of the characters in the book look as if they represent a variety of ethnicities. Gardening becomes a universal activity.

## **Giraffes Can't Dance** by Giles Andreae

A story that describes how everyone is different but just because you don't dance like everyone else doesn't mean you can't dance in your own special way.

## **Golden Domes and Silver Lanterns: A Muslim Book of Colors** by Hena Khan

Good for a storytime on colors, with simple text and rhymes that work well for younger preschoolers. It depicts items representative of the Muslim community (e.g., prayer rug, hijab, etc.) and explains how they are used: "Red is the rug Dad kneels on to pray, facing toward Mecca five times a day." It's not centered on anything extraordinary like a holiday or an issue but it offers the opportunity for discussion if the kids have questions or can just be a very beautiful book of colors if they don't.

## **Happy to Be Nappy** by bell hooks

Great for a hair-themed story time. Pictures by award-winning illustrator Chris Raschka.



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## **How to Surprise a Dad by Jean Reagan & Lee Wildish**

The family is African-American, but that does not drive the story. This is a great everyday diversity story.

## **Hungry Johnny by Cheryl Minnema**

The story is about an Ojibwe boy worried that he won't have a chance to have any of the tasty dishes his grandmother is making for a community feast. Johnny learns from his grandmother the value of gratitude, patience, and respect in this wonderful story written by Cheryl Minnema and illustrated by Wesley Ballinger, both members of the Mille Lacs band of Ojibwe.

## **I Can, Can You? by Marjorie W. Pitzer**

A board book about a child with Down Syndrome playing in a park. An IBBY 2007 Outstanding Books for Young People exhibition selection.

## **Keisha Ann Can! by Daniel Kirk**

Young, diverse characters in the book are presented in relatable scenarios that children can identify with.

## **Kitchen Dance by Maurie Manning**

Good for themes with dance, bedtime, or families. A universal story about two children who have already been tucked in for the night, but sneak back downstairs because they hear Mama and Papa dancing in the kitchen. They are swept up in the dance with giggles and then gently put back to bed with kisses.

## **Knuffle Bunny Free: An Unexpected Diversion by Mo Willems**

This book deals with a little girl going to visit her grandparents in Holland and uses a few Dutch words in the telling of the story. Can be used in a discussion of what children call their grandparents, followed by the ways in which grandparents love their grandchildren no matter what they are called.



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## **More, More, More Said the Baby by Vera Williams**

A book about three little, much loved toddlers, all of different cultural backgrounds. They are playing with a daddy, a grandma, and a mama and everyone, no matter what their backgrounds can relate to these songs and dances that the adults play with their babies. Diversity expands to those representing different ages, too. A Caldecott Honor book.

## **My Bike by Byron Barton**

Good for a "Wheels/Circles" theme. Shows diverse communities of people in a neighborhood setting. The book subject matter isn't about diversity at all, it just shows the reality of what our neighborhoods are like.

## **Nana in the City by Lauren Castillo**

This book defines diversity in different ways, not only in terms of people with different skin complexions, but those coming from different walks of life. There is a homeless man, a man break dancing, a group of musicians playing out in the public, and more. In this story, through the guidance of his nana, a little boy appreciates the unfamiliar, and learns that even though something may be different, that doesn't necessarily mean that it is bad and scary. A 2015 Caldecott Honor Book.

## **Nine-In-One GRR! GRR! by Blia Xiong**

This is based on a folktale from the Hmong people of Laos. A somewhat longer book, good for storytimes for older children.

## **Niño Wrestles the World by Yuyi Morales**

A great read-aloud for the 4+ crowd, with lots of alphabetic knowledge/phonological awareness opportunities. The story is about a kid, who is Latino, playing lucha libre. Most kids can relate to playing pretend, and to the terrible hermanitas! Pura Belpré Award winner.

## **One Family by George Shannon**

A book that allows for so many different types of conversations: numbers, because "one" equals not just one in this book, or family gatherings, or homes, or cities - take your pick! Depicts families of different sizes and makeups reflected on the pages as the story is read.



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## **Peekaboo Morning by Rachel Isadora**

A simple story about a little boy who wakes up and plays peekaboo with members in his family including his grandparents – a bonus for those storytimes with many grandparents who are there as caretakers. The family is African American and the pictures are wonderful!

## **Please, Baby, Please by Spike Lee & Tonya Lewis Lee**

This book has a repeated refrain that invites reader engagement and participation, alliteration and rhyme to foster phonological awareness, and big, beautiful illustrations--and the characters just happen to be non-white. Authors have also written Please, Puppy, Please.

## **The Rain Stomper by Addie K. Boswell**

The amazing art by Eric Velasquez really brings the emotion and onomatopoeia of the story to life!

## **Rosie Goes To Preschool by Karen Katz**

Not only is it a great book going through the day of a preschooler, every page has diverse children – which is the real world! The author has also come out with some other books like the Baby Loves series that includes characters from diverse populations.

## **Say Hello! by Rachel Isadora**

Carmelita, her mom, and her dog Manny travel through their neighborhood to visit Carmelita's abuela, greeting their neighbors (in several languages) along the way. The story works well for both small and large groups. Minimal text, but wonderful illustrations that provide a lot of opportunity for exploration and discussion.

## **The Snowy Day by Ezra Jack Keats**

Universal in its appeal, it describes the wonderful possibilities that the first snowfall presents to a young child. A classic and must-have item for your collection! Winner of the 1963 Caldecott Medal.



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## Thanking the Moon: Celebrating the Mid-Autumn Moon Festival by Grace Lin

A wonderful book to introduce very young patrons to other cultures and how these cultures are similar to their own. Reading the book right before the US holiday of Thanksgiving reinforces how other people around the world, specifically those in China, are similarly celebrating and being thankful for their families and blessings at this harvest time of year. The author has also written [Dim Sum for Everyone](#).

## Thanks to the Animals by Allen J. Sockabasin

The author is a Passamaquoddy storyteller. In this story, a family is moving to their winter house when a small boy falls off the sled. Many different animals come out of the forest to keep him warm until his father returns to get him. This book reflects the realities of a diverse storytime because it highlights the traditions and values of a particular group and gives voice to the Native American narrative, which is often missing and/or misrepresented around Thanksgiving. The book stands alone as a fantastic, gentle story with a theme that goes beyond just being diverse. It's also a great bedtime story for the younger ones that features people of color, exposing them to different points of view and cultures, even if inadvertently. The last page of the book includes the names of the animals mentioned in the book in English and in Passamaquoddy.

## Twas Nochebuena by Roseanne Thong

Good for holiday season, this book can be used to incorporate more Spanish language materials into storytime.

## Welcoming Babies by Margy Burns Knight

Families of all different ethnicities are portrayed in the book. And because it is about how different cultures welcome babies into their families, it is appropriate to share with younger children.

## What I Look Like When I Am Angry by Heidi Leigh Johansen

This is a simple nonfiction book that shows photographs of diverse children's faces while describing the expressions the children are making. The children featured are ethnically diverse, but the book's focus is on the universality of feelings, in this case, anger.



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## **Who is the Beast?** by Keith Baker

At first glance, the tiger is the beast, but the reader soon finds that the jungle is full of beasts. The book points out that everyone has similarities and encourages understanding and acceptance of all animals (or people). Available in a big book format with gorgeous illustrations.

## **Yoko** by Rosemary Wells

This story shows that this character is trying to eat her food just like everyone else when she goes to school. Good for a food-themed storytime.



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