

Kacie Reusser

Putting Diverse Literacy into Action, 4th Grade

1. Rules by Cynthia Lord ability

Grades:4-7, Level R, Lexile 670

Citation:

Lord, C. (2006). *Rules*. Scholastic.

ISBN: 0-439-44382-2

Diversity Element: Ability

Why this book? This book is a great book because the main character has a brother who has Autism and it details her life living with him and how he has strict rules to keep him safe and how he has rules for himself. This would be perfect for my classroom because it is a great way to expose the children to Autism and others with different abilities in a kid friendly way, making it appropriate for fourth graders.

2. Rosie Revere Engineer by Andrea Beaty

Level M, Lexile 780

Citation:

Beaty, A., & Roberts, D. (2013). *Rosie Revere, engineer*. Abrams Books for Young Readers.

ISBN: 978-1-4197-0845-9

Diversity Element: Gender

Why this book? This book is a great book for girls to realize that they belong in STEM, which is typically a male dominated field. Having this book in my classroom, I want girls to recognize their potential and know that they can do anything that they want to. Being a picture book, it is a great book for fourth graders that would be enjoyable to read and allow them to get the message.

3. Bayou Magic by Jewell Parker Rhodes

Level V, Grades 4-7, Lexile: 410

Citation:

Rhodes, J.P. (2015). *Bayou magic*. Little, Brown, and company.

ISBN: 978-0-316-22485-7

Why this book? This book is a wonderful story about magic and friendship in which the main character is a black girl. I think that this would be a wonderful story for my classroom library because it is a mirror in which black girls can see themselves in, in which there are no outside forces or obstacles that she has to

overcome. A chapter book, this book is appropriately challenging for fourth graders.

Diversity Element: Race and ethnicity

4. Short by Holly Goldberg Sloan

Citation:

Sloan, H. G. (2017). *Short*. Puffin Books.

ISBN: 9780399186226

Level T, Lexile: 810

Diversity Element: Ability

Why this book? A sweet story about a girl with Dwarfism and how she overcomes the stereotypes that people have against her, such as being cast as a munchkin in her town's production of *The Wizard of Oz*. A fun and sweet story, it will challenge impressionable 4th graders see that people, no matter their ability, want to be seen as equal.

5. Esperanza Rising by Pam Munoz Ryan

Citation:

Ryan, P.M. (2000). *Esperanza rising*. Scholastic.

ISBN: 0-439-12042-x

Level V, Lexile: 750

Diversity Element: Class and income/ race and ethnicity

Why this book? A riches to rags story about a Mexican girl who went from living a high class life to working on a farm in America. This book will show students how this girl was treated and how some things, family, are more important than money. I read this book in 4th or 5th grade and loved how sweet it was and thoroughly enjoyed it and opened my eyes to how farm workers are treated and how people who are not white can be seen as less than.

6. Thank You, Mr. Falker by Patricia Polacco

Citation:

Polacco, P. (1998). *Thank you, Mr. Falker*. Philomel Books.

ISBN: 978-0-399-23166-7

Grades 3-5, level M, Lexile: 650

Diversity Element: Ability

Why this book? This is a great book about a person with dyslexia and how, with help, he was able to overcome this disability and work through it. This is great for 4th graders to read because it will allow them to see that with help and practice,

they can overcome obstacles that are in their way and help them realize that we all have different skill sets that make us awesome.

7. Crenshaw by Katherine Applegate

Citation:

Applegate, K. (2015). *Crenshaw*. Macmillan.

ISBN: 978-1-250-04323-8

Grades 3-5, Level S, Lexile: 540

Diversity Element: Class and income

Why this book? A story about a boy living in poverty, who wonders why people keep fighting and why he has to stay in his car, imagines an imaginary friend, cat named Crenshaw, to help get him through it. I chose this story for my 4th grade classroom because it will help my students know that life isn't all glamorous and there are positives to every situation.

8. Wonder by RJ Palacio

Level V, Lexile: 790

Citation:

Palacio, R. (2012). *Wonder*. Random House Children's Books.

ISBN: 978-0-375-86902-0

Diversity Element: Ability

Why this book? A wonderful story about Auggie, who has facial deformities, and how he overcomes his fears and decides to attend public school and now he has to overcome the bullies and navigate his way through making friends who care about him. This is perfect for my classroom because it will help students think about how their words carry meaning and can have positive or negative effects on others.

9. Alvin Ho by Lenore Look

Citation:

Look, L., Pham, L. U., & Strle, A. A. (2014). *Alvin Ho*. Gricca.

ISBN: 978-0-375-84930-5

Level P, Lexile: 600

Diversity Element: Race and ethnicity

Why this book? A book about a boy who is afraid of everything, but the main character is Asian. I chose this book because the book is nothing about him being Asian, no obstacles for him being Asian, he just is. This is perfect book to serve as a mirror for any Asian students that I would have in my class.

10. It Ain't So Awful, Falafel by Firoozeh Dumas

Citation:

Dumas, F. (2018). *It ain't so awful, Falafel*. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.

ISBN: 978-0-544-61231-0

Lexile: 730L, Grades: 4-7

Diversity Element: Race and ethnicity

Why this book? After moving to California shortly after the Iran Hostage Crisis, Zomorod (aka Cindy) has a hard time fitting in and facing racism due to where she is from and what is happening/happened over there in Iran. This is a great book for my library because it will let students know that no matter where people are from, they deserve to be treated with respect and show them that we can all learn from someone, especially if they are from somewhere other than us.

11. Ghost Boys by Jewell Parker Rhodes

Citation:

Rhodes, J.P. (2018). *Ghost boys*. Little, Brown, and Company

ISBN: 978-0-316-26226-2

Grades: 5-7, Level Z

*A little above level, but would still love it!

Diversity Element: Social Justice/ race and ethnicity

Why this book? A sad and tragic story about a boy being shot by the police, it will help open students' eyes to police brutality and open up the conversation about racism and the actions we can take to help prevent these events from happening.

Other Honorable mentions

We Are the Water Protectors

The Proudest Blue

Under My Hijab

The Name Jar

Number the Stars

George

I Am Jazz