

Finding Diverse Books: Diversity Quick Links (Short Version)

Introduction

Hello! Welcome to the “Finding Diverse Books” course on ABookandaHug.com. In order to prepare K-12 students to flourish in our increasingly multicultural societies, educators can help students develop cultural competence by introducing them to books that depict various cultures. In this short version video, we will be covering the Celebrate Diversity quick links that K-12 educators can use on this website to discover diverse books to include in their curriculums and/or class libraries. Throughout the screencast video, I recommend that you pause the video at any time to emulate the demonstrations and to explore the search option on your own.

Definition

The Celebrate Diversity quick links are a collection of links compiled by ABookandaHug.com that easily directs users to search results of diverse books that reflect various cultures through their characters and settings.

Location

In order to access this search option, go back to the ABookandaHug.com’s homepage. Right under the basic search section of the page, you will find a section titled “Quick Links.” The right-hand side of this section has a subsection called “Celebrate Diversity.” The first quick link— “Diversity/Diverse Books”—retrieves books that cover diversity and/or include diverse cultural experiences through their characters and settings. The other quick links available under this subsection direct users to books that depict rich African American, Asian American, Native American, Latinx, Jewish, and South Asian cultures and experiences through their characters and settings.

Tip

Like with the advanced search tools, it is possible to exercise more control by using the narrowing tools found on the left-hand side of the search results page. The narrowing tools

include category, reading level, reader personality type, keywords, authors, countries, other tags, and curriculum.

Example Search

To show how one might use this search option, let's imagine that I am a high school English teacher. To encourage my students to respect all cultures in the United States, I want to design a month-long unit where my students will actively think about diversity and learn to appreciate cultural differences. To do this, I wish to compile a list of books about diversity that I think will be appropriate for their cultural development. Students will select a book from the list and form small groups to discuss what they observed or learned. Going to the homepage, I see that there are diversity quick links named "Diversity/Diverse Books." This seems perfect! I was able to retrieve 2,500 results from this quick link. But I see that there are a lot of books for young children included in my search results. I think I will narrow my search by using the narrowing tools located on the side of the page. Let's set the "Reading Level" to "Ages 14+ (Mature Readers)." Now, I have 517 results! While there is still a lot of results, this new set of search results better meets my needs.

Benefits

The biggest advantage of using the Celebrate Diversity quick links is that they are fast and easy. There is no need to type any search terms or go through a list of tools like on the advanced search interface because there are quick links available for users to take advantage of. Just one click and users will be able to find the results that they need. Out of the three search options, the diversity quick links on ABookandaHug.com are perhaps the best way for finding books that depict the cultures and experiences of people from some of the major racial and ethnic categories.

What Next?

Congratulations! We have reached the end of this short version screencast video! If you have not watched the other two short version videos for the advanced search tools and the

Read Around the World map, I strongly recommend that you do. After viewing all three short version videos, there are only two things left for you to do to complete this course.

For the learners of this course, I have created a discussion forum activity on Padlet. This short activity will ask you to try searching for diverse books on ABookandaHug.com using any of the three search options taught in this course and to share your search experience. There is no limit on how many posts you can write, so you can post about as many search experiences as you wish. The discussion activity will give you additional opportunities to learn and be inspired by your peers. Leaving constructive feedback for your peers is welcomed and encouraged. To participate in the discussion forum, please type “diversity” when you are prompted to enter a password.

After completing the discussion activity, I would like to ask you to complete a short learner survey on Google Forms. Your responses will help me determine how well the course was able to meet your learning needs as well as find out how to further improve the course for future learners.

Once again, thank you for participating in this short course, and I hope you have great fun using ABookandaHug.com to find meaningful diverse books for your classrooms!