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Main content

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Multicultural literature can be a very powerful tool for helping children to better understand the world in which all of us live. Such literature has the potential to foster ethical respect for others and show children the commonality inherent in all people (Levin, Smith, & Strickland, 2003). Appropriate multicultural literature offers a lens through which we all can see ourselves as part of something larger, an ideal that promotes a sense of self and of community.

A positive outcome of reading multicultural literature is that children see themselves in the literature they read. It offers an empowering opportunity to experience textual images that foster cultural pride, familiarity, a sense of belonging, and cultural self-respect. Literature can help children to understand themselves and their specific and global communities. They can learn that despite some outward differences and cultural distinctions, we all share certain parts of our lives in common. Regardless of our particular cultural history, we all experience family relationships, adolescence, interactions with others, first loves, and achievement of goals. These shared experiences help to dispel notions of differences in cultures.

Culturally rich literature should provide a realistic view of the lives of various groups of people, without any bias or stereotypes. In fact, appropriate literature should challenge stereotypes, help children to recognize unfairness, and provide models for challenging inequality (Morrison, 2007). Illustrations and depictions of the characters in the text should be authentic and realistic. The stories should be relevant to children and aim to inspire them to better grasp the world around them.

Teachers, in their zeal to incorporate multicultural literature in their classrooms, must be careful to select wisely. Traditionally, such literature has focused on superficial aspects of culture like festivals, food, native dress, holidays, and famous people. Although those aspects can be valuable, we also should look at family stories; coming-of-age experiences; and topics of social justice, inhumanity, and challenges. The following are culturally rich books that address important issues and may inspire children to look within themselves and at the world differently.

A book that will inspire pride in children of color is *Cherish Today: A Celebration of Life's Moments* (2007) written by Kristina Evans and illustrated by Bryan Collier. This book is about striving to reach one's goals, persevering, and taking pride in one's accomplishments. It's a wonderful, motivational treasure and would make an excellent gift for students advancing to the next grade or the next challenge. The beautiful illustrations are of people whose feelings of fear, confusion, and excitement we can all understand.

Dizzy (Winter, 2006) tells the story of Dizzy Gillespie, "A real cool cat who must have been born with a trumpet in his hands" (n.p.). This is the story of a young boy who was bullied by other children and abused by his father. Dizzy transformed his anger into inspiration for his trumpet music and became a famous jazz musician. The author's note contains a message about Dizzy's great power as a role model, both professionally and personally. Dizzy never used...

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1598). The Ethics code also contains ethical standards related to cultural diversity related to competence (1.08), assessment (2.04), and research (6.07 and 6.11). Guideline #1: Psychologists are encouraged to recognize that, as cultural beings, they may hold attitudes and beliefs that can detrimentally influence their perceptions of and interactions with individuals who are ethnically and racially different from themselves. Indeed, cross-cultural and multicultural literature consistently indicates that all people are "multicultural beings," that all interactions are cross-cultural, and that all of our life experiences are perceived and shaped from within our own cultural perspectives (Arredondo et al., 1996; Brewer & Brown, 1998; Fiske et al., 1998; Fouad & Brown, 2000). These multicultural works of art and literature based on peace values, would promote powerful components of BCM's: "Building Confidence Measures," among people and nations, including the values of appreciation and respect for the culture of "the other". A wide program of multicultural peace education and culture should be implemented regionally and globally, through well funded and well equipped institutions, colleges and universities. In a conflict situation, there are several benefits to be reaped from the development of a multicultural and intercultural peace system. Ethics in a Multicultural Context encourages critical thinking rather than passive acceptance. The authors identify culturally troublesome issues, encourage culturally appropriate interpretations of existing ethical guidelines, and promote ethical behavior in multicultural contexts. Ethics in a Multicultural Context encourages critical thinking rather than passive acceptance. The authors identify culturally troublesome issues, encourage culturally appropriate interpretations of existing ethical guidelines, and promote ethical behavior in multicultural contexts. Designed for students and educators in counselor education and counseling, Ethics in a Multicultural Context encourages critical thinking rather than passive acceptance. Two major objectives for professional codes of ethics are described in the literature, namely: (a) to promote optimal behaviour by providing aspirational principles that encourage reflection and decision making within a moral framework, and (b) to regulate professional behaviour through monitoring and disciplinary action against those who violate prescriptive and enforceable standards of conduct (Fisher, 2003; Jordan & Meara, 1990; Lindsay, 1996; Pack-Brown & ... Multiculturalism and social justice counseling issues influence counselors' ethical thinking and behavior. we teach multicultural literature? Literature can be a mirror for reflecting and validating familiar culture and values. For other students, literature becomes a window through which they can understand and appreciate other cultures -Cox and Galda Why should we teach multicultural literature? Monroe County 2016 Census City of Rochester 2010 Census. 70.8% White 37.6% White.