
**“To JK Rowling, from
Cho Chang” by
Rachel Rostad**

Using Windows and Mirrors to Break the Single Story Narrative

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Georgetown Day School

Mission of School

Georgetown Day School honors the integrity and worth of each individual within a diverse school community. GDS is dedicated to providing a supportive educational atmosphere in which teachers challenge the intellectual, creative, and physical abilities of our students and foster strength of character and concern for others. From the earliest grades, we encourage our students to wonder, to inquire, and to be self-reliant, laying the foundation for a lifelong love of learning.

Library Statement

In support of GDS's mission, the LMS librarians encourage students to build networks and collaborate across differences through their reading choices. The librarians believe in the power of books to provide windows and mirrors into the human experience.

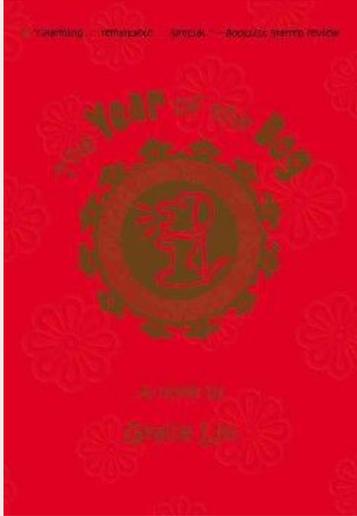


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Mirror: stories that reflect your reality

Window: offers you a view into someone else's experience



Windows and Mirrors

Library goal of raising Whiteness

Why seeing self in stories is important

Story of my own life





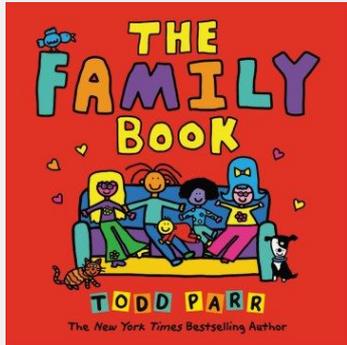


Step by step introduction

“The Family Book” by Todd Parr

Sit in circle, window/mirror that you connect with faces out

Student reflections





K DEFG

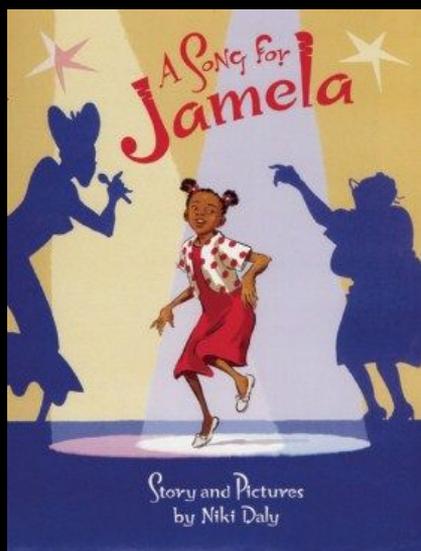
Picture Book GHIJK



Monday
2nd
Zurri/Danny

Tuesday
PK
Barbara/Nichelle

Tuesday
PK
Jess/Jody



Observations

Love it!

Capable

Digging for connections

Not good vs bad

Works!

PK students are literal

Classroom use



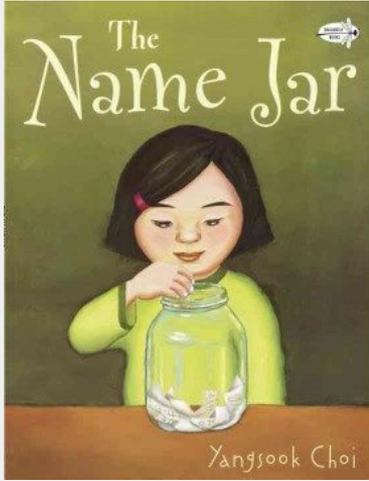
How this relates to Asian characters in books

The Single Story: defines an experience based on a single account which gives us an incomplete, potentially damaging understandings of other people

[Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie “The Danger of a Single Story” Ted Talk](#)

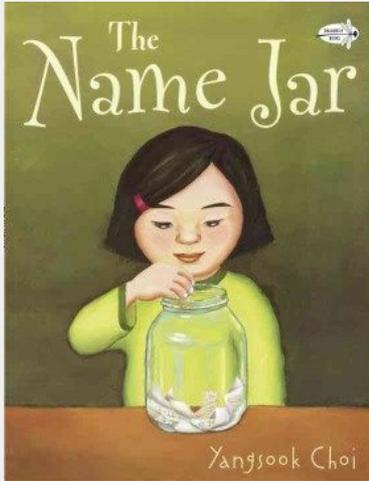
“So that is how you create a single story: show people as one thing, as only one thing, over and over again and that is what they become.”

– Chimamanda Adichie



The Name Jar by Yangsook Choi

Just having moved to the US from Korea, Unhei worries that her new classmates won't be able to pronounce her name. She tells them that she will choose a name later. Her classmates are fascinated by this no-name girl and start filling a glass jar with names for her to pick from. After trying some names, Unhei decides to stick with her real name.



Sample Reflection Questions

Have you been a new student? How did you feel?

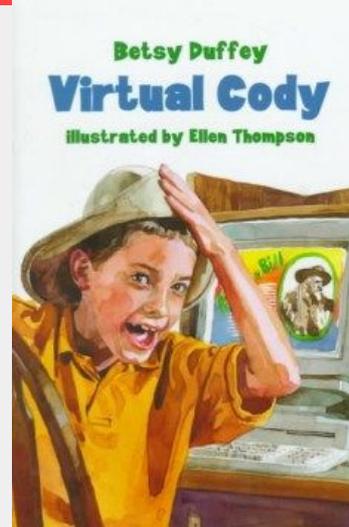
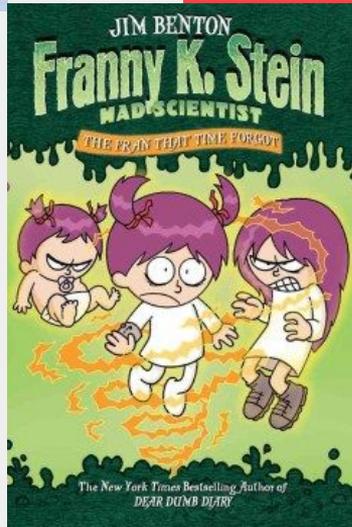
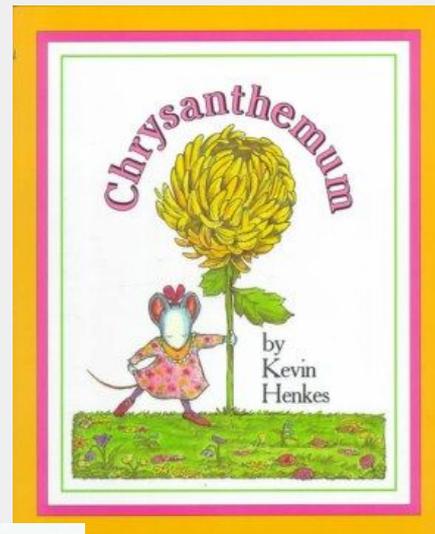
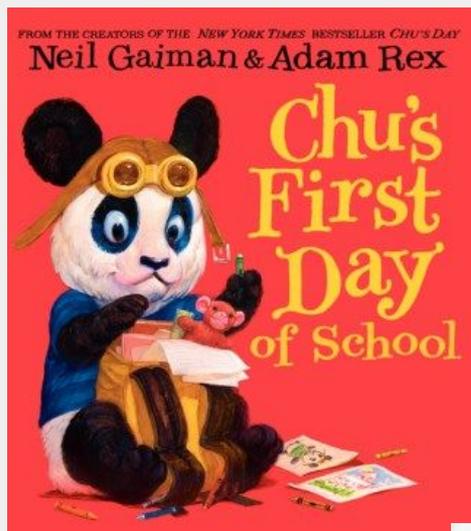
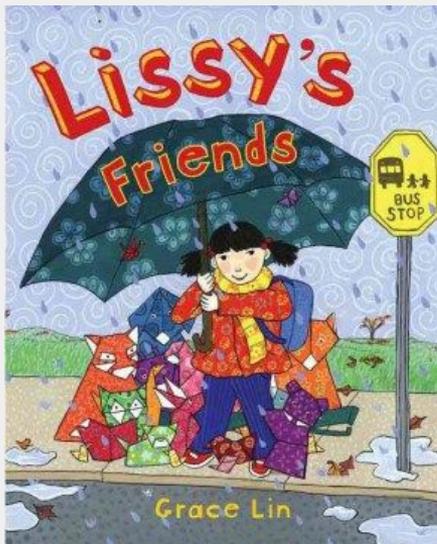
Have you moved homes? How was that experience?

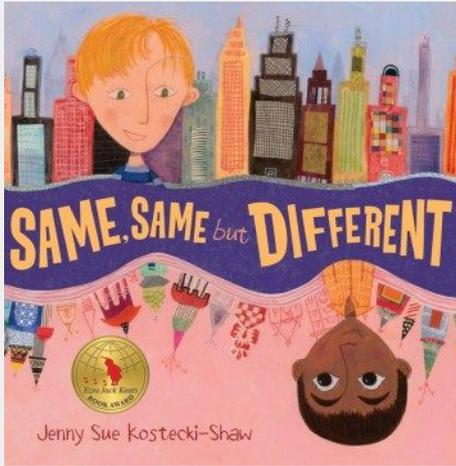
Has anyone mispronounced your name? How did you feel?

Can others pronounce your name correctly?

*Think about what it might feel like if you have to constantly correct how people pronounce your name.

*Why is your name important?





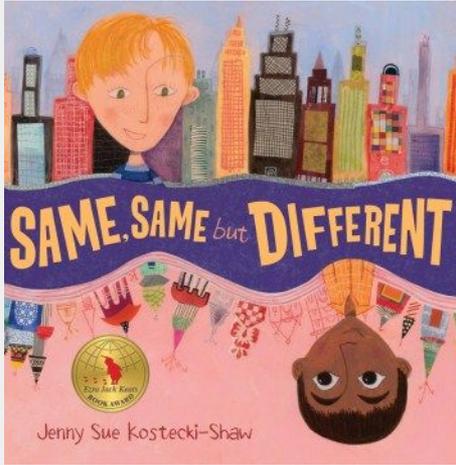
Same, Same but Different

by Jenny Sue Kostecki-Shaw

Elliot, who lives in America, and Kailash, who lives in India, are pen pals exchanging details about their lives through the pictures they draw for each other. By sharing these illustrations and letters, they realize that they have many things in common, like going to school, having pets, and climbing trees. But some things are different, like their alphabets. The repeated phrase "same, same but different" is included in every exchange the boys share.

Same, Same but Different

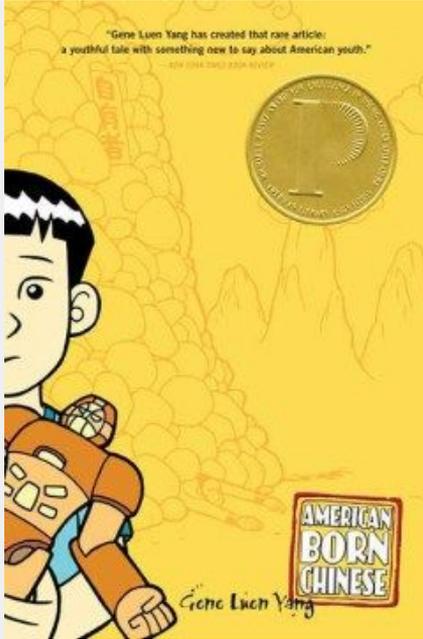
by Jenny Sue Kostecki-Shaw



Growing up in 1960s Hong Kong, this novel-length, free-verse poem follows a young girl who aspires to be a writer in a society that still questions the value of educating girls. Luckily, Yeung Ying's mother, who received an education herself, feels otherwise, and she scrapes together private-school tuition for her daughter.

When Kimberly Chang and her mother emigrate from Hong Kong to Brooklyn squalor, she quickly begins a secret double life: exceptional schoolgirl during the day, Chinatown sweatshop worker in the evenings. Disguising the more difficult truths of her life, Kimberly learns to constantly translate not just her language but herself back and forth between the worlds she straddles.

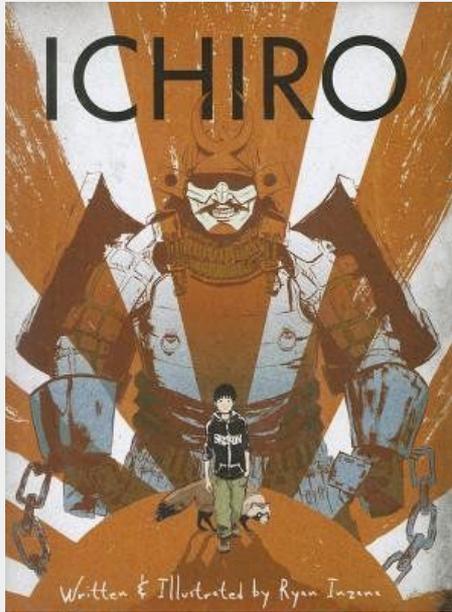
In 1974 when her father leaves New Delhi, India, to seek a job in New York, Ashi, a tomboy at the advanced age of sixteen, feels thwarted in the home of her extended family in Calcutta where she, her mother, and sister must stay, and when her father dies before he can send for them, they must remain with their relatives and observe the old-fashioned traditions that Ashi hates.



American Born Chinese by Gene Luen Yang

“This book features Cousin Chin-Kee (as in “chinky”) who is a mishmash of some of the worst historical - and modern - American stereotypes used against Asians.

‘Sometimes a stereotype needs to be dressed up in bright yellow skin and a queue in order for folks to recognize its severity, Yang once said.’”



Ichiro by Ryan Inzana

For the slightly older, more mature reader, *Ichiro* is a graphic novel about the nature of war. After his American father is killed in the Iraq War, Ichiro and his Japanese mother move back to Japan to join her father. The illustrations and storytelling combine modern, ancient, and fantasy-like elements into one visually arresting tale.

Homework

Change the “diversity checkbox” mindset

Think about the message

Window and Mirror Reflection Questions

Thank You!

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