

Classroom Library Audit with Students

Step 1: Share Data with Students

Begin this activity by sharing data with students about diversity in children’s books. The graphic below is a great visual for students, or you could also use the data chart pages 60-61 of the course text. Ask students to share out ideas about why it would be important to have diverse characters in the books we read and encourage them to think about whether or not the books they typically read are representative of themselves or other cultures.



2020 REPRESENTATION IN CHILDRENS PICTURE BOOKS



41% White



29% Animals



12% Black



9% Asian



6% Latinx



3% Disability

0.001% Pacific Islander
0.008% Arab
0.15% Indigenous

@lingobabies

2020 Statistics: the Cooperative Children’s Book Center

Classroom Library Audit protocol adapted from *Revolutionary Love* by Kamania Wynter-Hoyte, Eliza Braden, Michele Myers, Sanjuana C. Rodriguez, and Nathas Thornton.

Step 2: Student-Led Data Collection

Assign small groups of students and explain that they will be working in their small groups to better understand how diverse your classroom library is. Each group of students will receive a stack of books and a copy of the chart below to collect data. Students will look at the books and mark a tally for the main character. The categories in this chart are great starting points, but please add or change the categories to best fit your educational context.

Black	Latine	Asian/Pacific Islander	Native American	Animals/non-human	White

Step 3: Reflect and Respond with Students

Have students share their results with the class. You can combine all of the groups' responses and make one large data collection chart. Discuss with students the following questions:

- In what ways are we similar to characters in books in our classroom library?
- In what ways are we different from them?
- What groups, languages, and experiences are represented in our classroom library?
- What groups, languages, and experiences are not?

Then, have students brainstorm possible ideas for how to diversify the classroom library! Are there authors they like that they think should be added into the class library? Is there a certain demographic or identity that is absent that should be included?

Step 4: Reflect and Respond ON YOUR OWN!

Plan of Action

After completing the classroom library audit with your students, reflect on any takeaways, observations, or points of interest. Is there anything you found surprising, confusing, or interesting? List 1-2 findings you think are important.

Write a one or more paragraph reflection explaining which area of the classroom library audit you want to focus on improving in your classroom. What next steps can you take? What resources do you need? How can you find them?