

### What is your purpose?

Are you trying to start a specific discussion, providing information, early reading practice or, is this just for fun? Joy and fun are important, don't dismiss them!

### What is your budget and how does it fit into your existing collection?

How can you slowly work on achieving your goals through thrifting/library sales/discount booksellers or exchanging with friends, little free libraries, etc. Make a plan to keep your collection up to date.

### Does the book center a white character and the BIPOC characters are being used as tokens?

Make space for BIPOC, LGBTQ+, and Disabled characters to be the star of the show, not background dressing.

### Who will be reading/listening to these books?

Is this for specific children or a large group? What are their ages?

# Diversifying Your Bookshelf Guiding Questions

### What can you do to create meaningful discussions around the books you have that are good, but not perfect?

Can you change pronouns, point out injustice, ask questions, or use an animal/truck themed book to start a larger, intentional conversation?

### What context will they be used?

Is your collection primarily bed time stories, is this a classroom reference library, is this for a recurring story time event?

### After having a look through your books with a critical eye, are any problematic?

Are there images, text, or themes that don't reflect your values? Is there damaging stereotypes used? Are there authors known for their racism? Removing problematic books is equally powerful.

# Diversifying Your Bookshelf Worksheet

Use the worksheet below to put the steps into action. Pull out all of your books and put them into categories first to get a complete picture of what you are working with before proceeding. Keep this worksheet to check back and make sure you are meeting your goals.



## Set Your Intention

### Evaluate Your Collection

What is the make-up of representation in the books in your collection as it stands today?  
Break it down to see the gaps.

### Reflect Critically

Have a look through your books with a critical eye. What books have problematic themes and should be removed?

### Plan for Additions

What books would you like to add this year?  
Choose books that align with your goals and fill in the gaps in representation.

