

Collaborative Lesson

Diversity in Literature

This lesson is to be used in conjunction with the Jenny Han Author Spotlight.

It can be done in conjunction with English classes and Social Studies classes focusing on the cultures of writers from all around the world and a work currently on the English curriculum. I used The Absolutely True Diary of a Part Time Indian by Sherman Alexie. You can use another novel that fits within your curriculum.

The goal is to have students read a new book and learn about a different culture and other parts of the world.

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Diversity in Literature

Historically, people of color and different cultures are wildly underrepresented in all media. See the chart below that illustrates recent trends in diversity in Young Adult Literature.

Year	Books Received at CCBC	Black/African		Indigenous		Asian		Latinx		Pacific Islander		Arab	
		By	About	By	About	By	About	By	About	By	About	By	About
2020	3,299*	252	400	37	52	403	317	228	200	2	5	21	27
2019	4,035	232	471	46	65	429	357	243	236	5	5	20	35
2018	3,682	214	405	43	56	393	344	207	252	2	7	18	28

Data on books by and about Black, Indigenous and People of Color published for children and teens compiled by the Cooperative Children's Book Center, School of Education, University of Wisconsin-Madison. ccbc.education.wisc.edu

You recently read [The Absolutely True Diary of a Part Time Indian](#) by Sherman Alexie. Both protagonist Junior and author Sherman Alexie are Native American from the Spokane Tribe. We learned about the Spokane culture and the struggles of Junior and the people on his reservation.

Learning about other cultures and the people who are part of them is key in expanding our views of the world. We are going to connect reading and learning while spotlighting multicultural literature.

Collaborative Lesson Diversity in Literature Assignment

- 1 After you have read the Author Profile on Jenny Han, select a literature piece of your own. The piece must meet the following criteria:

The author is a person of color/from a different culture than you.

The protagonist is a person of color/ from a different culture than you.

AND/OR

(Ex. *Anne Frank was Jewish. Lara Jean from Jenny Han's books is Korean American, Junior was Native American.*)

- 2 Read the novel and complete the Diversity in Literature worksheet

- 3 Create a "Book Trailer" with a Culture Report built in presentation based in the information outlined in your worksheet

-You can use Prezi, Powtoon, Canva or Google Slides.

-Make sure your presentation teaches others about the book you read, the author and culture the book touches on.

-It should be interesting and informative.

- 4 You will present your Book Trailer and Culture Report to your class.