



b u i l d i n g
DIVERSE +
BALANCED
collections
FOR TEENS

NCKLS
teen workshop
FALL 2015

MOLLY WETTA
collection development librarian
LAWRENCE PUBLIC LIBRARY



mwetta@lawrencepubliclibrary.com

@MOLLY_WETTA
wrappedupinbooks.org

Why does diversity matter?





books are windows

They offer views of
worlds that may be
real or imagined,
familiar or strange.

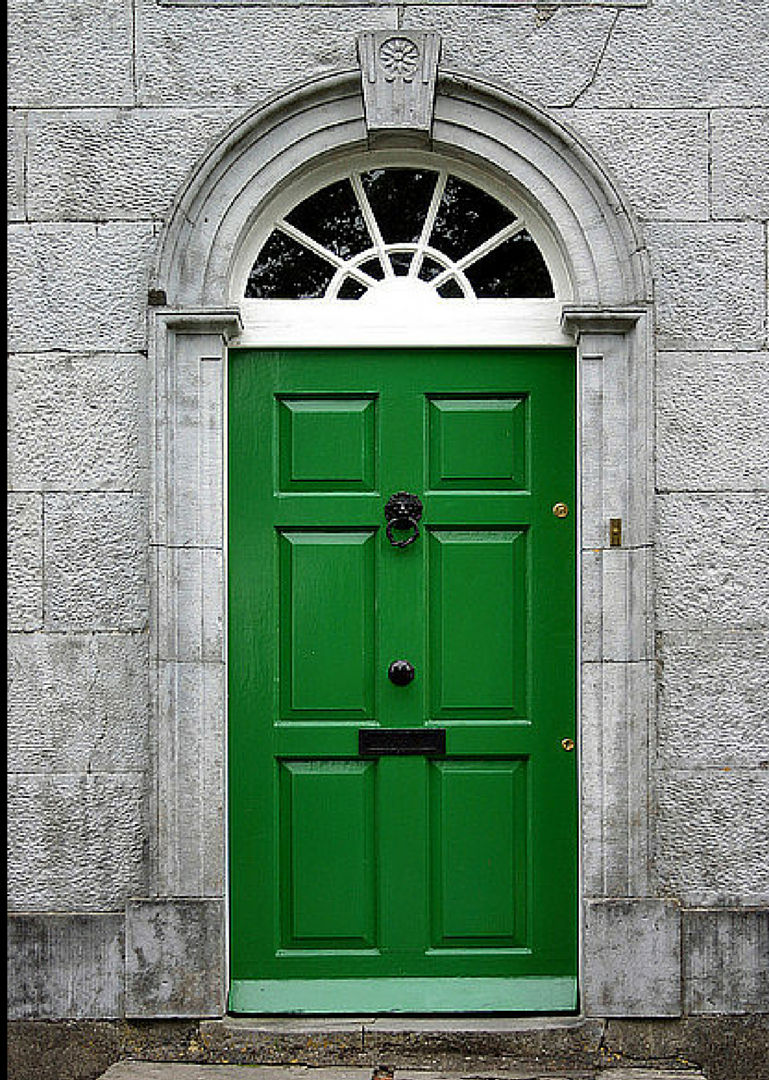
books are mirrors

In that reflection we
can see our own lives
and experiences as
part of the larger
human experience.



books are doors

Readers have only to
walk through to
become part of the
world the author has
created.





reading

then becomes a means of

SELF AFFIRMATION

a way to see the

world.

DIVERSITY

in all forms

race

class

religion

disability

sexuality

gender identity

non-nuerotypical





"The library is the most important information source for LGBTQ young people. Library resources can provide self-affirmation, offer characters with which to identify, and decrease the feeling of alienation."

Between 1.9% and
2.4% of YA novels
have LGBTQ
characters.

So it's
IMPOSSIBLE
to buy too many.



While people of color make up about 37% of the population in the United States, less than 10% of books feature diverse characters.

[Cooperative Children's Book Council](#)



image via [Tina Kugler](#)

BALANCE

genres
reading level
backlist titles
new releases



A typical order

25 YA fiction books

- 5 replacements for damaged, billed, lost items
- 15 major (big 5) publishers
 - 5 contemporary/realistic/literary
 - 8 fantasy and sci-fi
 - 2 historical
- 5 small press
 - thriller/suspense/horror
 - romance
 - genre-bending
- half 12-18 age designation, half 14/15-18 age designation
 - occasionally purchase in the 10-14 age range
- mix of literary/popular appeal

from
formula
to action



resources for
developing a diverse
and balanced
collection



Professional YA Review Sources

Kirkus

- free online
- filter by middle school/high school
- anonymous and (sometimes) snarky

School Library Journal

- easiest to browse in magazine in my opinion, but can find reviews online
- reviewers are instructed to emphasize positive aspects
- [teen reviews](#)
- [Teen Librarian Toolkit](#) blog
- [Someday my Printz Will Come](#) blog

Professional YA Review Sources

Booklist

- harder to sort between children's/YA
- subscription required

VOYA

- subscription to magazine required for access to reviews
- booklists available online (initially embargoed)
- teen reviews accompany professional reviews on some titles
- very comprehensive
- less objective, more opinion based (in my experience)

Graphic Novel Review Sources

No Flying, No Tights

Run by librarian Robin Brenner

Diamond Bookshelf

Diamond Comics guide for librarians + educators



Publisher Catalogs and ARCs

Edelweiss

- comprehensive, easiest filtering systems to pinpoint what you want
- digital ARCs available for librarians
- [Guide to using Edelweiss for collection development](#) from Kelly Jensen

Netgalley

- less selection
- ARCs only rather than entire catalogs

Print ARCs

- [library marketing contacts for children's publishers](#) at Early Word



Finding Diverse Titles

We Need Diverse Books

- [tumblr](#)
- more [resources](#)

Diversity in YA

founded by Malinda Lo and Cindy Pon

Disability in YA

founded by Kody Keplinger, Corinne Duyvis, and Kayla Whaley

Gay YA + LeeWind.org



Other Sources

- Publisher newsletters
- Major media outlets (EW, TeenVogue, etc)
- Librarian and book blogs ([my favorites](#))
- [Early Word Twitter chat](#)
- [Starred Titles GoogleSheets](#)
- Debut authors [monthly roundup at Stacked Books](#)
- [YAlit.com](#) (currently caught up to 2015)
- [EpicReads monthly “most anticipated” list](#)
- Goodreads (follow all the librarians and book bloggers)
- YALSA’s The Hub and award/selection lists

Getting Teen Input

- Circulation statistics
- Asking their opinion
- Coordinate with school librarian



Vendor Lists

- Standing orders

“just say no” except for continuations

- Baker & Taylor

Teen Author List

CATS - scan for YA titles

- Ingram

Only get the basics - big name authors/series



Other Tips

- Keep track of series in spreadsheet or on Goodreads
- Regularly check for missing and damaged items
- Monitor high demand

Digital Collections

- Prefer metered by use rather than by time

for example, Harper > Penguin

- Perpetual license

Avoid titles at high price point, but do buy them at regular hardback price

- Demand for digital audio growing

moving funds from audiobook CD/MP3 budget

- Circulating ereaders

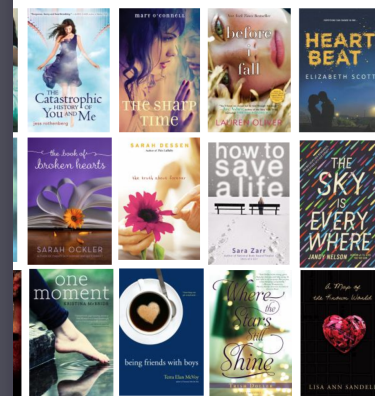
serves print disabled,
duplicates of popular titles



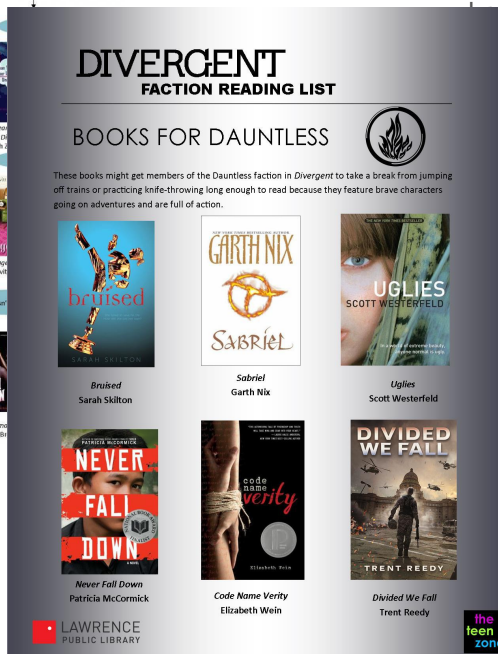
Readers' Advisory Booklists



If you like
IF I STAY
these
books!



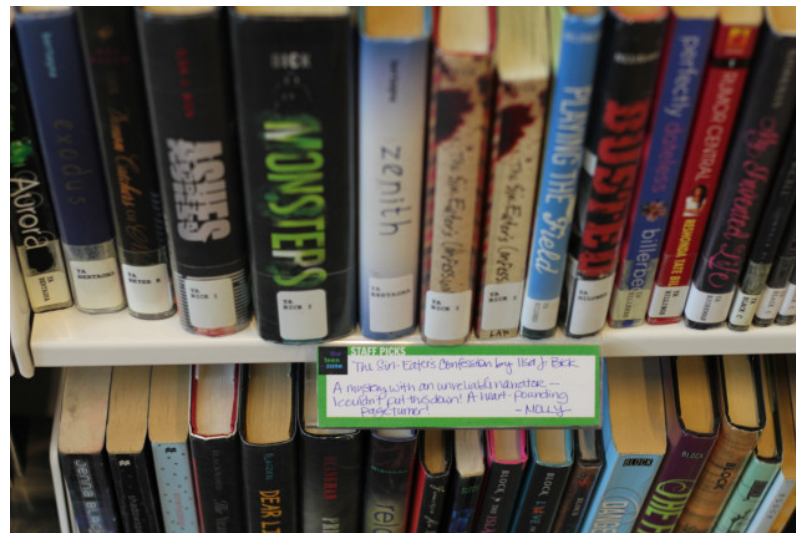
LAWRENCE
PUBLIC LIBRARY



Better Booklists

- Formatted so they share on social media and can be printed on regular paper and kept in a binder
- Author/title read-alikes, genre guides, Like - Try - Why
- Flowcharts, timelines, infographics
- Promote backlist and diverse titles

Diverse Displays + Shelf Talkers



Readers' Advisory through Displays

- Use retail merchandising tips
- Shelf talkers to highlight read-alikes or give mini-reviews
- Incorporate digital materials in displays
- Always feature diverse titles no matter the theme

Questions?



MOLLY WETTA
collection development librarian
LAWRENCE PUBLIC LIBRARY



mwetta@lawrencepubliclibrary.com

@MOLLY_WETTA
wrappedupinbooks.org

Image Credits

WNDB photos

Lalitha Naranthaj

Allison Tran

Aisha Saheed

CC licensed images via Flickr

windows: [Les Haines](#)

mirror: [Allen Skyy](#)

door: [Kman999](#)

globe: [Jason Bacchman](#)

Ms. Wheelchair: [Tendenci Software](#)

depression: [Michael Summers](#)

teenagers: [Kamyar Adl](#)

girls with headscarves and headphones: [Runs With Scissors](#)

balancing rocks: [Mark Robinson](#)

chalkboard: [jpellgen](#)

CC licensed image via Wikimedia Commons

books in shopping cart: Jorge Royan

all other images taken by Molly Wetta or open source/no attribution required

Further Reading

Sims Bishop, R. (1990). "Mirrors, windows, and sliding glass doors." *Perspectives: Choosing and Using Books for the Classroom*. (6)3. retrieved from [Reading is Fundamental](#).

Hughes-Hassell, S., Overberg, E., & Harris, S. (2013). Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (LGBTQ)-themed literature for teens: Are school libraries providing adequate collections?. *School Library Research*, 16, 1-18.