

b u i l d i n g
DIVERSE +
BALANCED
c o l l e c t i o n s
FOR TEENS

N C K L S
teen workshop
F A L L 2 0 1 5

M O L L Y W E T T A
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Why does diversity matter?



A photograph of a red wooden building, likely a barn or a house, featuring white-framed windows. The building is made of vertical red wooden planks. There are two visible windows: one on the left with a 4x4 grid of panes, and a larger one in the center with a 4x3 grid. The windows have white frames and appear to be closed.

books are windows

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

books
are
mirrors

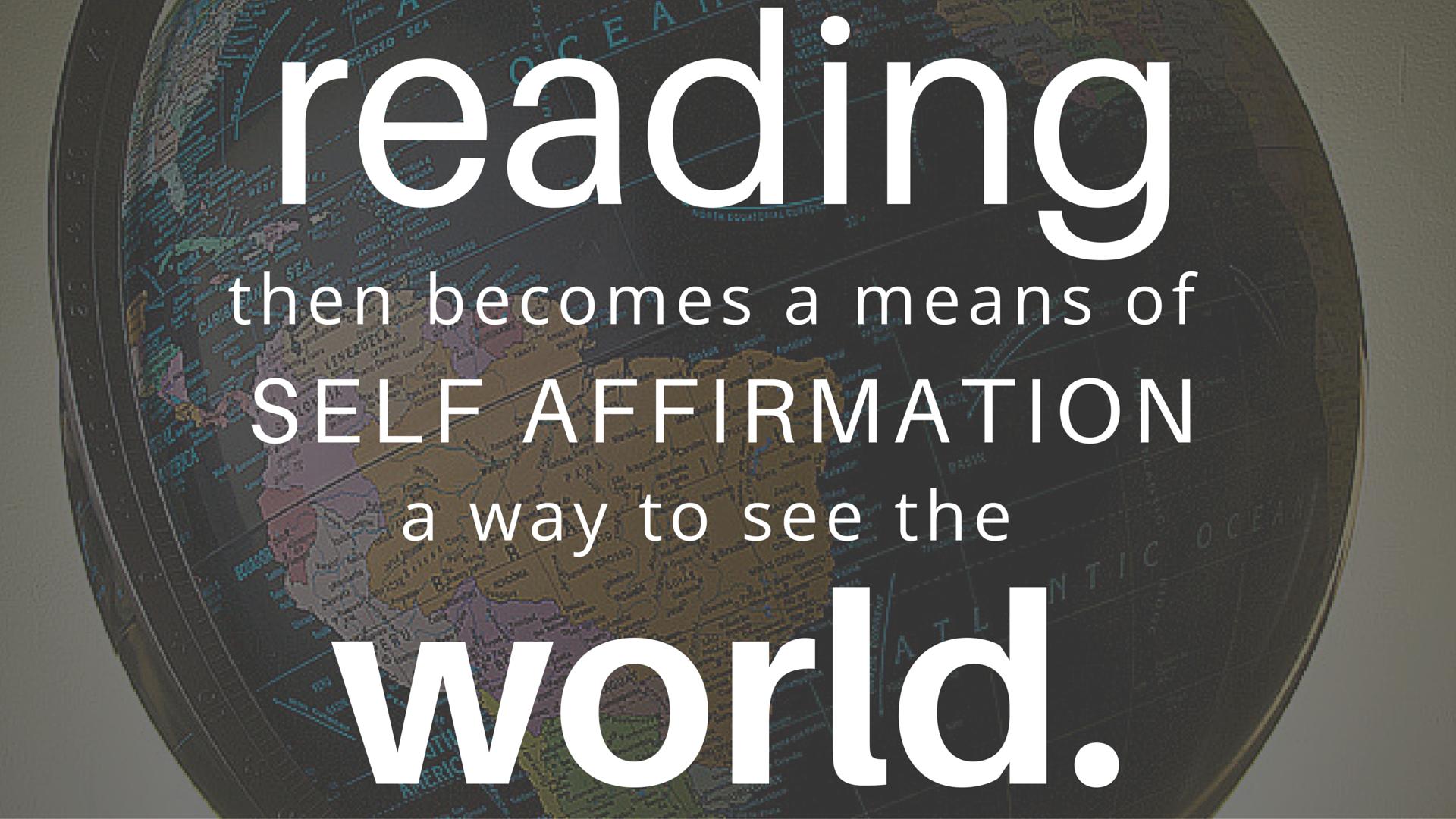
In that reflection we
can see our own lives
and experiences as
part of the larger
human experience.



books are doors

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



A circular map of the world, centered on the Atlantic Ocean, showing coastlines and major rivers. The map is rendered in a dark, muted color palette of blues, browns, and grays. The text is overlaid on this map.

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

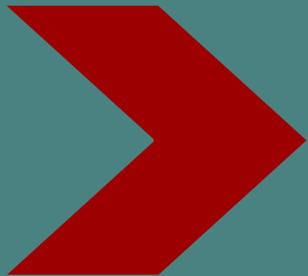


A typical order

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

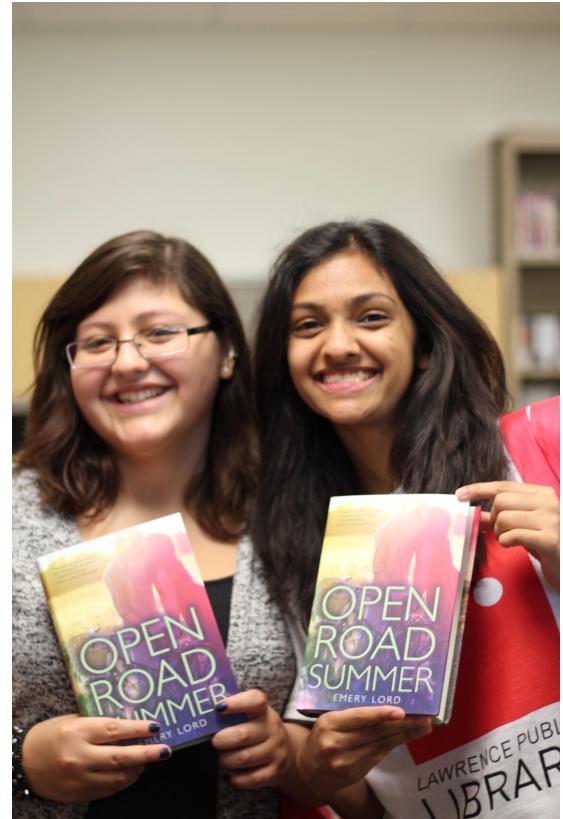


Other Sources

- 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

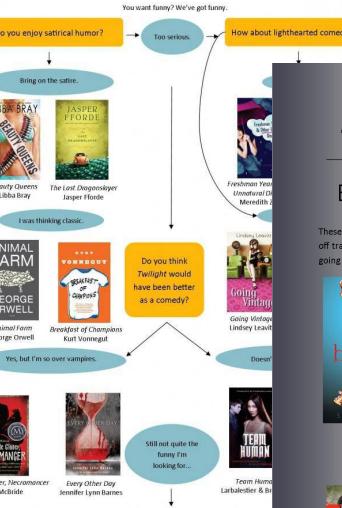
- Demand for digital audio growing
moving funds from audiobook CD/MP3 budget

- Circulating ereaders

serves print disabled,
duplicates of popular titles



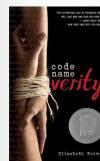
Readers' Advisory Booklists



BOOKS FOR DAUNTLESS



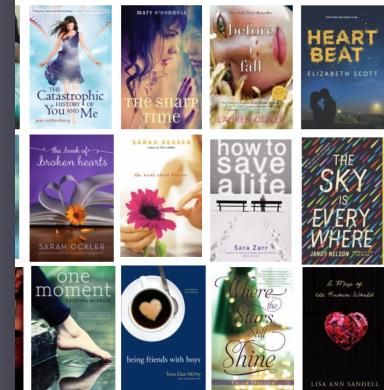
These books might get members of the Dauntless faction in *Divergent* to take a break from jumping off trains or practicing knife-throwing long enough to read because they feature brave characters going on adventures and are full of action.



Code Name Verity

Divided We Fall

If you like
IF I STAY
these
books!



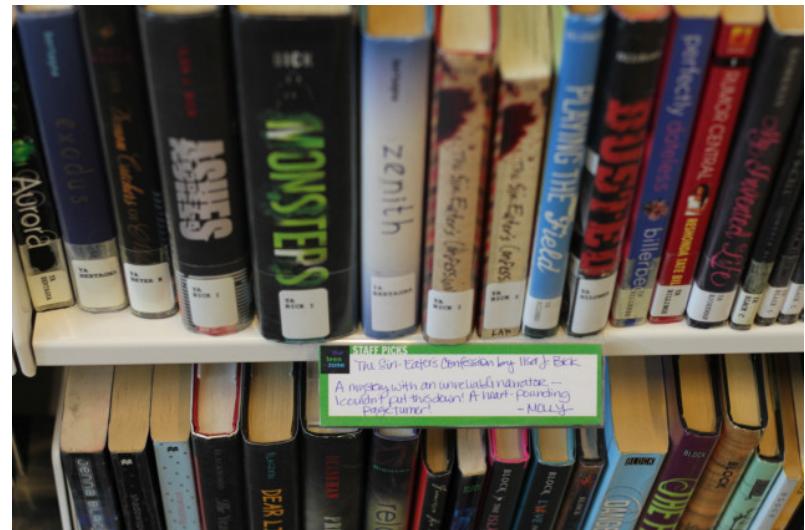
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PUBLIC LIBRARY



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?



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balancing rocks: [Mark Robinson](#)

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books in shopping cart: Jorge Royan

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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.