



PARENT/CAREGIVER/EDUCATOR DIVERSITY RESOURCE

By Vivian Kirkfield

I grew up in New York City...from an early age I was exposed to diversity...but we didn't call it diversity...we called it our neighborhood and all the kids were friends. Everyone was from somewhere else. And I loved that.

Over the years, as a teacher, and then as a parent, I realized that books help kids validate who they are. Sadly, when I was first teaching, there were very few picture books with diverse heroes/main characters. Although things have improved, we still have a long way to go. I believe what Professor Rudine Sims Bishop said is true: "Books are mirrors, windows, and sliding glass doors."

Books allow children to:

- see themselves (mirrors) which validates who they are – a person of value.
- see the world and other cultures (windows).
- see possibilities when their curiosity is sparked by something they read (sliding glass doors) and they discover a passion that might lead to a life of purpose.

Here is a list of some of my favorite recently published diverse mostly nonfiction books – the links will take you to a review on a blog where you will often find extension activities that you can do with the children after you finish reading the story.

1. **OPENING THE ROAD: HUGO VICTOR GREEN AND THE GREEN BOOK:**
<https://viviankirkfield.com/2020/12/04/perfect-picture-book-friday-opening-the-road-victor-hugo-green-and-the-green-book-plus-giveaway/>

2. SWISH! THE SLAM-DUNKING, ALLEY-OOPING, HIGH-FLYING HARLEM GLOBETROTTERS: <https://viviankirkfield.com/2020/11/06/perfect-picture-book-friday-swish-the-slam-dunking-alley-ooping-high-flying-harlem-globetrotters-plus-giveaway/>
3. SEVEN GOLDEN RINGS: <https://viviankirkfield.com/2020/10/16/perfect-picture-book-friday-seven-golden-rings-plus-giveaway/>
4. THE OLD MAN AND THE PENGUIN: A TRUE STORY OF TRUE FRIENDSHIP: <https://viviankirkfield.com/2020/10/02/perfect-picture-book-friday-the-old-man-and-the-penguin-plus-double-giveaway/>
5. THE TEACHERS MARCH: <https://viviankirkfield.com/2020/09/22/five-things-we-learned-about-publishing-a-nonfiction-picture-book-during-the-pandemic-the-teachers-march-plus-giveaway/>
6. SWEET DREAMS, SARAH: FROM SLAVERY TO INVENTOR: <https://mumumstheword.wordpress.com/2019/05/24/perfect-picture-book-friday-3-sarah-dreams-up-a-new-life-invention/>
7. NO VOICE TO SMALL: FOURTEEN YOUNG AMERICANS MAKING HISTORY: <https://viviankirkfield.com/2020/09/18/perfect-picture-book-friday-no-voice-too-small-plus-giveaway/>
8. BRAVE WITH BEAUTY: <https://viviankirkfield.com/2020/08/28/perfect-picture-book-friday-brave-with-beauty-plus-giveaway/>
9. THE OCEAN CALLS: A HAENYEO MERMAID STORY: <https://viviankirkfield.com/2020/08/04/happy-book-birthday-the-ocean-calls-a-haenyeo-mermaid-story-plus-giveaway/>
10. GRANDMOTHER SCHOOL: <https://viviankirkfield.com/2020/05/05/happy-book-birthday-grandmother-school/>
11. NUMBERS IN MOTION: SOPHIE KOWALEVSKI – QUEEN OF MATHEMATICS: <https://viviankirkfield.com/2020/02/28/perfect-picture-book-friday-numbers-in-motion-sophie-kowalevski-queen-of-mathematics/>
12. BEAUTIFUL SHADES OF BROWN: THE ART OF LAURA WHEELER WARING: <https://viviankirkfield.com/2020/01/31/perfect-picture-book-friday-beautiful-shades-of-brown/>
13. LIZZIE DEMANDS A SEAT: EIZABETH JENNINGS FIGHTS FOR STREETCAR RIGHTS: <https://viviankirkfield.com/2020/01/10/perfect-picture-book-friday-lizzie-demands-a-seat-plus-pb-critique-giveaway/>
14. PATRICIA’S VISION: THE DOCTOR WHO SAVED SIGHT: <https://viviankirkfield.com/2020/01/07/happy-book-birthday-patricias-vision/>
15. THE OLDEST STUDENT HOW MARY WALKER LEARNED TO READ: <https://viviankirkfield.com/2020/01/03/perfect-picture-book-friday-the-oldest-student-how-mary-walker-learned-to-read/>

16. YUSRA SWIMS: <https://viviankirkfield.com/2019/10/30/cover-reveal-yusra-swims-plus-giveaway/>
17. SOLDIER FOR EQUALITY: <https://viviankirkfield.com/2019/09/13/perfect-picture-book-friday-soldier-for-equality/>
18. A PLACE TO LAND: MARTIN LUTHER KING JR AND THE SPEECH THAT INSPIRED A NATION: <https://viviankirkfield.com/2019/08/30/perfect-picture-book-friday-a-place-to-land-martin-luther-king-jr-and-the-speech-that-inspired-a-nation-plus-giveaway/>
19. MAKING THEIR VOICES HEARD: THE INSPIRING FRIENDSHIP OF ELLA FITZGERALD AND MARILYN MONROE: <https://cathyso3.wordpress.com/2019/07/11/sneak-preview-of-a-fabulous-book/>
20. NEEMA’S REASON TO SMILE: <https://viviankirkfield.com/2019/01/18/perfect-picture-book-friday-neemas-reason-to-smile-multicultural-childrens-book-day-selection/>



Writer for children—reader forever...that’s Vivian Kirkfield in five words. Her bucket list contains many more words – but she’s already checked off skydiving, parasailing, and visiting kidlit friends all around the world. When she isn’t looking for ways to fall from the sky or sink under the water, she can be found writing picture books in the picturesque town of Bedford, New Hampshire. A retired kindergarten teacher with a masters in Early Childhood Education, Vivian inspires budding writers during classroom visits and shares insights with aspiring authors at conferences and on her blog where she hosts the #50PreciousWords International Writing Contest and the #50PreciousWordsforKids Challenge. Her nonfiction narratives bring history alive for young readers and her picture books have garnered starred reviews and accolades including

the Silver Eureka, Social Studies Notable Trade Book, and Junior Library Guild Selection.

To connect with Vivian and learn more about her books:

Website: www.viviankirkfield.com

Facebook www.facebook.com/viviankirkfield

Twitter: www.twitter.com/viviankirkfield

Linkedin: www.linkedin.com/in/viviankirkfield

Instagram: www.instagram.com/viviankirkfield