

Everyday ELLA ideas for reading



When you read with your child often, good things happen. You are close together, looking at the same thing. Your child will hear many new words and phrases. You can ask each other questions about the book and talk about what is happening in the story. That is not all...

Books can surprise us.

Books can help us learn about other cultures and experiences.

Books can help us to understand others.

Books can change the way we see ourselves.

Books can help us learn to include others.

Some questions for you

1 Who wrote the book?

What is the author's (and the illustrator's culture and background?)

Does the author have experience of what and who they are writing about?

2 Is the story interesting?

Do you want to keep reading the book?

Is your child interested?

Are the pictures engaging?

3 Does the book show respect for all people?

When was the book written? Are the words and pictures used suitable?

Do the messages about society seem to be biased, or are they factual?

Will this book help your child to show respect for people from a range of cultures and backgrounds?

4 Are the characters believable?

Does the story show real emotions?

Can your child relate to the characters?

5 Is the story appropriate for the age of your child?

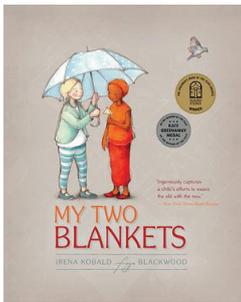
Does your child understand the story?

Do you feel comfortable talking about the story?

What is the book's message?

Find a cosy spot and enjoy a book together.

Books that open children's minds to new cultures and experiences



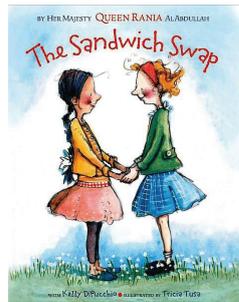
Published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

My two blankets

(Irena Kobald; Freya Blackwood, illustrator)

A girl tells the story of her move to Australia with her aunt. At first, everything feels strange. Her only comfort is her blanket. When she meets another child who teaches her new words, she creates a new blanket. Austrian-born author Irena Kobald teaches Aboriginal children in the desert regions of the Northern Territory.

Talk about: welcoming others, feeling at home.



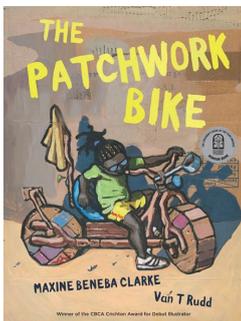
Published by Disney Publishing Worldwide

The sandwich swap

(Rania Al-Abdullah with Kelly DiPucchio; Tricia Tusa, illustrator)

A story from Queen Rania's childhood. Two best friends let differences come between them. Then they find a way to come together again. Rania Al-Abdullah, born in Kuwait to Palestinian parents, is the queen consort of Jordan.

Talk about: Friendship and feelings, points of view.



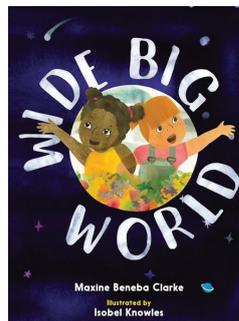
Published by Candlewick Press

The patchwork bike

(Maxine Beneba Clarke; Van T Rudd, illustrator)

A wonderful, energetic story of brothers who build their own bike. The boys don't have much to work with. Maxine Beneba Clarke is an award-winning Australian author of Afro-Caribbean heritage.

Talk about: culture, family, recycling, sense of place.



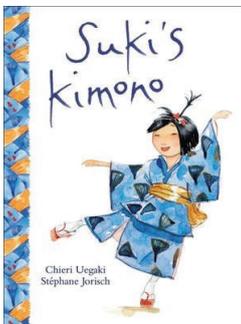
Published by Hachette Australia

Wide big world

(Maxine Beneba Clarke; Isobel Knowles, illustrator)

At kinder the children begin to notice differences. Their teacher talks to them about the wonder of the world. Maxine Beneba Clarke is an award-winning Australian author of Afro-Caribbean heritage.

Talk about: difference in appearance.



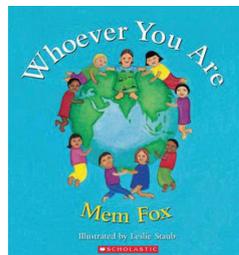
Published by Kids Can Press

Suki's kimono

(Chieri Uegaki; Stéphane Jorisch, illustrator)

A joyful story. Suki wants to wear her kimono on her first day of school. Her enthusiasm shows how wonderful it is to be yourself. Chieri Uegaki is a Canadian author of Japanese heritage.

Talk about: Japanese culture, self-respect, family values.



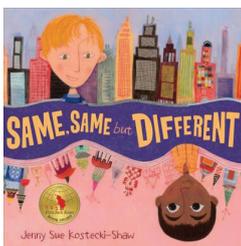
Published by Houghton Mifflin Trade & Reference Publishers

Whoever you are

(Mem Fox; Leslie Staub, illustrator)

This book speaks gently, and straight to the 'little one' who is holding the book. It will help your child understand that whoever, wherever and how children live in the world, 'inside, their hearts' are just the same. Mem Fox was born in Melbourne but grew up in Africa. She now lives in Adelaide.

Talk about: feeling, differences.



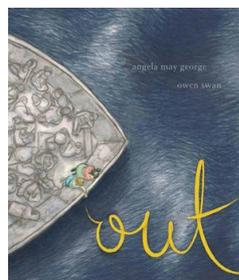
Published by Henry Holt & Company

Same, same but different

(Jenny Sue Kostecki-Shaw)

The story of two boys who become pen pals. They look at the similarities and differences of their lives. Jenny Sue Kostecki-Shaw lives in the mountains of northern New Mexico. She learned to employ the phrase 'Same, same but different' while travelling through Nepal and India.

Talk about: different countries.



Published by Scholastic Australia

Out

(Angela May George; Owen Swan, illustrator)

The sensitive story of a child and mother beginning their new life in Australia. Australian author Angela May George was inspired to write this book by a story that was told to her by her mother, a teacher of refugees.

Talk about: why people flee, challenges, change.