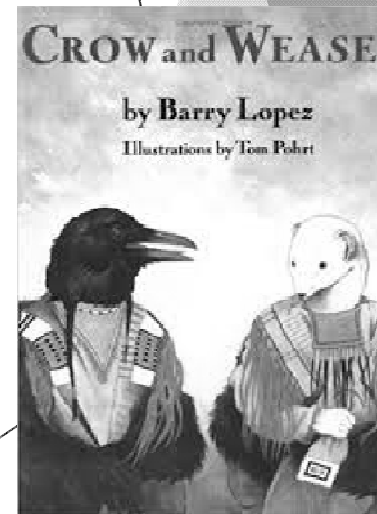


Choosing Children's Books for your Preschool Classroom that are Culturally Relevant

Cotillion Sneddy

- Stories told about our Indigenous people were originally passed on orally through the generations. There are very few books that accurately depict stories about or on Native People and fewer books appropriate for use in the preschool classrooms for Native students.
- Using a critical lens at books intended for Preschool students at their cultural responsiveness and appropriateness as educational resources.



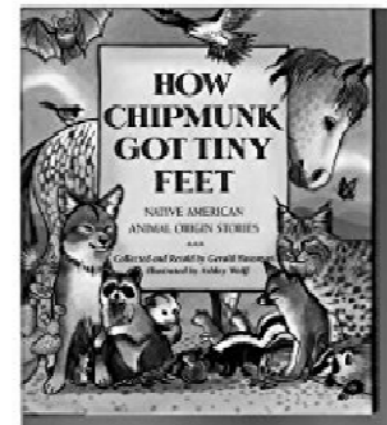
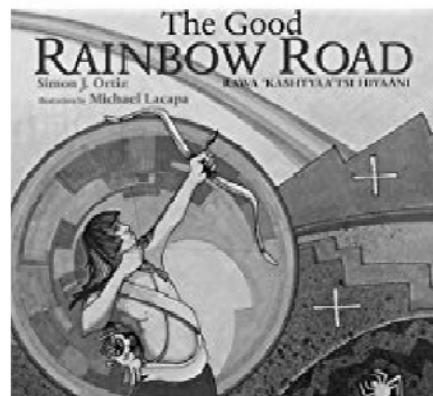
How do you choose books for your classroom?

Do you order your own books?

Do you search online?

Do you ask for recommendations?

Do you order from a magazine?



Previous studies looking at books for children:

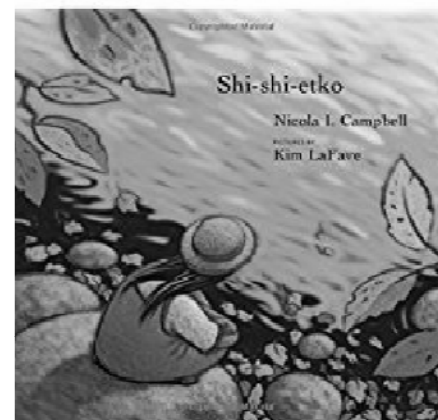
- Debbie Reese
- Other critiques

Culturally Relevant Definition

- Perspectives
- What does it look like in textbooks?

Prior Criterion for choosing literature

- Categories used in current research:
 - Age Appropriate: Preschool
 - Tribe/Nation
 - Illustrations
 - Copyright Date
 - Historical Perspective
 - Possible impact on Self-Image (Positive/Negative)



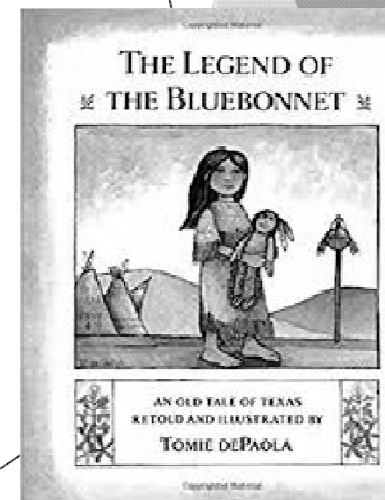
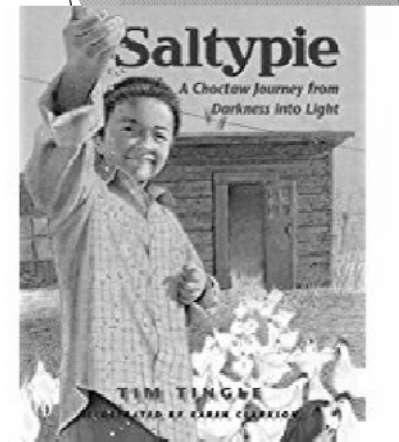
ctivity:

Choose a book to read

Look at the following:

- ▶ Age Appropriateness
- ▶ High literary quality including well-developed plots and characters;
- ▶ Settings in the United States so readers can understand the nature of cultural diversity in the United States and the legacy of many different cultural groups;
- ▶ Carefully chosen illustrations to enhance the quality of the texts;
- ▶ No negative or inaccurate stereotypes;
- ▶ Genuine lifestyles or characters who exhibit authentic and realistic behaviors;
- ▶ Qualified authors/illustrators who deal with the cultural group accurately and respectfully; and
- ▶ Minority characters as leaders and problem-solvers.
- ▶ Will it have a positive impact of a child's self-image?

Discuss at your table if you would use it in your classroom, why or why not?



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