

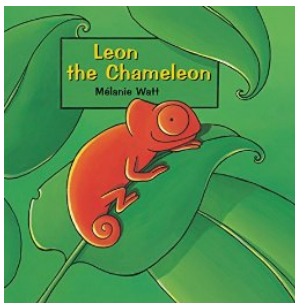
Books Honoring Differences



It's Okay to Be Different by Todd Parr

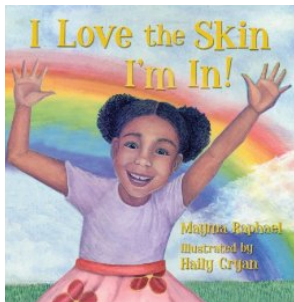
As the title suggests, this simple book opens the door to speaking about, honoring, and accepting diversity and differences. The book can be previewed at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=shYf3prwXJU>

Available in Spanish: Está Bien Ser Diferente



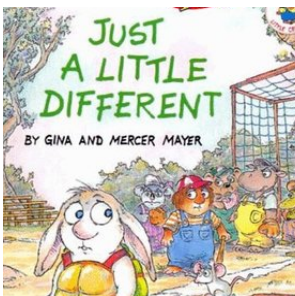
Leon the Chameleon by Mélanie Watt

Leon is different from other chameleons, he turns a different color than all the rest. When sitting on a green leaf, chameleons blend in and turn green, but not Leon; he turns red. Being different makes Leon feel scared, embarrassed, and lonely. But one day Leon's difference turns out to be a strength, and he ends up saving the others. The book can be previewed at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Fglp5QrZik>



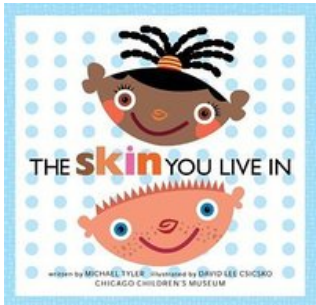
I Love the Skin I'm In by Mayma Raphael

This book opens the door to talking about race and diversity. Ruby asks her mother "why is my skin brown," and this begins a dialogue between mother and daughter about skin color. The story discusses how your skin color makes you unique and emphasizes that all colors of skin are special .



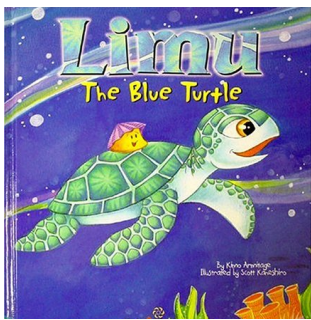
Just a Little Different by Gina and Mercer Mayer

A story honoring diversity told from the perspective of a kid who decides to become friends with a new kid in the neighborhood. The new kid is different from other kids because his father is a turtle and his mother is a rabbit. Some of the neighborhood kids think he is just too different and don't want to be his friend. But the main character and his family see that differences are good and make us special. The book can be previewed at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t34UNDVAPOU>



The Skin You Live In by Michael Tyler

In poetry and rhyme, this book opens the door to talking about, accepting, celebrating, and honoring differences in skin color. The end of the book is especially meaningful. The book can be previewed at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WGj3MoH7HJk>



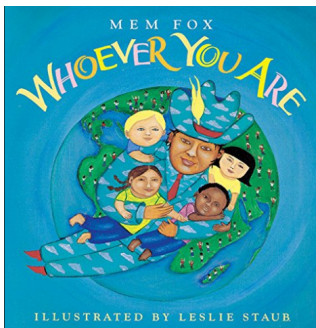
Limu the Blue Turtle by Kimo Armitage

Limu is different from all the other turtles. He is blue, and they are green. Unfortunately, many of the green turtles tease him and make him feel alone and rejected. Limu leaves to travel the ocean. On his voyage, he makes friends who are different from him. These friends appreciate who he is on the inside. The book can be previewed at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aJt3LgtcQUE>



Zero by Kathryn Otoshi

Zero is a big round number. She wants to count like the other numbers and be just like them. But although she tries to be like them, she can't. Zero can only be zero, and she doesn't see her own strengths. Over the course of the book, she learns that she has value and sees that everyone counts. The book can be previewed at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZG4ZsYC1AVs>



Whoever You Are by Mem Fox

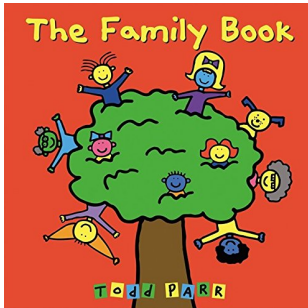
A book with multicultural pictures showing children around the world with different lives but highlighting the ways we are all similar. The book can be previewed at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=49Ql5LEWuCc>

Available in Spanish: Quien Quiera que Seas

Available in English/Spanish: Whoever You Are/Quien Quiera Que Seas



Books Honoring Difference (continued)



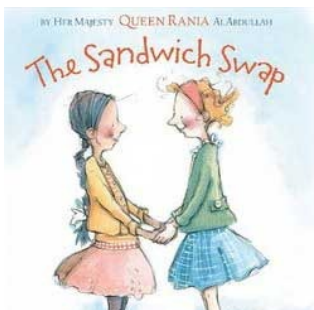
The Family Book by Todd Parr

This book honors different family compositions: big, small, mixed-race, blended families, adopted families, single parents, and gay families. It shows ways that families are the same and ways that they are different. The book can be previewed at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mlm_Ho1Z6Ss

Available in Spanish: El Libro de la Familia

The spanish version can be viewed at:

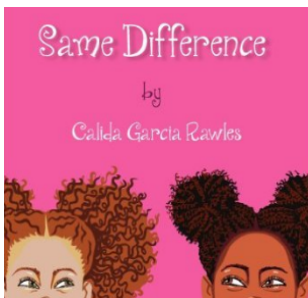
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ZsTNM_5rsg



The Sandwich Swap by Queen Rania of Jordan Al Abdullah

Lily and Salma are best friends, who have different tastes in sandwiches. Lily likes peanut butter sandwiches and Salma eats hummus and pita. One day they get into a huge fight over the sandwiches, causing an uproar involving the other children at the school. After having instigated a huge food fight, the girls swap sandwiches and discover that both sandwiches are delicious, and they make up. The fully animated book can be seen here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MvEr6FsVoBI>

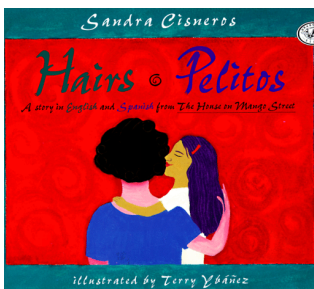


Same Difference by Calida Garcia Rawles

Lisa and Lida are loving first cousins who one day notice differences in their skin color and hair. They wonder, "Is one better? Is one worse? If this was a contest, who would come in first?" Their grandmother helps them come together and recognize that one is not better than the other. The book can be previewed at:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=5&v=XpSLtVXFoMc

Available in Spanish: Iguales Pero Diferentes

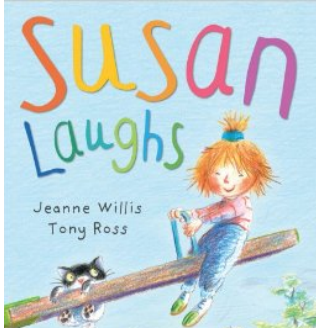


Hairs/Pelitos by Sandra Cisneros

This bilingual (English/Spanish) book discusses different types of hair. Hair comes in many different shades, shapes, and styles and the narrator uses these differences as a way of introducing us to the different people within her family. This story provides space for a dialogue, speaking about hair and loving connections with different family members. The book can be previewed in English at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ckIJEZPPeBs>.

The Spanish version can be viewed at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qjzV4GRopQs>



Susan Laughs by Jeanne Willis

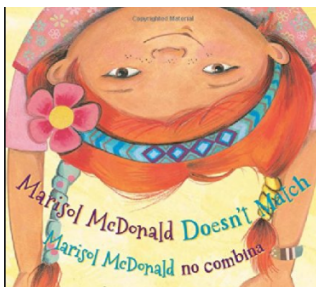
This story features a little girl named Susan who laughs, swings, and draws. Susan can be angry, and Susan can also be sad. Throughout the book we get to know Susan and see how in so many ways, she is just like us. The final picture is of Susan in a wheelchair. The book can be previewed at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z4UxHj6XoWM>



The Sneetches by Dr. Seuss

The Star-Belly Sneetches had stars while the Plain-Belly Sneetches had none. The Star-Belly Sneetches felt superior and they left out the Plain-Belly Sneetches and kept them away. Until one day along came Sylvester McMonkey McBean and his marvelous machine. First, he put stars on the Plain-Belly Sneetches, then when the Star-Belly Sneetches complained that they were the same, he took the stars off of them. This continued until the Sneetches spent all their money adding and removing stars. It was an expensive lesson, but it taught them that "Sneetches are Sneetches, and no kind of Sneetch is the best on the beaches." The fully animated book can be seen here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qPhOZzsi_6Q&t=4s



Marisol McDonald You Don't Match/Marisol McDonald No Combina by Monica Brown

This bilingual (English/Spanish) book tells the story of Marisol McDonald whose red hair and brown skin don't match. Marisol mixes polka dots and stripes, eats peanut butter and jelly burritos, and speaks Spanish, English, and sometimes both. She tries to match to be like others, but learns that her mismatched self is simply marvellous. This book celebrates multiculturalism. The book can be previewed at:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7h08_1R2wAw



Book List Users Guide

- These books open the door to a conversation about diversity and difference:
 - Being and feeling different
 - Having different lives and cultural backgrounds
 - Appreciating that people are different and acknowledging that this is a good thing
 - Talking about race and skin color
 - Talking about the different ways we might self-identify and think about ourselves
 - Talking about different family constellations
- As we read the books, we might ask children the following questions:
 - How do you think the main character in the story felt? (for example “How do you think [Limu, Leon, Zero, Zack, the Plain-Belly Sneetches, Marisol, Lily and Salma] might have felt?”)
 - What do you think about the way the main character was treated?
 - Why do you think the other characters in the book teased or mistreated the main character or characters (for example in Limu the Blue Turtle, Leon the Chameleon, Just a Little Different, and the Sneetches)?
 - How are you the same as the characters in the book? Are you the same as the other people in the room?
 - How are you different from the characters in the book? Are you different from the other people in the room?
 - Have there been times when you felt different from other people?
 - Can differences be scary? What makes differences scary?
 - Are differences important? Why is it important to see differences in others?
 - How would you like to be treated by others who are different?
 - How will you treat others who are different?

Note: These are just a few examples of children's books on this topic. We chose books with great pictures that would appeal to young children in an effort to open discussions related to differences and diversity. If you would like to suggest a children's book for this or another booklist, you may do so at: <http://childparentpsychotherapy.com/resources/share-book/>