



Evaluating Books — for Youth —

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Book evaluation background

- Youth Services Manager
- Youth Librarian
- Reviewer for *Kirkus Reviews* and *School Library Journal*
- 2022 Newbery Award Committee
- Also served on 2019 Printz Award, 2018 Sibert Award, and 2016 ALSC Notable Childrens' Books
- Co-Chair of ALSC's EDI Task Force



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**First questions when
selecting a book**

**10 Quick Ways to Analyze
Children's Books for
Racism and Sexism**



Specifics

Resources

Questions?

Questions to ask when selecting a book



Adapted from Dr. Lissa
Paul, Reading
Otherways

- Whose story is this?
- Who is the reader?
- When and where was the book written? By whom?
- Who is named? And who isn't?
- Who gets punished? Praised?
- Who speaks? Who is silenced?
- Who acts? Who is acted upon?
- Who looks? Who is observed?

10 Quick Ways to Analyze Children's Books for Racism and Sexism



Adapted from
Rethinking Our
Classrooms

1. Check the illustrations
2. Check the Storyline
3. Look at lifestyles
4. Weigh the relationships between people
5. Note the heroes
6. Consider the effects on a child's self image
7. Check out the Author's perspective
8. Consider the author or illustrator's background
9. Watch for load words
10. Copyright date

Illustrations

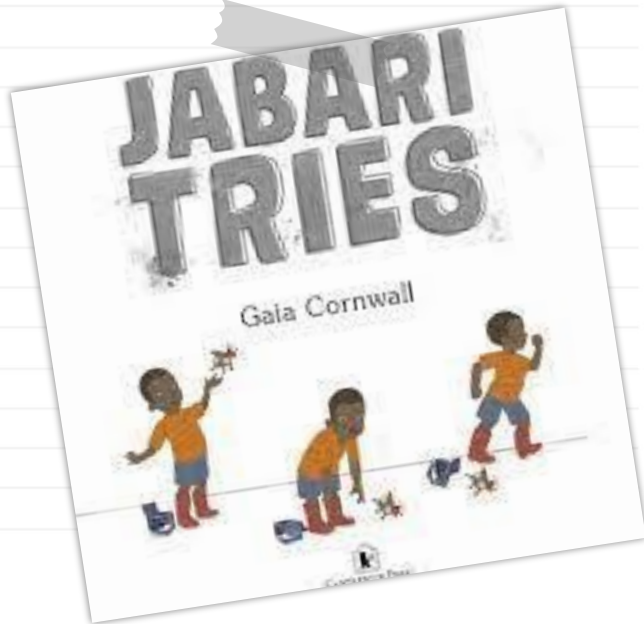
Look for
stereotypes

Look for
tokenism

Who's doing
what?



Check the storyline



**What is the
standard for
success?**



**Resolution of
problems**



Role of women

The Medical Model of Disability



This is a diagram of the traditional Medical Model of Disability, which the Social Model was developed to challenge.

**The problem is the
Disabled person**

The Social Model of Disability



The Social Model of Disability states that the oppression and exclusion people with impairments face is caused by the way society is run and organised.

**The problem is the
disabling world**

Images from [Inclusion London](#)

**Look at
lifestyles**

**Weigh
relationships
between people**

Note the heroes



Consider the effects on a child's self image

“If Ma hates Indians, what would she think of me, an Asian-American girl? If Ma hates Indians, wouldn't she probably hate me too?”

And, at 8 years old, I felt the impact of that racism. It was a horrible feeling. In that instant, I realized I might always be a foreigner in my own country, and that people could hate me just because of the way I looked.”

-Grace Lin



From talk on PBS
News Hour



**Consider the author or
illustrator's
background**

"These are so **cool!**" 🙌🙌🙌🙌

Izzie fingerspelled. "Let's go to the pool tomorrow. We will swim just like mermaids!"

"I can't wait!" Emma signed.



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Izzie jumped up and swayed like a mermaid dancing under the sea. Everyone jumped up and joined in the mermaid dance.

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**Check out the author's
perspective**

Selecting Native American and Indigenous Children's Literature

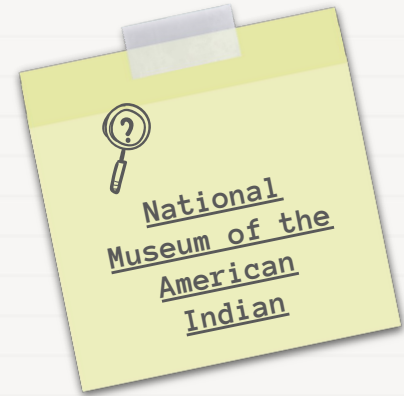
Authority



Accuracy



Is it Tribally Specific?



Language

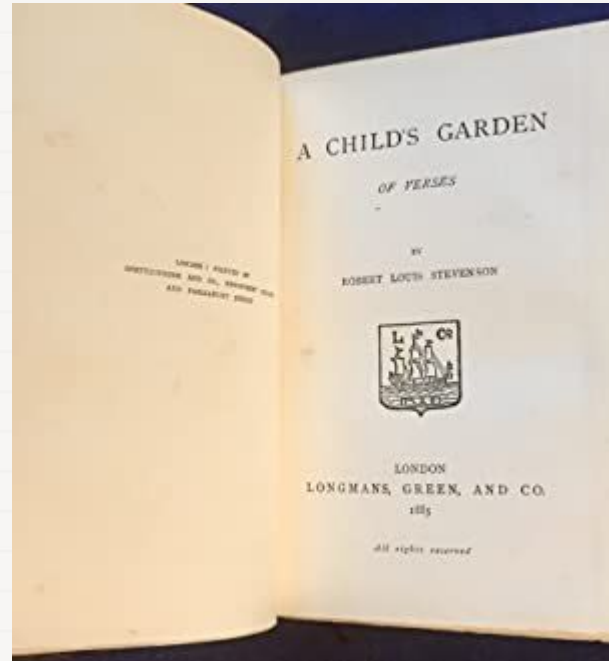


"We are still here"

treacherous **firemen**
inscrutable
primitive
superstitious **crafty**
conniving
lazy **savage**
docile
forefathers
wily **manmade**
backward

WordItOut

**Watch for
loaded words**



**Look for copyright
date**



Questions?

Thanks!

Do you have any
questions?

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