

Wonderful Children's Picture Books Celebrating Bi-racial Children & Families

The Airport Book written and illustrated by Lisa Brown: A delightful story, told mainly in the illustrations, in which a young brother and sister with their African American Dad and White Mom head off for a long-distance flight. Filled with all the details of travel, suitcases with toys and clothes, taxis, trucks delivering luggage and food and fuel to the plane, people waiting in lines, folks on their cell phones, views from the sky, and at the end, greeting loved ones at last.

All the Colors of the Earth written and illustrated by Sheila Hamanka: beautiful artwork and simple poetry celebrates all the colors of skin that we find on human children.

All the Colors We Are. Todos los colores de nuestra piel. *The Story of How We Get Our Skin Color / La historia de por qué tenemos diferentes colores de piel*, written by Katie Kissinger, illustrated by Werner Krutein: Great photographs, simple explanations, and a joyous sense of wonder create a book that explains the great range of skin color to young children.

Best, Best Colors written by Eric Hoffman, illustrated by Celeste Henriquez, in Spanish and English: Nate loves color! He tries to figure out what his best, best color is, and finally decides it is the colors of the rainbow. A charming book with a bi-racial child and two Moms.

Billy and Belle written and illustrated by Sarah Garland: This funny story, in comic book art and words, tells the story of a bi-racial (Black and White), urban family waiting for baby three. When Mom goes into labor, little sister accompanies her brother to school where she unintentionally gets into big mischief.

Black is Brown is Tan written by Arnold Adoff, illustrated by Emily McCully: Rhyming, loving story about a family in which Mom is Black, Dad is white and the two children are surrounded by loving family. Each segment ends with the line "this is the way it is for us, this is the way we are", a line that children end up chanting along as they listen to this story.

Families written by Shelley Rotner photos by Sheila M. Kelly: In this cheerful exploration of different families' words and photos show families large and small, families with same or opposite sex parents, families with adopted children and families with parents of different racial identities, a mom in a head scarf, a dad in a wheel chair. Interesting, and delightful photographs, simple, clear text. The book ends with the questions "What about your family"?

How My Parents Learned to Eat written by Ina R. Friedman, illustrated by Allen Say: They met in Japan when the author's Dad was a sailor, and he had to learn to eat with chopsticks, and Mom had to learn to eat with a knife and fork. This is a love story, told by the child.

Mixed Me written by Taye Diggs illustrated by Shane W. Evans: High energy, exuberant Mike has a head of wild hair and a sense of certainty about who he is regardless of what other's think "See, my dad's a deep brown and my mom's rich cream and honey. Then people see me, and they look at us funny." His parents aren't worried either "Mom and Dad say I'm a blend of dark and light: "We mixed you perfectly, and got you just right."

My Two Grannies written by F. Benjamin, illustrated by Margaret Chamberlain: Grannie Vero is from Trinidad. Grannie Rose is from England. They cook different food, play different games, tell different stories, but when Alvina needs to be taken care of, she finds a way to help them get along – because they both love Alvina!

Shades of People written by Shelly Rotner, photographs by Sheila M. Kelly: Fascinating portraits of children of all colors and simple text delight in the multiple shades of skin that human beings have.

Sonya's Chickens written & illustrated by Phoebe Wahl: A young girl is given some chicks to raise, and cares for them tenderly. When a fox kills one of the chickens, her parents help her understand the circle of life and death. A tender, thoughtful book that children will come back to again and again, featuring a family of brown and white skin parents.

Two Mrs. Gibsons written by Toyomi Igus, illustrated by Daryl Wells: One Mrs. Gibson is the child's mother, who grew up in Japan. The other Mrs. Gibson is the child's paternal grandmother, an African American woman. They are very different, do things differently, behave differently, but they both love the child's father, and they both love her.

Waiting for Baby written and illustrated by Rachel Fuller: This is a sweet book for toddlers and three year olds helping them for the big changes coming when a new baby arrives in the home. Papa is dark skinned, Mama light skinned, the child somewhere in the middle. And the baby? Not here yet!

This list prepared by Julie Olsen Edwards, director of the Children's Peace and Anti-bias Library at Cabrillo College, Early Childhood Education Department. 831-479-6354.