

WSRA Position Statement

Multicultural Literature

The Wisconsin State Reading Association (WSRA) believes it is essential that the literature presented in schools reflects the diversity of people and cultures within our society and around the world. Students need a working knowledge of diverse populations in order to participate in today's global society. It is equally imperative that all students see themselves reflected in the literature they encounter in educational settings.

The Wisconsin State Reading Association is dedicated to creating opportunities for teachers to learn about diverse cultures through the use of high quality cultural literature. WSRA provides information to educators about available books depicting various cultures, how to make appropriate literature choices, and how to infuse multicultural literature in the classroom. WSRA supports use of literature that appropriately represents the backgrounds of the people and cultures without perpetuating stereotypes, misinformation, or subtle messages that may suggest inequities among and within groups. WSRA believes it is important to have a multitude of materials representing a group's experiences; no culture is homogenous when looked at in depth and with understanding.

The Wisconsin State Reading Association advocates creating a culturally relevant pedagogy for children through:

- Knowledge and awareness of cultural literature
- Knowledge of various cultures taught from a perspective of understanding
- Identification of high-quality cultural literature suitable for any curriculum
- Strategies for using multicultural literature
- Familiarity with resources for making appropriate choices regarding the use of multicultural literature

