

**Windows and Mirrors:  
Literature for Children to Promote  
Cultural Validity (Mirrors), Learning (Windows) and Acceptance**

**Patricia K. Dean, Ph.D.  
Salisbury University  
[pkdean@salisbury.edu](mailto:pkdean@salisbury.edu)**

**Adult Novels-to promote understanding**

*\*The Diary of Ma Yan, the Struggles and Hopes of a Chinese Schoolgirl*

*Freedom Writer's Diary* by Erin Gruwell

*The Glass Castle* by Jeannette Walls

*Nineteen Minutes* by Jodi Picoult

*\*Thura's Diary: My Life in Wartime Iraq* by Thura Al-Windawi

[\*Young Adult novels but my emphasis is on adult reading for the purpose of learning.]

**Young Adult Novels: Cultural**

*Becoming Naomi Leon* by Pam Munoz Ryan (USA to Mexico)

*Behind the Mountains* by Edwidge Danticat (Haiti)

*Bronx Masquerade* by Nikki Grimes (USA/Latina)

*Call Me Maria* by Judith Ortiz Cofer (Puerto Rico)

*Finding My Hat* by John Son (Korea)

*Flight to Freedom* by Ana Veciana-Suarez (Cuba)

*Lowji Discovers America* by Candace Fleming (India)

*The Stone Goddess* by Minfong Ho (Cambodia)

### Picture Books: Cultural

- Altman, Linda Jacobs (1993). *Amelia's Road*. (Migrant)
- Ashley, Bernard & Thompson, Carol (2002). *Double the Love*. (Mixed Families)
- Chinn, Karen (1995). *Sam and the Lucky Money*. (China)
- Davol, Marguerite (1993). *Black, White, Just Right!* (Mixed Families)
- Edmonds, Lyra (2004). *An African Princess* (Africa)
- English, Karen (1996) *Neeny Coming, Neeny Going* (Gullah)
- Galan, Ana (2005). *No is No, Si is Yes*. (Spanish)
- Hoffman, Mary (2002). *The Color of Home*. (Somalia)
- Hooks, Bell (2004). *Skin Again*.(USA)
- Knight, Margy Burns (1993) *Who Belongs Here?* (Cambodia)
- Kuklin, Susan (2006). *Families*.
- Kurtz, Jane (2005). *In the Small, Small Night* (Ghana)
- Monk, Isabell (1999). *Hope*. (Mixed Families)
- Nye, Naomi Shihab (1994) *Sitti's Secrets*. (Palestine)
- Pak, Soyung (1999). *Dear Juno* (Korea)
- Raschka, Chris (2000). *Yo! Yes!* (USA)
- Recorvits, Helen (2003). *My Name is Yoon*.(Korea)
- Smith, Cynthia Leitich (2000). *Jingle Dancer* (Native American)
- Stojic, Manya (2002). *Hello World! Greetings in 42 Languages Around the World*.
- Wong, Janet (2002). *Apple Pie, 4<sup>th</sup> of July*. (China)
- Wong, Janet (2000). *The Trip Back Home*. (China)

### **Young Adult Novels: Issues**

*Amber Was Brave, Essie Was Smart* by Vera B. Williams (Incarceration; Latchkey; Free verse)

*Ida B* by Katherine Hannigan (Home School; Cancer)

*Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key* by Jack Gantos (ADHD; series)

*Olive's Ocean* by Kevin Henkes (Classmate dies; Invisibility)

*Shakespeare Bats Cleanup* by Ron Koertge (Mono; Free verse)

*Speak* by Laurie Halse Anderson (Rape)

*Tangerine* by Edward Bloor (Bullying)

### **Picture Books: Issues**

*Back into Mommy's Tummy* by Thierry Robberecht (New baby)

*Billy and Belle* by Sarah Garland (New baby and mixed family)

*Fly Away Home* by Eve Bunting (Homelessness)

*I Love You Like Crazy Cakes* by Rose Lewis (Adoption)

*Mama Zooms* by Jane Cowen-Fletcher (Wheelchair)

*Night Shift Daddy* by Eileen Spinelli

*Over the Moon* by Karen Katz (Adoption)