

Donalyn Miller, Nerdy Book Club co-founder, with this advice to librarians quoted at [SLJ by Addie Matteson](#):

"Seek out diverse titles that do not show diversity as an issue or problem in the story. So many titles portray what makes the child diverse as an issue or source of conflict in the book, such as civil rights marches and slavery. While these stories should be told and read, children need positive, affirming portrayals that do not reinforce marginalization or "white man rescue" narratives."

Judy Helfand and Laurie Lippin, *Understanding Whiteness*

"Resist romanticization, with its tendency toward stereotypes and dual thinking... We need to know each other as the unique human beings we are, not just as a member of a racial/ethnic group."

Myke Johnson, from the essay "[Wanting to Be Indian](#)"

"Cultural sharing begins in respect, with patience not to make assumptions but to risk stepping outside of our own frame of reference."

[Rukhsana Khan](#), children's book writer

"What people often forget is that Muslim culture is hardly a homogenous entity. In fact out of all Muslim cultures, the only one I can speak with anything close to 'absolute' authority on is the 'Pakistan-Muslim-who've-emigrated-to-Canada-at-a-young-age' culture."

Ta-Nehisi Coates, from [Between the World and Me](#) writing about an enslaved woman.

"Slavery is a particular, specific enslaved woman whose mind is as active as your own, whose range of feelings as vast as your own, who prefers how the light falls in one particular spot in the woods, who enjoys fishing where the water eddies in a nearby stream, who loves her mother in her own complicated way, thinks her sister talks too loud, has a favorite cousin, a favorite season, excels at dressmaking and knows inside herself that she is as intelligent and capable as anyone."