Books for Boys: Multicultural Literature with Strong Male Characters

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Abstract

Boys need books with which they can connect, books that reach out to them with characters that reflect themselves, books that feature people who speak and look and act like the people in their lives. Among the functions of literature in children's lives, two are particularly relevant: facilitating literacy skills and providing role models. The path to becoming a proficient reader begins with the spark of interest in a book – the desire to know more. Young male readers need to envision characters like themselves in active roles: solving problems, undertaking responsibilities, exhibiting leadership, accomplishing worthy tasks.

Keywords

children's literature, boys, multicultural literature

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Request PDF on ResearchGate | Feisty Females: Using Children's Literature with Strong Female Characters | Girls enter school more mathematics ready than boys. Girls enter school more mathematics ready than boys. By the time they graduate from high school, however, females have been outdistanced by males in the number of higher-level mathematics courses taken and in the results of crucial tests, such as the mathematics portion of the Scholastic Achievement Test (American Association of University Women 1991). The preservice teachers were required to use a children's literature book to explore a mathematical concept in three mathematics-focused lesson plans. Boys need books with which they can connect, books that reach out to them with characters that reflect themselves, books that feature people who speak and look and act like the people in their lives. Among the functions of literature in children's lives, two are particularly relevant: facilitating literacy skills and providing role models. The path to becoming a proficient reader begins with the spark of interest in a book – the desire to know more. Young male readers need to envision characters like themselves in active roles: solving problems, undertaking responsibilities, exhibiting leadership, accomplishing worthy tasks.

Multicultural literature can teach children more about their cultural heritage, as well as pride for their past. Goals of Multicultural Literature There are six main goals in teaching children multicultural literature. First, multicultural literature increases sense of self-worth and a sense that they have a chance for a successful future. In order for a multicultural book to do the culture justice the characters should be authentic, not stereotyped (Canales, Lucido & Salas, 2002). The characters must reflect the distinct cultural experiences and views of the specific group that is being portrayed (Diamond & Moore, 1995). Going along with this idea, character representations must be portrayed in a true-to-life and balanced manner.