

Finding culturally diverse literature

A resource from the VicTESOL, SLAV, Stella and LMERC joint Culturally Diverse Literature Professional Learning Series

This list is not an endorsement of websites, booksellers or publishers but provides a starting point for discovering a wide range of literature and support for building a diverse collection of resources at your school. A [list of suppliers](#) can be accessed from the LMERC library catalogue.

Languages and Multicultural Education Resource Centre (LMERC)

A DET lending library for teachers across all sectors and levels specialising in EAL, Languages and resources to support the Cross Curriculum Priority areas Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures, Asia and Australia's engagement with Asia and the Intercultural Capability. Whole term bulk loans of resources can be arranged for pick up with free postage to government schools outside of the metro area. LMERC staff put together a quarterly newsletter containing information about culturally diverse literature, professional learning opportunities and resources for teachers. Curated thematic resource lists can be accessed from the library homepage from the Reading lists tab. See: [LMERC](#)



School Library Association Victoria (SLAV)

The School Library Association of Victoria offers dynamic and inspiring opportunities for teacher-librarians and library teams to build their essential role in engaging and developing lifelong learners. SLAV publications include the journals Synergy and FYI as well other resources to support inquiry-based learning. SLAV regularly hosts professional learning events including a Reading forum series open to any educator. The next session *Readers, Stories, Literacy: A forum for learning and discussion* will explore how we talk about books in reading programs and to English classes or individuals when we are trying to capture their interest and ensure they want to read the book no matter what! How to give a great book talk and discuss hints and tips and listen to a panel of highly skilled book talkers discussing their best book talks and strategies for encouraging book talk among students. See: [SLAV](#)



The Stella prize

Stella is an organisation that champions cultural change through recognising, elevating and celebrating Australian women's writing. It includes the annual Stella Prize award for women's writing, the Stella Count, which examines gender bias in book reviewing and Stella Schools, which develops programs that seek to inspire and empower young people to find their own creative voices, challenge stereotypes and imagine a future not limited by their gender. See: [Stella](#)



International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY) – Australia

Australia's national section of IBBY was founded more than fifty years ago. IBBY Australia is the only Australian children's literature organisation that is a section of an international organisation. It has a unique role, promoting Australian authors and illustrators and their books at an international level; and also working towards international understanding through quality literature for young readers. IBBY supports a number of awards including the most prestigious award in the field of children's literature, the [Hans Christian Andersen Award](#) given biennially to an author and an illustrator whose complete works have made a lasting contribution to children's literature as well as publishing the Bookbird journal. Regular features include coverage of children's literature studies and children's literature awards around the world as well as reading promotion projects worldwide. Bookbird is indexed by Scopus and is available in print and online through Project Muse. Bookbird can be read for a limited time for free on Project Muse [here](#). For more information see below and the Bookbird [Facebook page](#). See: [IBBY](#)

Kids own publishing

Kids' Own Publishing is an Australian organisation that celebrates children as authors and artists and gives them a voice through publishing. They partner with communities to share diverse stories widely through an artist-led publishing process. Many books are in languages other than English. An iPad app has been created that supports and encourages books to be written and read in all languages. "Our Voices" has developed out of Kids'



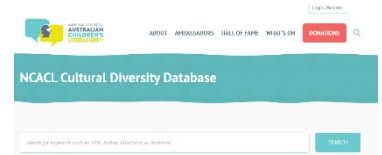
Own Publishing's research and programs where the power of stories in children's first language is a powerful literacy development tool. See: [Kid's own publishing](#)

We need diverse books

We Need Diverse Books is a non-profit and a grassroots organization of children's book lovers that advocates essential changes in the publishing industry. Their 'aim is to help produce and promote literature that reflects and honors the lives of all young people.' See: [WNDB](#)

Reading Australia - Copyright Australia

Reading Australia champions Australia's rich literary history and presents thoughtful, stimulating, challenging, and sometimes provocative literary works for Australian students. The selection of suggested texts 'reflects the stories we tell as a nation and connects teachers with diverse and robust voices'. Text list [available here](#). See: [Reading Australia](#)
See: [Teacher resources for new literature 2020](#)



Cultural diversity database – National Centre for Australian Children's Literature (NCACL)

The National Centre for Australian Children's Literature has a comprehensive collection of material about Australian children's literature. They have recently created a database of Australian literature with culturally diverse content. The database is searchable by themes, year level and Australian curriculum links. See: [Cultural Diversity database](#)

Read up – Stella Prize

Curated lists of books organised by themes such as cultural diversity, gender, LGBTIQ+ and respectful relationships. See: [Read up](#)

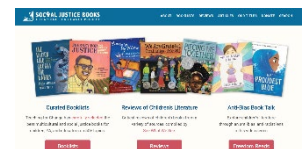


Red room poetry

Red Room Poetry is an Australian organisation that commissions, publishes and promotes poetry. Red room poetry reflects the diversity of Australian voices. Red Room poetry commissions and publishes poetry of all styles and stages (page/performance/spoken word/experimental/digital/musical/visual). They 'develop creative and critical contexts where poetry is explored across languages, landscapes and mediums in and beyond literary communities to make Australian poetry and creative expression widely accessible'. See: [Red room poetry](#)

Social justice books

Social Justice Books is a project of Teaching for Change, a non-profit organisation who provide teachers and parents with tools to find curated and evaluated culturally diverse books, many with social justice or identity themes. Includes a searchable database and tips for evaluating resources. See: [Social justice books](#)



Anti-racist children's and YA reading list

A 2020 list of recommended titles from Publishers weekly who have 'compiled [a] selection of recommended fiction and nonfiction about race and activism from creators of color, as well as suggested fiction that celebrates the diversity of the Black experience by #OwnVoices authors and illustrators'. See [An Anti-racist children's and YA reading list](#)

Hijabi librarians

A group of Muslim librarians blogging about contemporary literature written by or about Muslim people. As Muslims they noticed that 'while there is a growing number of books with Muslim protagonists being published, there were few review sites dedicated to librarians and teachers penned by Muslim professionals in the literature community.' Their aim is 'to recognize, celebrate and honor the books and authors that get it right'. See: [Hijabi librarians](#)



Publishers

Lee & Low books claim to be the largest multicultural children's book publisher in the U.S. Website includes a searchable database, thematic book collections, reading lists and a blog.

See their blog on race, diversity, education, and children's books at [Lee and Low book blog](#)

See: [Lee & Low](#)

Australian publisher of the Growing up series, Black Inc Books. See: [Black inc](#)

Allen & Unwin, publishers of the Through my eyes series (some own voices texts) as well as many other diverse authors and texts. See: [Allen & Unwin](#)

Founded in 2016, Salaam Reads is an imprint that aims to introduce readers of all faiths and backgrounds to a wide variety of Muslim children and families and offer Muslim kids an opportunity to see themselves reflected positively in published works. See: [Salaam Reads – Simon & Schuster](#)



Book sellers

See the [LMERC suppliers list](#) for a full range of suppliers of culturally and linguistically diverse books sellers. Most bookshops can order in books from a range of publishers or distributors.

Little Bookroom

Little Book room have been operating for 60 years and specialise in children's books. Working with [Berry Street Schools](#), they have created a library starter pack. Designed with schools who need a new library, or an overhaul, especially for high schools with low reading levels or engagement. See: [Little Bookroom – Schools and libraries](#)

Readings - Kids

A wide range of culturally diverse picture books and novels. The website contains recommended lists of resources on themes such as LGBTQIA+ books for kids or teenagers, First nations books for kids and for teenagers.

See: [Readings - kids](#)

The Kids Bookshop

A regional bookshop with library trained staff who can assist with the provision of books for the classroom, the library, wide reading programmes, literature circles, awards and prizes.

See: [The Kids Bookshop, Castlemaine](#)

Global Language books

An online bookshop specializing in linguistically diverse children's books.

See: [Global Language Books](#)

This series of professional learning events is a result of collaboration between staff from the Languages and Multicultural Education Resource Centre (LMERC), the School Libraries Association of Victoria (SLAV), Stella Schools, and VicTESOL.

About the Organisers

VicTESOL is a professional association committed to promoting excellence in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages and fostering and supporting cultural and linguistic diversity through high quality multicultural education. VicTESOL provides support and services to generalist, content, trade and EAL (ESL) specialist teachers across sectors.

<https://victesol.vic.edu.au/>

The School Library Association of Victoria (SLAV) offers dynamic and inspiring opportunities for teacher-librarians and library teams to build their essential role in engaging and developing lifelong learners. Through leadership, advocacy and collegiality and an extensive professional learning and publications program.

www.slav.org.au

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<https://thestellaprize.com.au/>

The Languages & Multicultural Education Resource Centre (LMERC) is for educators across all sectors K-12. LMERC provides resources in the areas of English as an Additional Language (EAL), Languages other than English, the Intercultural Capability and the cross curriculum priorities areas of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures, Asia and Australia's engagement with Asia, and Sustainability. The library holds an extensive collection of over 25,000 resources in all formats for educators across all sectors and at all levels, early childhood to adult. Library membership is free to teachers from these educational settings: early childhood centres (in receipt of government funding), schools F-12 across all sectors, pre-service teachers and lecturers (in the areas of EAL and languages), homework clubs and community language schools.

<https://lmerc.softlinkhosting.com.au/oliver/home/news>

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