

CCBC Recommended Book Search Guide

Updated June 2021: The CCBC Recommended-Book Search includes titles we have recommended since the 1980 publishing year, when we began our annual *CCBC Choices* list. Some of the books we've recommended in the past* are no longer in print, and may have limited availability through public and school libraries. We include them for researchers and others interested in our work, which includes ongoing attention to books from mainstream and small and independent publishers focused on diversity. **You can use the "Publication Date" filter to limit your search to newer books, or books published in a specific time period.**

*The work of adding older *Choices* books to the recommended books database is ongoing.

Watch a [video tutorial](#) for finding CCBC-recommended books on our site.

Adding books we've recommended in the past is an ongoing work in progress. We currently have the past ten years of books in *CCBC Choices* in the database, as well as selected titles from earlier years. Additionally, as we work our way back through *Choices*, we are also evaluating whether a book we recommended in the past is a title that we continue to stand behind today.

Information for CCBC-recommended books includes:

- bibliographic information (title, contributors, publisher, year, ISBN)
- broad age categories (audience, based on age recommendations we assign to books based on interest and appeal; we do not evaluate by reading level)
- broad diversity subject headings (heritage, religion, disability, LGBTQ--more info on following pages)
- contributor identity information when known
- content type and format (e.g., informational, picture book, substantial narrative non-fiction)
- If book was written/illustrated by current or former Wisconsin resident, has a Wisconsin subject heading, or has subject matter of special interest in Wisconsin (e.g., Ojibwe People)
- Subject headings generated by the CCBC (e.g., African Americans, Friendship, Perseverance)
- CCBC annotation/review

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Basic Search Overview

HOME / CCBC-RECOMMENDED BOOKS

CCBC-RECOMMENDED BOOKS

Interested in books we counted for our [annual diversity statistics](#)? See the [Diversity Statistics Book Search](#).

Clear Filters

Ages Diversity Subject Contributor Content Type Format Publication Year Wisconsin Search

Title ▼
 Title
 Author
 Subject
 Keyword

Keyword searches Title, Author/Contributor, Subject that the CCBC has assigned (e.g., African Americans, Stories in Rhyme) and CCBC annotation/review fields. (Note: Keyword is most effective when a single word is entered, e.g., “African,” “Rhyme.”)

Filters

Use **Filters** to further specify search parameters (Age, Diversity Subject, Content Type, etc.) **While Filters narrow the search overall, each box checked will ADD books to those narrowed results** (each check functions as AND in Boolean terms)

Clear Filters

Ages Diversity Subject Contributor Content Type Format Publication Year Wisconsin Search

Most of the filters are self-explanatory. Following is more information specific to the diversity subject and contributor filters.

(For more on Diversity Subject and Contributor categories, see Appendix 1 on page 6 and Appendix 2 on page 8)

Basic Search Boolean Searching Defaults

Searching **across** categories (e.g., Diversity Subject, Author, Illustrator, Primary Character) defaults to **AND**

Ex:

Checking **Author: Black/African** and **Illustrator: Black/African**
returns books with **BOTH** a Black/African Author **AND** a Black/African illustrator

Searching multiple components **within** a single category (e.g. Diversity Subject, Author, Illustrator, Primary Character) defaults to **OR**

Ex:

Checking **Diversity Subject: Latinx** and **Diversity Subject LGBTQ Character/Topic**
returns books with **either** a Latinx **OR** LGBTQ Diversity Subject

Advanced Search Overview

The Advanced Search allows use of multiple AND operators to search a combination of **Author/Contributor, Title, Subject, and Keyword.**

In addition the Advance Search allows combining these search terms with the **Filters** as previously described.

Advanced Search Tips

- **Keyword** is most effective with a single word search term rather than compound term.
Ex: If you are looking for books about the **rain forest**, search:

Advanced Recommended Book Search

Interested in books we counted for our [annual diversity statistics](#)? See the [Diversity Statistics Book Search Recommended Book Search Guide](#)

Build your own search by adding up to 5 segments. Use the filters in the gray bar to further refine your search.

Clear Filters

Keyword	Q rain	+	
And	Keyword	Q forest	+ -

Ages	Diversity Subject	Contributor	Content Type	Format	Publication Year	Wisconsin	Search
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- **Author/Contributor** can be searched as Last Name, First Name (e.g. Reynolds, Jason) or First Name Last Name (Jason Reynolds)
- **Subject** refers to CCBC-assigned subject headings, not broad “Diversity Subject” categories. (For Diversity Subject searches use the Filters in the Basic Search as outline earlier). As noted earlier, CCBC-assigned subjects include specifics of identity (e.g, African Americans, Ojibwe People, Puerto Ricans, Japanese and Japanese Americans, Muslim People, Blind and Visually Impaired People, etc.) as well as many headings reflecting content (e.g., Stories in Rhyme, Friendship, School, Racism, and many more).
- Using **Subject** in combination with **Keyword** can further narrow a search, for example:

Subject Pets AND
Keyword cat

Custom Booklist Overview (My List)

To create a custom booklist click on the **Add to My List** button for a book.

You may continue to add to or delete from this list for the duration of your browser session. Once the session expires or your browser cache is cleared, your list will no longer be available.

To add a book to your list, click on **Add to My List**:

The screenshot shows a library search interface. At the top, there are filter tabs: Ages, Diversity Subject, Contributor, Content Type, Format, Publication Year, Wisconsin, and a Search button. Below the filters are dropdown menus for 'Sort By' (set to 'Title - Ascending') and 'Results per page' (set to '10'). The main content area displays the book 'March Forward, Girl' by Melba Pattillo Beals, illustrated by Frank Morrison. The book cover features a young girl holding a sign that says 'LIVING ROOM FOR WHITE ONLY'. The book details include the publisher (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2018), pages (214), ISBN (9781328882127), CCBC Age Recommendation (Age 11 and older), and CCBC Location (Non-Fiction, 323 Beals). At the bottom of the book entry is a button labeled 'Add To My List'.

To view/edit/print/download your list: click on **My List** at top of page:

HOME / CCBC-RECOMMENDED BOOKS

CCBC-RECOMMENDED BOOKS

Interested in books we counted for our [annual diversity statistics](#)? See the [Diversity Statistics Book Search](#).

Advanced Search Clear Filters

Subject

racism

Ages Diversity Subject Contributor Content Type Format Publication Year Wisconsin Search

Sort By Results per page

The **My List** page shows your custom list, which you can **print or download** as an Excel or pdf document.

CCBC BOOK SEARCH: MY LIST

Note: Books recommended to-date by the CCBC are labeled "CCBC Recommended Book." This is important to know if you included books on your list from the Diversity Statistics Book Search, which accesses all books we've received since 2018.

You may add to, print, or export this list for the duration of your browser session. Once the session expires or your browser cache is cleared, your list will no longer be available.

Include CCBC Annotations Clear List Excel PDF Print

CCBC Recommended Book

March Forward, Girl

by Melba Pattillo Beals
Illustrated by Frank Morrison

Publisher: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt
Publish Year: 2018

As a teenager, Melba Patillo was one of the Little Rock Nine, the first group of Black students to enroll in the formerly all-white Little Rock Central High School in 1957. This memoir

Appendix 1: Diversity Subject

The following **Diversity Subject** categories broadly capture the following areas of diverse content for each books.

^ Diversity Subject

<input type="checkbox"/> Arab <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> Black/African <input type="checkbox"/> Brown Skin Unspecified <input type="checkbox"/> First/Native Nations <input type="checkbox"/> Latinx <input type="checkbox"/> Middle East <input type="checkbox"/> Multicultural General <input type="checkbox"/> Pacific Islander	<input type="checkbox"/> Cognitive/Neurological Condition <input type="checkbox"/> Physical (Dis)ability/Condition <input type="checkbox"/> Psychiatric Condition	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender Nonconformity <input type="checkbox"/> LGBTQ Character/Topic <input type="checkbox"/> LGBTQ Family <input type="checkbox"/> LGBTQ Innuendo <input type="checkbox"/> LGBTQ Non-Fiction	<input type="checkbox"/> Christian <input type="checkbox"/> Jewish <input type="checkbox"/> Muslim <input type="checkbox"/> Other Religion
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In addition to these broad Diversity Subjects, books are assigned subject headings (searchable with Subject or Keyword search) to reflect the specifics of heritage (Africans Americans, Japanese and Japanese Americans, Ojibwe People, etc.), disability (autism spectrum, Blindness, Depression, etc.), LGBTQ (Lesbians, Bisexuals, Transgender People, etc.) and Religion (Hindu People, Muslim People, etc.) Other content may be accessed by using a keyword search to look for words in the CCBC annotation.

Heritage/Region/Setting

Checked to indicate:

- Heritage of the primary character(s)
- Heritage of significant secondary character(s)
- Region/Place where book is set
 - Example: A book about pandas in their natural habitat = **Asian**
 - Example: A book with animal characters, set in Mexico = **Latinx**
- Subject/Origin
 - Example: *Raven Loses His Nose* by David Lang = **First/Native Nations**. It is adapted from a traditional Native story.
 - Example: A board book that teaches Japanese words for everyday objects = **Asian**

Category Notes:

- **Brown-skin Unspecified** is used when the character is not white but there is no stated or identifiable heritage/cultural details in depiction.
- All boxes that apply are checked, so a multiracial character will have checkboxes for all categories of their identity (e.g., **African** and **Latinx**; **Latinx** and **White**)
- Caribbean people are considered **Latinx** by default—if it's clear the character also identifies as **African**, both categories will be selected.

- Some **Middle Eastern** heritages (e.g., Iranian) are *also* checked as **Asian** and/or **Arab**.
- **Multicultural General** is checked when:
 - The book features a group of characters of at least 3 different races, giving them approximately equal weight throughout the story (i.e. none of them appear to be THE primary character, or, the GROUP is the “primary character”).
 - A book is about or set in a variety of countries.

Religion

Checked when:

- The religion of the primary character(s) and/or significant secondary characters
- Religious tales or folklore
- Subject
 - Example: A nonfiction book about the Kindertransport = **Jewish**
 - Example: *Holi Colors* by Rina Singh = **Other Religion** (Hindu is indicated in “Notes” field)
 - Example: A book about the Nativity = **Christian**

LGBTQ

Checked when:

- A primary or significant secondary character is LGBTQ+
- LGBTQ person/topic is the subject of a book

Category Notes:

- **Gender Nonconformity:** a gender nonconforming primary character or significant secondary character. NOT used to indicate an explicitly transgender character. (Note: In the case of transgender characters, **LGBTQ Character/Topic** is checked.)
 - Example: *I Love My Colorful Nails* by Luis Amavisca and Alicia Acosta. The book is about a cisgender boy who enjoys painting his nails.
- **LGBTQ Character/Topic:** primary or significant secondary character is LGBTQ+
- **LGBTQ Family:** the parents or grandparents of primary or significant secondary characters are LGBTQ+—but only if the parents/grandparents themselves appear in the story.
- **LGBTQ Innuendo:** an LGBTQ metaphor or implication; LGBTQ+ content that is not explicitly stated; the book can be interpreted as having parallels to LGBTQ+ experiences or topics
 - Example: *Not Quite Narwhal* by Jessie Sima can be interpreted as a metaphor for coming out and finding community.
- **LGBTQ Non-Fiction:** an LGBTQ+ subject (person, historical event, etc.)

Disability

Checked when:

- A primary or significant secondary character has a disability.
- Disability is the subject of a book.

Category Notes:

- **Cognitive/Neurological** disability/condition includes autism spectrum, learning and development differences
- **Physical** disability/condition includes hearing, visual, mobility-related issues, as well as chronic illness/disease
- **Psychiatric** disability/ condition includes depression, mental illness
- Two or more categories may be checked if cause/impact of a condition crosses categories (e.g., a brain injury is physical but may also have cognitive/neurological impact)

Appendix 2: Contributor (Author/Illustrator/Compiler) Identity

The screenshot shows a web form with several tabs: Ages, Diversity Subject, Contributor, Content Type, Format, Publication Year, and Wisconsin. The 'Contributor' tab is selected and active. Below the tabs, there are three columns of checkboxes for identifying a contributor's identity:

- Column 1 (Heritage):** Arab, Asian, Black/African, Brown Skin Unspecified, First/Native Nations, Latinx, Middle East, Multiracial, Pacific Islander, White.
- Column 2 (Religion):** LGBTQ, Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Other Religion.
- Column 3 (Disability):** Cognitive/Neurological Disability/Condition, Physical Disability/Condition, Psychiatric Disability/Condition.

- **Heritage** is based on self-identification and/or research from reliable sources:
 - We check all boxes that apply. A person who identifies as multiracial would have all applicable boxes checked (e.g., **African**; **Latinx**), plus the **Multiracial** box
 - Caribbean people are considered **Latinx** by default—if it's clear the person also identifies as **African** (e.g, Afro-Cuban), both categories will be selected.
 - Some **Middle Eastern** heritages(e.g., Iran) are *also* checked as **Asian** and/or **Arab**
 - Not every book creator's heritage is identified
 - Brown Skin Unspecified will be changed to BIPOC Unspecified in next update
- **LGBTQ** is checked when the creator self-identifies or information is found from reliable sources
- **Disability/LGBTQ/Religion** are all based on self-identification and/or reliable sources. We do not spend significant time researching these categories unless it is relevant to the content of the book