

Diverse books are books by or about people, places and experiences different from your own. Diverse books include, but are not limited to, books with characters who are of a different race, ethnicity, or culture, belong to a different religion, live in a far-away place, have a physical or mental disability, are LGBTQ+, or **live in a very different way** than the reader.

Why It's Important

Books "... let readers safely enter and exit worlds different than their own". Even children who are very different from a character in a book **can often feel a connection** with people of other cultures and backgrounds through a book. Some diverse books are simply a slice of normal life, showing we're all much more similar than we are different. Students who gain this understanding of other cultures and perspectives at an early age **are better able to effectively communicate with others when they get older**. These students grow up understanding that everyone, including themselves, **is equally valuable**. According to the Michigan Department of Education, a student who recognizes that "people from widely divergent cultures who represent diverse experiences and perspectives must learn and work together" **is an important factor in determining college readiness**.

Visit diversebooks.org for more resources about diverse books.

4th Grade Reading Challenge

The **Building Bridges Reading Challenge** engages your students' curiosity about other societies, cultures, and time periods. To complete the program, each participant reads 5 diverse books during their 4th grade year. **Diverse books are by or about people, places and experiences different from your own**. Diverse books can include, but are not limited to, books with characters who are of a different race, ethnicity, or culture, belong to a different religion, live in a far-away place, have a physical or mental disability, are LGBTQ+, or **live in a very different way** than the reader.

How to Participate

Look over the books suggested by our librarians. Discuss with your 4th grader some books you feel they might enjoy and help them **select 5 to read**. We strongly encourage you to read and discuss the diverse books your child chooses with them to make this as valuable an experience as possible.

Remember to ask for one of our **Challenge packets** and get registered at the library to get the latest news. When your 4th grader has selected and read 5 books, have them write down the title and author of each book they've read on the opposite page. **That's it!** Once a student completes the challenge, they can visit GLADL to receive their prizes – which will include a **free book!**

This Reading Challenge has been adapted for use at GLADL, from a program created by Clinton-Macomb Public Library, and is used with their permission.



BUILDING BRIDGES 4TH GRADE READING CHALLENGE

131 E. Jefferson St. Grand Ledge, MI
Phone: 517.627.7014 Web: gladl.org

Library Hours:

Monday - Thursday 10am - 9pm
Friday & Saturday 10am - 5pm
Sunday 1pm - 5pm

I accept the challenge!

Name _____ Phone _____

Email _____

Your Log

Write down the title and the author of the books you read, as well as your book rating here:

1. _____

Rating: 

2. _____

Rating: 

3. _____

Rating: 

4. _____

Rating: 

5. _____

Rating: 

Discussion questions:

- How are you different or alike from the main character?
- What challenges did the main character face in the book?
- How did you feel reading the book?
- What surprised you or what did you learn from the book?
- What makes this book diverse?

4th Grade Challenge Suggestions

African American Characters

- ***A good kind of trouble.*** Ramee, Lisa Moore. Collection: Juvenile Fiction, Call #: J FICTION RAMEE
- ***New kid.*** Craft, Jerry. Collection: Juvenile Fiction, Call #: J GRAPHIC CRAFT
- ***The Parker inheritance.*** Johnson, Varian. Collection: Juvenile Fiction, Call #: J FICTION JOHNSON

Asian American Characters

- ***Front desk.*** Yang, Kelly. Collection: Juvenile Fiction, Call #: J FICTION YANG
- ***Measuring up.*** LaMotte, Lily. Collection: Juvenile Fiction, Call #: J GRAPHIC LAMOTTE
- ***Not your all-American girl.*** Rosenberg, Madelyn. Collection: Juvenile Fiction, Call #: J FICTION ROSENBERG
- ***Tangled threads : a Hmong girl's story.*** Shea, Pegi Deitz. Collection: Juvenile Fiction, Call #: J FICTION SHEA

Hispanic Characters

- ***Each tiny spark.*** Cartaya, Pablo. Collection: Juvenile Fiction, Call #: J FICTION CARTAYA
- ***Efren divided : a novel.*** Cisneros, Ernesto. Collection: Juvenile Fiction, Call #: J FICTION CISNEROS
- ***Esperanza rising.*** Ryan, Pam Munoz. Collection: Juvenile Fiction, Call #: J FICTION RYAN
- ***Gaby, lost and found.*** Cervantes, Angela. Collection: Juvenile Fiction, Call #: J FICTION CERVANTES

Muslim American Characters

- ***A place at the table.*** Faruqi, Saadia. Collection: Juvenile Fiction, Call #: J FICTION FARUQI
- ***More to the story.*** Khan, Hena. Collection: Juvenile Fiction, Call #: J FICTION KHAN

Native American Characters

- ***I can make this promise.*** Day, Christine. Collection: Juvenile Fiction, Call #: J FICTION DAY
- ***The case of Windy Lake.*** Hutchinson, Michael. Collection: Juvenile Fiction, Call #: J FICTION HUTCHINS
- ***Two roads. Bruchac, Joseph.*** Collection: Juvenile Fiction, Call #: J FICTION BRUCHAC

Characters with Physical or Mental Disability

- ***Dog driven.*** Johnson, Terry Lynn. Collection: Juvenile Fiction, Call #: J FICTION JOHNSON
- ***Insignificant events in the life of a cactus.*** Bowling, Dusti. Collection: Juvenile Fiction, Call #: J FICTION BOWLING
- ***Out of my mind.*** Draper, Sharon M. Collection: Juvenile Fiction, Call #: J FICTION DRAPER
- ***Show me a sign.*** LeZotte, Ann Clare. Collection: Juvenile Fiction, Call #: J FICTION LEZOTTE
- ***The war that saved my life.*** Bradley, Kimberly Brubaker. Collection: Juvenile Fiction, Call #: J FICTION BRADLEY

Characters with Mental Illnesses

- ***All the things that could go wrong.*** Foster, Stewart. Collection: Juvenile Fiction, Call #: J FICTION FOSTER

Homeless Characters

- ***No fixed address.*** Nielsen-Fernlund, Susin. Collection: Juvenile Fiction, Call #: J FICTION NIELSEN
- ***Parked.*** Svetcov, Danielle. Collection: Juvenile Fiction, Call #: J FICTION SVETCOV

Set in Foreign Country

- ***Refugee 87.*** Fountain, Ele. Collection: Juvenile Fiction, Call #: J FICTION FOUNTAIN
- ***Running on the roof of the world.*** Butterworth, Jess. Collection: Juvenile Fiction, Call #: J FICTION BUTTERWORTH
- ***Stand on the sky.*** Bow, Erin. Collection: Juvenile Fiction, Call #: J FICTION BOW

LGBTQ+

- ***Ana on the edge.*** Sass, A. J. Collection: Juvenile Fiction, Call #: J FICTION SASS
- ***The best at it.*** Pancholy, Maulik. Collection: Juvenile Fiction, Call #: J FICTION PANCHOLY
- ***The other boy.*** Hennessey, M. G. Collection: Juvenile Fiction, Call #: J FICTION HENNESSEY