

Critiqued Picture Books

- **Title:** *A Day's Work* written by Eve Bunting and illustrated by Ronald Himler
 - **Brief Notes:** Distorted depictions of Mexican migrant day laborers, including the lack of cultural markers and inaccurate depictions of Mexican culture, Spanish language, and the relationships between day laborers and contractors
 - **Review Source:** De Colores: The Raza Experience in Books for Children's review of the book <http://decoloresreviews.blogspot.com/2013/04/a-days-work.html>
- **Title:** *A Fine Dessert* written by Emily Jenkins and illustrated by Sophie Blackall
 - **Brief Notes:** Presents smiling slaves and oversimplification and dishonest treatment of slavery.
 - **Review Source:** Ebony Elizabeth Thomas, Debbie Reese, and Kathleen T. Horning's article "Much Ado About A Fine Dessert The Cultural Politics of Representing Slavery in Children's Literature." in the *Journal of Children's Literature* 42 no. 2 (2016): 6–17.
- **Title:** *The Five Chinese Brothers* written by Claire Huchet Bishop and illustrated by Kurt Wiese
 - **Brief Notes:** Utilizes the stereotype that all Chinese people look alike and are yellow.
 - **Review Source:** Fuse 8 n Kate's podcast review of the book <https://blogs.slj.com/afuse8production/2020/07/13/fuse-8-n-kate-the-five-chinese-brothers-by-claire-huchet-bishop-and-kurt-wiese/>
- **Title:** *The Girl Who Loved Wild Horses* written and illustrated by Paul Goble
 - **Brief Notes:** Issue of authority and whether this is an actual Native story or an invented one.
 - **Review Source:** Debbie Reese's review of the book <https://americanindiansinchildrensliterature.blogspot.com/2014/06/paul-gobles-girl-who-loved-wild-horses.html>
- **Title:** *If I Ran the Zoo* written and illustrated by Dr. Seuss
 - **Brief Notes:** Stereotypical depictions of various ethnic groups.
 - **Review Sources:** SLJ Blog post "Surprise! It's Racist! Unwanted Children's Book Surprises" <https://blogs.slj.com/afuse8production/2014/09/25/surprise-its-racist-unwanted-childrens-book-surprises/>, Katie Ishizuka and Ramón Stephens' article "The Cat is Out of the Bag: Orientalism, Anti-Blackness, and White Supremacy in Dr. Seuss's Children's Books" in *Research on Diversity in Youth Literature* 1, no. 2 (2019). <https://sophia.stkate.edu/rdyl/vol1/iss2/4/>, and Philip Nel's book *Was the Cat in the Hat Black?: The Hidden Racism of Children's Literature, and the Need for Diverse Books*
- **Title:** *If You Lived in Colonial Times* written by Ann McGovern and illustrated by June Otani
 - **Brief Notes:** Inaccurate colonial history book.
 - **Review Source:** Social Justice Books' blog post "Whitewashed Colonial History Children's Book Still in Print" <https://socialjusticebooks.org/whitewashed-colonial-history-childrens-book-still-in-print/>
- **Title:** Monkey Not Ready series written and illustrated by Marc Brown*
 - **Brief Notes:** Anthropomorphic monkeys have been used in history to represent and dehumanize black people. The use of anthropomorphic monkeys can lead to black caricature and stereotypical representations.

- **Review Source:** Edi Campbell's review of the book <https://crazyquiltedi.blog/2018/03/12/book-review-monkey-not-ready-for-kindergarten/>
*Numerous additional anthropomorphic monkey titles and reviews can be found on Edi Campbell's "Monkey Business" blog post (<https://crazyquiltedi.blog/2018/07/20/monkey-business/>) and Elisa Gall's "Knowing Better, Doing Better" blog post (<http://readingwhilewhite.blogspot.com/2018/06/knowning-better-doing-better.html>)
- **Title:** *Natalie's Hair is Wild* written and illustrated by Laura Freeman
 - **Brief Notes:** Contributes to the stigmatization of black hair being unkempt, unhygienic, and in need of taming through less wild styles. Also includes questionable illustrations depicting a fire hose used on a black child.
 - **Review Source:** Blackacademia's blog post, "Why every book made for our black girls ain't a good book" provides additional review <http://www.readblackademia.com/blog/why-every-book-made-for-our-black-girls-aint-a-good-book>
- **Title:** *Painting for Peace in Ferguson* written and illustrated by Carol Swartout Klein
 - **Brief Notes:** Absence of explanation or images connected to the systemic racism and violent events that occurred in Ferguson.
 - **Review Source:** Lena Amick's blog post "Painting for Peace in Ferguson Paints Over the Truth" <https://socialjusticebooks.org/painting-for-peace-in-ferguson-paints-over-truth-2/>
- **Title:** *A Passion for Elephants* written by Toni Buzzeo and illustrated by Holly Berry
 - **Brief Notes:** Uses tropes of Africa as one homogeneous place and white savior narrative of Westerners saving African animals with little geographical and cultural context.
 - **Review Source:** Africa Access' review of the book <http://africaaccessreview.org/2016/08/a-passion-for-elephants-the-real-life-adventure-of-field-scientist-cynthia-moss/>
- **Title:** *Skippyjon Jones* written and illustrated by Judy Schachner
 - **Brief Notes:** Contains Mexican stereotypes and culturally appropriates Spanish language and culture.
 - **Review Source:** De Colores: The Raza Experience in Books for Children's blog post "Skippyjon Jones: Transforming a Racist Stereotype into an Industry" <http://decoloresreviews.blogspot.com/2013/04/skippyjon-jones-and-big-bones.html>
- **Title:** *Stolen Words* written by Melanie Florence and illustrated by Gabrielle Grimard
 - **Brief Notes:** Contains an oversimplification and almost magical representation of residential school experience.
 - **Review Source:** Debbie Reese's review of the book <https://americanindiansinchildrensliterature.blogspot.com/2017/12/not-recommended-stolen-words-by-melanie.html>
- **Title:** *The Secret Project* written by Jonah Winter and illustrated by Jeanette Winter
 - **Brief Notes:** Contains inaccurate depictions of empty land inhabited by Native Americans.
 - **Review Source:** Debbie Reese's review of the book <https://americanindiansinchildrensliterature.blogspot.com/2017/03/not-recommended-secret-project-by-jonah.html>

- **Title:** *Ten Little Rabbits* written by Virginia Grossman and illustrated by Sylvia Long
 - **Brief Notes:** Issues of authority, inaccurate tribal information, and stereotypical depictions of bunnies racially coded as Native Americans
 - **Review Sources:** Teresa L. McCarty's article "What's Wrong with "Ten Little Rabbits"?" in *New Advocate* 8, no. 2 (1995): 97-98, and Debbie Reese's blog post "Indian Bunny. No! Now it is Brave Bunny --- And Ten Little Rabbits"
<https://americanindiansinchildrensliterature.blogspot.com/2006/08/indian-bunny.html>

- **Title:** *There is a Tribe of Kids* written and illustrated by Lane Smith
 - **Brief Notes:** Use of the word tribe to describe non-Native children dressed in primitive leaf clothes, recognizable as the children playing Indian.
 - **Review Source:** Debbie's Reese's blog post "Lane Smith's new picture book: There Is a Tribe of Kids (plus a response to Rosanne Parry)"
<https://americanindiansinchildrensliterature.blogspot.com/2016/07/lane-smiths-new-picture-book-there-is.html>

- **Title:** *Voices in the Park* written and illustrated by Anthony Browne
 - **Brief Notes:** Anthropomorphic monkeys have been used in history to represent and dehumanize black people. The use of anthropomorphic monkeys can lead to black caricature and stereotypical representations.
 - **Review Source:** Jane Kelley, Mari Stir, and Paula Price article "Anthropomorphic veneers in *Voices in the Park*: Questioning the Master Narratives Through a Socio-historical Analysis of Images and Text" in *The Dragon Lode* 31, no. 2 (2013): 44-53.
https://www.researchgate.net/publication/295702771_Anthropomorphic_Veneers_in_Voices_in_the_Park_Questioning_the_Master_Narratives_Through_a_Socio-Historical_Analysis_of_Images_and_Text