

IAGC 24TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE
 Chicago Marriott Naperville
 January 31 - February 2, 2019

“Diversity and Inclusion in the Library”
 Darlene Neumann
 Thursday, January 31, 2019
 10:45 a.m.

Library Mission And Goals For Cultural Diversity
Science and Arts Academy Library
 1825 Miner St.
 Des Plaines, IL 60016
 Darlene J. Neumann

Given Science and Arts Academy’s kaleidoscope of cultures, the Library needs to diversify its shelves by putting more books featuring diverse characters, written by diverse authors and own voices, into the hands of all of our students.

Library Goal One: To remove materials involving inaccurate or derogatory information from the library shelves. Inaccurate or devisive materials will be relocated off the shelves with accompanying or explanatory articles explain their removal. The librarian may also choose to withdraw the material.

Library Goal Two: To form a committee for the library of parents and staff who are interested in diversity issues. Focus will be to add books to the library from recommended lists. Parents and staff can develop ways in which this area of the library can grow.

Library Goal Three: To have at least one book in the collection written in each language students speak or listen to at home. This would validate each language and would show that everyone’s language is important. Students’ countries of origin could remain confidential upon request. Parents will be asked to help the librarian input world language materials into Destiny.

Library Goal Four: To add a minimum of five to ten books from each culture or nationality that represents our student body. Books will be chosen from culturally accurate recommended lists such as those found on library sites, organizations, cultural or ethnic sites.

Darlene J. Neumann , Library Media Specialist and Storyteller • 1.31.19
 Science & Arts Academy • 1825 Miner • DesPlaines, IL • 60016
dneumann@scienceandartsacademy.org • 847-827-7880

(Examples: CALA , Chinese American Library Association, has chosen books since 2008: the Award is to honor English or Chinese language books originally published in North America in 2008.)

The Brown Bookshelf <https://thebrownbookshelf.com> “is designed to push awareness of the myriad of Black voices writing for young readers. Our flagship initiative is *28 Days Later*, a month-long showcase of the best in Picture Books, Middle Grade and Young Adult novels written and illustrated by African Americans.”

Darlene Neumann, Library Media Specialist and Storyteller

dneumann@scienceandartsacademy.org

Science and Arts Academy

1825 Miner St, Des Plaines, IL 60016

Goals originally Developed 9/16

Important Diversity Sites for Diversity and Inclusion

Social Justice Books: A Teaching for Change Project

The SWWS (See What We See) database is a unique, non-commercial project with no funding ties to the publishing industry. The books reviewed are categorized as Recommended, Recommended with Caveats, and Not Recommended. They include new titles and also many of the classics in children’s literature.

<https://socialjusticebooks.org/reviews-by-title/>

<https://socialjusticebooks.org/guide-for-selecting-anti-bias-childrens-books/>

Teaching Tolerance

A Project of the Southern Poverty Law Center

“Our mission is to help teachers and schools educate children and youth to be active participants in a diverse democracy.

Teaching Tolerance provides free resources to educators—teachers, administrators, counselors and other practitioners—who work with children from kindergarten through high school. Educators use our materials to supplement the curriculum, to inform their practices, and to create civil and inclusive school communities where children are respected, valued and welcome participants.

Our program emphasizes social justice and anti-bias.”

<https://www.tolerance.org/topics>

A Mighty Girl

“A Mighty Girl's book section features over 2,000 girl-empowering books starring stellar Mighty Girl characters. With over 200 book categories to explore, the best way to discover what this section has to offer...”

<https://www.amightygirl.com/books>

Darlene J. Neumann , Library Media Specialist and Storyteller • 1.31.19

Science & Arts Academy • 1825 Miner • DesPlaines, IL • 60016

dneumann@scienceandartsacademy.org • 847-827-7880

Cooperative Children's Book Center School of Education,
University of Wisconsin-Madison
<http://ccbc.education.wisc.edu/links/links.asp?idLinksCategory=4>

"I" is not for Indian. American Indian Library Association
[file:///Users/teach/Desktop/Diversity/"I"%20IS%20NOT%20FOR%20INDIAN%20-%20American%20Indian%20Library%20Association.htm](file:///Users/teach/Desktop/Diversity/)

Top 100 Books by Indigenous Masters
Fuse # 8 by Elizabeth Bird

"After a year of informal surveys and queries, we offer a list of over 100 books that every museum and library should have on their shelves. Written by tribal members, these books are the foundation of our literature as Indigenous people. Just as Western culture promotes Shakespeare as a prerequisite to grasping the essence of Western word arts, we promote N. Scott Momaday, D'Arcy McNickle, and many, many others to insure that our future writers reference, in images and ideas, our Indigenous masters."

<http://blogs.slj.com/afuse8production/2014/02/26/top-100-books-by-indigenous-masters/#>

Selecting Children's and Young Adult Literature
About American Indians!

Note: Read anything by Debbie Reese! She's very knowledgeable and known for her accuracy.

<http://americanindiansinchildensliterature.net>

dreese.nambe@gmail.com (Debbie Reese—Nambe Pueblo)

"Culture, Bias, and Understanding: We Can Do Better"

Friedman, Susan Hatters. Journal of the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law Online June 2017, 45 (2) 136-139.

<http://jaapl.org/content/45/2/136>

28 Black Picture Books that aren't about Boycotts, Buses or Basketball

"A few years ago I was asked by a local TV station to suggest some books for children in honor of Black History Month. Being a Black librarian I relished the opportunity, but I did point out that my offerings would avoid the typical fare of Black children's books: boycotts, buses and basketball. We've picked up a few other hobbies since the 1960s, and there are hundreds of books to show for it. Here is a humble sampling of some just in time for Black History Month. 28 children's picture books, most of them featuring Black children doing what all children do: play, make up stories, learn life lessons, and dream.

I picked titles that came out within the last ten years (or so). I also tried to spread out the gender of the protagonists, as well as put some light on some

Darlene J. Neumann , Library Media Specialist and Storyteller • 1.31.19
Science & Arts Academy • 1825 Miner • DesPlaines, IL • 60016
dneumann@scienceandartsacademy.org • 847-827-7880

typically ignored aspects of Black life in books (loving and present fathers, non-urban life, and so on). Books list creators as follows: author/illustrator.”

<https://scottwoodsmakeslists.wordpress.com/2016/01/30/28-black-picture-books-that-arent-about-boycotts-buses-or-basketball/>

28 More Black Picture Books that aren't about Boycotts, Buses or Basketball.

<https://scottwoodsmakeslists.wordpress.com/2018/02/07/28-more-black-picture-books-that-arent-about-boycotts-buses-or-basketball-2018/>

Where to Find Diverse Books (WNBD—We Need Diverse Books)

“Where can you find diverse books? Right here!

We've compiled the following list of sites that offer recommendations for diverse titles. Our list is not exhaustive, and we welcome suggestions of current, active sites that provide diverse book lists.”

“We Need Diverse Books™ is a 501(c)(3) non-profit and a grassroots organization of children’s book lovers that advocates essential changes in the publishing industry. Our aim is to help produce and promote literature that reflects and honors the lives of all young people.”

“Our Definition Of Diversity”

“We recognize all diverse experiences, including (but not limited to) LGBTQIA, Native, people of color, gender diversity, people with disabilities*, and ethnic, cultural, and religious minorities.”

**We subscribe to a broad definition of disability, which includes but is not limited to physical, sensory, cognitive, intellectual, or developmental disabilities, chronic conditions, and mental illnesses (this may also include addiction). Furthermore, we subscribe to a social model of disability, which presents disability as created by barriers in the social environment, due to lack of equal access, stereotyping, and other forms of marginalization.”*

Find list upon list at this site!

<https://diversebooks.org/resources/where-to-find-diverse-books/>

Book Awards for Culturally Diverse Titles (Note: This is not an exhaustive list.)

National Jewish Book Award

“The National Jewish Book Awards, which began in 1950, is the longest running awards program of its kind in the field of Jewish literature and is recognized as the most prestigious. The awards, presented by category, are designed to give recognition to outstanding books, to stimulate writers to further literary creativity and to encourage the reading of worthwhile titles.”

<https://www.jewishbookcouncil.org/awards/>

The Mildred L. Batchelder Award

Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC)

This award honors Mildred L. Batchelder, a former executive director of the Association for Library Service to Children, a believer in the importance of good books for children in translation from all parts of the world...”This award, established in her honor in 1966, is a citation awarded to an American publisher for a children's book considered to be the most outstanding of those books originally published in a foreign language in a foreign country, and subsequently translated into English and published in the United States. ALSC gives the award to encourage American publishers to seek out superior children's books abroad and to promote communication among the peoples of the world.”

<http://www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia/batchelderaward/batchelderpast>

Carter G. Woodson Book Award and Honor Winners

National Council for the Social Studies

NCSS established the Carter G. Woodson Book Awards for the most distinguished books appropriate for young readers that depict ethnicity in the United States. First presented in 1974, this award is intended to “encourage the writing, publishing, and dissemination of outstanding social studies books for young readers that treat topics related to ethnic minorities and race relations sensitively and accurately.”

<https://www.socialstudies.org/awards/woodson/winners>

Arab American Book Awards

Arab American National Museum

“The Arab American Book Awards is a literary program created to honor books written by and about Arab Americans. The program generates greater awareness of Arab American scholarship and writing through an annual award competition and educational outreach.” **Note:** April is Arab American Month.

<http://www.arabamericanmuseum.org/bookaward>

Darlene J. Neumann , Library Media Specialist and Storyteller • 1.31.19

Science & Arts Academy • 1825 Miner • DesPlaines, IL • 60016

dneumann@scienceandartsacademy.org • 847-827-7880

Asian/Pacific American Award for Literature

apala (Asian/Pacific American Library Association)

“The goal of the Asian/Pacific American Award for Literature is to honor and recognize individual work about Asian/Pacific Americans and their heritage, based on literary and artistic merit.” **Note:** May is Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month.

<http://www.apalaweb.org/awards/literature-awards/>

American Indians Youth Literature Award

“The American Indian Youth Literature Awards are presented every two years. The awards were established as a way to identify and honor the very best writing and illustrations by and about American Indians. Books selected to receive the award will present American Indians in the fullness of their humanity in the present and past contexts.”

<https://ailanet.org/activities/american-indian-youth-literature-award/>

Black Caucus American Library Association

“The awards recognize excellence in adult fiction and nonfiction by African American authors published in 2016, including an award for Best Poetry and a citation for Outstanding Contribution to Publishing.”

<https://www.bcala.org/book-award/>

CALA Chinese American Library Association Best Book Award

“This Annual Best Book Award is to promote awareness of the best books of Chinese topics or literature written by authors of Chinese descent, in English or Chinese language, that are originally published in North America.”

<http://www.cala-web.org/node/881>

Pura Belpré Award

Co-sponsored by ALA and REFORMA

“The award is named after Pura Belpré, the first Latina librarian at the New York Public Library. The Pura Belpré Award, established in 1996, is presented annually to a Latino/Latina writer and illustrator whose work best portrays, affirms, and celebrates the Latino cultural experience in an outstanding work of literature for children and youth. It is co-sponsored by the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC), a division of the American Library Association (ALA), and REFORMA, the National Association to Promote Library and Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish-Speaking, an ALA affiliate. “ **Note:** National Hispanic Heritage Month is mid-September through mid-October.

<http://www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia/belpremedal>

The Coretta Scott King Book Awards

“The Coretta Scott King Book Awards are given annually to outstanding African American authors and illustrators of books for children and young adults that demonstrate an appreciation of African American culture and universal human

Darlene J. Neumann , Library Media Specialist and Storyteller • 1.31.19

Science & Arts Academy • 1825 Miner • DesPlaines, IL • 60016

dneumann@scienceandartsacademy.org • 847-827-7880

values. The award commemorates the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and honors his wife, Mrs. Coretta Scott King, for her courage and determination to continue the work for peace and world brotherhood.”

<http://www.ala.org/rt/emiert/coretta-scott-king-book-awards-all-recipients-1970-present>

Lambda Literary Award (Lammy) Winners

“The Lambda Literary Awards (the “Lammys”) identify and celebrate the best lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender books of the year and affirm that LGBTQ stories are part of the literature of the world. The Lammys, which receive national and international media attention, bring together 600 attendees—including nominees, celebrities, sponsors, and publishing executives—to celebrate excellence in LGBTQ publishing. It is the most prestigious and glamorous LGBTQ literary event in the world.”

<https://www.lambdaliterary.org/complete-list-of-award-recipients/>

USBBY Outstanding International Books (OIB) List

“Beginning in 2006 USBBY has selected an honor list of international books for young people. The USBBY Outstanding International Books List is published each year in the February issue of School Library Journal and as a bookmark. The Outstanding International Books (OIB) committee is charged with selecting international books that are deemed most outstanding of those published during the calendar year. For the purposes of this honor list, the term "international book" is used to describe a book published or distributed in the United States that originated or was first published in a country other than the U.S.”

http://www.usbby.org/list_oibl.html

The Hans Christian Andersen Award

... is the highest *international recognition* given to an author and an illustrator of children's books. Given every other year by IBBY, the Hans Christian Andersen Awards recognize lifelong achievement and are presented to an author and an illustrator whose complete works have made an important, lasting contribution to children's literature. The Author's Award has been given since 1956 and the Illustrator's Award since 1966.”

<http://www.ibby.org/awards-activities/awards/hans-christian-andersen-awards/?L=0>

Robert F. Sibert Awards

The Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Medal is awarded annually to the author(s) and illustrator(s) of the most distinguished informational book published in the United States in English during the preceding year. The award is named in honor of Robert F. Sibert, the long-time President of Bound to Stay Bound Books, Inc. of Jacksonville, Illinois. ALSC administers the award.

NOTE: Not all winners fall into the category of Diversity and Inclusion, but check out the 2018 Winner:

Darlene J. Neumann , Library Media Specialist and Storyteller • 1.31.19
 Science & Arts Academy • 1825 Miner • DesPlaines, IL • 60016
dneumann@scienceandartsacademy.org • 847-827-7880

2018 Medal Winner *Twelve Days in May: Freedom Ride 1961*, by Larry Dane Brimner. Published by Calkins Creek, an imprint of Highlights. Three out of four 2018 Honor are Diversity and Inclusion.

<http://www.ala.org/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia/sibertmedal/sibertpast/sibertmedalpast>

Easy Suggestions to Incorporate Diversity Into the Library/Classroom Program:

Use Holidays! (But don't stop there.) Two examples:

http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/culture/2015-02/14/c_133996030.htm

Vietnamese New Year

<http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/special/springfestival2015/index.htm>

Lunar New Year.

- Read, read, read diverse books and include them in booktalks!
- Read information about the author from the jacket blurbs and show the author or illustrator's photos to your groups.
- * Use book displays. Display your best books with really attractive covers.
- * Ask students to make signs or design bookmarks for giveaways.
- * Find inexpensive miscellaneous items at thrift shops to draw attention to your displays. You may find intriguing things that travelers later regret buying or overbought. At a resale shop, I found an American Girl wheelchair and crutches for a lot less than retail. The wheelchair is big enough to display a book.
- * Goodwill has stuffed animals for fifty cents. A bear dressed in Swiss clothing highlights one of my World Languages shelves, and a small Eiffel tower guides students to books written in French.
- Add ethnic fabrics underneath your display of books: sort through remnant bins at fabric stores or other stores that carry fabric.
- If you think you might use the same items or fabrics for display at another time, the investment will pay for itself in circulation. I use a small menorah (without candles) and small evergreen trees in December. I explain that we don't light the candles because we are learning about the holiday, not lighting it to celebrate a religion.

Darlene J. Neumann , Library Media Specialist and Storyteller • 1.31.19
Science & Arts Academy • 1825 Miner • DesPlaines, IL • 60016
dneumann@scienceandartsacademy.org • 847-827-7880

- Check out the Unemployed Philosopher’s Guild website <https://philosophersguild.com/collections/little-thinker> for Little Thinker dolls. I purchased Gandhi, King Tut, and Ganesha as well as Barack Obama and women scientists, writers and artists such as Ada Lovelace, Eleanor Roosevelt, Frieda Kahlo, and Louisa May Alcott, among others. They’re 18.95 each, but sometimes you can get them 3 for 50.00 and free shipping.
- If you’re not on Pinterest, it might be worth your while to check it out. You can find pins for just about any bulletin board or display.

Statements from Library Organizations and Media Organizations

(Note about ALA: A partnership of five ethnic caucuses of the American Library Association (American Indian Library Association, Asian Pacific American Librarians Association, Black Caucus of the American Library Association, Chinese American Librarians Association, and REFORMA: The National Association to Promote Library & Information Services to Latinos and the Spanish-speaking), JCLC advocates for and promotes diversity and supports literacy and the preservation of history and cultural heritage of communities of color.)

“Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion”

American Library Association

<http://www.ala.org/advocacy/diversity>

“The Multicultural Library - A Gateway to a Cultural Diverse Society in Dialogue”
IFLA/UNESCO Multicultural Library Manifesto (IFLA is International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions)

(https://www.ifla.org/files/assets/library-services-to-multicultural-populations/publications/multicultural_library_manifesto-en.pdf)

“The real censorship in children's books: smiling slaves is just the half of it”

The Guardian News and Media Limited, 2018

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2016/jan/29/smiling-slaves-the-real-censorship-in-childrens-books>

Found while Browsing: Sites to Check Out

While I never felt good about Curious George being kidnapped in Africa, take a look at this site:

<https://goodmenproject.com/featured-content/this-is-curious-george-he-lived-in-africa-kvnw/>

Darlene J. Neumann , Library Media Specialist and Storyteller • 1.31.19

Science & Arts Academy • 1825 Miner • DesPlaines, IL • 60016

dneumann@scienceandartsacademy.org • 847-827-7880

Searching for sites about book characters with special needs, I found this site:
13 Children’s Books Whose Characters Have Special Needs

“13 children’s picture books featuring human and nonhuman characters who have special needs.” This site is done by the Institute for Humane Education whose mission is “Creating a more just, humane, and sustainable world for all life through education.”

<https://humaneeducation.org/2014/13-childrens-picture-books-featuring-characters-disabilities/>

5 Of The Best Children’s Books About Disabilities

Includes *El Deafo* by Cece Bell and *Out of my Mind* by Sharon Draper.

<https://bookriot.com/2017/10/19/childrens-books-about-disabilities/>

Diverse Voices: The 50 Best Culturally Diverse Children's Books

“An incredible list of the 50 best children's books published from 1950 to the present day that celebrate cultural and ethnic diversity... Thanks to Seven Stories, The National Centre for Children's Books for sharing the list with us today – and to the experts they called on to pull it together: Julia Eccleshare (the Guardian children's books editor), Jake Hope (from Youth Libraries Group), Library specialist Sarah Smith and Katherine Woodfine from the Book Trust.”

<https://www.theguardian.com/childrens-books-site/2014/oct/13/50-best-culturally-diverse-childrens-books>

The Barefoot Mommy

<http://www.thebarefootmommy.com/about-me/>

This website is done by a woman who describes herself as a

“Mommy, kidlit nut, social justice crusader, and your companion on the journey to raising little global citizens who are ready to change the world. . .”

I must admit that I am snobbish when it comes to websites, and I prefer ones affiliated with library organizations, and I do not like the term “kid lit.” I find “kid lit” demeaning because I think that Children’s Literature is extremely important in the lives not only of children, but the adults who work with them. That being said, this site has many, many lists with some excellent literature. While it’s not the first site I go to, it’s worth checking out.

A Trio of Lower School Plans That Incorporate Diversity into Library Time

**Darlene J. Neumann, Librarian and Storyteller,
Science and Arts Academy**

The intentionality of incorporating diversity and inclusion into my plans has been one of my goals. Including diverse holidays and inclusive books and supporting materials has informed students' thinking and enriched students' enjoyment of stories. The following is an example of three weeks of lessons for young learners. I rarely use the same lessons for Kindergarten and the first and second graders, but this set of lessons was prepared for all six groups.

Week One:

Brett, Jan. Fritz and the Beautiful Horses. New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons ed., 2016. ISBN 0399174583

Previous study of Jan Brett's books included careful observation of her illustrations.

This book was written after the author was inspired by the Lipizzaner stallions on their first world tour. Lipizzaner horses are from Spain, the Spanish Riding School is in Vienna, and there is a farm in Old Mill Creek, IL, where the Lipizzaner horses live, are trained, and perform. This is the only place in the United States where these horses live and perform.

The lesson was introduced by projecting still photos of the Lipizzaner horses doing their routines or just being friendly horses in a pasture or looking over a fence. When showing these still photos, I introduced what move the class would see in the you tube videos. The "Airs Above the Ground" are performed so quickly by the stallions that it's easy to miss their jumps. I showed them the links on the Destiny HomePage for the websites I'd chosen, reminding them that we'd used the Monarch Award Links last year and showing those links. As we watched the 3-minute Lipizzaner you tube the first time, I read the words to them so they wouldn't miss the action. The second time through, we watched the Lipizzaners as we listened to the music of the performance.

You Tube Videos:

"These Beautiful Horses can Dance to Classical Music." 3 minutes

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fLCd1AMJbcg>

WFMT went to Tempel Farms in Mill Creek, Illinois, to show you how the Tempel Lipizzaner horses take the art of dressage to new levels. Read more here:

<http://bit.ly/2a0TDqp>

Darlene J. Neumann , Library Media Specialist and Storyteller • 1.31.19

Science & Arts Academy • 1825 Miner • DesPlaines, IL • 60016

dneumann@scienceandartsacademy.org • 847-827-7880

“Spanish riding School of Vienna, Airs Above the Ground at Wembley Arena”
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=84li_Xdk6jl&t=1s (10 minutes)

We moved to the Picture Book Place where I read Fritz and the Beautiful Horses, asking students to comment whenever an illustration reminded them of something they’d seen in the performance of the Lipizzaners. We discussed how it felt for Fritz to be different and ignored for his breed of Shetland Pony and how that difference enabled Fritz to save the children.

You Tube Videos:

“These Beautiful Horses can Dance to Classical Music.”
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fLCd1AMJbcg>

WFMT went to Tempel Farms in Mill Creek, Illinois, to show you how the Tempel Lipizzaner horses take the art of dressage to new levels. Read more here:
<http://bit.ly/2a0TDqp>

“Spanish riding School of Vienna, Airs Above the Ground at Wembley Arena”
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=84li_Xdk6jl&t=1s

Week Two:

Chen Jiang Hong, The Magic Horse of Han Gan. Translated from the French Cheval magique de Han Gan by Claudia Zoe Bedrick. New York: Enchanted Lion Books. Distributed to the trade by Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2016.

This book was chosen as a follow up to last week’s Lipizzaner horses, and because May is Asian American and Pacific Islander Month. It is a legend about the brush paintings of Chinese artist, Han Gan, who was born 1200 years ago. One of the few remaining paintings of Han Gan hangs in a museum in Paris. This book was written in French by author/illustrator Chen Jiang Hong, and translated into English. Chen worked very hard to follow Han Gan’s artistic style. In the book, the horse comes to life when a warrior requests that Han Gan make a warhorse for him. The horse comes to life when the painting is tossed into the fire. After all the warrior’s enemies were dead, the horse began to cry tears of grief for the dead men and wounded and dying horses. He goes back to Han Gan and goes back into a brush painting of five other horses.

We read the book and examined what all of us need, horses included. I waited for kids to refer to what the horse needed to see if they could transfer this knowledge into people. They did, and realized that all people and horses need the same thing no matter where they live or what their culture is.

Next, we looked at two framed pictures that I brought from home. One is a poster of horses, which is a reproduction of ancient Chinese art that is similar to Han Gan’s style. The second was a newer picture on silk of five horses. I know nothing about the painting, except that it was done on silk. I think it is in the Indian style.

Darlene J. Neumann , Library Media Specialist and Storyteller • 1.31.19
 Science & Arts Academy • 1825 Miner • DesPlaines, IL • 60016
dneumann@scienceandartsacademy.org • 847-827-7880

The kids thought one of the horses looked just like Fritz, from last week's story. The Indian American children in each class said it was Indian before I said anything at all about the painting. One said that she had a dress with the exact pattern that was on one of the horse's blankets.

Week Three:

Ranjula Maksey, adapted. The Horse Race: based on the ancient Chinese classic "Tian Ji's Horse Race." Illus. by Zhang Qui; calligraphy by Wang Lifu; Tr. by Chen Xiao Bo and Mu Dan; adapted by Ranjula Maksey, Shristi Shakya, and James Entrikin. Lynden, WA : J.M. Entrikin Pub., 2009, c2008.

The book itself is quite a culturally diverse undertaking. In the book, King Qi Wang and his subordinate Tian Ji embark on a competition that tests their skills and reveals what can happen when a ruler abuses his power over his subjects. This book is written with PinYin pronunciation on the top line above the Chinese text and the English below the Chinese characters. The art style is Chinese, and the horses and ancient clothing resemble Han Gan's brush painting.

My research for the book shows that at the time the book was written, illustrator Zhang Qiu was a student in the postgraduate fine art program at Sichuan University. Wang Lifu was a postgraduate student at Sichuan University's School of Calligraphy. They both live in Chengdu, China. Zhou Wenzhong, Chinese Ambassador to the United States, reviewed this book, saying, "This ancient Chinese story is beautifully presented."

We tried to copy the Chinese character for "horse," both in traditional and simplified writing. The kids now have the basic understanding that Chinese characters began as pictures, and if examined carefully, we can see some of the pictures. In the character for horse, we can see the four legs and tail of the horse. I've attached part of the page we worked on. You'll need to add a box below each of the Chinese characters so that children can copy each character at least once.

We looked at a real erhu and heard an explanation. While they copied the Chinese character for "horse," I played the you tube of Chinese Music, linked on Destiny's HomePage, played on the Erhu, entitled "Horse Racing." We spent a few minutes prancing like horses in time to the Erhu music.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OfoN8giMBy8> Chinese Music - Erhu - Horse Racing (Original Version) Performed by Huang Haihuai 黄海



馬 马