

2018 **ALSC Charlemae Rollins**
President's Program Resource Guide
Monday, June 25, 2018

Awards, best-of-the-year lists and reviews focus on "quality" and "excellence" in literature for youth, but what do "quality" and "excellence" really mean in the canon of American literature for children? Who is deciding which books stand out? How are some critics and some children privileged in our field's thinking? How are some dismissed or made invisible? What does "American literature for children" even mean? What are common assumptions and current discourse, and what it would look like if we truly considered *all* children as we evaluate books and single out titles for distinction both within and beyond ALSC?

For this resource guide, the program panelists and moderator were each asked to share suggested critical readings and 5 to 7 must-have books for libraries. We hope you find these resources helpful.

Panelists

Margarita Engle, Author <http://www.margaritaengle.com/>
Margarita Engle is the 2017-

Debbie Reese, Critic/Librarian/Scholar/Activist

<https://americanindiansinchildrensliterature.blogspot.com/>

Debbie Reese is tribally enrolled at Nambé Pueblo, a sovereign nation in what is currently northern New

Resources

Critical Readings:

Adichie, C. N. (2009, July). *Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie: The danger of a single story*.
https://www.ted.com/talks/chimamanda_adichie_the_danger_of_a_single_story?language=en

Bishop, R. S. (1982). *Shadow and substance: Afro-American experience in contemporary children's fiction*. Urbana, IL: National Council of Teachers of English.

Bishop, R. S. (2007). *Free within ourselves: The development of African American children's literature*. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press.

Botelho, M. J., & Rudman, M. K. (2009). *Critical multicultural analysis of children's literature: Mirrors, windows, and doors*. London, England: Routledge.

Elliott, Z. (2010, March 2). The writer's page: decolonizing the imagination. *The Horn Book*.
<https://www.hbook.com/2010/03/authors-illustrators/decolonizing-imagination/#>

Fox, D. L., & Short, K. G. (2003). *Stories matter: The complexity of cultural authenticity in children's literature*. Urbana-Champaign, IL: National Council of Teachers of English.

Jiménez-García, M. (2014). Pura Belpré lights the storyteller's candle: Reframing the legacy of a

May, J. P. (1996). *Children's literature and critical theory: reading and writing for understanding*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

McGillis, R. (1999), *Voices of the other: Children's literature and the postcolonial context*. London: Routledge.

Myers, C. (2014, March 15). The apartheid of children's literature. *The New York Times*.
<https://www.nytimes.com/2014/03/16/opinion/sunday/the-apartheid-of-childrens-literature.html>

Myers, W.D. (2014). Where are the people of color in children's books? *The New York Times*.
<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/03/16/opinion/sunday/where-are-the-people-of-color-in-childrens-books.html>.

Naidoo, J. C., & Dahlen, S. P. (Eds.). (2013).

Anansesem: The Caribbean Children's Literature Magazine

