



# Diversity in Children's Stories

Steps + Checklist to help you  
add diversity into your  
storytelling.

# Steps to Take

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**Understand the importance of diversity:** Recognize the significance of representing diverse backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives in children's stories.

**Educate yourself:** Learn about different cultures, religions, races, family structures, and disabilities through books, articles, and personal narratives.

**Research and authenticity:** Conduct thorough research to ensure accurate and authentic representation of diverse groups, avoiding stereotypes and generalizations.

**Create diverse characters:** Develop well-rounded characters that reflect diverse racial backgrounds, religions, family structures, and abilities.

**Avoid tokenism:** Give diverse characters meaningful roles and storylines beyond their diversity attributes.

**Seek feedback from sensitivity readers:** Engage sensitivity readers from the communities you are representing to ensure respectful and accurate portrayal.

**Use inclusive language:** Use inclusive and respectful language when describing diverse characters and their experiences.

**Celebrate individuality:** Emphasize the uniqueness and strengths of diverse characters, celebrating their differences as assets.

**Embrace intersectionality:** Consider how different aspects of identity intersect, representing characters with multiple layers of diversity.

**Challenge biases:** Address biases and stereotypes by portraying diverse characters in positive and empowering ways.

# Checklist

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1. Have I included characters from various racial backgrounds?
2. Are there characters representing different religions and beliefs?
3. Have I portrayed diverse family structures (e.g., single-parent families, blended families)?
4. Are there characters with disabilities, and are their experiences accurately portrayed?
5. Have I avoided stereotypes and generalizations in my descriptions?
6. Did I consult sensitivity readers from the communities I am representing?
7. Have I used inclusive language throughout the story?
8. Does each diverse character have a well-developed personality and storyline?
9. Are diverse characters represented as heroes and protagonists, not just supporting roles?
10. Have I celebrated the uniqueness and strengths of each diverse character?
11. Have I challenged biases and stereotypes by portraying diverse characters positively?