

# CCBC Diversity Statistics Book Search: Guide for Database Searching

**Updated: March 2021.** This document provides information on categories on which you can search, including our approach to analysis when documenting diversity in books for children and teens, using the **CCBC Diversity Statistics Book Search**. For additional information about our work documenting diversity, please see our [Diversity Statistics FAQs](#).

**Books in the Diversity Statistics Book Search represent everything received by the CCBC since January 2018.** This database will not provide you with access to books on which we based our annual statistics prior to 2018. **Additionally, books in this database search are NOT recommended by the CCBC unless indicated by a ★.** (Use our Recommended Book Search to search books recommended by the CCBC across many years.)

**Custom Booklist/Exporting Search Results:** You can create a printable/downloadable custom booklist of individual titles by clicking on the **Add** button next to each.

**You can also export the entire results of your search.** If you are exporting your search results, you will find additional information about the export fields at the end of this document in “Understanding Exported Data.”

## CCBC “By” and “About” Statistics:

Our [annual statistics](#) on books by and about Black, Indigenous, and People of Color are based on data from the following categories:

- **ABOUT: Diversity Subject** categories
- **BY:** Creator categories (**author, illustrator, and anthology compiler** categories)

Explanations of the various categories for each are on the pages that follow.

## **Keyword search for specific identities:**

We capture more detailed aspects of identity in Notes fields in the database. These notes fields are searchable with **Keyword** searching.

Example: all books about Mexicans or Mexican Americans will be broadly categorized under the Diversity Subject “Latinx.” For books specifically with Mexican/Mexican American content and/or by Mexican/Mexican American creators\* enter “Mexican” as keyword search. Enter “African American” to find books by and or about African Americans, enter “Blind” to find books with blind/visually impaired, etc. (Keyword searching also pulls from Title and Author, so there may be non-relevant results mixed in.) (\*Creator heritage is based on self-identification and/or research from reliable sources.)

We always try to honor the language used in a book or by an individual to describe a character and creators; this can be especially important to note when it comes to using keyword to get at specifics of LGBTQ identities.

## Boolean Searching Defaults

Searching **across** categories (e.g., Diversity Subject, Author, Illustrator, Primary Character) defaults to **AND**

### Ex:

Checking **Author: Black/African** and **Illustrator: Black/African**

returns books with **BOTH** a Black/African Author **AND** a Black/African illustrator

Searching multiple components **within** a single category (e.g. Diversity Subject, Author, Illustrator, Primary Character) defaults to **OR**

### Ex:

Checking **Diversity Subject: Latinx** and **Diversity Subject LGBTQ Character/Topic**

returns books with **either** a Latinx **OR** LGBTQ Diversity Subject

You can export a search results of a single component (e.g., Diversity Subject Latinx) and then use the resulting report to get at additional content if you want to combine aspects of identity (e.g., filter for books that also have LGBTQ Character/Topic)

## Diversity Subject (used to determine CCBC “About” numbers)

^ Diversity Subject

<input type="checkbox"/> Arab <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> Black/African <input type="checkbox"/> Brown Skin Unspecified <input type="checkbox"/> First/Native Nations <input type="checkbox"/> Latinx <input type="checkbox"/> Middle East <input type="checkbox"/> Multicultural General <input type="checkbox"/> Pacific Islander	<input type="checkbox"/> Cognitive/Neurological Disability/Condition <input type="checkbox"/> Physical Disability/Condition <input type="checkbox"/> Psychiatric Disability/Condition	<input type="checkbox"/> Gender Nonconformity <input type="checkbox"/> LGBTQ Character/Topic <input type="checkbox"/> LGBTQ Family <input type="checkbox"/> LGBTQ Innuendo <input type="checkbox"/> LGBTQ Non-Fiction	<input type="checkbox"/> Christian <input type="checkbox"/> Jewish <input type="checkbox"/> Muslim <input type="checkbox"/> Other Religion
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## Diversity Subject: Heritage/Region

Checked to indicate:

- Heritage of the primary character(s)
- Heritage of significant secondary character(s)
- Setting
  - Example: A book about pandas in their natural habitat = **Asian**
  - Example: A book with animal characters, set in Mexico = **Latinx**
- Subject/Origin
  - Example: *Raven Loses His Nose* by David Lang = **First/Native Nations**. It is adapted from a traditional Native story.
  - Example: A board book that teaches Japanese words for everyday objects = **Asian**

Category Notes:

- All boxes that apply are checked, so a multiracial character will have checkboxes for all categories of their identity (e.g., **African** and **Latinx**; **Asian** and **White**)
- Caribbean people are considered **Latinx** by default—if it's clear the character also identifies as **African**, both categories will be selected.
- Some **Middle Eastern** heritages (e.g., Iranian) are *also* checked as **Asian**, and/or (as of 2020) **Arab**.
- **Brown Skin Unspecified** is used when the character is described or pictured as having brown skin, but there is no stated or identifiable heritage/cultural details in depiction.
- **Multicultural General** is checked when:
  - The book features a group of characters of at least 3 different races, giving them approximately equal weight throughout the story (i.e. none of them appear to be THE primary character, or, the GROUP is the “primary character”).
  - A book is about or set in a variety of countries.

## Diversity Subject: Disability

Checked when:

- A primary or significant secondary character has a disability.
- Disability is the subject of a book.

Category Notes:

- **Cognitive/Neurological** disability/condition includes autism spectrum, learning and development differences
- **Physical** disability/condition includes hearing, visual, mobility-related issues, as well as chronic illness/disease
- **Psychiatric** disability/condition includes mental illness
- Two or more categories may be checked if cause/impact of a condition crosses categories (e.g., a brain injury is physical but may also have cognitive/neurological impact)

## Diversity Subject: LGBTQ

Checked when:

- A primary or significant secondary character is LGBTQ+
- LGBTQ+ person/topic is the subject of a book

Category Notes:

- **Gender Nonconformity:** a gender nonconforming primary character or significant secondary character. NOT used to indicate an explicitly transgender character. (Note: In the case of transgender characters, **LGBTQ Character/Topic** is checked.)
  - Example: *I Love My Colorful Nails* by Luis Amavisca and Alicia Acosta. The book is about an apparently cisgender boy who enjoys painting his nails.
- **LGBTQ Character/Topic:** primary or significant secondary character is LGBTQ+
- **LGBTQ Family:** the parents or grandparents of primary or significant secondary characters are LGBTQ+—but only if the parents/grandparents themselves appear in the story.
- **LGBTQ Innuendo:** an LGBTQ metaphor or implication; LGBTQ+ content that is not explicitly stated; the book can be interpreted as having parallels to LGBTQ+ experiences or topics
  - Example: *Not Quite Narwhal* by Jessie Sima can be interpreted as a metaphor for coming out and finding community.
- **LGBTQ Nonfiction:** an LGBTQ+ subject (person, historical event, etc.)

## Diversity Subject: Religion

Checked to indicate:

- The religion of the primary character(s) and/or significant secondary characters
- Mythology of a religious tradition
- Subject
  - Example: A nonfiction book about the Kindertransport = **Jewish**
  - Example: *Holi Colors* by Rina Singh = **Other Religion** (Hindu is indicated in “Notes” field)
  - Example: A Christmas-themed book = **Christian**

## Author / Illustrator / Compiler (used to determine CCBC “By” numbers)

<input type="checkbox"/> Arab	<input type="checkbox"/> Cognitive/Neurological Disability/Condition	<input type="checkbox"/> LGBTQ	<input type="checkbox"/> Christian
<input type="checkbox"/> Asian	<input type="checkbox"/> Physical Disability/Condition	<input type="checkbox"/> Female	<input type="checkbox"/> Jewish
<input type="checkbox"/> Black/African	<input type="checkbox"/> Psychiatric Disability/Condition	<input type="checkbox"/> Male	<input type="checkbox"/> Muslim
<input type="checkbox"/> Brown Skin Unspecified		<input type="checkbox"/> Transgender	<input type="checkbox"/> Other Religion
<input type="checkbox"/> First/Native Nations		<input type="checkbox"/> Unknown	
<input type="checkbox"/> Latinx		<input type="checkbox"/> Other Gender	
<input type="checkbox"/> Middle East			
<input type="checkbox"/> Multiracial			
<input type="checkbox"/> Pacific Islander			
<input type="checkbox"/> White			

Note: Brown Skin Unspecified is being changed to BIPOC Unspecified in future update

### Category Notes:

- Heritage is based on self-identification and/or research from reliable sources:
  - We check all boxes that apply. A person who identifies as multiracial would have all applicable boxes checked (e.g., **African; Latinx**), plus the **Multiracial** box
  - Caribbean people are considered **Latinx** by default—if it’s clear the person also identifies as **African** (e.g, Afro-Cuban), both categories will be selected.
  - Some **Middle Eastern** countries are *also* checked as **Asian** and/or **Arab**
  - If a person *appears* to be white, *and* we cannot find any information indicating otherwise, **White** is checked.
- Gender box(es) if known/can be determined
  - If a person is transgender, the **Transgender** box *as well as* the box for their gender identity will be selected (e.g., for a trans woman, **Transgender** and **Female**.) If the person is non-binary, **Transgender** and **Other** will be selected.
- Disability/LGBTQ/Religion are all based on self-identification and/or reliable sources. We do not spend significant time researching these categories unless it is relevant to the content of the book (e.g., if a book is about a Muslim character, we try to find out if the author is Muslim).

## Primary Character

<input type="checkbox"/> Arab	<input type="checkbox"/> Cognitive/Neurological Disability/Condition	<input type="checkbox"/> Female	<input type="checkbox"/> LGBTQ
<input type="checkbox"/> Asian	<input type="checkbox"/> Physical Disability/Condition	<input type="checkbox"/> Male	<input type="checkbox"/> None
<input type="checkbox"/> Black/African	<input type="checkbox"/> Psychiatric Disability/Condition	<input type="checkbox"/> Transgender	<input type="checkbox"/> Human
<input type="checkbox"/> Brown Skin Unspecified		<input type="checkbox"/> Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/> Animal
<input type="checkbox"/> First/Native Nations		<input type="checkbox"/> Other Gender	<input type="checkbox"/> Group
<input type="checkbox"/> Latinx		<input type="checkbox"/> Christian	<input type="checkbox"/> Other Type
<input type="checkbox"/> Middle East		<input type="checkbox"/> Jewish	
<input type="checkbox"/> Multiracial		<input type="checkbox"/> Muslim	
<input type="checkbox"/> Pacific Islander		<input type="checkbox"/> Other Religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> White			

### Primary Character: Heritage

**See Diversity Subject: Heritage** for more on the categories for BIPOC.

- We check all boxes that apply. A character/subject who identifies as multiracial would have all applicable boxes checked (e.g., **African; Asian**), plus the **Multiracial** box
- **Brown Skin Unspecified** is used when character is described as or appears brown-skinned but there are no details about specific heritage or culture.
- **White** is used when:
  - Kirkus notes that characters “seem” or are “assumed” to be white, or are “default white”
  - The text seems to indicate a person is white (e.g. they’re described as having blond hair and blue eyes and there are no cultural details provided)
  - A character in an illustration appears to be white, but the text doesn’t explicitly confirm this.

### Primary Character: Religion, Disability, and LGBTQ

- **Religion:** Indicates the religion of the primary character.
- **Disability:** Indicates that the primary character has a disability.
- **LGBTQ:** Indicates that the primary character is LGBTQ+.

## Primary Character: Character Gender

- **Female:** Indicates either a cisgender or transgender girl/woman
- **Male:** Indicates either a cisgender or transgender boy/man
- **Transgender:** Indicates a character whose gender is different from their gender assigned at birth, including non-binary genders
  - Example: For a trans girl/woman, the **Female** and **Transgender** boxes would be checked.
  - Example: For a non-binary character, the **Transgender** and **Other** boxes would both be checked.
- **Unknown:** The gender is not indicated via illustrations, pronouns, or flap copy.
- **Other:** Indicates gender non-binary character. (Check both **Transgender** and **Other** boxes.)
- No gender box is checked if the pronoun “it” is used for a nonhuman character (e.g., “The albatross spread its wings and soared.”)

## Primary Character: Character Type

- **None:** No primary character. This is most often used for certain nonfiction or concept books.
  - **Human:** Indicates that at least one primary character (or primary subject, in nonfiction) is human.
    - Example: A nonfiction book about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
    - Note: Supernatural beings are considered on a case-by-case basis. Does the author seem to intend that the character function and be viewed as a human, like Harry Potter (a wizard) or Remus Lupin (a werewolf)? Are they, for the most part, humans who happen to have supernatural qualities or powers (like many YA fantasy characters)? If so, they are usually marked human.
  - **Animal:** Indicates that at least one primary character (or primary subject, in nonfiction) is an animal (including insects and arachnids).
    - Includes anthropomorphized animals (Examples: *Lily’s Purple Plastic Purse* by Kevin Henkes; *Little Brown* by Marla Frazee)
    - Includes the subject of a nonfiction book (e.g. an informational book about scorpions)
    - Includes animals who have a voice (Example: the dog in the *King & Kayla* books, who behaves like a dog but narrates)
    - *Does not* include animals who behave and think like realistic animals and figure significantly in a fictional plot with human characters (example: Sinbad, the pet dog in *Checked* by Cynthia Kadohata). There are rare exceptions to this (as in *Henry and Mudge*, where Mudge is central to the entire story).
  - **Group:** Indicates that the book is about a group of three or more people, with no one character having more weight in the story than another.
  - **Other:** Indicates a primary character other than an animal or human, who has thoughts, a voice, motivations, agency, etc. (e.g., a truck, a pencil). Includes fantasy creatures (unicorns, dragons). Supernatural beings are considered on a case-by-case basis. Does the author seem to intend that the character be viewed, as a whole, as something other than human?
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FAQ:

- In nonfiction books, does subject equal character?
  - Sometimes, but not necessarily. We consider living, breathing things (fauna, not flora) to be characters. A biography of Ruth Bader Ginsburg = **Human**. An informational book about the world's tallest redwood tree = **None**. An informational book about sparrows = **Animal**.
- What if the nonfiction book is about coding, but there's a boy who appears and talks every few pages?
  - The boy would be considered the primary character.

## Genre–Format/CCBC Collection

^ Genre-Format/CCBC Collection

<input type="checkbox"/> Animal Fantasy	<input type="checkbox"/> Contemporary	<input type="checkbox"/> Media Tie-in	<input type="checkbox"/> Picture Book
<input type="checkbox"/> Anthology	<input type="checkbox"/> Easy Reader	<input type="checkbox"/> Natural World	<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Fiction
<input type="checkbox"/> Bilingual	<input type="checkbox"/> Fantasy	<input type="checkbox"/> Poetry	<input type="checkbox"/> Fiction
<input type="checkbox"/> Biography/History	<input type="checkbox"/> Folklore	<input type="checkbox"/> Science Fiction	
<input type="checkbox"/> Board Book	<input type="checkbox"/> Graphic Novel	<input type="checkbox"/> Series Fiction	
<input type="checkbox"/> Concept	<input type="checkbox"/> Historical	<input type="checkbox"/> Series Non-fiction	

- **Historical** and **Contemporary** refer to picture books and fiction
- **Series Fiction** is checked for all fiction series
- **Series Non-fiction** is checked for formula nonfiction
- Two or more categories may be checked (eg., Contemporary and Series Fiction; Graphic Novel and Fantasy)
- **Picture Book:** CCBC Picture Book Collection--fictional picture book stories and basic fictional easy reader stories, most concept books
- **Non-fiction:** CCBC Non-Fiction Collection is based on Dewey Decimal System—includes folklore, poetry and graphic novels (with both fiction and non-fiction content), informational picture books
- **Fiction:** CCBC Fiction Collection includes novels, transitional reader fictional stories



# Gender Markers

^ Gender Markers

- Bow
- Clothing
- Color
- Eyelashes
- Hair
- Other

- Visual cues in illustrations to indicate a character's gender

## Understanding Exported Data

Your search results can be exported in a .csv file (click on **Download Results**).

★ = CCBC recommended book

 [Download results \(CSV\)](#)

★	My List	Title	Author(s)	Illustrator(s)	Publisher(s)	Year
★	<a href="#">Add</a>	<a href="#">#Prettyboy Must Die</a>	Kimberly Reid	Deborah Hopkinson	Tor Teen	2018
★	<a href="#">Add</a>	<a href="#">16 Words: William Carlos Williams &amp; "The Red Wheelbarrow"</a>	Lisa Rogers	Chuck Groenink	Penguin Random House Schwartz & Wade	2019
	<a href="#">Add</a>	<a href="#">1968: Today's Authors Explore a Year of Rebellion, Revolution &amp; Change</a>	Marc Aronson Susan Campbell Bartoletti		Candlewick	2018
	<a href="#">Add</a>	<a href="#">A Blade So Black</a>	L.L. McKinney		Imprint Macmillan	2018
	<a href="#">Add</a>	<a href="#">A Cage Without Bars</a>	Anne Dublin		Second Story	2018
	<a href="#">Add</a>	<a href="#">A Computer Called Katherine: How Katherine Johnson Helped Put America on the Moon</a>	Suzanne Slade	Veronica Miller Jamison	Little, Brown	2019
	<a href="#">Add</a>	<a href="#">A Crash Course in Forces and Motion with Max Axiom, Super Scientist</a>	Emily Sohn	Steve Erwin Charles Barnett III	Capstone Graphic Library	2019

The exported data includes all of the database content fields, which include data far beyond what is searchable in the main search interface.

All of the broad diversity content for Diversity Subject, Primary Character, Secondary Character and Creator is captured in a single field for each. So a book with a about a gay Latinx character will have a Subject of "Latinx, LGBTQ Character/Topic" and Primary Character field of "Latinx, LGBTQ Character/Topic."

There are individual notes fields for each of the individual Diversity Subject identity categories, Primary Character identity categories, Secondary Character identity categories, and Creator identity categories where we indicate more detailed information, including specifics of identity. (e.g., mc [main character] is Puerto Rican; mc is gay.)

Notes that indicate "Text" and/or "Illustrations" indicate what we were using to determine aspects of identity (e.g., the text alone, the illustrations alone, or both).

If you have questions about the data you export, contact CCBC librarian Madeline Tyner:  
[madeline.tyner@wisc.edu](mailto:madeline.tyner@wisc.edu)