Children’s literature provides both *mirrors* and *windows* \(^1\) for readers. Some books are mirrors, reflecting children’s experiences, feelings, and cultures. Other books are windows, giving children an opportunity to see the world through others’ eyes. Reading books that reflect our diverse population enhances children’s social and emotional development, especially the ability to take the perspective of and empathize with others.

**SELF-AWARENESS**
Recognizing & naming your emotions; having confidence and optimism

- *Anna Hibiscus’ Song*, by Atinuke
- *The Colors of Us*, by Karen Katz
- *Crown: Ode to the Fresh Cut*, by Derrick Barnes
- *A Gift from Papá Diego/Un regalo de Papá Diego*, by Benjamin Alire Saenez
- *I Love My Hair*, by Natasha Anatasia Tarpley
- *In My Family/En mi familia*, by Carmen Lomas Garza
- *Looking Like Me*, by Walter Dean Myers
- *Lots of Feelings*, by Shelley Rotner
- *Mama’s Sari’s*, by Pooja Makhijani
- *Out of my Mind*, by Sharon Draper
- *The Three Names of Me*, by Mary Cummings
- *Too Many Tamales*, by Gary Soto
- *The Way I Feel*, by Janan Cain
- *Yesterday I Had the Blues*, by Jeron Ashford Frame

**SELF-MANAGEMENT**
Managing emotions and behaviors; working toward personal goals

- *Big Red Lollipop*, by Rhuksana Khan
- *Brown Girl Dreaming*, by Jacqueline Woodson (Novel)
- *Charlotte and the Quiet Place*, by Deborah Sosin
- *The Day of Ahmed’s Secret*, by Florence Parry Heide
- *Esperanza Rising*, by Pam Muñoz Ryan (Novel)
- *Grump, Groan, Growl*, by Bell Hooks
- *The Heart of a Chief*, by Joseph Bruchac (Novel)
- *Jabari Jumps*, by Gaia Cornwall
- *Knock Knock: My Dad’s Dream For Me*, by Daniel Beaty
- *My Name is María Isabel*, by Alma Flor Ada (Chapter book)
- *Serafina’s Promise*, by Ann E. Burg (Novel in verse)
- *Sky Sisters*, by Jan Boudreau Waboose
- *Sometimes I’m Bombaloo*, by Rachel Vail
- *Twist: Yoga Poems*, by Janet Wong
- *Upside Down Boy/El niño de cabeza*, by Juan Felipe Herrara
- *When Sophie Thinks She Can’t*, by Molly Bang

---

SOCIAL AWARENESS
Ability to take perspective of and empathize with others
Deep in the Sahara, by Kelly Cunnane
Enemy Pie, by Derek Munson
Halmomi’s Picnic, by Sook Nyul Choi
I am New Here, by Anne Sibley O’Brien
Indian Shoes, by Cynthia Leitich Smith (Short Stories)
Mama’s Nightingale, by Edward Dantcicat
Muskrat will be Swimming, by Cheryl Savageau
My Two Blankets, by Irena Kobald
Nadia’s Hands, by Karen English New Shoes, by Susan Myer
Rain School, by James Rumford
Shades of People, by Shelly Rotner
Suki’s Kimono, by Chieri Uekagi
Take Me Out to the Yakyu, by Aaron Meshon
The Ugly Vegetables, by Grace Lin
Wonder, by R.J. Palacio (novel)

RELATIONSHIP SKILLS
Building & maintaining positive relationships
Across the Alley, by Richard Michelson
Crossing Bok Chitto, by Tim Tingle
Danitra Brown Leaves Town, by Nikki Grimes
Each Kindness, by Jacqueline Woodson
Four Feet, Two Sandals, by Karen Williams
A Friendship for Today, by Patricia McKissack (Novel)
Grandfather Counts, by Andrea Cheng
I Miss Franklin P. Shuckles, by Ulana Snihura
Make Way for Dyamonde Daniel, by Nikki Grimes
Margaret and Margarita/Margarita y Margaret, by Lynn Reiser
My Name is Sangoel, by Karen Williams and Khadra Mohammed
The Name Jar, by Yangsook Choi
Pink and Say, by Patricia Polacco
Sitti’s Secret, by Naomi Shihab Nye
Sumi’s First Day of School Ever, by Soyung Pak

RESPONSIBLE DECISION-MAKING
Making decisions considering the well-being of self and others
A Chair for my Mother, by Vera B. Williams
Crow Boy, by Taro Yashima
First Day in Grapes, by L. King Perez
Freedom Summer, by Deborah Wiles
Grandmama’s Pride, by Becky Birtha
Hello Universe, by Erin Entrada Kelly
King for a Day, by Rhuksana Khan
Mama Provi and the Pot of Rice, by Sylvia Rosa-Casanova
My Heart Will Not Sit Down, by Mara Rockcliff
The One Day House, by Julia Durango
Sam and the Lucky Money, by Karen Chinn
Say Something, by Peggy Moss
Wings, by Christopher Myers
Wishtree, by Katherine Applegate

For more children’s literature suggestions visit our website at www.open-circle.org and look under RESOURCES/children’s literature.