



## book harvest

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### **BOOK HARVEST LAUNCHES MIRRORS AND WINDOW PROJECT 2016**

Book Harvest, a Durham-based nonprofit which provides books and literacy support to children from low-income families, has launched the Mirrors and Windows Project 2016, an initiative to promote children's books featuring diverse characters. Book Harvest has created a list of books—for children in pre-K through middle school—which offer readers mirrors to their own lives and windows into the lives of others.

Local independent bookstores are partnering with Book Harvest in this effort by distributing the list and featuring selected books from the list in their stores. Local residents interested in buying diverse books for their holiday gift giving and/or to donate to Book Harvest are encouraged to visit Flyleaf Books at 752 Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard in Chapel Hill, Letters Bookshop at 313 W Main Street in Durham, and The Regulator Bookshop at 720 9th Street in Durham.

"It is vital for children to see their lives reflected in the pages of the books that they read," says Ginger Young, Founder and Executive Director of Book Harvest. "Books can also provide insights into the lives of others, creating bridges and building connections. We hope that members of our local community will give the gift of books from this list to children in their lives and also purchase some to donate to Book Harvest and the children we serve."

"All children need to know that their experiences and history matter," says children's book author Kelly Starling Lyons, a member of Book Harvest's Authors' Circle. "All children deserve to see themselves in books. Book Harvest has created a needed resource that celebrates the beauty of all kids. "

Johanna Albrecht, Children's Manager at Flyleaf Books, agrees. "All children and all readers deserve to see their identities reflected in books," she says. "We are proud to support our customers and community by offering books for children that validate and educate." John Valentine, co-owner of The Regulator Bookshop, says, "Our customers support Book Harvest by donating books they have purchased from our store. We are happy to encourage the purchase of diverse books both for customers' friends and family members as well as for the children Book Harvest serves." And Land Arnold, owner of Letters Bookshop, says, "Studies have shown that people who read books about other cultures have greater empathy while those who read books about their own culture have more confidence. I'm pleased to be part of this great initiative."

"We thank Dr. Rudine Sims Bishop for coining the phrase 'Windows, Mirrors and Sliding Glass Doors,'" adds Ginger Young.

Book Harvest's Mirrors and Windows Project book list can be found at <http://bookharvestnc.org/why-books/mirrors-and-windows/>

**About Book Harvest:** Book Harvest provides books to children who need them and engages families and communities to promote children's lifelong literacy and academic success. A nonprofit organization, Book Harvest helps children of all ages build home libraries. The organization is guided by a belief in the power of books to transform children's lives. Since its founding in 2011, Book Harvest has provided more than 500,000 books to low-income children throughout the Triangle. Learn more at [www.bookharvestnc.org](http://www.bookharvestnc.org).

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