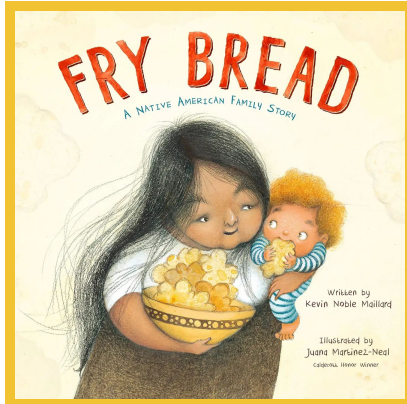


PEER BIAS LEADERS NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2020

Welcome to the Peer Bias Leaders Newsletter. We are the Peer Bias Leaders, a student-led equity and inclusivity group at Haddonfield Memorial High School. Each month, we plan to release a monthly newsletter curated by students discussing the importance of equity through books, articles, discussion topics, and more. With this newsletter, we hope to foster conversations and self-education that act as the foundation for change within our community.



Each month, we will have a general theme for the newsletter. For the month of September, we would like to focus on **Representation** in the media. The idea of representation has many different angles: meaningful representation can bring diverse perspectives to the forefront, yet harmful representation can paint a false image of a group of people. In this newsletter, we discuss why it is important for all types of people to be portrayed authentically.

- Mehki Rippey, President of the Peer Bias Leaders

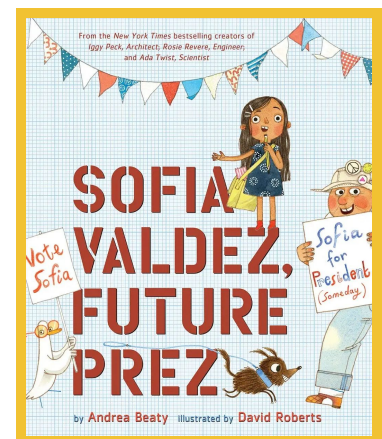
Discussion Topics:

- **Diversity in Media and Why Visibility Matters**

This article is part of the Anti-Defamation League’s series called, “Table Talk: Family Conversations about Current Events.” This is the perfect way to start a discussion with your family about race and representation. The series includes various questions to help start conversation and foster deeper conversation, as well as links to additional articles and resources. The topic of the article is representation in the media and why it is important. Examples of representation in recent media are provided with information as to how this representation is both inspiring for those in the group being represented and informative for those who are not. The impact of representation is a powerful discussion piece when thinking about why visibility matters. Overall, this is a great resource for people who are looking to have these conversations with their family. (However, it is recommended for ages 8 and up, so for younger children we recommend the article below.)

- **13 children's books that feature protagonists of color**

Discussing topics like representation and diversity with younger children can be very challenging. One way to integrate these conversations into an everyday routine is through books. The list above is from Business Insider, and includes thirteen children’s books. These books can help expose children to diversity and encourage conversations about differences and similarities between all people. It is important to have minority representation in a children’s library because it allows them to see empowerment and success for all types of people. The books on this list are not only colorful and fun, but also a great way to start and continue these conversations with your children.



Reading:

- **Why On-Screen Representation Actually Matters**

This Huffington Post article examines the history of representation in media and its effects on society. It discusses how important it is for people to see themselves represented, especially children, and how this representation, or a lack thereof, can shape a person's identity. They cite several studies that point to this conclusion as well, proving that we must work harder to ensure that there is diverse representation both in the media and throughout all parts of our lives!

- **How Racial Stereotypes in Popular Media Affect People — and What Hollywood Can Do to Become More Inclusive**

This article discusses a few common stereotypes that appear in the media and their effects on people. It also provides helpful solutions on how these stereotypes could be avoided with additional insight as to how Hollywood and other media-creating groups could increase the diversity in their casts, creative teams, and more.

Podcast of the Month:

- **Speaking of Racism**

What better way to self-educate on topics relevant to the Black Lives Matter movement than listening to first hand accounts.. Spotify's series, *Speaking of Racism*, helps explain the misconceptions and obstacles when talking about racism. They range from half an hour to an hour. We recommend listening to the *Historical Storytelling with Jermaine Fowler of The Humanity Archive*. Jermaine is an educator who strives to advocate for the forgotten history of America. He has created a creative, yet straightforward method to educate others. There are also many other guest speakers that appear throughout the podcast!

Quote of the Month:

“Representation matters so that the full story can be told, and so you don't have a one-sided story that isn't a fair representation of a diverse population”

-Cherris May

