

Can a Children's Book Change the World?
Diversity through the Lens of Children's Picture Books by Black Authors and Illustrators

When: Thursday afternoons. June 29 – August 24. Eight weeks (no class July 6). 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Where: Temple Beth-El, Orchard St. Providence

Coordinator: Diana Grady
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Course description: Each week, a student will lead a discussion on an author or illustrator chosen from a coordinator provided list. Discussion will focus on a set of core questions: How has the author/illustrator depicted Black lives? What seems to be the focus of the author's/illustrator's work? How has the author/illustrator shown mood and theme? In your opinion, what provides a greater impact in each book this week: text or illustrations? As the course goes on, students will consider the following: Have the images changed over time? If so, why have these changes occurred? What have you learned about the value of the work by the authors and illustrators explored in class? Short You Tube videos will be presented in some of the sessions.

Resources: Authors and Illustrators books are available at local libraries, through the RI Library System, and through the SAILS Library System in southeastern Massachusetts. The coordinator will bring in copies of the books.

Presentation: Presenters should speak briefly about the subject of their presentation (10 – 15 minutes.) Presentations can include details of the author's/illustrator's life, career, awards, titles, and critics' comments. The remaining time (35 – 40 minutes) will have the class viewing copies of the picture books and discussing them in terms of the questions listed above.