

East, Kathy. *Across Cultures: A Guide to Multicultural Literature for Children*. Connecticut: Libraries Unlimited, 2007. 342 p. \$55.00 (ISBN: 978-1-59158-336-3)

Kathy East and Rebecca Thomas each bring to the table 30+ years of experience in working with kids and with children's literature. *Across Cultures* describes 465 books, many of which they have successfully used with kids in interactive settings, that present diversity in a variety of ways. The books are appropriate for grades preschool through 6th.

The recommended books are grouped into categories that are familiar themes to everyone: identity, family, traditions, and the past to name a few. The diversity of people in the selected books pulls these common subjects together and should encourage discussion and an understanding of different cultures. The authors also provide inserts among the annotations that tell how certain books could be linked together by a special topic (for example: origami, making music, and Ellis Island). The last 2 chapters of *Across Cultures* discuss approaches to engaging kids in the books, and then there is an appendix on multicultural literature awards and indexes by culture, author, title, subject, and more.

I found this book useful in putting together booklists on everyday topics that would appeal to a wide range of kids and would potentially introduce an unsuspecting kid to another point of view. It is also practical for rounding out subject guides or pathfinders to help teachers, parents, and kids learn just a little bit more about a culture. I appreciated that the selections given for each theme were not overwhelming--the lists include a few quality books, many of them award-winning. *Across Cultures* is a good resource that encourages the integration of multicultural literature into almost any learning experience.

Jill Corrente

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