

EXPLAINING DIVERSITY

Diversity is often an awkward subject to discuss in the classroom.

However, with students of different ethnicities, socioeconomic backgrounds, home lives, and different abilities all in the same classroom understanding and accepting diversity is key for a successful learning environment. Students need to understand that their differences make each one of them unique and that should be celebrated. They should also understand that their differences do not separate them and each person deserves to be treated equally. The following books can be used to help promote an understanding and acceptance of diversity among students of all ages.

Picture Books

- *Mostly Monster* by Tammie Sauer
- *The Name Jar* by Yangsook Choi
- *What I Like About Me* by Allia Zobel Nolan
- *The Sneetches and Other Stories* by Dr. Seuss

Nonfiction

TEMPLE GRANDIN: HOW THE GIRL WHO LOVED COWS EMBRACED AUTISM AND CHANGED THE WORLD
WRITTEN BY: SY MONTGOMERY

Novels

- *Wonder* by R.J. Palacio
- *Esperanza Rising* by Pam Munoz Ryan
- *The Absolute True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* by Sherman Alexie

GRAPHIC NOVEL

American Born Chinese by Gene Luen Yang