

A LETTER FROM THE EDITORS



This issue of *The Dragon Lode* has a theme of award-winning books. Each article addresses this theme in some way. Three of the four articles focus on issues of diversity. The articles merge diverse characters with multicultural themes. In “The Reciprocity of Diverse and Universal Themes,” the authors discuss the need for high-quality children’s literature in today’s diverse society.

“Glimpses of Humanity and Hope” presents picturebooks that characterize refugee children. In 2017, about 420 million children lived in conflict zones due to war or armed conflict (CNN, 2019). This is a substantial number of children who need to see themselves portrayed in children’s literature. Sunah Chung’s article, “The Diversity of Protagonists,” reflects on diversity in ILA choices. “Learning to read is part of the process of socialization and an important mechanism through which culture is transmitted from one generation to the next (Taylor, 2003, p. 301).” ILA choices represent the diversity of children in today’s society.

“Enough is Enough” does not reflect on diversity; rather, it reflects on the quality inherent in Caldecott and Newbery award winning books. When choosing books for their classrooms, teachers often rely on award-winning books. “Enough is Enough” explains how these books are selected.

In our twenty-first century society, it is important for children to be exposed to diverse cultures and to find themselves in the books they read. As “Diversity of Protagonists” notes, award-winning books present diverse characters. However according to the Cooperative Children’s Book Center (CCBC) (2018), over 50%

of children’s books still represent white middle class children. This statistic impacts books available to be chosen for awards. We hope articles found in this issue raise awareness of the need for more diverse selections.

We are very grateful for the many authors that serve as columnists for *The Dragon Lode*. In this issue, we have The Poet’s Corner written by Janet Wong and Children’s Book Reviews written by a team of authors. Thanks to all of you for your contributions.

We hope you enjoy this issue as much as we do.

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