

Children's Picture Books: Considering Multiple Perspectives

Bradby, M. (1995). *More than anything else*. Pictures by C. K. Soentpiet. New York: Orchard Books.

Young Booker T. Washington is the narrator. The book offers so many opportunities to take on the perspectives of Booker's older brother, his father, his mother, or the man who teaches him to read.

Bunting, E. (1991). *Fly away home*. Illust. by R. Himler. New York: Clarion Books.

This story is told from Danny's perspective. Students might explore the story from his father's perspective as they manage their lives in the airport.

Cole, R. (1995). *The story of Ruby Bridges*. Illust. By G. Ford. New York: Scholastic.

This story uses third person narration with direct quotes from Ruby Bridges, her mother, and her teacher. Students could give voice to people in the large angry crowd, to the federal marshalls who escorted Ruby in and out of the school building, to Ruby herself as she walked past the angry crowd, or to Miss Hurley, Ruby's first grade teacher.

Johnson, A. (1992). *The leaving morning*. Paintings by D. Soman. New York: Orchard.

There are so many opportunities in this book to take on the perspectives of the two children who are moving away or of their neighbors, cousins, and parents.

Keats, E. J. (1967). *Peter's chair*. New York: Puffin Books.

This story is told from Peter's perspective. Students might explore the story from his mother or his father's perspectives as they paint Peter's furniture for the new baby or eat lunch together.

Levine, E. (2007). *Henry's freedom box*. Illust. by K. Nelson. New York: Scholastic.

There are so many opportunities in this book to give voice to Henry's thoughts or take on the perspectives of the boys and the boss in the tobacco company, Henry's children as they are carted away, James, Dr. Smith, and Henry as they ponder his idea of mailing himself to freedom in a crate, or of all the people in the room when Henry finally arrives in Philadelphia.

Shannon, D. (1998). *No, David!* New York: Blue Sky Press.

Although the illustrations focus exclusively on David, the voice scolding, "No, David!" is exclusively his mother. Students might explore one or more of David's actions in the story from David's perspective.

Wiles, D. (2001). *Freedom summer*. Illust. by J. Lagarrigue. New York: Aladdin.

Joe is the narrator. Students might express both Joe's and John Henry's perspectives as they race to Fiddler's Creek. They might consider John Henry's perspective as he waits outside Mr. Mason's General Store while Joe is inside buying ice pops for both of them. They can take on the thoughts of Will Rogers – John Henry's older brother – and the other workers as they fill the town pool with tar. They can take on the thoughts of Joe and John Henry as they enter Mr. Mason's General Store together arm-in-arm at the end of the story.

Woodson, J. (2001). *The other side*. Illust. by E. B. Lewis. New York: Putnam.

This story is told from Clover's perspective. Students might explore the perspectives of the two moms as they pass each other in town, or the perspectives of Clover's friends as they exclude Annie while playing near the fence.

Woodson, J. (2002). *Visiting day*. Illust. by J. E. Ransome. New York: Scholastic.

This story is told from the little girl's perspective. Students might explore Grandma's perspective as she fries chicken in the morning or braids the girl's hair. They might explore Daddy's perspective as he gets dressed in the morning for Visiting Day, as he sits smiling at his daughter on his knee, or when visiting time is over and he and his daughter must part.

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