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1.0
 2.0
 1.0

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1.0
 2.0
 1.0

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Home > Vol 15, No 1 (2013) > [Landt](#)

Books for Boys: Multicultural Literature with Strong Male Characters

Susan M Landt

Abstract

Boys need books with which they can connect, books that reach out to them with characters that reflect themselves, books that feature people who speak and look and act like the people in their lives. Among the functions of literature in children's lives, two are particularly relevant: facilitating literacy skills and providing role models. The path to becoming a proficient reader begins with the spark of interest in a book – the desire to know more. Young male readers need to envision characters like themselves in active roles: solving problems, undertaking responsibilities, exhibiting leadership, accomplishing worthy tasks.

Keywords

children's literature, boys, multicultural literature

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Male Readers Need To Read Books With Strong Female Characters, Too. By Sadie Trombetta. Aug 5 2016. It's no secret that there's a serious lack of diversity and representation in the current literary landscape; more often than not, books will feature white, straight, cisgender people, usually boys and men. There needs to be equal representation of male and female heroes on the pages of books for kids and young adults, because the classic narrative — the weak damsel in distress in need of a knight in shining armor — has run its course. It's time to tell a new story. If we want the young boys of the world to turn into respectful, supportive, feminist young men, we need to give them the opportunity to see women as equals, not a lesser gender.

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