

ANNE M. DOLAN

YOU, ME AND DIVERSITY: PICTUREBOOKS FOR TEACHING
DEVELOPMENT AND INTERCULTURAL EDUCATION

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Written to promote respect for, and understanding of multicultural and diverse societies, *You, Me and Diversity* seeks to help children and teachers to read and understand the world around them critically and empathically through the visual and literary medium of picturebooks.

A continual emphasis is placed on the importance within the educational curriculum of multicultural literature in promoting values essential to the social and personal development of students in the primary school system.

For Dolan, picturebooks provide children of all ages with the opportunity to interrogate and engage with a range of global issues in a manner that is both age-appropriate and educationally beneficial.

Dolan offers a detailed rationale for her picturebook framework providing the reader with an overview and definition of the picturebook genre. She explores the concepts of multicultural, intercultural and development education in an immensely readable and stimulating manner and places her observations firmly in the context of culture and culturally responsive teaching. She provides the reader/teacher with the necessary criteria to assess multicultural literature, addressing the concepts of critical literacy and critically reading the world. The use of critical thinking, philosophical thinking and creative thinking in the classroom is advocated throughout the text and Dolan consistently shows these to be essential to the development of students in the primary education system.

This thought-provoking and well-researched text is not only a critical manifesto: it provides practical, accessible and insightful frameworks and strategies for teachers to implement, promoting the integrated and effective use of picturebooks in the classroom, addressing a range of literacies – oral, verbal, visual and critical.

REBECCA LONG