

# Letting Go of Literary Whiteness: Embracing Diversity in Literature

Literature has the power to shape our worldview, our understanding of ourselves and others, and our aspirations for the future. However, for far too long, literature has been dominated by a narrow and exclusive perspective: literary whiteness.



## Letting Go of Literary Whiteness: Antiracist Literature Instruction for White Students (Language and Literacy Series) by Carlin Borsheim-Black

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language	: English
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Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
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Print length	: 160 pages



Literary whiteness is the overrepresentation of white characters, perspectives, and experiences in literature. It is a system of privilege that has created a literary landscape that is overwhelmingly white and Eurocentric.

The effects of literary whiteness are harmful and far-reaching. It sends the message that white experiences are the norm and that stories about people of color are not as valuable or important.

It also perpetuates stereotypes and biases about people of color, making it difficult for readers to see them as fully human and complex individuals.

In addition, literary whiteness limits the range of stories that are told and the perspectives that are heard. It creates a monoculture of literature that does not reflect the diversity of the world we live in.

It is time for us to let go of literary whiteness and embrace a more inclusive and equitable literary landscape. We need to make space for stories that reflect the diversity of our world, stories that challenge stereotypes and biases, and stories that inspire us to build a more just and equitable society.

## **How to Dismantle Literary Whiteness**

Dismantling literary whiteness is not an easy task, but it is an essential one. Here are a few practical steps we can take:

- **Read more diverse books.** Make a conscious effort to read books by authors of color, LGBTQ authors, authors with disabilities, and authors from different cultures.
- **Support diverse authors.** Buy their books, attend their readings, and share their work with others.
- **Challenge literary whiteness in your own writing.** If you are a writer, be mindful of the characters you create, the perspectives you present, and the stories you tell. Make sure that your work is inclusive and representative of the diversity of the world we live in.
- **Speak out against literary whiteness.** When you see examples of literary whiteness, don't be afraid to speak out against it. Write letters

to editors, publishers, and authors. Join organizations that are working to promote diversity in literature.

Letting go of literary whiteness is not about erasing white voices from literature. It is about creating a more inclusive and equitable literary landscape that reflects the diversity of the world we live in.

It is about giving marginalized voices a platform and allowing their stories to be heard.

It is about creating a literature that is truly representative of the human experience.

Let us all work together to dismantle literary whiteness and build a more inclusive and equitable literary landscape for all.

## Recommended Resources

- Diverse Books
- Lee & Low Books
- Penguin Random House Diversity & Inclusion
- Simon & Schuster Diversity & Inclusion
- We Need Diverse Books



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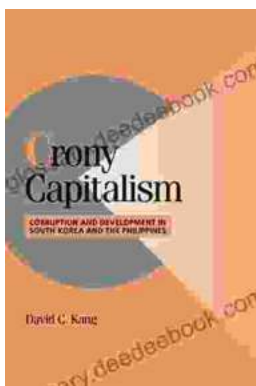
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