

Social Justice Literature

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Title of Book: Too Much Stuff

Author: Robert Munsch

Publisher/year: Scholastic 2010

ISBN: 978-1443102452

What social topic/s does this book address:

race

culture (including immigration)

gender

sexual orientation

ability

family composition (including adoption)

Class/poverty/homelessness/unemployment

Brief synopsis of the book:

Temina is going on an airplane trip and wants to take all of her toys and dolls with her. Her mom says: "You can bring just ONE doll." She sneaks a ton of toys into her backpack, which is overstuffed and humorously drawn in a 'big' way. When she gets on the plane, she takes her toys out. Other children on the plane, are from various other countries and are sad because they don't have any toys with them. Temina shares her toys with them. Months later the children from around the world send her toys from their countries.

Is this story authentic in regard to:

- story line
- today's society
- social topic
- characters

Is this story:

- Respectful
- Engaging
- Honoring

Does this story directly talk about the social topic or does it tell a story using a social topic as a subtle background?

It deals with excesses, but doesn't state it!

Would you read this story to your class? _____

Would you want your child's teacher to read this story? _____

What big ideas or questions do you see emerging from this book?

This book was used to introduce or further our discussion on wants and needs. We talked about whether or not Tamina, and the students in our class, really NEED that many toys. Then we sorted various items into the two categories. (i.e. Wii, good food, candy, swimming pool, clean water.) This led to an individual drawing activity illustrating their impression of their own wants & needs.
