Diversity: Insight into Poverty

Created by Julie Papperman on October 18, 2017

Almost half of children in the United States come from low-income families. Their parents may or may not have a job. Their parents might be married or single. These five books show that children in poverty want to belong, want to be successful, and want to do good. They are like anyone. Children in poverty can make a difference in their own lives and others' lives.

Crenshaw	Applegate, Katherine. Crenshaw . New York: Feiwel & Friends, 2015. Jackson's old imaginary friend, Crenshaw, returns. Meanwhile, Jackson's family is running out of money. Little food is in their kitchen cabinets. Many of their things have been sold. They might lose their apartment. Jackson is upset. Crenshaw knows how to help.
ANCORE HELDET	Helget, Nicole. The End of the Wild . New York: Little, Brown, 2017. Eleven-year-old Fern lives in a small run-down house in the woods. Her family uses the plants and animals in the woods for food. They do not have money to buy food. A fracking company threatens to get rid of the grove. Her STEM project might be the answer to her problems.
JENNIFE L HOLD BELLIS MARKET L HOLD MARKET L HOLD BELLIS MARKET L HOLD MARK	Holm, Jennifer L. Full of Beans . New York: Random House, 2016. Beans Curry lives in Key West, Florida in 1934. His dad is looking for a job in New Jersey. Beans decides to work for Johnny Cakes to help earn money. However, the jobs turn out to be too risky. Instead, Beans decides to help with the town's cleanup effort. Tourists are coming, and Beans finds the perfect job.
Minnas Patchwork Cat	Mills, Lauren A. Minna's Patchwork Coat. New York: Little, Brown, 2015. Minna wants to go to school but needs a coat to attend. Her papa says he will get her a coat, but he passes away before he can. The mothers of children at school sew a coat for Minna from patches of clothes. When Minna goes to school, she shares how her coat was made. The children learn an important lesson.
JOSEPHINE	Powell, Patricia Hruby. Josephine: The Dazzling Life of Josephine Baker . San Francisco, CA: Chronicle, 2014. Josephine lived in the slums of St. Louis. Dancing made Josephine happy. At fifteen, Josephine went to New York to dance. She sent her family money she earned. When she moved to Paris, Josephine became famous. She danced in good and bad times for the rest of her life.

Wilson's Core Collection of Most Highly Recommended Books and the Notable Social Studies Trade Books for Young People were used to select books. Information in the top paragraph is from:

Jiang, Yang, et al. "Basic Facts about Low-Income Children: Children 6 through 11 Years, 2015." *National Center for Children in Poverty*, Jan. 2017, <a href="http://nccp.org/publications