

# Multicultural Literature



- 1 Students encounter social injustice
- 2 Includes historical trauma
- 3 Challenges readers to look through different windows and open closed doors
- 4 Readers become historical witnesses
- 5 Students explore tensions and conflicts
- 6 Classrooms become safe spaces for questioning negative stereotypes and acts of discrimination
- ★ Develops pride in self and native culture, and respect for others

*DeNicolò & Franquiz, 2006 and Wissman, 2004*

## Are these topics "too risky" for our students?

**Race**

**Protest**

**MURDER BY LYNCHING**

**STUDENTS LEARN ABOUT SOCIAL JUSTICE BY READING HISTORICAL TRAUMA**

Xenia Murillo  
Social Justice in Children's Literature

*"But we are whole. We can speak what we see...  
We can speak now, or bear unforgettable shame"*  
- from *A Wreath for Emmett Till* by Marilyn Nelson

**SLAVERY > JIM CROW > RACIAL PROFILING**

**Voices from  
Immigrant  
farmworkers**

## Multicultural Literature in the Classroom

Reading Skills

Writing Skills

Critical Thinking

Literary Movements

Historical Connections

Cultural Identity

## WHY MULTICULTURAL LITERATURE?

**E Explore**

Students can explore different genres and look at the role that genre plays in communicating messages

**P Participation**

Students are active participants in the discourse and draw on lived experiences as they read multicultural literature

**I Intersectionality**

Readers examine the overlaps in social identities and systems of discrimination and domination

**Q QUESTIONS**

The literature provides a platform for discussing themes and language that make students uneasy or that might create tension