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**Honors CHL 208 Academic Service-Learning Project:
Multicultural Children's Books for 826michigan's Library**

The goal of our academic service-learning project is to fill identified gaps in 826michigan's library, which has a shortage of multicultural children's and young adult literature. The following gaps were identified by members of 826michigan's staff, as well as volunteers, and are based on the library's current holdings, as well as the populations of students 826michigan most frequently works with and the needs of the community.

The identified gaps are books that feature

- 1) African American Protagonists
- 2) Strong Female Protagonists
- 3) Characters who are Mentally or Cognitively Challenged (ex. characters on the autism spectrum, characters with learning challenges, and characters with mental illnesses)
- 4) Asian American Protagonists
- 5) Non-Nuclear Families (ex. families from the LGBTQ community, single-parent families or families affected by divorce, and families affected by incarceration)

Each of these identified gaps will be addressed by a group of 3-4 students, who will ultimately select \$100 worth of the best books they find to fill their assigned gap, while also creating a wish list of additional excellent books about their assigned cultural group that donors may choose to purchase for the library in the future. We can thank EMU's CAS-L Minigrants Program for funding this project.

While evaluating and selecting books that can remedy these gaps in 826michigan's multicultural holdings, students will simultaneously look for books that can also fill these genre or category gaps in the library.

The genres or categories in which 826michigan seeks to add more titles, particularly multicultural titles, are

- 1) Folktales
- 2) Picture Books
- 3) Works of Nonfiction
- 4) Series Books
- 5) Poetry Collections and Anthologies

At least three books on your purchase list should be from these categories.

In the completion of this large project, the following steps will be undertaken. *More detailed instructions for each step will be given as the project continues.*

1) Identify Resources (Turn in as a Group)

Search for articles, book awards, book lists, blogs, listservs, etc. that are devoted to studying and reviewing works of multicultural children's literature, especially those resources that may be specifically looking at books about your assigned cultural group. Compile your resources and submit a group annotated bibliography. 2-3 pages
DUE ON 10/06

2) Create Criteria for Evaluating the Books (Turn in as a Group)

Drawing from your individual beliefs about multicultural children's literature, perhaps expressed in your position papers, decide, as a group, how you will be evaluating the works of multicultural children's literature that you read (by authenticity, content, literary merit, the appeal of any illustrations, the cultural identity of the author and/or illustrator, etc.) so that you can know which elements to focus on while reading and reviewing books and so that you can more readily determine which books you will decide to put on your list of purchases and on your wish list. These criteria will likely evolve and become more nuanced over time, but it is important to establish some shared criteria at the beginning of the project. 2-3 pages

At this time, you should also look at the books that 826michigan already has in its library, so that you can get a better sense of its holdings and so you can avoid reviewing and recommending titles that the organization already has.

DUE ON 10/27

3) Take Notes and Write Reviews of the Books that You Read (Turn in Individually)

Each member of the group will read, take notes on, and write a brief review of at least 6 books. (It's up to the group to decide whether some of you will read the same books or not. Just be sure that the necessary genres and categories are getting covered and that you will be able to make final selections and justifications of these selections as a group.) Each review should be at least 150 words and should focus on your group's determined criteria for evaluation.

DUE ON 11/10

4) Book Selections and Justifications (Turn in as a Group)

After sharing your book reviews and notes and discussing all of the possibilities in relation to your developed criteria, each group will submit an order form for the books that you have decided to purchase with your \$100 budget, along with a paper explaining how and why you made these selections. Each group should also submit a "wish list" of other books that you decided not to purchase but would recommend for 826michigan's library. Explain how you decided on the books for the wish list too. 5-6 pages

DUE ON 11/24