

## Bringing the Many Voices Collection to your school!



### Free resources for an anti-racist curriculum

We would like to offer schools in Oxford an opportunity to borrow The Many Voices Collection for free, a **library of children's books** featuring black characters, written by black writers, or which centre an anti-racist message. We've also put together a **pack of films and resources** to accompany this collection and provide rich learning opportunities.

### What is the Many Voices Collection?

The Many Voices Collection is a collection curated by [Oxford Poetry Library](#) and [The Children's Allotment](#) last year in response to the rising energy around the global Black Lives Matter movement. As educators and parents, we noticed that children's literature often reinforces stereotypes or completely omits the stories of those marginalised in our society. There are still too few books where children of colour can see characters who look like them. The Many Voices Collection sought to address this gap in representation and build a diverse, colourful, and engaging collection of books for any family to borrow for free as part of the Oxford Poetry Library's lending collection.

The collection caters for a **wide age range**, from beautifully illustrated picture books for reception children, up to young adult fiction for confident Year 6 readers.

You can read more about the collection and the motivations behind it [here](#). You can also see the titles in the collection [here](#).

### About the films

When the winter lockdown meant that it was harder for us to do events and lend out the books, we teamed up with a local poet and producer [Rory 'Rawz' Campbell](#) to create several **films featuring poets and story-tellers**, [JC Niala](#) and [Tiece](#) reading their favourite books from the Collection aloud.

These films are available to watch here for free:

- [Rawz reads “Abiyoyo” by Pete Seeger \(illustrated by Michael Hays\)](#)
- [Tiece reads “Amazing Grace” by Mary Hoffman \(illustrated by Caroline Binch\)](#)
- [Aunty Kiko reads “Baby Elephant’s Safari” by Aunty Kiko \(illustrated by Moses Wanjuki\)](#)



and make an excellent resource for **school assemblies or story-time** in the classroom.

### **About borrowing the collection**

We are also offering schools an opportunity to borrow the entire collection of **~80 books**.

We can lend the collection for a **period of 2 weeks** to each school but longer loans can be arranged depending on other schools and the availability of the books.

Borrowing the Many Voices Collection is free, but we ask that someone from the school arranges collection from East Oxford (a vehicle or bike trailer is needed).

We also really appreciate your feedback on the collection and how you used it with your class or group. You can fill in a paper copy of the feedback form provided with the collection or submit feedback via our [online feedback form](#).

Donations to Oxford Poetry Library to help with the running costs associated with maintaining the library are also very welcome. [You can donate here](#).



### **Other resources**

We hope that borrowing the collection will inspire your school to diversify its own book collections and learning materials. We've compiled some further reading, book lists and other resources [here](#) for those wanting to do more.

Children are never too young to become socially aware. We hope these books will start conversations with the children in your school, help us to educate ourselves and support families to be active in raising a generation alive to the injustices in the world and conscious of how to confront it.

**Contact:** To borrow the Many Voices Collection, email Phoebe and Alice at: [manyvoicescollection@gmail.com](mailto:manyvoicescollection@gmail.com)

