

2020-21 English Ambassadors

UNICEF and FBV links:

- Article 30 (children from minority or indigenous groups) Every child has the right to learn and use the language, customs and religion of their family, whether or not these are shared by the majority of the people in the country where they live
- Article 23 (children with a disability) A child with a disability has the right to live a full and decent life with dignity and, as far as possible, independence and to play an active part in the community. Governments must do all they can to support disabled children and their families.
- Article 2 (non-discrimination) The Convention applies to every child without discrimination, whatever their ethnicity, sex, religion, language, abilities or any other status, whatever they think or say, whatever their family background.
- **FBV – Tolerance**

Aims:

The English Ambassadors have researched, purchased and reviewed new books taking into account the diverse nature of our school community. We wanted to ensure that every child in our school feels represented in the books that they read so we have carefully chosen books that have a varied range of characters and family backgrounds to promote both equality and diversity. We have purchased books that tell stories focusing on:

- mental health;
- disability;
- religion;
- ethnicity;
- gender;
- special educational needs;
- different cultures.

The list of books chosen by the English Ambassadors is below alongside a synopsis of each one:

Title	Author	Synopsis
Mae among the stars	Roda Ahmed	Inspired by the life of the first African American woman to travel in space, Mae Jemison. When Little Mae was a child, she dreamed of dancing in space. She imagined herself surrounded by billions of stars, floating, gliding, and discovering.
Thank you, Omu	Oge Mora	It's the story of how a woman named Omu makes a delicious stew that attracts members of her community to her door, and she feeds them all.
Rescue & Jessica: A life-changing friendship	Jessica Kensky and Patrick Downes	A service dog helps a girl adjust to the loss of her legs in a story based on true events. After failing training to be a guide dog, Rescue, a black Lab, worries about learning to be a service dog. And after her left leg is amputated, Jessica worries about learning to walk again.
Leila in Saffron	Rukhsanna Guidroz	A colourful journey of self-discovery and identity, this sweet, vibrant picture book follows young Leila as she visits her grandmother's house for their weekly family dinner, and finds parts of herself and her heritage in the family, friends, and art around her.
Hello goodbye dog	Maria Gianferrari	This is an adorable inclusive story of the unconditional love that dogs offer humans, with a lovely biracial family and little girl who gets around adeptly in her wheelchair.
Not so different: what	Shane Burcaw	Shane Burcaw was born with a rare disease called spinal muscular atrophy, which hinders his muscles' growth. As a result, his body

you really want to ask about having a disability		hasn't grown bigger and stronger as he's gotten older—it's gotten smaller and weaker instead.
The Girl Who Stole an elephant	Nizrana Farook	Chaya, a no-nonsense, outspoken hero, leads her friends and a gorgeous elephant on a noisy, fraught, joyous adventure through the jungle where revolution is stirring and leeches lurk. Will stealing the queen's jewels be the beginning or the end of everything for the intrepid gang?
My Three Best Friends and Me, Zulay	Cari Best	Zulay and her three best friends are all in the same first grade class and study the same things, even though Zulay is blind. When their teacher asks her students what activity they want to do on Field Day, Zulay surprises everyone when she says she wants to run a race.
El Deafo	Cece Bell	El Deafo is a graphic novel written and illustrated by Cece Bell. The book is a loose autobiographical account of Bell's childhood and living with her deafness. However, the characters in the book are all bunnies.
The Girl Who Thought In Pictures: The story of Dr. Temple Grandin	Julia Finley Mosca	When young Temple was diagnosed with autism, no one expected her to talk, let alone become one of the most powerful voices in modern science. Yet, the determined visual thinker did just that.
Thank you, Mr Falker	Patricia Polacco	In this autobiographical story, Little Trisha, overjoyed at the thought of learning how to read struggles when she finds that all the letters and numbers get jumbled up. Her classmates make matters worse by calling her "dummy." Finally, in fifth grade, she is lucky enough to have a teacher who recognizes Trisha's incredible artistic ability, understands her problem, and takes the time to lead her to the magic of reading.
The Proudest Blue: A story of Hijab and Family	Ibtihal Muhammad and S. K. Ali	A powerful, vibrantly illustrated story about the first day of school—and two sisters on one's first day of hijab—by Olympic medalist and social justice activist Ibtihaj Muhammad. With her new backpack and light-up shoes, Faizah knows the first day of school is going to be special.
Emmanuel's Dream: The true story of Emmanuel Ofosu Yeboah	Laurie Ann Thompson	This picture book biography tells the true story of Emmanuel Ofosu Yeboah, who bicycled across Ghana--nearly 400 miles--with only one leg. With that achievement he forever changed how his country treats people with disabilities, and he shows us all that one person is enough to change the world.
Joy	Corrinne Averiss and Isabelle Follath	Fern's Nanna has not been herself of late. And when Mum remarks that all the joy seems to have gone out of her life, Fern decides to fetch the joy back. With her catching-kit at the ready, she goes to the park and finds joy in all sorts of unusual places.
Mommy Sayang	Rosana Sullivan	Aleeya and Mommy do everything together, and in Aleeya's dreams, they dance among enormous hibiscus flowers. Aleeya loves to ask Mommy if she will always be by her side. Mommy assures her that she will, Insh'Allah. But one day, Mommy becomes sick. Alone, Aleeya waits for her return, and it's in this moment that Aleeya realizes she can always be by Mommy's side. With a hibiscus flower in hand, Aleeya goes to Mommy's bedside

		to bring her love and hope. Little by little, Mommy sayang gets better.
A Big Mooncake for Little Star	Grace Lin	A Big Mooncake for Little Star mixes in elements of fantasy and Chinese culture to create a charming story of Little Star who wakes each night to nibble away at the giant mooncake she and her mother baked together. With each bite, children will begin to see the various phases of the moon.
Anna Hibiscus	Atinuke	This story of Anna Hibiscus , a little girl growing up in Africa, "amazing Africa," is delightful and provides a glimpse into a life many US children are unfamiliar with. Anna's mom is from Canada and moved to Africa to raise a family with her husband who is African.
Cinderella of the Nile	Beverly Naidoo	In this earliest-known version of Cinderella, a rosy-cheeked girl called Rhodopis is abducted by bandits from her home in Greece and enslaved in Egypt. Although she finds friends, she remains unhappy, until one day the gift of a pair of beautiful slippers leads her to the King of Egypt.
Clean Up and Look Up	Nathan Byron and Dapo Adeola	Join lovable, passionate Rocket as she sets off on a mission to save a Caribbean island from plastic pollution! When Rocket goes for a holiday to visit her grandparents, she's shocked by the pollution that is spoiling their island home and putting the local sea life at risk. Can she think of a way to save the day? Meet hilarious, science-mad chatterbox, Rocket - she's going to be the greatest astronaut, star-catcher, space-traveller that has ever lived! But... can she convince her big brother to stop looking down at his phone and start LOOKING UP at the stars?
I like bees, I don't like honey	Sam Bishop	You are never too young to know what you like. A story about embracing our differences.
Simon Sock	Sue Hendra	Simon is an odd, stripey sock. He lives in the drawers with all the other socks. Every day two socks get picked to go on an adventure. The sparklies go to parties. The woolies go the park. The smarts go to school. Everyone has a pair... except Simon. Will he ever find his perfect match?
Mister Seahorse	Eric Carle	This is a stunning new picture book from Eric Carle about Mister Seahorse and other 'male mothers', with special acetate pages that hide fish behind rocks and reeds. As he floats through the sea, Mister Seahorse meets a Mr Stickleback, Mr Tilapia, Mr Kurtus and many other fish fathers caring for their eggs and babies in the most surprising ways.
Tiger in a Tutu	Fabi Santiago	Max isn't like other tigers - he is a tiger with a dream! He longs to pirouette and pli�, to leap and spin. He wants to be a dazzling ballet dancer, shining on the stage... and a very special friend might just help his dream come true. A delightfully funny story about friendship, self-belief and following your dreams.
The First Slodge	Jeanne Willis	Once upon a slime, there was a Slodge. The first Slodge in the universe. She saw the first moon and stars, the first fruits and flowers. "Mine, all mine!" she said. But what if there was not just one Slodge. . .
Pearl Power	Mel Elliott	Pearl Power is a children's book about equality, told in rhyme. A little girl called Pearl moves to a new school and makes friends while proving that being told she does things "like a girl" isn't a

		bad thing and that she can do anything the other kids can do even though she's small!
More People to love me	Mo O'Hara	A reassuring message for any child with an extended family. . . This little girl's family is huge! The only way to show how huge would be to draw a family tree. With a step-mum, a step-dad, four brothers and sisters, and a whole lot of grandparents, her family tree has a lot of branches - and a lot of people to love her.
Red – A Crayon's story	Michael Hall	Red has a bright red label, but he is, in fact, blue. His teacher tries to help him be red (let's draw strawberries!), his mother tries to help him be red by sending him out on a playdate with a yellow classmate (go draw a nice orange!), and the scissors try to help him be red by snipping his label so that he has room to breathe. But Red is miserable. He just can't be red, no matter how hard he tries! Finally, a brand-new friend offers a brand-new perspective, and Red discovers what readers have known all along. He's blue! This funny, heartwarming, colorful picture book about finding the courage to be true to your inner self can be read on multiple levels, and it offers something for everyone.
Introducing Teddy	Jessica Walton	Introducing Teddy introduces the youngest readers to understanding gender identity and transition in an accessible and heart-warming story about being true to yourself and being a good friend. Errol and his teddy, Thomas, are best friends who do everything together. Whether it's riding a bike, playing in the tree house, having a tea party, or all of the above, every day holds something fun to do. One sunny day, Errol finds that Thomas is sad, even when they are playing in their favorite ways. Errol can't figure out why, until Thomas finally tells Errol what the teddy has been afraid to say: "In my heart, I've always known that I'm a girl teddy, not a boy teddy. I wish my name was Tilly, not Thomas." And Errol says, "I don't care if you're a girl teddy or a boy teddy! What matters is that you are my friend."
The Thing	Simon Puttock	One day, the Thing falls from the sky and four strangers stumble across it. Together they decide to work together to take care of the Thing. But before long a media circus builds up around the creature they are protecting and the debate about the Thing spreads far around the world. What is the Thing?
Something Else	Kathryn Cave	A simple story, about a small creature who does his best to join in with the others. But he's different. No matter how he tries, he just doesn't belong. Then Something turns up and wants to be friends. But Something Else isn't sure he's like him at all...
Heather has two mummies	Leslea Newman	Heather's favourite number is two – she has two arms, two legs, two pets and two lovely mummies. But when Heather goes to school for the first time, someone asks her about her daddy ... and Heather doesn't have a daddy! But then the class all draw portraits of their families, and not one single drawing is the same. Heather and her classmates realize – it doesn't matter <i>who</i> makes up a family, the most important thing is that all the people in it love one another very much.
And Tango makes three	Justin Richardson	The book tells the story of two male penguins, Roy and Silo, who create a family together. With the help of the zookeeper, Mr. Gramsay, Roy and Silo are given an egg which they help hatch.

		The female chick, that completes their family, is consequently named "Tango" by the zookeepers
Julian is a Mermaid	Jessica Love	While riding the subway home with his Nana one day, Julian notices three women spectacularly dressed up. Their hair billows in brilliant hues, their dresses end in fishtails, and their joy fills the train carriage. When Julian gets home, daydreaming of the magic he's seen, all he can think about is dressing up just like the ladies and making his own fabulous mermaid costume. But what will Nana think about the mess he makes – and even more importantly – what will she think about how Julian sees himself?
Julian at the Wedding	Jessica Love	Julian and his nana are attending a wedding. Better yet, Julian is <i>in</i> the wedding along with his cousin Marisol. When wedding duties are fulfilled and with a new dog friend in tow, the pair takes off to roam the venue, exploring everywhere from underneath tables to enchanting willow trees to ... muddy puddles? After all, it wouldn't be a wedding without fun, laughter and a little magical mischief. With ingenuity and heart, author-illustrator Jessica Love tells a charming story of friendship, acceptance and celebration.