

Even though the diversity of our country continues to grow, the percentage of children's books released each year either by a person of color or with a multicultural theme has remained virtually unchanged for nearly 20 years.

Experts say a lack of diversity in children's books can be harmful to the social and identity development of children, particularly those representing cultures with untold stories.

It is critical to provide access to and awareness of books that mirror their culture and language.

Coretta Scott King Book Awards

Coretta Scott King Award titles are intended for readers of all cultures.

Significantly, the Award list includes numerous titles that capture the history of African American people for today's readers.

Just as Dr. King's message spoke to all races and religions, the Coretta Scott King Award Titles provide well-written, exquisitely illustrated books that reflect universally accepted human values.

The award has raised the level of expectations for editors and creators of children's literature, becoming a goal to aspire to for African American writers and illustrators.

During the first year, four other librarians joined the founders; Harriet B. Brown of New York City, Beatrice James, President of the P th

The first Steptoe Award was given to Sharon Draper for *Tears of a Tiger* (Simon & Schuster). I

The John Steptoe Award for New Talent is occasionally given for young authors or illustrators who demonstrate outstanding promise at the beginning of their careers. Steptoe winners receive a plaque.

The Coretta Scott King-Virginia Hamilton Award for Lifetime Achievement

In 2010, the committee established the Coretta Scott King – Virginia Hamilton Award for Lifetime Achievement to be given alternately to an author or illustrator and a practitioner.

The Coretta Scott King-Virginia Hamilton Award for Lifetime Achievement is presented in odd years (i.e. 2011, 2013, 2015...), to an African American practitioner for substantial contributions through active engagement with youth using award winning African American literature for children and/or young adults, via implementation of reading and reading relat7.5 5ETQ.00000912 0 612 792 reWB/F1 12