

ASSESSING YOUR BOOKSHELF

An important task for creating an inclusive and diverse bookshelf is first seeing what you have already. Books are expensive, and sometimes removing books from your shelf can be as powerful a statement about what you value as adding books.

I invite you to pull every single book off of your shelf and categorize them by protagonist and then further classify them into texts that are Own Voices. From there, use the guiding questions to go deeper in your evaluation of the bookshelves.

BOOKS TO REMOVE



STEP #1

Evaluate your current collection:

- Count your books. Tally them up and see what you have.
- Is there a specific category of representation that vastly outweighs the others?

STEP #2

Reflect on your bookshelves:

- Who are the protagonists?
- Who is writing the books?
- Are these identities aligned?

STEP #3

Make a plan for additions and subtractions:

- Are there some books that are problematic?
- What isn't on your shelves?
- How can you plan to get these books?

GUIDING QUESTIONS

- What experiences do your bookshelves "prioritize"?
- Does the representation on your shelves align with your personal values?
- Who will be reading or listening to the books on your shelf?
 - Students?
 - Kids in your home?
 - Visiting family members?
- How many BIPOC characters are there?
 - Are they tokenized in any way?
- How can you update slightly outdated language in the moment?
 - Can you easily change pronouns to make the story more equal?
- Which books on your shelf can be used to start a larger discussion about injustices or inequality?

VOICES TO ADD



To find out more, check out www.thetinyactivist.com!