

# Diversity in Young Adult Literature



# Why Diversity?

- 30% of crimes are committed by people under 18
- Teens experiment with drugs earlier (under 15)
- 38% of crimes are hate crimes
- Population changes:

• White	82%	74.8%
• Black	13%	15.4%
• N. Am	.09%	1.1%
• Asians	4.1%	8.7%
• Hispanic	11.4%	24.5%

# Why Diversity?

- 1 in 5 children live in poverty
  - 11% white
  - 50% Latino, African Am, Native Am
  - 33.3% Asian
- Languages
  - English
  - Spanish
- Teachers
  - 88.8% white
  - 6% Afro-Am
  - 3.4 Hispanic
  - 0.9 Asian
  - 0.8 Native Am

# Why Diversity?

- 10% homosexual
  - 30% of teen suicides
- 11% disabilities
- 2% gifted and talented
  - More minorities sped
  - More whites g& t
- 40,000 teens contract HIV annually
- Girls (k-6) ahead of boys—graduate hs behind boys
- Acad. achievement
  - Whites outscore all minorities except Asian-Am
  - 86% of students graduate
  - Poor, urban, minority less likely

# Why Diversity?

- Technology
  - Students better than teachers
  - White more likely
  - Boys more likely
  - Wealthier more likely
- Creates digital divide

## Teachers

- 51.7% women (elementary)
- 48.3 men

## Administrators

- White, Male
- Middle class
- conservative

# Why Diversity?

- Traditional canon taught
    - Focus on dead, white, male authors
  - Canon aids
    - Cliffs Notes
    - Extensive study guides
    - Paraphrasing
    - Spoon-feeding
    - Retelling
  - Lead to boredom
- Reasons
- Curriculum
  - Important literature
  - Prepare for college
  - Parental expectations
  - I had to read it
  - Its for their own good
  - Study guides help students understand material