

AVOIDING THE SINGLE STORY

INCLUDING CULTURALLY DIVERSE TEXTS IN OUR CLASSROOMS AND LIBRARIES

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CABOOLTURE





**WE WANT STUDENTS TO BE EXPOSED TO A
CULTURALLY DIVERSE RANGE OF LITERATURE.**

PRE-SERVICE TEACHER LITERATURE CHOICE



Of the **177** books chosen,
only **8** books had people
of colour.



Only **4** of those books
had a person of colour as
the main character.



39% (69) of the books chosen
had been used by their
University Teachers. Only **8**
had diverse characters.



Less than **16%** were
published in the **last 10**
years (2011+).



DEMOGRAPHICS: NATIONALLY



Key statistics

- 27.6% of the population were born overseas.
- Top 5 languages used at home, other than English, were Mandarin (2.7%), Arabic (1.4%), Vietnamese (1.3%), Cantonese (1.2%) and Punjabi (0.9%).

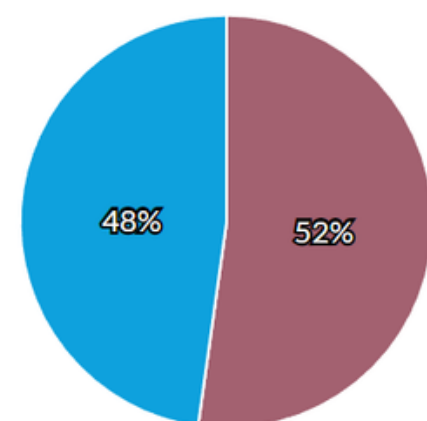
DEMOGRAPHICS: ST PAUL'S



Students

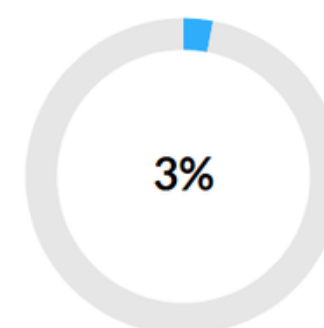
Total enrolments: 339

Boys 162
Girls 177



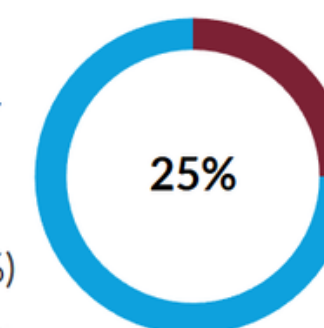
Full-time equivalent enrolments: 339.0

Indigenous students



Language background other than English

Yes (25%)
No (75%)
Not stated (0%)

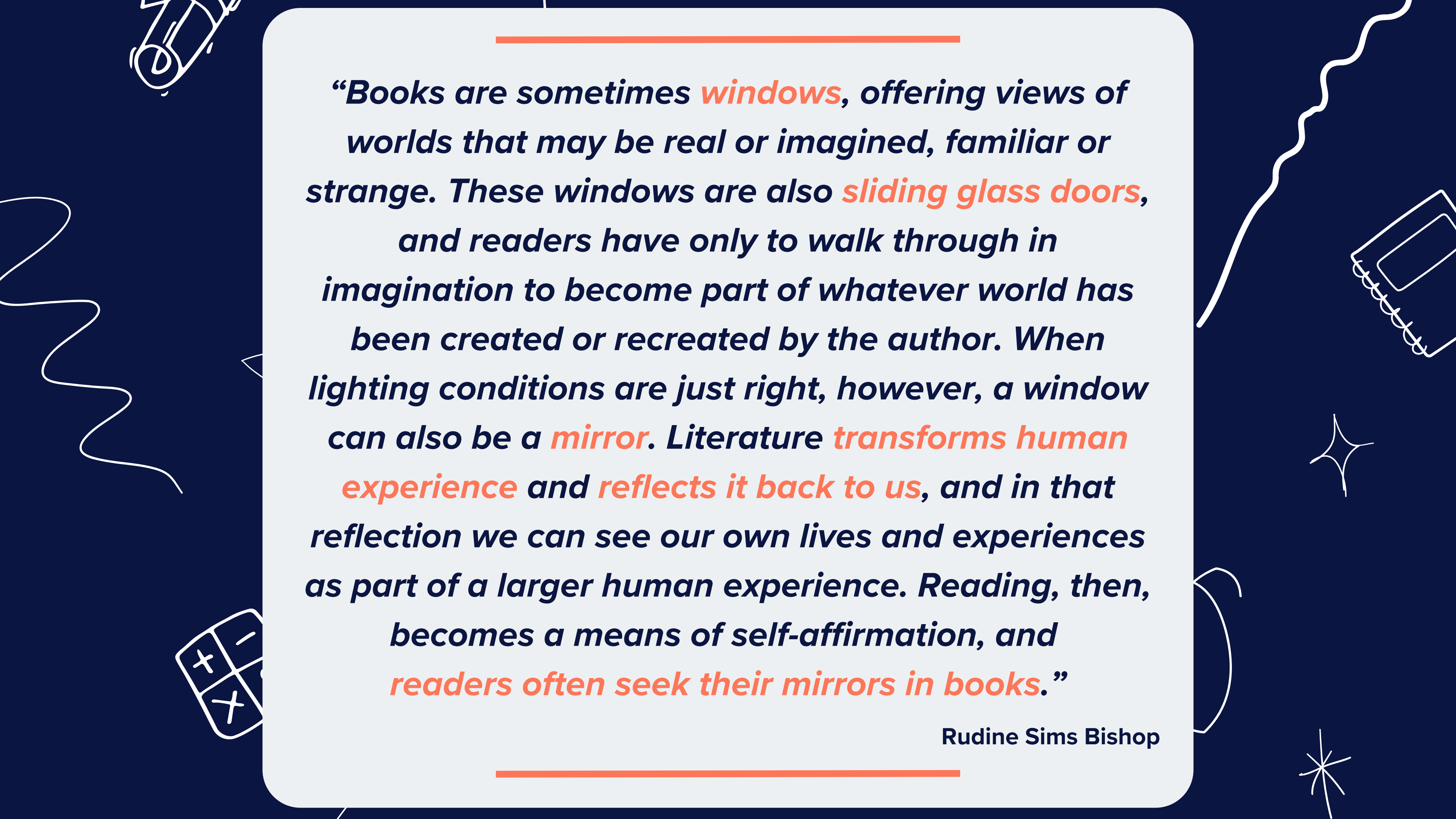


DISCUSSION



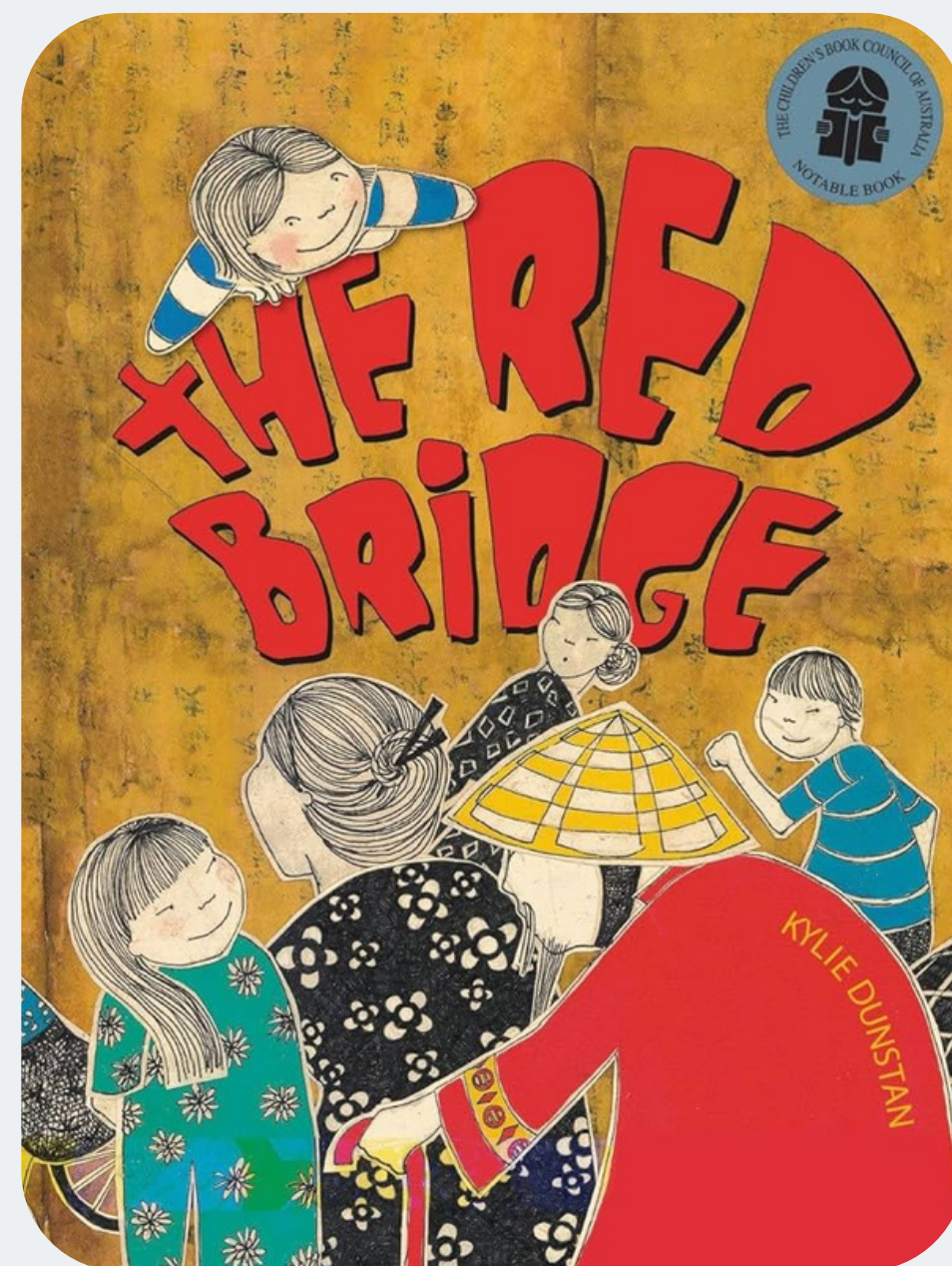
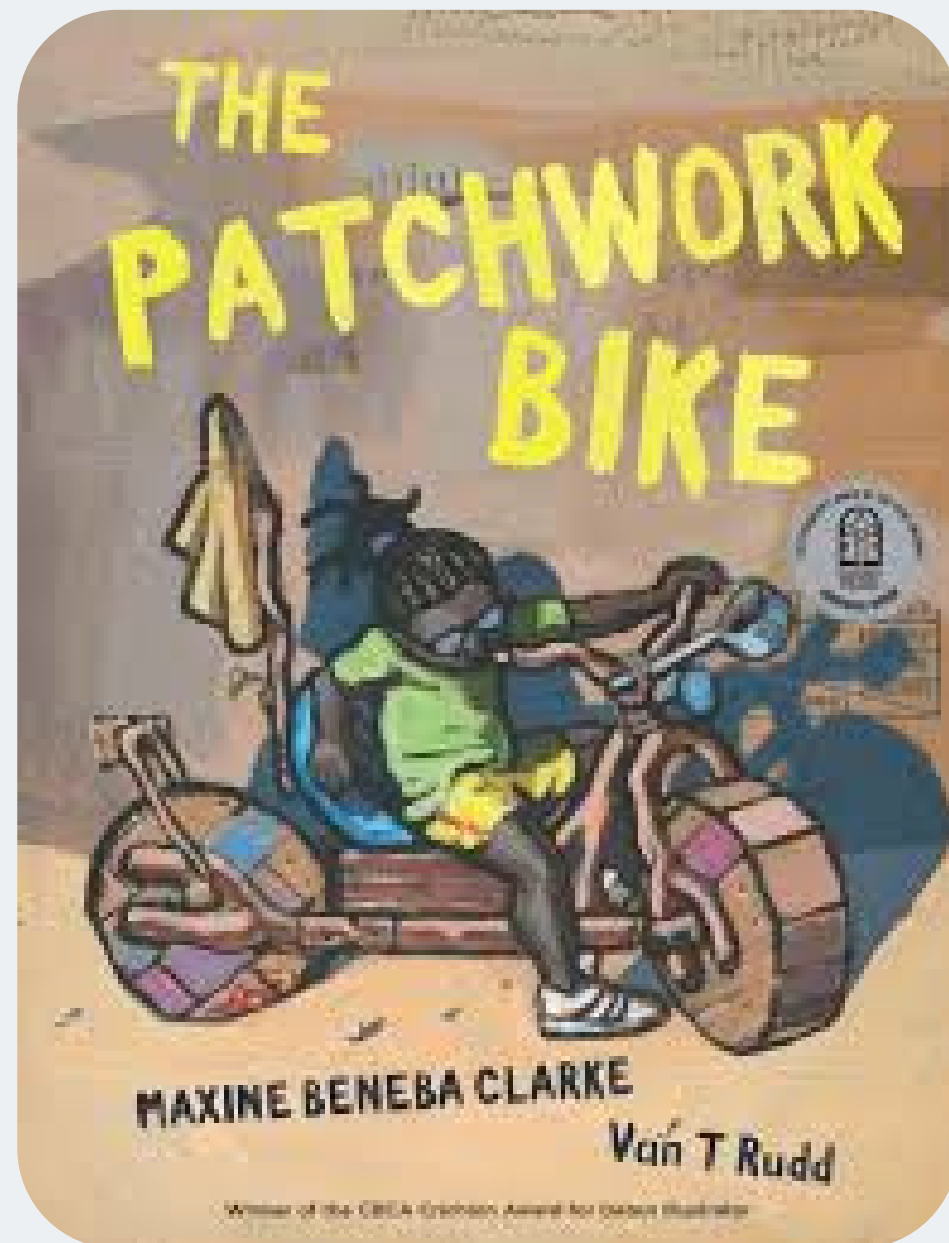
Think about a class you teach.

How many different cultural backgrounds do you have in that class?



*“Books are sometimes **windows**, offering views of worlds that may be real or imagined, familiar or strange. These windows are also **sliding glass doors**, and readers have only to walk through in imagination to become part of whatever world has been created or recreated by the author. When lighting conditions are just right, however, a window can also be a **mirror**. Literature **transforms human experience** and **reflects it back to us**, and in that reflection we can see our own lives and experiences as part of a larger human experience. Reading, then, becomes a means of self-affirmation, and **readers often seek their mirrors in books.**”*

Rudine Sims Bishop



THE POWER OF DIVERSE BOOKS





LET'S KEEP THE DISCUSSION GOING

- **Share and recommend resources**
- **Chat with our colleagues**
- **Model inclusion**
- **Develop our Collections intentionally**

UNSURE OF WHERE TO START?

Please look at some of the resources that we have included in our collection.

COLLABORATE



**What diverse texts have you
used or seen?**

**Share them on this Padlet now
or when they come to mind.**

Avoiding the Single Story - NES 2026

