

We Need Diverse Books
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We Need Diverse Book® Launches OurStory App to Aid in Discovery of Diverse Books

June 15, 2017 (New York) —We Need Diverse Book® has launched OurStory, an educational resource app for mobile and desktop devices, on June 15th. The long-awaited app is intended for use by children, parents, educators, and librarians to help them discover a variety of diverse books in multiple categories. Users will be able to search for books by and about people of color, LGBTQIA+ people, Native people, gender diversity, people with disabilities, ethnic and religious minorities, and more. Available recommendations range from picture books through young adult novels.

While members of the WNDB team traveled across the country to conferences and book festivals to speak with librarians, teachers, and publishing professionals, many asked for recommendations to diversify their personal and school libraries. Diverse books were more difficult to find, particularly those on specific topics. In response, WNDB set out to create an app that would help readers find and buy diverse books, highlight the work of creators from marginalized communities, and enhance the reading experience. The app has been in development and beta-testing for well over a year and the organization is thrilled to release it for public use.

The app will feature three tiers: Kids (ages 12 and under), Teen (ages 13 and up), and Pro (educators and librarians). OurStory Pro offers three paid membership levels (Bronze, Silver, Gold) while OurStory Kids and Teen have free and paid levels. Children will be able to use the free version of OurStory Kids without creating an account. OurStory is currently available via internet browser on all computers and tablets. Downloadable apps for iOS and Android tablets are forthcoming for Summer 2017, with apps for iOS and Android phones forthcoming in late 2017. Additional features are in development. More information can be found on the website: <http://www.diversebooks.org/ourstory/>.

The launch of OurStory will be celebrated with a party during the 2017 ALA Annual Conference in Chicago and will include a special presentation and hands-on demonstrations. Press who would like to attend may contact Thien-Kieu Lam at thienkieulam@diversebooks.org for details.

We Need Diverse Book® is a 501(c)(3) organization established in 2014 to address the lack of diverse representation in the children's publishing industry. The OurStory app is one of many initiatives funded or supported by WNDB. More about the organization is available at <http://www.weneeddiversebooks.org/>.