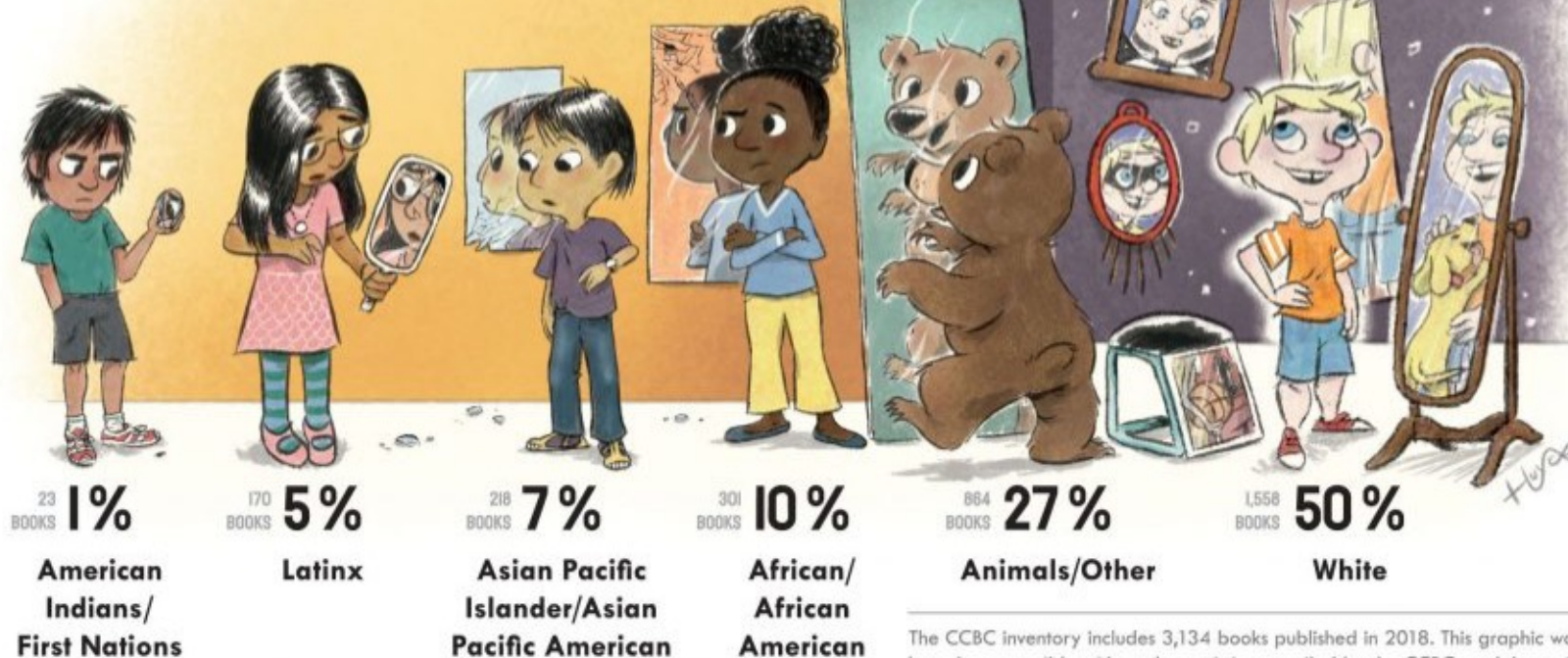


# RACISM IN CHILDREN'S BOOKS

CAOIMHE O'HARE

# DIVERSITY IN CHILDREN'S BOOKS 2018

Percentage of books depicting characters from diverse backgrounds based on the 2018 publishing statistics compiled by the Cooperative Children's Book Center, School of Education, University of Wisconsin-Madison: [ccbc.education.wisc.edu/books/pcstats.asp](http://ccbc.education.wisc.edu/books/pcstats.asp)



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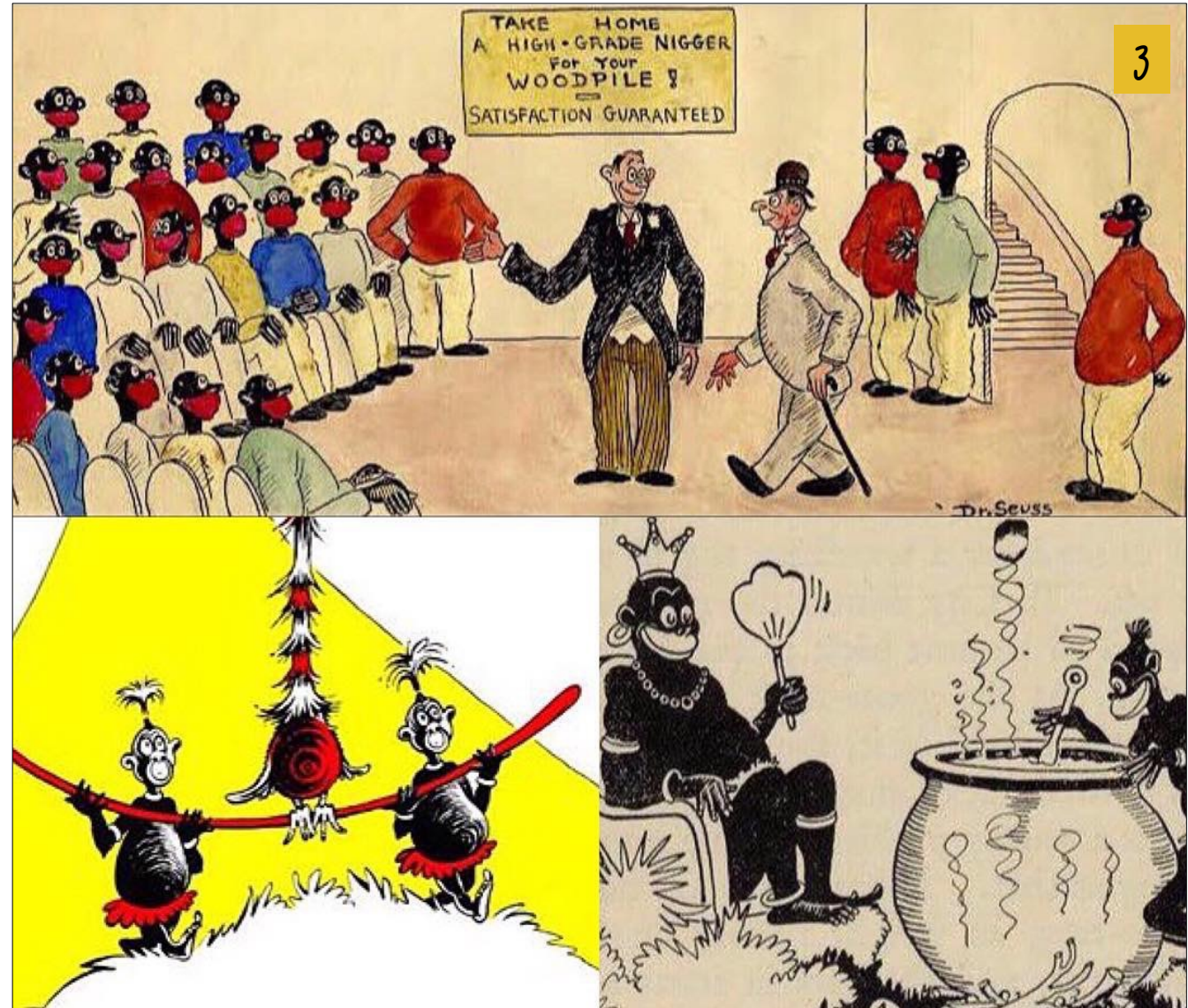
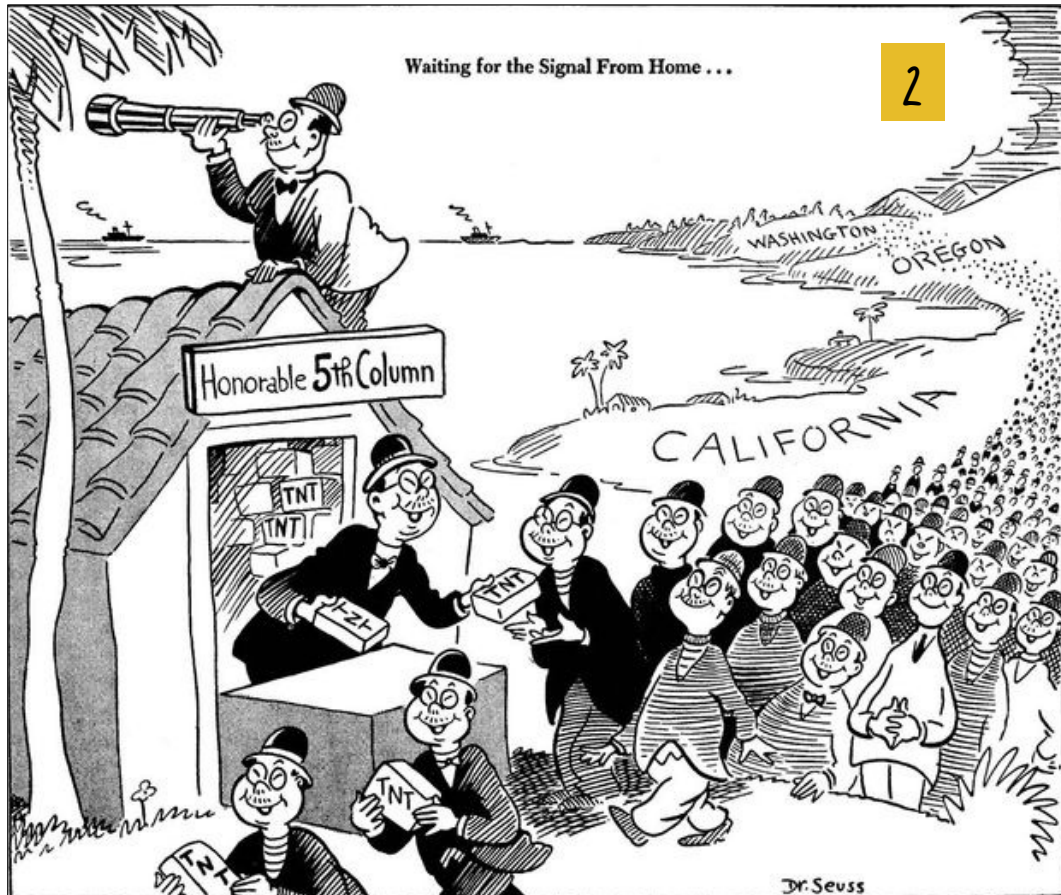
Illustration by David Huyck, in consultation with Sarah Park Dahlen  
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The CCBC inventory includes 3,134 books published in 2018. This graphic would not have been possible without the statistics compiled by the CCBC, and the review and feedback we received from Edith Campbell, Molly Beth Griffin, K. T. Horning, Debbie Reese, Ebony Elizabeth Thomas, and Madeline Tyner. Many thanks.

FIGURE 01: DAVID HUYCK, 2018 DIVERSITY IN CHILDREN'S BOOKS, 2018

# DR SEUSS'S RACIST CARICATURES AND DEPICTIONS

FIGURE 02: DR SEUSS, POLITICAL CARTOON, 1942. FIGURE 03: DR SEUSS, SPECIAL COLLECTIONS BETWEEN 1930 AND 1940





## RACISM IN ROALD DAHL: OOMPA LOOMPA'S

### HOW THE ILLUSTRATIONS REFLECT THE REVISIONS TO ROALD DAHL'S TEXTS

FIGURE 04: JOSEPH SCHINDELMAN, OOMPA LOOMPA'S, 1964. FIGURE 05: JOSEPH SCHINDELMAN, OOMPA LOOMPA'S, 1974. FIGURE 06: QUENTIN BLAKE, OOMPA LOOMPA'S, 1998



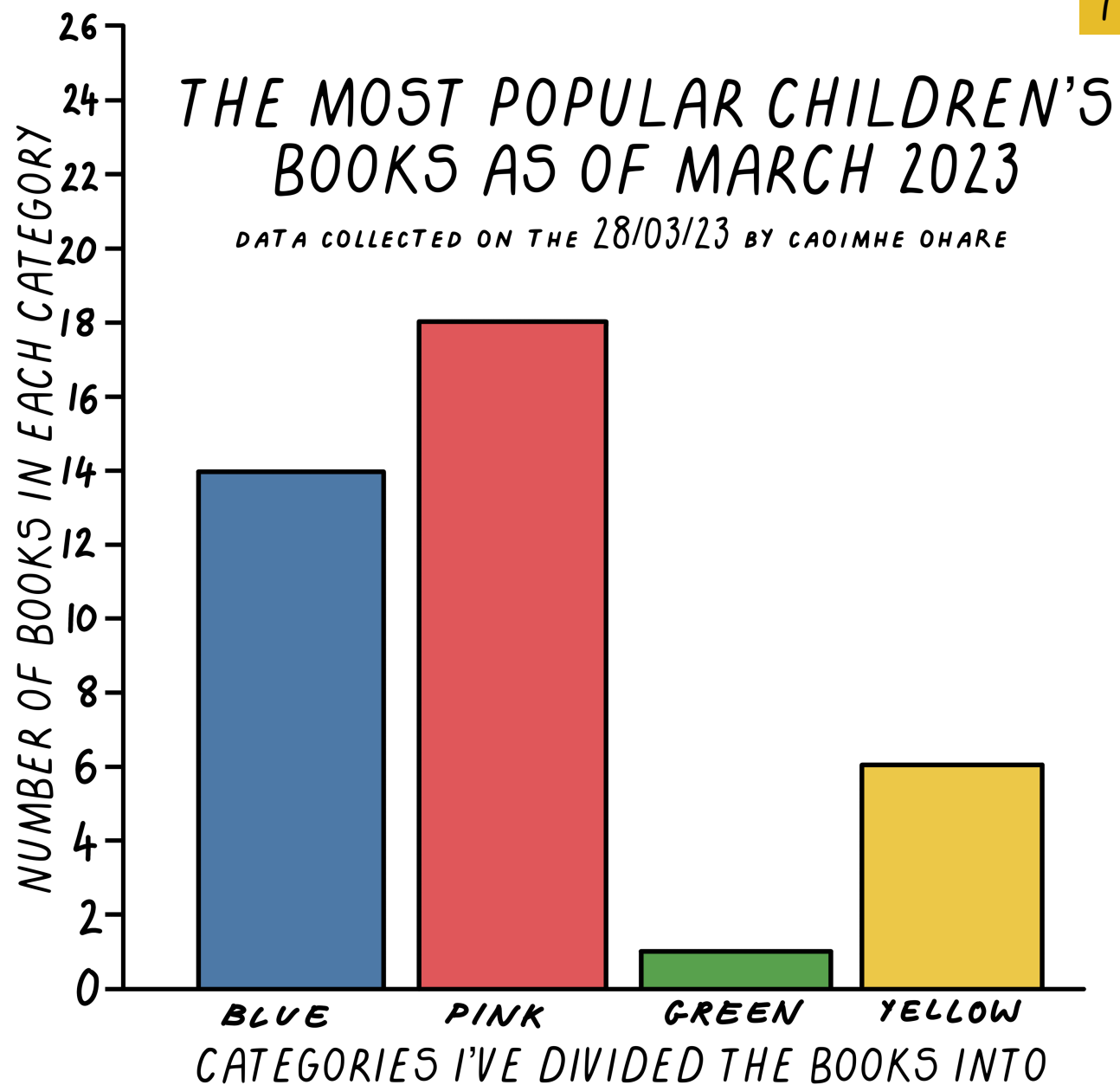


FIGURE 7: MOST POPULAR CHILDREN'S BOOKS DATA, CAOIMHE O'HARE, 2023

### GRAPH BREAKDOWN:

**BLUE:** MAIN CHARACTER IS AN ANIMAL OR NON-HUMAN E.G MR MEN SERIES. 14/30

**PINK:** WHITE ONLY CHARACTER/ CENTRAL WHITE CHARACTERS. 18/30

**GREEN:** RACIAL DIVERSITY. 1/30

**YELLOW:** CONSIDERED TO BE PROBLEMATIC DUE TO RACIST, SEXIST OR OTHER HARMFUL DEPICTIONS OF CHARACTERS/ IMPLIED.

**1/30 OF THESE MOST POPULAR BOOKS HAD RACIAL DIVERSITY. ONE**

ARE CHILDREN TOO YOUNG TO LEARN  
ABOUT RACISM OR BE IMPACTED BY  
RACIST DEPICIONS? (no!)

AS THEY GROW UP, CHILDREN WILL GAIN EXPERIENCE AND KNOWLEDGE. SOME OF THOSE EXPERIENCES WILL HURT; SOME OF THAT KNOWLEDGE WILL MAKE THEM SAD. IF WE EXCLUDE TROUBLING WORKS FROM THE DISCUSSION, THEN CHILDREN ARE MORE LIKELY TO FACE SADNESS AND PAIN ON THEIR OWN. IT IS, I THINK, BETTER THAT WE GIVE THEM THE TOOLS WITH WHICH TO FACE PREJUDICE-BEARING LITERATURE. IN DOING SO, WE CAN HELP THEM LEARN TO COPE WITH A WORLD THAT CAN BE NEITHER JUST OR FAIR. WITH THIS KNOWLEDGE, PERHAPS WE MAY ALSO GIVE THEM A SOURCE OF POWER. - *PHILIP NEL.*

# REFERENCES

(uploaded on blog)

Figure 01: David Huyck, Diversity in Children's Books, 2018

Figure 02: Dr Seuss, Political Cartoon, 1942

Figure 03: Dr Seuss, assorted special collections between 1930 and 1940 (exact unknown)

Figure 04: Joseph Schindelman, Oompa Loompa's, 1964

Figure 05: Joseph Schindelman, Oompa Loompa's, 1974

Figure 06: Quentin Blake, Oompa Loompa's, 1998

Figure 07: Most Popular Children's Books Data, Caoimhe O'Hare, 2023

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