## Writing to Center and Empower Children Outside the Mainstream

Recommendations: Children's Books that Empower and Center
(Not nearly a comprehensive list - but a great place to start!)

**Picture Books:** 

YOUR NAME IS A SONG by Jamilah Thompkins-Bigelow, illustrated by Luisa Uribe RISSY NO KISSES by Katey Howes, illustrated by Jess Engle POWWOW DAY by Traci Sorell, illustrated by Madelyn Goodnight AFTER THE FALL by Dan Santat WHERE IS BINA BEAR? by Mike Curato BUNNYBEAR by Andrea Loney, illustrated by Carmen Saldana FLY by Brittany Thurman, illustrated by Anna Cuhna I AM EVERY GOOD THING by Derrick Barnes, illustrated by James Gordon EYES THAT KISS IN THE CORNERS by Joanna Ho, illustrated by Dung Ho BEAUTY WOKE by Nonieqa Ramos, illustrated by Paolo Esqobar DON"T HUG DOUG by Carrie Finison, illustrated by Daniel Wiseman MORE THAN FLUFF by Madeline Valentine DON'T TOUCH MY HAIR! by Sharee Miller HUG? by Charlene Chua

Middle Grade:

**BLOB** by Anne Appert

A WISH IN THE DARK by Christina Soontornvat
A BOY CALLED BAT by Elana K Arnold

HOW TO FIND WHAT YOUR NOT LOOKING FOR by Veera Hiranandani

THE SERPENT'S SECRET series by Sayantani Dasgupta

GET A GRIP, VIVY COHEN by Sarah Kapit

KING & THE DRAGONFLIES by Kacen Callender

THE MANY MYSTERIES OF THE FINKEL FAMILY By Sarah Kapit

MELISSA by Alex Gino

PLANET EARTH IS BLUE by Nicole Panteleakos

LUPE WONG WON'T DANCE by Donna Barbra Higeura

SONG FOR A WHALE by Lynne Kelly

EL DEAFO by Cece Bell

BORN BEHIND BARS by Padma Venkatraman

RED, WHITE, and WHOLE by Rajanni LaRocca

SHOW ME A SIGN by Ann Clare LeZotte

THE BRIDGE HOME by Padma Venkatraman

THE VIEW FROM THE VERY BEST HOUSE IN TOWN by Meera Trehan

A BIRD WILL SOAR by Alison Green Myers

THE YEAR OF THE DOG trilogy by Grace Lin

TOO BRIGHT TO SEE by Kyle Lukoff

PRAIRIE LOTUS by Linda Sue Park

FINDING MIGHTY by Sheela Chari

WAYS TO MAKE SUNSHINE by Renee Watson

THE SCIENCE OF BREAKABLE THINGS by Tae Keller

FINDING JUNIE KIM by Ellen Oh

MERCI SUAREZ CAN'T DANCE by Meg Medina

THAT'S WHAT FRIENDS DO by Cathleen Barnhart

CHIRP by Kate Messner

MAYBE HE JUST LIKES YOU by Barbara Dee

ANA ON THE EDGE by A. J. Sass

Young Adult:

THE GRIEF KEEPER by Alex Villasante

WHEN DIMPLE MET RISHI by Sandhya Menon

THE HATE U GIVE by Angie Thomas

LONG WAY DOWN by Jason Reynolds

YOU SHOULD SEE ME IN A CROWN by Leah Johnson

ORDINARY HAZARDS by Nikki Grimes

WHEN THE MOON WAS OURS by AM McLemore

NOT ALL BOYS ARE BLUE by George Johnson

FLAMER by Mike Curato

**EVERYTHING SAD IS UNTRUE by Daniel Nayari** 

DARIUS THE GREAT IS NOT OK by Adib Khorram

DIG by AS King

NOT SO PURE AND SIMPLE by Lamar Giles