

*“Why Does No One In My Books Look Like Me?” Tobe and Ongoing Questions about Race, Representation, and Identity*

A Community Conversation sponsored by PricewaterhouseCoopers and UNC Charlotte’s Chancellor’s Diversity Fund, in partnership with the Center for the Study of the New South and Charlotte Teachers Institute

Wednesday, April 26, 2017  
Billingsville Leadership Academy and Grier Heights Community Center  
6:00 – 8:30 p.m.

This is book club about race, representation, and identity:  
do you feel like your stories are told appropriately?

**Discussion Questions To Consider:**

***Between the Pages:***

One way to explore a book is to look closely and ask questions about the messages conveyed by its words and images.

- What was your first response to this book? Why?
- Who is speaking in this book? Whose “voice” do you hear?
- Whose voices would you want to hear if you could invite other characters to speak, as alternative narrators?
- What do the words and photographs suggest about the power of work? of family?
- Do you feel the people in the book are portrayed with dignity or in a romanticized or exploitive way?
- How do you feel the book might have been read differently in 1939 than today? (by whom?)
- Is this book fiction or nonfiction? What about the book suggests that it is fiction or nonfiction? What is the connection(s) that can be made to fiction or nonfiction?
- What scenes depicted in this book ring true to you as “real life”? Which seem inauthentic?
- Do you relate to the location of the rural “place” of the story?
- What would you like to know more about relating to this book?

***Beyond the Pages:***

Another approach is to use a book as a point of departure that leads us to broader questions about our own lives and our times.

- What would you want your grandchildren to know about where you live or grew up?
- What was your favorite children’s book when you were growing up? Why?
- Why does it matter who appears in our books media and who tells their stories?
- What might you notice about how African Americans are generally portrayed in books?
- What do you notice about how African Americans and other
  - races/nationalities/ethnicities are generally portrayed in popular media?
- Why do these representations matter for children? For society? How do they persist?
- What would you like to know more about relating to race and representation in media?