

Inclusive Writing Resources – 2022



Why did I create this resource?

I know many authors who want to write inclusively, but maybe don't know where to start. Or maybe they're afraid to ask uncomfortable questions. I get it. I really do. With all the pressures on authors to learn craft, hit trends, and appeal to readers, putting work into writing inclusively can feel like one more, intimidating, layer to the process.

BUT, we really can do better. The worlds we create, yes even fantasy worlds, should reflect our own world and the diversity of people represented. You want readers to find a home in your books, and the best way to do that is to accurately and appropriately portray characters of different lived experiences. Characters from different races, ethnicities, abilities, genders, and sexual orientations colour your book world with beautiful diversity.

If you'd like to start adding inclusivity into your work, it's okay to start small! The links below will help you examine your work with an eye for inclusivity of BIPOC, LGBTQ+ folks, disabled folks, and other communities of shared experiences.

SO IMPORTANT: If you have previously published work and realize now that you've inadvertently written something problematic, don't beat yourself up. This is a journey, and we all start somewhere. Just aim to do better next time.

Feel free to contact me at andria@andriahenry.ca or through DMs @andriaontherun if you have any questions or concerns or if you notice an error that I've made.

I will endeavour to keep this resource list as up-to-date as possible.

Also Note: Because I have utilized many of the free resources available on www.writingtheother.com I've made a donation to their organization on behalf of this publication. I also highly recommend their free resources and paid courses for anyone wanting to learn more about writing outside of their own lived experiences. I have taken multiple workshops and webinars through them and have always found them useful and worthwhile.

RESOURCE ROUND UP!

- Nervous about starting to write inclusively? Worried about trying and getting cancelled? This 20-minute podcast episode from Writing Excuses is a great source for what you need to do to get it right because [YES YOU CAN!](#)
- [How \(& Why\) to Write Inclusive Fiction](#) by Kristen Kiefer is a great article to start with to get the basics.
- This more in depth look at why [Representation Matters](#) by K. Tempest Bradford also examines common pitfalls we fall into.
- It's possible to be "accidentally racist". You don't know, what you don't know after all. This article called [7 Casually Racist Things that White Authors Do](#) by Mya Nunally is a quick article on things that you may not even realize are problematic, but which are so common in writing.
- Here's a great 20-minute episode of the Writing Excuses podcast on [Being an Ally](#) in the writing community.
- Here is a 20-minute podcast episode of Writing Excuses on [Researching for Writing the Other](#) with ideas of where to start your research process.
- Here is a video of a roundtable discussion on [Writing Characters of Colour When You are White.](#)
- [Cultural Appropriation](#) can often feel like uncertain terrain and a whole lot of grey area. In this article, K. Tempest Bradford collects insight from a host of other writers on what constitutes cultural appropriation and how to avoid it.
- [Representation Without Understanding](#) by Derek Handley is a primer on why it's so important to do your research when including characters of different lived experiences instead of just peppering them into your story.

- Intersectionality can be difficult to wrap our heads around. Essentially, it's when a person represents more than one marginality, which happens more often than not. [Here is a video explaining intersectionality](#) by Kimberlé Crenshaw. And here is an article by S.L. Huang called [Nobody's Sidekick: Intersectionality in Protagonists](#).
- A deep dive into neopronouns, why they're important and how their used, is available as a quick but informative lecture by S. Qiouyi Lu on catrambo.teachable.com for a small fee. Here is a quick table on comparing more familiar pronoun use with neopronouns.

Standard English pronouns arranged by case.		
Subject	Object	Possessive
I	me	my
we	us	our
you	you	your
he	him	his
she	her	hers
it	it	its
they	them	their
Some examples of neopronouns arranged by case.		
ae	aer	aer
ey	em	eir
ze	zir	zir
xe	xem	xyr

A LIST OF LISTS FOR FURTHER DIGGING

- Here's a list of articles on [Writing Characters of Different Races and Ethnicities](#).
- Here's a list of articles on [Writing Gender and Gender Diversity](#).
- Here's a list of articles and resources on [Writing Characters with Different Sexual Orientations](#).
- Here's a list of articles providing insight into [Writing Characters with Disabilities](#), including mental health struggles.

BOOKS I RECOMMEND

Here is a list of books that provide great insight, understanding, and methodology for writing inclusively.

1. [*Writing the Other*](#) by Nisi Shawl and Cynthia Ward
2. [*The Heroine's Journey*](#) by Gail Carriger
3. [*Wonderbook: The Illustrated Guide to Creating Imaginative Fiction*](#) by Jeff VanderMeer. This book is a wonderful creative resource but also it is a literal work of art.
4. [*Disfigured: On Fairy Tales, Disability, and Making Space*](#) by Amanda Leduc. This book strips down western fairy tales and reveals how they influence how we think about disability. "If every disabled character is mocked and mistreated, how does the Beast ever imagine a happily-ever-after?"
5. [*The Geek Feminist Revolution*](#) by Kameron Hurley is a collection of essays on examining the media we consume and how we consume it.
6. Seek out social media tags #WeNeedDiverseBooks to find books depicting the lived experiences of the authors themselves. Lift up these authors and gain insight into how they represent themselves in fiction.

Thanks for reading along! You're welcome to share this publication with friends, I just ask that you use the branded pages.

Best wishes for your writing and publishing journey!

Dream on, Dreamers!

