



Call for Application: Editors and Art Directors

Room to Read invites diverse publishing professionals with editorial and/or design experience to apply for the *Room to Read Peace & Equality Book Collection* to create picture books on the theme of **peace and equality**. For the purposes of this project, diverse identities include ability, age, economic status, ethnicity, gender identity, immigrant status, race, sexual orientation, and veteran status.

Background

Founded in 2000 on the belief that World Change Starts with Educated Children®, Room to Read is creating a world free from illiteracy and gender inequality. We are achieving this goal by helping children in low-income communities develop literacy skills and a habit of reading, and by supporting girls to build skills to succeed in school and negotiate key life decisions. We collaborate with governments and other partner organizations to deliver positive outcomes for children at scale.

Room to Read has published nearly 1700 picture books in 32 languages around the world. Our Quality Reading Materials program brings writers and illustrators together with experienced editors and art directors to create culturally relevant books for children in local languages. This is our first United States-based book development project.

Room to Read has benefitted more than 18 million children across 16 countries and 37,000 communities and aims to reach 40 million children by 2025. Learn more at www.roomtoread.org.

Project

Alongside one writer and one illustrator, the editor and art director will play an integral part of the book team, all working towards creating a 24-page digital book on the theme of **peace and equality**. All 10 books will be created in a **four-week virtual book sprint**, combining the book development model of South Africa's [Book Dash](#) and Room to Read's long experience creating beautiful books in short project periods.

The goal of this book collection is to recognize the work that the United States, as a nation, must continue to do to create social, political, economic, and cultural systems grounded in peace and equality. Room to Read is dedicated to working with diverse creators to publish these picture books for children ages 3-8, attending pre-K through 2nd grade. We will publish these picture books in a digital format on the Room to Read's free [Literacy Cloud](#) platform by the end of December 2020.

Each of the stories will:

- Incorporate original writing and illustrations along the themes of peace and equality geared toward early grade school childhood development
- Be published in English with the availability to be published in other languages

At least two year's prior experience in children's books editorial and/or design is necessary. Your role in the project will be to help teams workshop their books and offer guidance in creating engaging, impactful stories for early-grade children.

Project Details

- **Important dates:**
 - 10/21: the first kickoff meeting
 - 10/26 - 11/20: the four-week project
 - 11/20: book collection showcase
 - 12/30: final picture books will be published digitally on Literacy Cloud
 - Early Feb 2021: our book publication virtual launch event during Children's Authors and Illustrators Week
- **Workshop location:** All meetings and materials will be accessed virtually
- Each editor and art director may spend up to **5 hours per week per book** over the course of the project (25+ hours total)
- Each book team will consist of four members (writer, illustrator, art director, and editor)
- The editor and art director will be matched with teams of writers and illustrators, working on 1-5 books depending on availability

Each editor and art director will:

- Receive a **flat rate:** \$1500 USD per published title
- Collaborate with other diverse editors and art directors on the important and timely theme of peace and equality in the United States
- Guide a team of diverse creators
- Join a book publication launch event attended by publishing industry professionals
- Become part of the worldwide Room to Read book creator community
- See their book digitally published on Literacy Cloud, the Room to Read virtual book platform, with the potential to have the book published in print in 2021

To Apply

Please send an email to BrocheAroe Fabian at broche.aroo.fabian@roomtoread.org by **Wednesday, October 7, 2020**. Include the following in your email:

- Your résumé
- The role you're applying for: editor or art director
- Two short answers:

- 250 words describing your background and interest in children’s book publishing
- 250 words describing your interest in these themes and/or this project
- Please indicate how many books you would like to work on (from 1-5)

Applicants will be notified of their application status by **Friday, October 9, 2020**.

Please also reach out to BrocheAroe with any questions you may have. Thank you, and we look forward to your application!

Book Examples

The theme of peace and equality is purposely broad and inclusive. The titles we’ve selected to share here showcase ideas of how this theme might be interpreted conceptually.

Additionally, due to the nature of the Literacy Cloud platform, unlike traditionally published picture books, there is limited integration of the text and the illustrations on the same page. These books hosted on Literacy Cloud implement visual storytelling and voice in creative ways.

- [*Colored Hills*](#) by Tamara Grandoqa Qushha; illustrated by Nizar Abu Al Halaweh
- [*Rescue the Princess*](#) by Nguyễn Trần Thiên Lộc, illustrated by Phạm Thu Thùy
- [*The Hen Farida*](#) by Huda Al Shaer, illustrated by Sasha Haddad
- [*I Like Your Way*](#) by Audelia Augustine, illustrated by Haikal
- [*Sirama-rama*](#) by Alif Ilma Zakiah, illustrated by Andina Subarja

These traditionally published titles are examples of words and pictures that tell a story together, but their integration is not integral to the way the story is told.

- [*We Are Grateful: Otsaliheliga*](#) by Traci Sorell, illustrated by Frané Lessac
- [*What Can a Citizen Do?*](#) by Dave Eggers, illustrated by Shawn Harris
- [*The Day You Begin*](#) by Jacqueline Woodson, illustrated by Rafael López
- [*Island Born*](#) by Junot Diaz, illustrated by Leo Espinosa
- [*Two White Rabbits*](#) by Jairo Buitrago, illustrated by Rafael Yockteng
- [*I am Jazz*](#) by Jazz Jennings and Jessica Herthel, illustrated by Shelagh McNicholas
- [*The Rooster Who Would Not Be Quiet!*](#) by Carmen Agra Deedy, illustrated by Eugene Yelchin