

## Reading From Left to Left at Barnes & Noble

A notably one-sided selection of ‘Inspiring Books to Empower Young Readers.’

By **Dave Seminara**

**D**id you grow up reading memoirs about persecuted illegal aliens, morality plays with 3-year-old vegan protagonists, and autobiographies of liberal Supreme Court justices? Neither did I. But such children’s fare may be on offer at your local bookstore.

Just as many of us try to inflict our sporting allegiances on our children—ask my 9- and 11-year-old sons how fun it is to root for the Buffalo Bills—so do we foist our political views on them. When it comes to books and other media, liberals are spoiled for options, while conservatives are offered thin gruel. Unless you lock your children in a screenless cave in Idaho, they’ll consume a steady diet of leftist dogma simply by exposure to American popular culture.

At Barnes & Noble the other day, my sons and I noticed a display called “Inspiring Books to Empower Young Readers.” The collection in-

cluded “First Generation: 36 Trailblazing Immigrants and Refugees Who Make America Great,” which lionizes, among others, Univision anchorman Jorge Ramos and the first fashion model to wear a hijab.

There were three memoirs by illegal aliens, two novels whose protagonists were refugees, Sonia Sotomayor’s “Turning Pages: My Life Story,” and “We Rise, We Resist, We Raise Our Voices,” an anthology that includes a fictional story of a child who is arrested by Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents at school as he endures taunts from white classmates wearing “Make America Great Again” hats.

One “Portlandia”-esque title, “You are Mighty: A Guide to Changing the World,” is billed as a “how-to manual on being an activist.” It features Genesis Palacio, a preteen girl wearing a “Vegan Power” T-shirt who became a vegetarian when she was 3 after learning that “animals were killed” for her food. (Barnes & Noble stores in other cit-

ies told me they have similar displays; the chain’s corporate office didn’t answer my emails.)

Conservative-themed children’s books are out there. There’s “Donald Drains the Swamp” by Eric Metaxas, author of an excellent biography of Martin Luther. And who could resist “What’s Right,” the story of Stumpy, a squirrel who learns that “expecting handouts is wrong and working hard is right.” But you have to seek out these subversive titles like pornography before the internet.

Liberals are devoted to diversity, but they define it in a peculiar way—obsessing over race, sex and sexual orientation while demanding conformity of thought. The folks who put together the Barnes & Noble display probably never considered that there are literate Americans who wish to expose their children to ideas outside the liberal orthodoxy.

*Mr. Seminara is a journalist and former diplomat.*

