



Reading Resource Library Guide: Inspirational Texts

The following high interest books are inspirational texts. Each book has a summary and additional information, such as book trailers and links to reviews, in a separate slide deck. Visit [this link](#) to explore the books.

Suggestions for using the text sets and slide deck:

- ▶ Choose one of the following four topics from the quarter one slide deck to explore with your class: Civil Rights, Activism, Inspirational Stories, and Fantasy/Science Fiction.
- ▶ Books in the collection span different reading levels. Also included is a separate collection, “Engaging Books for Children and Families,” which offers a selection of books that can be used with children, families, and adults.
- ▶ Explore the slides for your topic in the provided link. Each book listed in the table below has a summary and additional information with links to websites that offer supplemental material. Consider selecting one book to read aloud to your students while they read their own text.
- ▶ Share the slide deck with students and explore the books and websites. Allow students individual time to explore the slide deck and choose a book or excerpts from several books to read.
- ▶ Decide how you will interact with these topics and texts. This *information guide* has suggestions for activities for the classroom, tools for teachers, and activities for families, which are starting points for larger units or creative activities to engage with topics and texts.
- ▶ The “Activities for Families” section may be copied into another document and sent home with families for engagement suggestions while reading the books.
- ▶ Use this tool to help develop and foster a reading life for your learners!

Book Title	Author	Lexile Reading Level
<i>Dear Evan Hansen</i>	Val Emmich	590
<i>Out of My Mind</i>	Sharon M. Draper	700
<i>The Seventh Most Important Thing</i>	Shelley Pearsall	760
<i>Wonder</i>	R. J. Palacio	790
<i>Where the Crawdads Sing</i>	Delia Owens	880

Book Title	Author	Lexile Reading Level
<i>I am Malala: How one girl stood up for education and changed the world</i>	Malala Yousafzai	1000
<i>Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption</i>	Laura Hillenbrand	1010 850 (Young Reader's Edition)
Engaging books for adults and children		
<i>The Undefeated</i>	Kwame Alexander and Kadir Nelson	Ages: 6-9
<i>Baseball Saved Us</i>	Ken Mochizuki	AD 570
<i>Giraffes Can't Dance</i>	Giles Andreae	AD 570
<i>Harbor Me</i>	Jacqueline Woodson	630
<i>Miss. Rumphius</i>	Barbara Cooney	680
<i>Elijah of Buxton</i>	Christopher Paul Curtis	980

Activities for the Classroom

- ▶ A Graffiti Board or shared Idea Board is highly encouraged for this topic on inspirational stories. Learners can share ideas on key topics and build a sense of community! Allow learners to sketch, quote, and post excerpts or news articles that relate to this exploration. If teaching online, consider creating a blog, shared document, or padlet (padlet.com) for this portion.
- ▶ Consider shared vocabulary: **perseverance**, **grit**, **stamina**, and **resolution**.
- ▶ Create Vision Boards. Explain to learners that a vision board is a collage of pictures and words that represent goals and dreams. The purpose of the board is to bring daily motivation and to help remind them of a goal or a dream that they have for themselves.
 - Work with learners to explore goals and have them choose 1-2 goals for themselves. There are many ways to set goals. You may want to have learners list their goals and then identify what steps they need to make to reach the goal. Search online topics about **backwards design**. You can also use the SMART goal method with learners (specific, measurable, attainable, relevant, and time-bound). Search online topics about **SMART goals**.
 - Learners can brainstorm words and images that connect to their goal, dream, or anything that brings them joy. Encourage them to have discussions with their classmates.
 - Learners may create their “boards” on any surface—poster board, chart paper, online document, etc. Using what they have gathered in their brainstorm activity, have learners create their boards.

- Encourage learners to frequently reflect on their board—especially for motivational purposes or in times of stress. You may also want to explore journal writing and connect it with their Vision Board.
- There are many resources for creating Vision Boards. Search online resources about **Vision Boards**.

Helpful Links for Teachers

Poetry Foundation:

The Poetry Foundation was founded in 2003 and publishes *Poetry* magazine. It “exists to discover and celebrate the best poetry and to place it before the largest possible audience.” Use the website to explore poetry with your students and search for inspiring poems!

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/>

TED Talks:

A TED (technology, entertainment, design) talk is a short, powerful speech that focuses on spreading ideas. TED “is a global community” and they “believe passionately in the power of ideas to change attitudes, lives and, ultimately, the world.” Explore their site at <https://www.ted.com/> and explore inspirational TED talks at <https://www.ted.com/search?q=INSPIRATIONAL>

Poetry Offerings to Explore and Engage on the Civil Rights Movement and Social Justice:

- ▶ Poets.org – Politics and Social Justice: Poems for Teens: <https://poets.org/text/politics-and-social-justice-poems-teens>
- ▶ Poetry Foundation – Poetry and the Civil Rights Movement: <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/collections/146367/poetry-and-the-civil-rights-movement>

Activities for Families

- ▶ Choose a book to explore from the “Engaging Books for Adults and Children” section in the table above.
- ▶ Look at the front cover with your child. What do you notice? Explore the pictures and text. Have your child guess at what the story may be about using the picture on the front cover. This is called making a prediction.
- ▶ Check to see if the book has text features (table of contents, glossary, index). This will help you explore how the book is organized.
- ▶ Read and discuss the book. Make connections to the inspirational books you are reading. Stop to explore words that you do not understand.

- ▶ Explain that these books are meant to inspire (excite or encourage us to feel something positive) and make us feel happy. Explore these questions with your child:
 - What is something that you do that makes you feel happy? Why do you think that makes you happy?
 - What are five words that best describe you?
 - What do you know how to do that you can teach to others?
 - From everything that you have learned, what do you think is going to help you the most when you grow up?

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