

## Reading Resource Library Guide: Collections/Series

The following high-interest books are part of a collection or series. 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 access the books.

### Suggestions for using the text sets and slide deck:

- ▶ Choose one of the following four topics from the quarter three slide deck to explore with your class: Historical Fiction, Diverse America, Family and Community, and Collections/Series.
- ▶ 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 learners while they read their own text.
- ▶ Share the slide deck with learners and explore the books and websites. Allow learners 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>Ninth Ward</i> (Book 1 of 3)	Jewell Parker Rhodes	HL 470
<i>The War That Saved My Life</i> (Book 1 of 2)	Kimberly Brubaker Bradley	580
<i>The False Prince</i> (Book 1 of 3)	Jennifer A. Nielsen	710
<i>Red Queen</i> (Book 1 of 4)	Victoria Aveyard	HL 740
<i>Peak</i> (Book 1 of 4)	Roland Smith	760

<i>The Maze Runner</i> (Book 1 of 5) <i>Scorch Trials</i> (A Graphic Novel Prelude)	James Dashner	HL 770 GN 320
<i>The Hunger Games</i> (Book 1 of 3)	Suzanne Collins	810
<i>Hatchet</i> (Book 1 of 5)	Gary Paulsen	1020
<b>Engaging Books for Adults and Children</b>		
<i>Smile</i> (Book 1 of 3)	Raina Telgemeier	GN 410
<i>Just Go to Bed</i> (The Little Critter Series)	Mercer Mayer	AD 450
<i>Dinosaurs Before Dark</i> (The Magic Treehouse Series)	Mary Pope Osborne	510
<i>Llama Llama Loves Camping</i> (The Llama Llama Series)	Anna Dewdney	560
<i>What Should Danny Do? School Day</i> (The Power to Choose Series)	Ganit and Adir Levy	630
<i>Dragons and Marshmallows</i> (Book 1 of 8 in the Zoey and Sassafras Series)	Asia Citro	640
<i>The Boy at the Back of the Class</i>	Onjali Q. Rauf	940
<i>W.I.T.C.H.: The Graphic Novel, Part 1</i> (The Twelve Portals Series)	Disney	N/A
<i>Gigi at the White House!</i>	Giovanna McBride	N/A

### Activities for the Classroom

- ▶ At the start of this unit, ensure that learners understand the complexities of reading across a series of texts within a collection. Sometimes, readers have trouble while reading books in a series or collection because of: multiple plot lines, multiple characters, or multiple settings. You may consider teaching readers to track their characters, setting, or plot through various ways such as timelines, T-charts, Venn Diagrams, and/or the use of Post-It notes.
- ▶ To help learners get excited about reading multiple books in a series or collection, consider doing an activity that would allow them to develop a schema about the series and make predictions. One way to do this is to host a book tasting for learners to explore books. You can be as creative as you'd like. Here is a [sample template](#) you could use to feature books for your learners. And here is more information on [how to set up](#) a book tasting “café” for your learners.
- ▶ As learners make their way through the books in their chosen series/collection, consider having them complete some research about their author. You could ask readers to gather information by doing each of the following:
  - Watching an interview with the author.
  - Visiting the author’s website.

- Visiting the author’s social media pages.
  - Sending a letter or an email to the author with questions they, as the reader, are interested in knowing about, related to the author, the author’s writing/craft, or specific book questions (e.g., “Where did you get the idea for...in the book...?”).
  - Finding a quote from the author which the learner feels is important or significant in some way.
  - If you do not want learners searching for these things on their own, consider making a [Padlet](#) with sites you’d like them to visit to find out more information about their chosen author.
- ▶ After learners have collected the required research, and read at least two texts from the author, consider asking them to do a presentation about their learning. Options could include a Ted Talk, [Prezi](#), Podcast, etc. You may challenge them to bring in, or include, objects that represent their author, or their text in some way (e.g., a Mockingjay picture or replica if they read *The Hunger Games* series).
  - ▶ For learners who love to write, you may consider having them write a companion novel to one of the series they read. Here is an [example outline](#) of what learners may include in their companion novels. And here are [some examples](#) of student written companion novels.

## Helpful Links for Teachers

### Reading Rewards:

[This article](#), “The 5 Great Advantages of Book Series for Kids,” discusses why asking learners to read across a series or collection is important. Although the article references “kids,” it is highly applicable to ALL learners and would be applicable for family literacy conversations.

### Series Books:

[This article](#) states: “This study was conducted to determine the impact that series books have on developing reading skills and motivation. Data was collected through interviews with three teachers, observations of three second graders book choices, and analysis of three different book series. The data showed that book series are widely read across grade levels and are useful in developing comprehension and fluency skills. The study implies that book series can provide many benefits to developing readers, but that it is important to use the appropriate level of book with each reader to prevent higher-level readers from holding themselves back. The research also shows that book series that expand beyond printed text into popular culture can provide further motivation for students to read.”

### Exploring the Features of a Book Series:

[This lesson plan](#) will give you additional resources, information, and tools to use as you help guide learners through reading a book series/collection.

### Helbling:

This website has lots of literacy resources for learners of all ages and abilities. [This article](#) includes storytelling activities for adult learners.

### Reading Writing Hotline:

This website offers different resources for learners of all ages. [This link](#) will take you to a page where you can access additional websites for working with adult learners.

## 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. Ask them, “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.
- ▶ Read and discuss the book. Make connections to the series books that you are reading. Explore words that your child does not understand.
- ▶ Explain that reading books in a collection, or within a series, often means that the book has many different characters and different stories taking place at once. It also means that the story may have different settings—the place where the story is happening. With that in mind, ask your child:
  - Who is your favorite character in this series? Why?
  - Which setting in the series would you most like to visit and why?
  - While reading the series, were you sometimes able to predict what might happen later in the books? If so, what were some clues?
  - How do characters change throughout the book series?
  - What are the different types of problems that the characters experience throughout the series?

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