

## Reading Resource Library Guide: Diverse America

The following high-interest books were selected to support an exploration of books with the theme of Diverse America. 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>This is My America</i>	Kim Johnson	HL 640
<i>American Street</i>	Ibi Zoboi	HL 690
<i>Seedfolks</i>	Paul Fleischman	710
<i>Esperanza Rising</i>	Pam Munoz Ryan	750
<i>Born a Crime</i> (available as a Young Reader’s Edition too)	Trevor Noah	770

<i>Inside Out and Back Again</i>	Thanhha Lai	800
<i>Other Words for Home</i>	Jasmine Warga	930
<i>Stamped</i>	Jason Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi	1000
<b>Engaging Books for Adults and Children</b>		
<i>New Kid</i>	Jerry Craft	GN 320
<i>All Are Welcome</i>	Alexandra Penfold and Suzanne Kaufman	AD 370
<i>We Came to America</i>	Faith Ringgold	AD 430
<i>Same, Same but Different</i>	Jenny Sue Kostecki-Shaw	AD 460
<i>Dreamers</i>	Yuyi Morales	AD 480
<i>Sulwe</i>	Lupita Nyong'o	AD 580
<i>Fry Bread: A Native American Family Story</i>	Kevin Noble Maillard	N/A

### Activities for the Classroom

- ▶ At the start of this unit, ensure that learners understand the following terms: [Culture](#), [Bias](#), [Tradition](#), and [Customs V. Traditions](#). Each term has a linked video that you could show learners. To help learners explore these terms, you may consider any of the activities listed on [this website](#).
- ▶ After learners have chosen a diverse text, consider having them use a map, or multiple maps, to track the places their texts reference, and gain a better understanding of the world their characters come from.
- ▶ As learners make their way through diverse texts, consider using any of [this presentation](#). These lessons can be used as modules for learning, or each slide can be used as a stand-alone lesson. Be sure to use “Present” mode to go through each of the four modules, rather than slide-by-slide. Feel free to adapt or revise as needed for your learners.

## Helpful Links for Teachers

### Go Guardian:

[This article](#) is designed to give educators information, definitions, and suggestions on what to do for promoting and building a diverse classroom setting for all learners. Ideas could be modified for adult learners.

### Common Sense Education:

[This website](#) offers parents and educators information on apps, websites, podcasts, and more about the topic of diversity in the classroom.

### Teaching for Diversity:

“The purpose of this web site is to provide information, frameworks, and curricular resources to teachers to enhance curricular outcomes related to ethnic diversity. In addition, we hope this website will support teachers in their efforts to teach *for* and *about* diversity in schools.” [Teaching for Diversity](#). Check out the [resources](#) page for strategies, curriculum guides, and more!

### The Respect Diversity Foundation:

This website is full of links for educators to use with older learners on topics dealing specifically with diversity and culture. It includes links to foundations, videos, and organizations to “promoting tolerance and acceptance across differences through communication, education, collaboration, and the arts.” [The Respect Diversity Foundation](#).

### Western Justice Center (WJC) School Tools:

School Tools provides lessons and quality materials “on conflict resolution to enrich students; as well as their own, knowledge and skill base.” [Understanding Culture and Identity](#) and their [Race, Ethnicity, and Nationality Video](#) will support teaching about Diverse America!

## 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 Diverse America based books that you are reading. Explore words that your child does not understand.
- ▶ Explain that “diversity” means “differences” and that people may be different in many ways. With that in mind, ask your child:
  - Talk about the characters in the story. How are they different from the other characters? From your child? How are they the same?
  - What is the setting of your book? How do you know? (Ask your child where the story takes place and when.)
  - What would it be like to live where your story takes place? Would you like to live there? Why or why not?

- What are some of the problems in your story?
- What was interesting about your story? What would you like to learn more about?
- Do you know anyone who may be different from you? How are they the same as you?
- Have you ever been anywhere and felt different from everybody else? How did it make you feel?

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