

Reading Resource Library Guide: Family and Community

The following high interest books were selected to support an exploration of Family and Community themed books. 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>One for the Murphys</i>	Lynda Mullaly Hunt	520
<i>Amal Unbound</i>	Aisha Saeed	HL 600
<i>The Stars Beneath Our Feet</i>	David Barclay Moore	650
<i>Piecing Me Together</i>	Renee Watson	680
<i>A Long Walk to Water</i>	Linda Sue Park	720

<i>When You Reach Me</i>	Rebecca Stead	750
<i>American Ace</i>	Marilyn Nelson	780
<i>Patron Saints of Nothing</i>	Randy Ribay	840
Engaging Books for Adults and Children		
<i>Green Green: A Community Gardening Story</i>	Marie Lamba and Baldev Lamba	310
<i>Mama, Is It Summer Yet?</i>	Nikki McClure	AD 330
<i>Blackout</i>	John Rocco	330
<i>The Giving Tree</i>	Shel Silverstein	530
<i>Look Where We Live! A First Book of Community Building</i>	Scot Ritchie	NC 620
<i>One Crazy Summer</i>	Rita Williams-Garcia	750
<i>The Relatives Came</i>	Cynthia Rylant	AD 940
<i>Love Makes a Family</i>	Sophie Beer	N/A

Activities for the Classroom

- ▶ At the start of this unit, ask learners what the terms **family** and **community** mean to them. Consider having them create a word cloud using [this program](#). Learners could also generate these by hand.
- ▶ After learners have reflected on family and community, consider using [this lesson plan](#) to help them explore these terms further.
- ▶ After learners have become more familiar with the terms “family” and “community,” and have considered what those terms mean to them, consider having them immerse themselves in some research about families and communities through time using [this website](#). Each lesson is adaptable for a range of learners. Consider choosing one or two of these videos to view or lessons to complete for a shared learning experience.
- ▶ As a culminating activity, consider having learners choose a community action project they would like to initiate or participate in. It could be something like starting a community garden, starting a neighborhood watch program with the local authorities, or simply participating in community service around their area. You may also want to consider having students create collages that depict the theme “family” using magazines or using photos of actual family members. There are free collage makers on sites, such as [Adobe Spark](#).

Helpful Links for Teachers

The National Center for Family and Community Connections with Schools:

[This organization](#) is dedicated to helping bridge the connection between schools, communities, and families. It offers a number of resources, research, and toolkits for users to access.

Learning for Justice:

[This organization](#) contains resources that support family-teacher relationships based on the premise of anti-racism.

U.S. Department of Education:

[This website](#) has links for educators, families, and communities to access for a plethora of research, suggestions, and information about engagement and partnerships between schools, communities, and homes.

Regional Educational Laboratory Program:

[This website](#) offers a four-part tool kit that educators can share with families to better understand the importance of family and community engagement.

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 Family and Community based books that you are reading. Explore words that your child does not understand.
- ▶ Explain that a “family” is a group of people who are related; and a “community” is a group of people living in the same area. With that in mind, ask your child:
 - What is the family like in this story?
 - What is the community like in this story?
 - What do you like best about the community you live in?
 - Is there anything you would like to improve in your community? Why and how?
 - What is your favorite activity that you like to do in your community? Why?
 - What is your favorite activity that you like to do with a family member? Why?

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