



Reading Resource Library Civil Rights and Diverse America Resource: Read and Reflect

The [Reading Resource Library](#) is a tool created for educators to share with learners and is filled with topically relevant, educational, and captivating books for readers of all ages and levels. The books are sorted into sixteen different topics that can be explored with learners and their families.

Please review our Civil Rights and Diverse America resources when using these activities. Books in both collections span different reading levels, including books for children and families to read together. Each text set shares book summaries and additional information, such as book trailers and links to reviews. The guides also offer overall suggestions for using the texts and slide deck.

- [Civil Rights Text Set](#)
- [Civil Rights Resource Guide](#)
- [Diverse America Text Set](#)
- [Diverse America Resource Guide](#)

Civil Rights and Diverse America Read and Reflect

The following activities were designed using our Civil Rights and Diverse America text sets. When you use these activities, please consider desired learner outcomes, key vocabulary terms, incorporating relevant material based on learners' interests, and any differentiation/modifications needs.

- Materials were developed to allow for instructor customization based on their program's standards and learning objectives. Instructors should modify and format lessons, activities, and assessments (formative and summative) based on the needs of their learners and desired outcomes.
- Consider readability of texts and offer modifications as needed – graphic/thought organizers, groupings, visual aids, read alouds, chunking text strategies, pre-reading/activation strategies, etc. Learners may struggle with reflecting without prompts, so offer prompts and lead ins when necessary.
- Review resources for working with adult learners:
 - [Adult Learning Theory](#)
 - [Adult Learner Strategies](#)
 - [Authentic Audiences & Purposes](#)
 - [Cultural & Life Experiences Connections](#)
 - [Learner Variability](#)
- To plan a more detailed lesson or unit, view our [Reading Resource Library Instructor Planning Materials](#)

Texts and Excerpts to Consider

Text excerpts are a great way to expose learners to multiple texts, focus on specific literary elements, and foster a love of reading. This idea is explored in this [NEA](#) advice piece. For this unit, consider selecting texts, excerpts, and activities about Civil Rights that will allow learners to transfer skills to real life experiences.

If you do not have time to review texts and select excerpts, consider these online resources:

- [This is My America](#)
- [American Street](#)
- [Stamped](#)
- [Walking With the Wind](#)
- [Brown Girl Dreaming](#)
- [Viola Desmond Won't Be Budged!](#)

Current Events

In addition to the shared texts and excerpts, consider exploring current events and connecting to the texts you are exploring with your learners. Explore these sites and determine how you would like to integrate current events with your reading and writing activities:

- [Newsela](#)
- [News in Levels](#)
- [New York Times: The Learning Network](#)

Vocabulary - Key Terms to Explore

To help learners better understand and explore the selected topics and excerpts, pre-teach a few key vocabulary words. There are several key words to explore; this is a short list to choose from:

- Segregation
- Desegregation
- Bias (implicit and explicit)
- Discrimination
- Boycott
- Civil Rights
- Diversity
- Democracy
- Freedom
- Human Rights
- Social Movements

Vocabulary activities to consider:

- **The Frayer Model:** Have learners write the vocabulary term in the middle of four boxes. Then, ask them to write the definition, the word in a sentence, synonyms and antonyms, and a visual representation of the word in one of the boxes. (Each box will be its own category).

- **Semantic Mapping:** Ask learners to create a semantic map showing the relationship between the words (after you have taught them the definitions and given them some context). Semantic maps can be created online or by hand in personal notebooks. They are a great way for learners to visualize and engage in conceptual thinking!
- **Vocabulary Paint Chips:** Ask learners to think of other “shades of meaning” with this fun activity. Grab some colorful paint strips from any local hardware store, or any store where you can buy paint. Ask them to list the vocabulary term on the bottom and move up the paint strip with other meanings or contexts of the term.

Reading Aloud, Sharing Ideas

Use the following strategies to build your learners’ comprehension throughout their texts, as well as to help them create meaning, and make connection to their learning.

- **Pre-Reading**
 - Activate prior knowledge for learners using a [K-W-L chart](#)
 - [Preview the text, set a purpose for reading, and make predictions](#) with learners
 - [Pre-teach concepts and vocabulary](#) through [read-alouds](#), [think-alouds](#), and/or [modeling and demonstrating](#)
- **During Reading**
 - [Column Notes](#)
 - [Collaborative Annotations](#)
 - [3 Reads Protocols](#)
- **After Reading**
 - [Question Answer Relationships](#)
 - [Exit Tickets](#)
 - [Finding Related News](#)
 - [Reciprocal Teaching](#)

Reflections, Sharing Ideas

It is important for learners to reflect on their learning, as well as collaborate with their peers for feedback and further synthesis of any connections. The following activities will help support your learners in these skills:

- [Think-Pair-Share](#)
- [Jigsaw Learning](#)
- [Structured Writing](#)
- [Open and Closed Collaborative Learning](#)
- [Chat Stations](#)

For written reflection activities, please view our resource, *Civil Rights Text Set Exploration*, in our [Reading Resource Library](#).

Additional Resources

- [Visit our Reading Resource Library for more Civil Rights Instructor Resources](#)
- [Reading Resource Library Instructor Planning Materials](#)
- [Anti-Racist and Anti-Bias Teaching Resources](#)
- [Three Black Women of Literacy – Unit of Study](#)
- [Diversity Toolkit for Instructors](#)