

READ LIFE | BOOKSHELF

Instructor Resource Guide: Diverse America

The following activities and resources were selected to support classroom instruction and family literacy engagement. In addition to these instructor resources, each book in the collection has three short engagement activities for adults and families.

Suggestions for Using the Collection and Activities

- ◆ Explore the books in the *Diverse America* collection by clicking on the book titles in the table below.
- ◆ Notice that the books in the collection provide text across a span of reading levels for adults and include books that are engaging for children and families to read together.
- ◆ Access the short, guided activities for each book that offer suggestions for both instructors and families. You may access the activities by clicking on the book titles in the table below. The activities are attached to each book.
- ◆ Allow learners individual time to access the application and explore the collection and guided activities.
- ◆ If using the reading collection for the first time, model how the age and language filters work in the application, and how to locate the search function, so books can be easily found.
- ◆ Decide how you will interact with the topic and curated text collection. This resource guide has suggestions to support in-person instruction and offers online resources for instructors and family engagement. Consider using the materials as starting points for larger units or creative activities to engage with topics and texts.
- ◆ Use this collection and guide to help develop and foster a reading life for your learners and their families!

Engaging Books for Adults		
Book Title	Author	Lexile Reading Level
<i>News for You: What Does America's Future Look Like?</i>	New Readers Press (ProLiteracy)	610-800
<i>News for You: ¿Qué futuro le espera a Estados Unidos?</i>	New Readers Press (ProLiteracy)	610-800
<i>Silencio</i>	Lisa Zhang	610-800
<i>Silence</i>	Lisa Zhang	810

Engaging Books for Adults and Children		
<i>Alicia's Happy Day</i>	Meg Starr	340
<i>El día más feliz de Alicia</i>	Meg Starr	340
<i>Muhammad Ali</i>	Terry Barber	410
<i>Zachary's Dinnertime</i>	Lara Levinson	510
<i>Marisol McDonald Doesn't Match / Marisol McDonald no combina</i>	Monica Brown	580
<i>A Party in Ramadan</i>	Asma Mobin-Uddin MD	610

Activities to Support Instruction

To explore this topic, consider how you will build anticipation, background knowledge, and schema for your learners about topics regarding *Diverse America*. To do this, consider addressing the following questions with your learners:

- What do the terms “diverse” or “diversity” mean to you?
- Where do you notice diversity in your daily life?
- Why is it important to read about diversity in America?
- What does a “diverse America” mean?

There are many ways to get your learners thinking, collaborating, and actively engaging with each other. Consider any of the following activities:

- **A Range of Choices: Terminology:** This strategy fosters collaboration and conversation among learners and promotes accountability for oneself regarding their roles in society. This strategy teaches specific terms for types of roles people can play in society and begins to build an understanding of diversity.
- **Hexagonal Thinking:** This activity supports learners in making connections to their reading, building their speaking and listening skills, and identifying nuances in their thinking.
- **Title Crown Activity:** This activity from Edutopia will help readers make connections to texts, and each other, using text titles. This activity is a great way to showcase diversity within the learning environment and build a schema before readers dive into texts.
- **Brainstorming:** This activity fosters collaboration along with speaking and listening skills to promote learners working together using the

example of ice cream. It's both fun and engaging for learners of all abilities.

While you read the texts, you will want to support your learners with literacy strategies to foster their learning growth. Consider comprehension skills that learners will need to access the texts within the collection. It will also be important for learners to continue building background knowledge. For example, if learners are reading the text, [Silence](#), consider having them gather information about cultures, languages, and diversity. It will also be important for them to have informational context, so consider having them watch short clips of television shows or movies or read short stories to better understand the reading for deeper comprehension. The following resources and templates will help learners build literacy skills and comprehension as they read:

- **Paper Talk**: This strategy builds close reading skills, as well as speaking and listening skills. It promotes critical thinking to identify specific ideas in a text and also promotes writing skills.
- **Book Tasting**: To engage your learners and get them excited about reading texts, consider engaging them in a book tasting. This strategy will foster collaboration, develop speaking and listening skills, and encourage engagement with texts.
- **Ongoing Conversations**: This strategy builds critical skills for interpersonal communication. It also fosters collaboration, higher-order thinking, and provides learners accountability for their part in the conversational process. Additionally, it serves as a great formative assessment for learners!

Online Resources to Support Instructors

The following resources will help instructors gather more ideas and insights for teaching texts within the *Diverse America* collection:

- **HRE-Human Rights Educators USA**: This free resource will provide a variety of lesson plans and resources to teach learners about diversity in America.
- **Learning for Justice**: This resource provides educators with lesson plans and resources about diversity. These resources will help learners understand the importance of tolerance in all environments.
- **Zinn Education Project**: This resource provides educators with a plethora of resources of varying types aimed at providing a more inclusive version of events from U.S. history. These resources will foster critical thinking, engagement, and active learning.

Suggestions for Using the Collection and Activities with Families

These suggestions may be shared directly with adult learners and their families, so they can explore this theme and books together.

- ◆ Choose a book to explore from the *Diverse America* collection.
- ◆ Read and discuss the book with your child. Use *before*, *during*, and *after reading* questions to help your child make connections to themselves and to other parts of their life. The following are some examples:
 - **Before Reading**

Look at the front cover with your child. Explore the pictures and text, and ask them:

 - Does this book remind you of anything?
 - What do we already know about _____?
 - Diversity means differences. What does it mean to be different?
 - Why do you think it is important to learn about diversity and how people are different?
 - **During Reading**
 - If you were in this story, what do you think you would be hearing? Seeing? Tasting? Smelling? Feeling?
 - What has happened to the character(s) so far?
 - Have you been in a situation that is similar, or like, the situation the character in the story is in? What was the same for both of you? What was different?
 - What is the problem this character is experiencing? How do you think it will turn out?
 - What evidence do we know so far from the book?
 - **After Reading**
 - Tell me the story in your own words.
 - What would you like to ask the author (or characters) of the book?
 - What did you like most about the story? Why?
 - Would you have done things in a different way than the character in the story did? If so, what would you have done differently?
 - Do you think it was a good ending? What would you have changed?
- ◆ After reading the story, you will notice activities at the bottom of the screen. Explore these activities with your child!

Expanded Lesson for Educators

The following is an example of an expanded lesson that instructors may find helpful for teaching texts within the *Diverse America* collection. This lesson is an example based off the text, [Silence](#), by Lisa Zhang.

□ Before Reading

- Explore the text features with your learners. Be sure they understand their features and how they can enhance the reading of the text.
- Ask your learners, “What do we already know about _____?” keeping in mind the topics the books will touch upon.
- Choose some key vocabulary learners will come across in the text. Consider teaching vocabulary to learners by asking them to interact with words through a [card/word sort](#). Begin by modeling one or two of the words and then ask learners to do the same with other words you have identified.
- Guide learners through the process of [active reading](#) using this infographic to help them prepare for reading and build their comprehension.

□ During Reading

- Ask learners to use the [Sketch to Stretch](#) strategy to deepen their comprehension and engagement with the text
- Set up a [Wakelet](#) for learners to engage with topics from the text.
- Encourage learners to use [Library Graffiti](#) to organize their thoughts and research while learning about diverse places, cultures, and topics.

□ After Reading

- Ask learners to reflect on their learning from the beginning of the text to the end of the text. Consider having them share out one key takeaway from the text.
- Consider having readers go beyond the text and explore a topic or idea more in-depth from the reading.
- Learners could consider writing a summary using the [A-Z Summary](#) strategy to share their learning and improve their writing skills at the same time. [–From Teacher Toolkit](#)