

Instructor Resource Guide: Celebrating Black Authors

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 *Celebrating Black Authors* collection by clicking on the book title 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 title 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
A True Celebration	Joelle Edouard	810-1000
Una verdadera celebración	Joelle Edouard	810-1000

<i>News for You: Toni Morrison Wrote the Powerful Stories of Black Americans</i>	New Readers Press (ProLiteracy)	550
<i>News for You: Toni Morrison escribió los potentes relatos de los afroamericanos</i>	New Readers Press (ProLiteracy)	575
Engaging Books for Adults and Children		
<i>My Girls & Curls</i>	Layla Steele	410-600
<i>The Scoop on Inventors</i>	Mon Trice	570
<i>The Teachers March!: How Selma's Teachers Changed History</i>	Sandra Neil Wallace and Rich Wallace	700
<i>Little Melba and Her Big Trombone</i>	Katheryn Russell-Brown	780
<i>Sports heroes (Black Stories Matter)</i>	J. P. Miller	860
<i>Héroes del deporte (La historia de las personas de raza negra es importante)</i>	J. P. Miller	860

Activities to Support Instruction

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

- What does Black History month mean to you?
- What do you know about Civil Rights? What does this term mean to you?
- Why do you think we celebrate Black History month?
- What does the term “racism” mean to you (explicit and implicit)? What are some examples of racism?

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

- **Philosophical Chairs:** This strategy is great for a whole-class discussion framework. It fosters active listening, speaking skills, and ensures that everyone has a chance to participate in the discussion. This framework can be applied to any topic with any age or grade-level.

- **Pinwheel Discussion:** This framework fosters higher-order thinking, enhances student engagement, and requires students to think in different ways to respond to questions.
- **Learn to Listen, Listen to Learn:** This strategy embeds writing skills along with speaking and listening skills to help learners deepen their understanding about a topic. It promotes individual, small group, and whole-group conversation skills.
- **Wraparound:** This is a great strategy that promotes quick responses for all learners in the learning environment. It is adaptable to any age level or topic area.

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, [News for You: Toni Morrison Wrote the Powerful Stories of Black Americans](#), consider having them gather information about Toni Morrison, the Nobel Prize, or issues that she encountered in America in her lifetime.

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:

- **T-Chart:** This strategy will help learners keep track of ideas and information as they read or view a text. It can be applied to any topic and used at any learning level. The topics can range from specific to open-ended. The T-Charts provide a graphic organizer for learners.
- **SOAPStone:** This strategy fosters writing skills and can help learners take thoughts and important elements of each text they read and provides a framework for them to create a more in-depth writing response to the topic they are reading about.
- **Anchor Charts for Visualization:** This strategy fosters learners' thinking about a text in regard to the five senses. This way of thinking helps them visualize what is happening in the text, and in turn, builds their comprehension. This strategy can be applied to both literary and expository texts with any content.

Online Resources to Support Instructors

The following resources will help instructors gather more ideas and insights for teaching texts within the *Celebrating Black Authors* collection:

- **[Black History Month Lessons and Resources](#)**: This resource from the NEA will provide educators with lessons and activities for all levels of learning and about a number of literary and social studies related topics regarding Black History month.
- **[42 Black History Month Activities for February and Beyond](#)**: This resource will provide educators with hundreds of additional links, ideas, resources, and activities to engage learners in diverse topics from history through present day.
- **[PBS Learning Media](#)**: This resource will provide educators with thousands of videos, texts, and ideas regarding diversity and cultural movements from history through present day.
- **[Center for Racial Justice Education](#)**: This resource is for educators and families. It will provide links and resources about a wide variety of topics regarding Black History month, Black authors, cultural diversity, and more.
- The following resources are from the Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy's Reading Resource Library. The instructor resources support an exploration of the Civil Rights and Diverse America collections:
 - [Civil Rights Resource: Text Set Exploration](#)
 - [Civil Rights and Diverse America Resource: Multimedia Exploration](#)
 - [Civil Rights and Diverse America Resource: Read and Reflect](#)
 - [Civil Rights and Diverse America Resource: Small Group Engagement](#)

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 *Celebrating Black Authors* 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 _____?

- What does the word “diversity” mean to you?
- **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!