

Instructor Resource Guide: Gratitude

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 *Gratitude* 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
<u><i>News for You: Father and Daughter Bring Free RVs to Wildfire Victims Who Lost Everything</i></u>	New Readers Press (ProLiteracy)	650

<i>News for You: Padre e hija llevan casas rodantes a víctimas de incendios forestales que perdieron todo</i>	New Readers Press (ProLiteracy)	700
<i>Biddy and Dee Dee</i>	Elizabeth Player	725
<i>Ellis Island: Rosalia's Story</i>	Janet Hardy-Gould	800
Engaging Books for Adults and Children		
<i>Palabras con luz</i>	Mema Daisy	460
<i>Como solían ser las cosas</i>	Susan Kneib Schank	460
<i>The Way Things Used to Be</i>	Susan Kneib Schank	500
<i>Giving Thanks: A Native American Good Morning Message</i>	Chief Jake Swamp	520
<i>Powered Up!</i>	Mema Daisy	640
<i>Building Peace</i>	Regina Santiago	660

Activities to Support Instruction

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

- What does it mean to feel grateful or show gratitude?
- What types of things do you think show gratitude?
- Whom, or what, do you have gratitude for?
- In what ways have you shown gratitude for someone? How have they shown it for you?
- Why is gratitude important to show someone?

To address those questions, you could have a class discussion. However, there are many more ways to get your learners thinking, collaborating, and actively engaging with each other. To do so, consider any of the following activities:

- **Text Graffiti:** In this activity, learners will collaborate through writing, sharing, and summarizing. They will also move around to different places within your learning environment to interact with vocabulary,

quotes, or themes/ideas before reading the text. This strategy will foster collaboration and activate prior knowledge so students have a schema going into their reading.

- **Concept Mapping:** This activity will help students make connections to each other's thinking visually by responding to and linking thoughts and ideas on paper.
- **Jigsaw:** This strategy can be done with learners of all levels and abilities. It can also be used before, during, or after reading and in a number of different content areas. Use this strategy with your learners to expose them to multiple texts, analyze quotes, work with vocabulary, or discuss elements of a text. It's also a great formative assessment for educators.
- **Think-Pair-Share (and more):** Think-Pair-Share is a collaborative discussion strategy that fosters collaboration and communication between learners. There are also multiple variations of ways educators can mix it up a bit for learners to keep the conversations going.

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, *Ellis Island: Rosalia's Story*, consider having them gather information about Ellis Island and/or immigration. It will also be important for them to have informational context, so consider having them watch news stories or read newspaper articles to better understand the reading for deeper comprehension. The following resources and templates will help learners build literacy skills and comprehension as they read:

- **Notice and Note:** Teach learners these six signposts for nonfiction reading as they read news articles and/or do research on Ellis Island, Immigration, and other like topics. This strategy will help learners with close reading, annotation skills, and set a purpose for them as they read.
- **Close Reading:** This example will show a strategy of how to build learners' annotation skills and foster collaboration and discussion among them.
- **SQ3R:** This framework will help readers build their comprehension by giving them specific purposes for reading each time they look at a text.
- **Instructional Strategies for Adult Learners:** This resource will provide adult educators with multiple instructional strategies to help learners deepen reading comprehension and improve their overall reading skills.

Online Resources to Support Instructors

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

- **Gratitude Day:** This lesson plan is adaptable for learners of all abilities. It will help learners reflect on what and whom they are grateful for and analyze the impact people can have on each other.
- **Thanks! Gratitude Curriculum:** This unit can be adapted for any learning level and foster the idea of gratitude—what it looks like, what it means, and how to put it into action for learners.
- **Gratitude: A Power Tool for Your Classroom:** This article from Edutopia will give educators information on the importance of teaching the concept of gratitude to learners and provides some strategies to support this with learners.
- **Gratitude Lesson Plan:** This lesson plan has various resources educators can use to develop activities and lessons.

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 *Gratitude* 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, “gratitude” mean to you?
 - What is an example of a time you showed gratitude? How did that go?
 - When have you received gratitude from someone else? What was it for? How did it make you feel?
 - **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 to, or like, the situation the character in the story is in? What was the same for both of you? What was different?
- How is this character dealing with the concept of gratitude?
- **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?
 - How did gratitude impact this character in the end? 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!