

## Instructor Resource Guide: Let's Celebrate!

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 *Let's Celebrate!* 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 href="#"><i>The Holiday Party</i></a>	Joelle Edouard	570
<a href="#"><i>Fiesta de fin de año</i></a>	Joelle Edouard	600

<a href="#"><i>News for You: UNESCO Adds Haitian “Freedom” Soup to List of Important Traditions</i></a>	New Readers Press (ProLiteracy)	660
<a href="#"><i>News for You: La UNESCO agrega la sopa “de la libertad” haitiana a la lista de tradiciones importantes</i></a>	New Readers Press (ProLiteracy)	700
<b>Engaging Books for Adults and Children</b>		
<a href="#"><i>El festival de comida</i></a>	Sally Speer Leber	BR
<a href="#"><i>Hagamos música</i></a>	Ana Galan	260
<a href="#"><i>The Food Festival</i></a>	Sally Speer Leber	270
<a href="#"><i>Let's Make Music</i></a>	Ana Galan	410
<a href="#"><i>21 primos</i></a>	Diane de Anda	660
<a href="#"><i>21 Cousins</i></a>	Diane de Anda	720

### Activities to Support Instruction

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

- What is a celebration?
- What are some ways people celebrate? What are some different reasons why people may celebrate?
- Who, or what, have you celebrated?
- If you could have a celebration of any kind, what would you want it to include?

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:

- **Discussion Strategies:** This resource has multiple ways educators can engage their learners in different types of collaborative discussions to foster collaboration and conversation among learners.
- **Whole Class Discussions:** This resource offers educators ideas on how to structure whole class discussions so that every learner can feel heard.
- **3-2-1 Bridge:** This strategy will provide learners with a structure for questioning, clarifying, and general discussion. It can be adapted for

learners of all abilities and serve as a great formative assessment tool for educators.

- **Throw the Ball:** This discussion strategy is fun and engaging all while ensuring that every learner's voice is heard.

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, *The Holiday Party*, consider having them gather information about traditions, holidays, and celebrations from different countries around the world. 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:

- **Teach the Seven Strategies of Highly Effective Readers:** Teach learners these seven strategies to help them improve their comprehension through close reading and annotation skills.
- **Close Reading:** This example will show a strategy of how to build learners' annotation skills and foster collaboration and discussion among them.
- **Zoom In:** This comprehension strategy will help learners focus on specific elements of text while reading to gather details and make inferences.
- **Stop and Jot:** This strategy will help learners stop while reading to think and reflect about the part of text they just read. Then they will put their thoughts down on sticky notes as an annotation tool and reference to go back to for deeper comprehension.

### Online Resources to Support Instructors

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The following resources will help instructors gather more ideas and insights for teaching texts within the *Let's Celebrate!* collection:

- **Holidays and Celebrations Lesson Plan:** This lesson plan is adaptable for learners of all abilities. It will help learners with research and collaborations skills as they learn about traditions and holidays.
- **Religious Holidays in the Classroom:** This resource will provide educators with mentor texts, discussion starters, and activities as learners research and reflect on cultures and traditions around the world.

- **[Earth, the Universe, and Culture](#)**: This lesson from PBS will help learners understand the scientific nature behind the formation of cultures around the world.
- **[Finding Your Roots](#)**: This lesson plan from PBS will help learners think about their own traditions and/or celebrations as they read and explore mentor texts on the same topic.

## **Suggestions for Using the Collection and Activities with Families**

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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 *Let's Celebrate!* 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 do the words, “celebration,” “tradition,” and “culture” mean to you?
- What is an example of a time you participated in a celebration? How did that go?
- What does a celebration look like? Feel like?
- What do you think the celebration in this book is going to be about?

### **□ 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?
- How is this character celebrating? Why are they celebrating?
- How are traditions impacting the celebration in the text?

### **□ 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 the celebration 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!