Integrating Immigration into Read-Aloud and Literary Curricula

Kira Simon & Jinnie Spiegler
ADL’s PROGRAM AREAS

- Education
- Civil Rights
- Law Enforcement
- Extremism
- Hate Crimes
FIGHTING FOR IMMIGRANT & REFUGEE RIGHTS

- Educational Programs and Resources
- "We Were Strangers Too" Campaign & Resources
- Amicus Briefs
- Just and Humanitarian Policies
- Speak Out
TODAY’S AGENDA

- Introductions

- The Power of Literature
  - Rationale for Immigration-Centered Literature
  - ELA Learning Goals

- Considerations By Age Group
  - Early Childhood/Lower Elementary
  - Upper Elementary/Middle
  - High School/Adult

- Extending the Learning
  - Resources, Questions, Closing
Think about a book you read in school that had an impact on you.

What was the book?

What do you remember about the experience? Why do you think that experience stands out to you?
THE POWER OF LITERATURE

The Case for Reading Migration Stories in the Classrooms
MIRRORS, WINDOWS & DOORWAYS
WHAT DO BOOKS TEACH?

**Humanities**
- Aspects of Human Experience
- Culture & Civilization
- Ethics

**Civic Engagement**
- Citizenship
- Activism

**Character Education**
- Self-worth
- Respect
- Resilience
- Welcome Others
- Empathy
ACHIEVING ELA LEARNING GOALS

- Theme
- Historical Context
- Characterization & Point of View
- Style and Author's Craft
- Compare and Contrast
CONSIDERATIONS BY AGE GROUP

Immigration Stories & Learning Experiences for Every Age
EARLY CHILDHOOD AND ELEMENTARY

- Similarities and Differences
- Group Identity
- Culture
- Pride
- Exclusion and Bias
- Fairness and Discrimination
EARLY CHILDHOOD AND ELEMENTARY

www.adl.org/books-matter
WINNER OF THE 2019 PURA BELPÉ ILLUSTRATOR AWARD
NEW YORK TIMES BEST ILLUSTRATED BOOK OF 2018
There were so many things we didn’t know. Unable to understand and afraid to speak,

we made lots of mistakes.
to speak,
to write,
and to make our voices heard.
Someday we will become something we haven’t even yet imagined.

But right now …
EARLY CHILDHOOD AND ELEMENTARY

Focus Question:

What is immigration and what does immigration have to do with following my dreams?

Teaching Ideas

- What are my dreams for the future?
- Connecting to others’ dreams
- Learning about immigration and “Dreamers”
- Research projects
UPPER ELEMENTARY & MIDDLE

- Awareness of history & culture
- Prejudice, stereotypes & identity
- Current events
- Injustice
- Connection across stories
- Dynamic characters
- Problem solving
- Heroes & antagonists
UPPER ELEMENTARY & MIDDLE

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UPPER ELEMENTARY & MIDDLE

Focus Questions

- What factors contribute to the characters' decision to move? What does this tell us about why people move?
  - What is the "American Dream"? To what extent does it become a reality?
  - How does the author illustrate social hierarchies in Mexico and the United States?
UPPER ELEMENTARY & MIDDLE

Teaching Ideas

- Research:
  - The Mexican Revolution
  - Immigration to U.S. in Early 20th Cent.
- Oral History Reports
- Mock Migrant Farmer Union Meeting
- Mexico-U.S. Border Maps & Migration Stats
HIGH SCHOOL & ADULT

- Personal experience connections
- History & current events
- Patterns in human behavior & civilization
- Structural oppression
- Social justice, activism, & advocacy
- Moral ambiguity
- Multiple identities
HIGH SCHOOL & ADULT

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Focus Questions

- How does the author use dialogue and imagery to illustrate the characters' cultural identities?
- What is magical realism, and how does the author's combination of fantasy and reality enhance Fabiola's characterization?
- What identities does Fabiola carry? How do these identities complicate her experience throughout the story?
HIGH SCHOOL AND ADULT

Teaching Ideas

- Explore Magical Realism in Media
- Current Events Connections
- Examine Maps & Demographics
- Create Artistic Representations of Mythology & Spirituality
- Select & Close Read Quotes
  - "But then I realize that everyone is climbing their own mountain here in America. They are tall and mighty and they live in the hearts and everyday lives of the people."
EXTENDING THE LEARNING

Making the Lessons "Stick"
EXTENDING THE LEARNING

**Self to Text Connections**
- Feelings Exploration
  - Tell Personal Stories of "Home" and "Moving"
  - Letter to Author

**World to Text Connections**
- Current Events
- Interactive Maps & Timelines
- Social Action Project
- Research

**Interpreting the Text**
- Retell Story from Alternate Perspectives
- Create Visual or Performance Art
- Alternate Endings or Epilogues
- Create Characters' Journal Entries

**Interpreting the Text**
- Read, Listen to, or Watch Similar Narratives
- Compare & Contrast
ADDITIONAL RESOURCES
CURRENT EVENTS CLASSROOM: K-12 LESSONS

Diverse Books Matter
People, Identity & Culture | Race & Racism
GRADE LEVEL: Elementary School
COMMON CORE STANDARDS: Reading, Speaking and Listening, Language

Deadly Shooting at the Tree of Life Synagogue
Bias, Discrimination & Hate | Jewish Culture & Anti-Semitism | Religion & Religious Bigotry
GRADE LEVEL: Elementary School
COMMON CORE STANDARDS: Reading, Speaking and Listening, Language

Who are the Rohingya People in Myanmar?
Bias, Discrimination & Hate | Religion & Religious Bigotry
GRADE LEVEL: Middle School, High School
COMMON CORE STANDARDS: Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening

'Migrant Caravan' and the People Seeking Asylum
People, Identity & Culture | Social Justice
GRADE LEVEL: High School
COMMON CORE STANDARDS: Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening

Why Are Families Being Separated and Detained at the Border?
GRADE LEVEL: High School
COMMON CORE STANDARDS: Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening

What Should Be Done about DACA?
Bias, Discrimination & Hate | Race & Racism | Social Justice
GRADE LEVEL: Middle School, High School
COMMON CORE STANDARDS: Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening

www.adl.org/lesson-plans
BOOKS MATTER & BOOK OF THE MONTH

About the Book of the Month: This collection of featured books is from Books Matter: The Best Kid Lit on Bias, Diversity and Social Justice. The books teach about bias and prejudice, promote respect for diversity, encourage social action and reinforce themes addressed in education programs of the World of Difference® Institute. ADL's International anti-bias education and diversity training provider. For educators, adult family members and other caregivers of children, reading the books listed on this site with your children and incorporating them into instruction are excellent ways to talk about these important concepts at home and in the classroom.

Front Desk
Kelly Yang (Author)

Mia Yang has a lot of secrets. Number 1: She lives in a motel, not a big house. Every day, while her parents, who are immigrants, clean the rooms, ten-year-old Mia manages the front desk of the Callista Motel and tends to its guests. Number 2: Her parents hide people who are immigrants. And if the mean motel owner, Mr. Yao, finds out they’ve been letting them stay in the empty rooms for free, the Yangs will be doomed. Number 3: She wants to be a writer. But how can she when her mom thinks she should stick to math because English is not her first language? It will take all of Mia’s courage, kindness and hard work to get through this year. Will she be able to hold on to her job, help the immigrants and guests, escape Mr. Yao and go for her dreams?

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OTHER RESOURCES

Anti-Bias Tools & Strategies

- Classroom Tips & Strategies
- Definitions & Language
  - Discussion/Activity Guides
  - Holidays, Events & Special Months

Bullying/Cyberbullying Resources

Rosalind's Classroom Conversations

Education Blogs
ADL REGIONAL OFFICES

Select an ADL Regional Office

Arizona       Michigan       Plains States/CRC
Austin        Midwest        San Diego
Central Pacific Mountain States Santa Barbara/Tri-Counties
Cleveland     Nevada         South Central
Connecticut   New England    Southeast
Florida       New York/New Jersey Southwest
Heartland     Orange County/Long Beach Texoma
Israel        Pacific Northwest Washington D.C.
Los Angeles   Philadelphia

https://www.adl.org/who-we-are/our-organization/regional-offices
QUESTIONS
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THANK YOU!