

## CENTERING IMMIGRATION IN YOUR CURRICULUM

### Math and science

- Research the immigrant experience in Math and Science.
- Our science teachers have students do a report from a famous scientist from their country. They often start with, “there aren’t any.” She doesn’t let them off the hook. They begin to research and always find someone.
- For Geology, I encourage students to do research projects on imp t earthquakes+volcanic eruptions; favorite places, etc. My immigrant students often choose places & events from home. Several Nepali students have presented to the class on their experience with the main, recent Nepali earthquake; also Haitian Earthquake, also the mountains at home in Uganda, etc.
- [Dr. Kari Kokka](#) has done a lot of work re math and social justice
- National Geographic has wonderful resources for exploring migration histories through genetic research
- National Geographic is great! [National Geographic Reach](#) is great for K-5 English Learners

### Book study

- [Dr. Zaretta Hammond](#) has a great Facebook groups where she leads a book study
- The book club approach is excellent. We have had much success with adults in both ABE and ESL classes through book clubs, even for topics like financial literacy.
- [Alma Flor Ada](#) and [F. Isabel Campoy](#) did a lot of this work in the 80s. [Authors in the Classroom, A Transformative Education Process](#)

### Music, art and art history

- Other areas to recognize: art and music and spirituality
  - I couldn't agree more. Those subjects relate to ALL cultures
- In Art History, students select a favorite piece of art we studied to compare with another piece. They often compare a Western piece of art with artistic pieces/practices from their home culture. Amazing presentations!
- Include song lyrics ... hip hop ... reggeaton ... banda, corridos ... all that counts as poetry in my class and the engagement is incredible

### General

- Using historical events and primary documents help students relate to real life events and increases engagement.
- I bring up immigrant voices in my Caucasian classrooms every semester. I do it through Visuals, Videos, and Discussion Boards. When I can I get guest speakers.

- Include translation workshops in the classroom! I teach higher ed and we do a translation workshop every year for Holocaust Remembrance Day — if you'd like to take a look at our [YouTube video](#)
- I really like the essential question approach. I was a curriculum director in a school district where parents closely scrutinize everything in the curriculum. Using the essential question model allows students from all kinds of families to structure their learning in keeping with their own families' cultural values, while having an opportunity to hear from other students about their essential thinking.
- Lived experiences are vital resource to help all learners connect

#### Resources

- Re-imagining Migration's [Culturally Responsive Teaching Checklist](#)
- [Facing History](#) is also great too
- [Teaching Tolerance](#)
  - As a classroom teacher and an elementary teacher, I used Teaching Tolerance materials and resources and received and used the magazine. After all these years I still encourage teachers to use TT. I still have my magazines from when i was in the classroom. Amazing resource!!!!
  - The [text library](#) is wonderfully accessible. You can supplement virtually any aspect of any curriculum.
  - I'm looking forward to using [Reading Diversity!](#)

#### Literature that centers immigrant and global voices

- LOVE Neruda!
- Or Borges
- Cervantes? Let's go with someone who is not a representative of the Spaniard colonial narrative. Just saying ... and I am from Spain
- Sandra Cisneros
- What about [The Poet X](#) by Elizabeth Acevedo?
- Julia Alvarez
- Gary Soto
- Vivek Shraya
- Daniel Chacon ... [The Cholo Tree](#)
- Reyna Grande
- Lada Josefa Kratky
- Edwidge Danticat
- Erika L. Sanchez ... [I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter](#)
- Jenny Torres Sanchez [We Are Not from Here](#)
- [The Book of Unknown Americans](#) - Cristina Henríquez
- [Two Old Women: An Alaska Legend of Betrayal, Courage and Survival](#) by Velma Wallis (Gwi'chin)
- Jorge Luis Borges (Steve Burby)

- Someone asked about the poem Amy mentioned. It is the New Colossus (on the Statue of Liberty). Here is a resource that you can use to set up Amy's assignment.  
<https://reimaginingmigration.org/the-emma-lazarus-project/> (Adam Strom)
- Cathy Park Hong - [\*Minor Feelings: An Asian American Reckoning\*](#) is a fabulous Korean-American memoir
- Nnedi Okorafor
- Octavia Butler - there are also Graphic novel versions of [\*Kindred\*](#) and [\*Parable of the Sower\*](#)
- [\*The Arrival\*](#) Shaun Tan - wordless picture book about a migration story

#### Literature tips

- Even within Latinx literature, whose stories are we centering--are we making space for indigenous people, central American, Black Latinx folks, Queer folks, etc. I say this because I don't want Mexican hegemony to overtake our need for diverse latinx voices
- Please also remember representing reading from authors who have disabilities or historical figures who have disabilities.
- [Lee & Low Books](#), a multicultural children's book publisher. They have teacher guides, across grades.
- Join [@ProjectLITComm](#) on Twitter - a great community to read and discuss contemporary literature.
  - Yes, [@ProjectLITComm](#) has so many wonderful book suggestions!!