

The Global Read Aloud FAQ

One Book to Connect the World

What is the Global Read Aloud (GRA)?

The premise is simple; we pick a book to read aloud to our students during a set 6-week period and during that time we try to make as many global connections as possible. Each teacher decides how much time they would like to dedicate and how involved they would like to be. Some people choose to connect with just one class, while others go for as many as possible. The scope and depth of the project is up to you. In the past we have used Twitter, Skype, email, regular mail, Kidblog, Flipgrid, WriteAbout, and any other tools we can think of to make these connections. But you choose which tools you want to use. Teachers get a community of other educators to do a global project with, hopefully inspiring them to continue these connections through the year.

What are the books this year?

GRA YA Choice: *Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You* by Jason Reynolds and Dr. Ibram X. Kendi.

- Educator Guide created by Dr. Sonja Cherry-Paul [can be found here](#).
- [GRA YA Facebook Group](#) (for class connections)

GRA Middle School Choice: *Prairie Lotus* by Linda Sue Park.

- Educator Guide [can be found here](#).
- [GRA Middle School Facebook Group](#) (for class connections)

When does it start?

Kick-off is October 5th!

Why participate?

This is meant to make the world a little smaller, to open our eyes to the rest of the world and to look at all of our shared experiences. How phenomenal for a child to know that the same book they are reading is being read in classrooms across the globe. It is also a great way to integrate technology in a meaningful way without having to figure it out alone.

Do my students have to share?

Preferably yes, however, sometimes just reading other students' ideas and thoughts can be a form of sharing. So if you feel uncomfortable sharing first, read the discussion and jump in when you are comfortable.

How old should my students be?

We have a picture book study for our youngest students and then other books to choose from. We have K through college participation starting in 2014. Whichever book you decide to participate in is truly up to you. You know your kids/students and whether the book is suitable for them. Don't dismiss the project because the books may seem too easy, it is about the connections you make.

Is this really global?

Yes! Since its inception we have had more than 4,000,000 students from more than 86 different countries participate!

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Are authors always involved?

No, not always. Every year since Katherine Applegate chose to get involved, I reach out to the authors whose books are chosen and ask if they have time. Some do and some don't. I am incredibly grateful to the authors that take the time to be a part of the project as it enriches the experience tenfold for participants, but I do not pick books based on that criterion alone. Sometimes incredible books are written by incredible authors that lead very busy lives, and that is okay too. What matters is that we have amazing books to read aloud and share.

What do I do during the project?

You read the book aloud, reading certain chapters every week. It is okay to get behind, but try not to get ahead. Then once you have read aloud try to connect with others, what you do is up to you. Some decide to simply check in on Twitter or Facebook to see what others are doing, while some decide to partner with another class, collaborating throughout. Whatever will work for you is what you should do, there are many right ways to do the GRA.

Do I need to buy a book for each child?

No, one book to read aloud from is enough.

Where do we share?

Anywhere you want. We have our Twitter hashtag #gra20 for sharing, our Facebook groups, but people find they share best wherever they feel most comfortable.

Is this Common Core aligned?

Yes, the Common Core standards urge educators to create meaningful literacy experiences that integrate technology in order to help students become critical thinkers. The GRA is meant to do this.

Where can I get more information?

Visit www.theglobalreadaloud.com for more information and to sign up.