

Activities- Read Aloud Books

Below are several excellent title suggestions for picture books that include themes of adapting to or learning about a new culture in an English-speaking country (although both the books and the questions can be used with an array of other SEL counseling topics!). As an extra, I've also included some examples of thought-provoking comprehension questions in case you have extra time with your class and would like to build literacy skills during your sessions or guidance lessons. In addition, there are some other ways to actively involve students during read aloud time at the bottom of this page.

Possible Read Aloud Titles:

The Storyteller's Candle by [Lucia Gonzalez and Lulu Delacre](#)

My Diary from Here to There by [Amada Irma Perez](#)

My Very Own Room by [Amada Irma Perez](#)

Xochitl and the Flowers by [Jorge Argueta](#)

Shy Mama's Halloween by [Anne Broyles](#)

Goldfish and Chrysanthemums by [Andrea Cheng](#)

Lights for Gita by [Rachna Gilmore](#) (and other Gita books by Rachna Gilmore)

Grandfather's Journey by [Allen Say](#)

The Color of Home by [Mary Hoffman](#)

In the Small, Small Night by [Jane Kurtz](#)

The Have A Good Day Cafe by [Frances Park](#)

An Mei's Strange and Wondrous Journey by [Stephan Molnar-Fenton](#)

Examples of Discussion/Comprehension Questions:

What is the most exciting event in the story?

What is the saddest event in the story?

What did you learn from the book?

Would you recommend this book to someone else? Why or why not?

What is the problem in the book?

What is the solution?

How is this similar to a problem or solution you have in your life?

Where does the character work or go in the story?

How old is the character?

How many family members/siblings does the character have?

What did the character say?

What is the name of this character?

Who is an important character in this story?

Where is the story taking place/occurring?

Ways to Actively Involve Students in Read Aloud Time

- **Have students tell their partner what just happened in the story.**
- **Have a student act out the story to the class as the teacher reads aloud.**
- **Have pairs act out the story to each other as the teacher reads aloud.**
- **At the end of the read aloud time, have students close their eyes and imagine the next part of the story.**
- **Throughout the read aloud time, have students show their thumbs- pointing up if they understand what is happening in the story, pointing down if they don't understand the story events.**