

Immigration/Migration Resources and Lessons for Educators 2025

A Message for Educators

The current presidential administration has started to take action on its stated intentions around immigration, including mass deportations of undocumented and certain legal immigrants, ending birthright citizenship for children born in the US to undocumented immigrants, border and travel bans for certain groups of people, and the defunding of sanctuary cities. For some of us with immigration stories in our history, we do not currently feel a direct threat to our rights, freedom, or humanity. Yet, for so many of us, these are very, very real and terrifying threats to our existence.

How do we protect each other and our students during this time, regardless of our documentation status, country of origin, English-speaking ability, or our immigration story?

Firstly, let's reflect on our own identities and histories.

- What do you know about your family's history and their origins in the United States?
- Growing up, what were you taught about immigrants and refugees in this country and in your community?
- What do you know and what do you need to learn about the experiences of new immigrant families in your community in order to support all of your students?
- What are your beliefs and biases regarding immigrants, refugees, and our system of immigration? (Who gets to come here? Who gets to live and work here? Who gets to become a U.S. citizen?)
- What has been the impact of anti-immigrant sentiments on families and children in your community and state?

Secondly, let's get real on the facts.

Dispelling 10 Common Myths About Immigrants and Refugees | International Institute of New England

- Immigrants in the U.S. have a collective spending power of \$1.4 trillion and pay \$525 billion in taxes each year (**American Immigration Council** 2021).
- Immigrants often take on taxing jobs and occupations that other Americans are not willing to do.

Immigrants Are a Vital Part of America's Future | Immigration Research Initiative

- 48 million immigrants in America contributed \$4.6 trillion to the GDP in 2022.
- 480,000 immigrants reside in Minnesota, constituting 11% of the workforce, and generating \$41 billion of economic output in Minnesota.

Undocumented immigrants contribute \$222 million in Minnesota taxes | MN Budget Project

- Undocumented immigrants in Minnesota contributed \$222 million in state and local taxes in 2022 (**Institute for Taxation and Economic Policy (ITEP)**).
- For the nation as a whole, undocumented immigrants made \$59.4 billion in federal tax contributions and \$37.3 billion in state and local tax contributions in 2022 through sales tax when making everyday purchases, property tax through their rents or on homes they own, and income taxes that are deducted from paychecks or paid during tax-filing season.
- Undocumented immigrants in the U.S. pay 26.1 percent of their incomes in federal, state, and local taxes, similar to the rate that U.S. citizens with median incomes pay.

Mass Deportation: Devastating Costs to America, Its Budget and Economy |

American Immigration Council

- About 11 million undocumented immigrants lived in the United States as of 2022—3.3 percent of the country's overall population. A one-time operation to deport these immigrants would cost at least \$315 billion.
- Mass deportation would exacerbate the U.S. labor shortage and hurt several key U.S. industries, including construction, agriculture, and hospitality.
- Deporting undocumented immigrants would separate 4 million mixed-status families, affecting 8.5 million U.S. citizens with undocumented family members (5.1 million of whom are U.S. citizen children).

Third, let's rally around and protect the children, our most vulnerable population in our immigrant communities. Here are some important RESOURCES:

- **What to Do if ICE Shows Up at Your School Checklist**, which we adapted from the The Minnesota Racial Equity Partnership's (MnEEP) **Creating Safe & Supportive Schools for Immigrant and English Learner Students Toolkit**, designed to empower school leaders and educators with strategies and critical responses for upholding their students' human and educational rights.
- **Know Your Rights Toolkit** from the Immigrant Legal Resource Center
 - **Know Your Rights and What Immigrant Families Should Do Now** (in

multiple languages)

- **[Step-by-Step Family Preparedness Plan](#)**
- **[Having Difficult Conversations with Children about the US Election: Tips for Immigrant Parents](#)**
- **[The AmazeWorks Immigration/Migration Primer](#)**

We hope this list of resources, including books with links to AmazeWorks lessons, helps you navigate questions and discussions on immigration and migration with children and youth to create classrooms of safety, inclusion, and belonging for all.

♥ **[Teach Tank](#)** and **[AmazeWorks](#)**

About Teach Tank

Teach Tank is a collective of experienced, award-winning educators who support justice-centered communities of practice. As critical educators who deeply understand the complexities and challenges of teaching and learning in today's world, we believe that transformation begins with partnership, community informs pedagogy, and young people learn best in classrooms that foster love, learning, and liberation. You can follow us on [Instagram](#) to learn more about our work and upcoming events.

*Teach
Tank*

About AmazeWorks

The mission of [AmazeWorks](#) is to champion equity and belonging for all. We believe that every child should see their families, identities, and lived experiences reflected in positive mirrors and windows into the lives of others who are different from them. Building a healthy identity, learning to show respect across differences, and naming and taking action against instances of injustice all begin with sharing stories and honest, intentional conversations. When we listen to each other's stories, we build empathy and shift our thinking from "them" to "us." When we take time to understand the impact of identity-based bias and discrimination, we are better equipped to stand up to it.

Teaching as Resistance Resource Guide

Understand the Impact of Immigration Enforcement

Immigration enforcement activities can result in significant challenges for students and their families. These may include the following:

Social-Emotional Impact	Increased fear, anxiety, depression, post-traumatic stress, and uncertainty about the future.
Economic Uncertainty	Loss of family income, increased transiency, and reduced access to social services.
Care-taking Arrangements	Potential foster care placement or increased responsibilities for older siblings.

Instructional Strategies & Practices

Provide a Sense of Safety	• Be aware of how students react to distressing news and offer reassurance. • Review safety procedures at school and identify trusted adults students can turn to. For example, "Our school building is safe because..." (cite specific school procedures). • Engage students in calming activities such as music, reading, or creative projects.
Help Students Express Their Feelings	• Allow students to share their thoughts and feelings in a safe space. • Support emotional expression through journaling, drawing, imaginative play, and discussions. • Offer comfort and respect privacy when students choose not to share. • Listen and model empathy: Avoid dismissing their concerns; instead, validate and acknowledge their emotions. • On a Scale of 1 to 5: Students rate how they feel, with teachers modeling openness.

Instructional Strategies & Practices (cont'd)

Observe Children's Emotional State	• Watch for changes in behavior, energy levels, or school performance. • Some of the common signs that a student is experiencing challenges include: Mood swings, feeling anxious or down, disruptive behaviors, sleepiness, stomach aches or headaches, difficulty focusing, and losing interest in things that used to be enjoyable. • Connect students with the mental health professional in your building if you have any concerns about their well-being. • Stress Reduction Activities: Breathing techniques and mindfulness practices.
Brainstorm Positive Actions	• The ability to take action, even in small ways, can help reduce anxiety and promote resilience. • Help children and youth identify organizations they can support or things they can do to make a positive contribution to their family, school, or broader community.
Maintain or Establish Routines	• Consistent routines provide structure and reassurance, helping students feel secure.
Limit Media Exposure	• Encourage breaks from media coverage of distressing events. • Provide brief, simple, and age-appropriate explanations while reinforcing safety. • Share developmentally appropriate information.
Encourage Respectful Discussion on Challenging Topics	• Establish guidelines for respectful classroom discussion. (Example: AmazeWorks Elementary Discussion Guidelines) • Consider incorporating dialogue circles to foster a safe space for open discussion.
Build Empathy and Community	• Use diverse children's literature to explore themes of identity and belonging. • Identity Charts: Students explore their personal and cultural identities. • You're in My Boat: Students share relatable experiences in a movement-based activity.

Instructional Strategies & Practices (cont'd)

Correct Misinformation & Challenge Immigration Myths	• Research using trustworthy sources and recognize personal biases. Use the AmazeWorks Immigration/Migration Primer for reference. • Ensure students receive accurate, age-appropriate information to counter fear-inducing rumors. • Use Learning for Justice's Ten Myths About Immigration and the accompanying lesson plan. • Read this interview with twin sisters Brizzia and Maria Muñoz Robles, undocumented students at Notre Dame.
Brainstorming & Inquiry-Based Learning	• Encourage students to explore connections between their lives and classroom lessons. • Use project-based learning to investigate real-world issues related to immigration. • Found Poems: Students create poetry from meaningful texts. • Iceberg Diagrams: Students recognize the multiple causal factors behind an event from history, the present, or literature, using the visual of an iceberg. • Head, Heart, Conscience: Reflection prompts to help students consider a complex or emotional topic through the lenses of head, heart, and ethics. • Journals: Create a practice of student journaling to help your students critically examine their surroundings and make informed judgments.
Embrace Self-Care	• Educators must care for their own well-being to effectively support students.

Legal Resources

- [What to Do if ICE Shows Up at Your School Checklist](#)
- [Know Your Rights and What Immigrant Families Should Do Now](#) (in multiple languages)
- [Step-by-Step Family Preparedness Plan](#)
- [Immigrant Legal Resource Center](#)

Professional Learning Resources

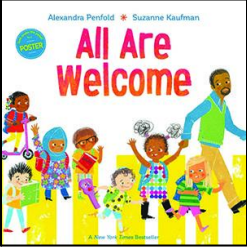
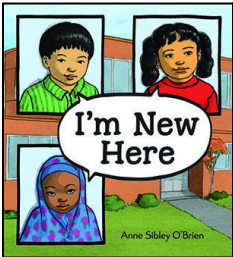
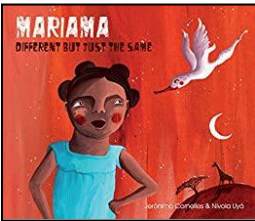
Recommended Books, Articles, and Guides

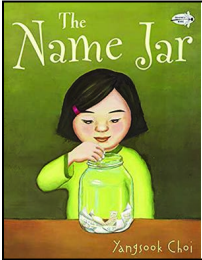
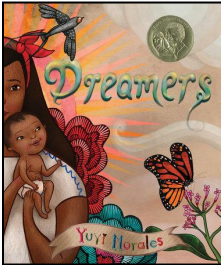
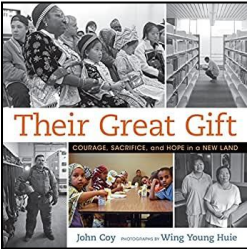
- [The AmazeWorks Immigration/Migration Primer](#)
- [What is it like to grow up as an undocumented youth in America?](#)
- [Embracing Cultural Dilemmas](#)
- [Culturally Responsive Teaching](#)
- [Teaching Controversial Topics](#)
- [Helping Children Cope After a Traumatic Event \(Child Mind Institute\)](#)
- [Child Trauma Toolkit for Educators \(NCTSN\)](#)
- [A Culturally Responsive Guide to Fostering the Inclusion of Immigrant Students](#)
- [Immigration Booklists for Kids and Young Adults](#)
- [Multicultural Booklists by Topic for Kids and Adults](#)
- [Professional Booklists for Educators](#)
- [Culturally Relevant Books in the ELL Classroom](#)

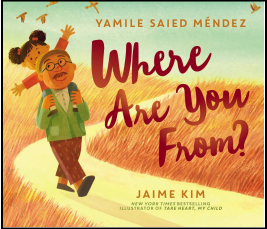
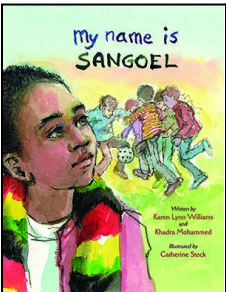
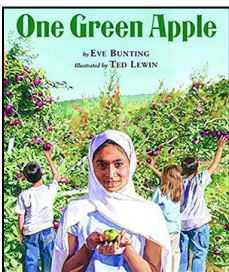
AmazeWorks Picture Book Lessons for Elementary

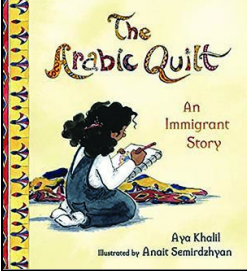
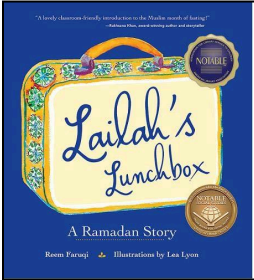
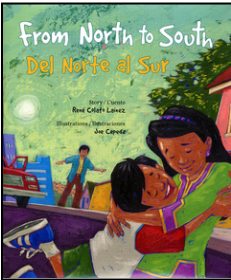
Using Picture Books to Foster Reflection, Dialogue, and Empathy

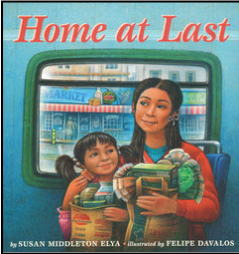
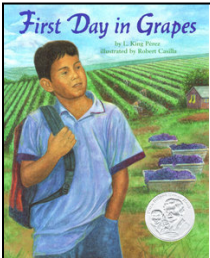
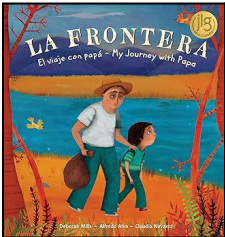
(AmazeWorks Lessons are [LINKED](#).)

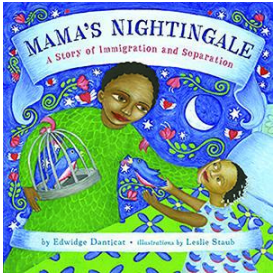
Title and Grade Levels	Book Summary
<u>All Are Welcome</u> by Alexandra Penfold  Grades: PreK–2nd	This book gives children the opportunity to see children and families who are similar to them, as well as children and families who are different. Children need to see examples of actively showing respect for differences and the different ways that people show care and concern for each other. This book also gives examples of different ways they can practice sharing and caring for each other. Through this book, children learn that each of us needs different things to feel welcome, which helps them value differences and reject messages that make differences frightening, negative, or bad.
<u>I'm New Here</u> by Anne Sibley O'Brien  Grades: PreK–2nd	This book is about three children who moved to the United States from other countries and how each of them adjusts to their new schools. New students, especially those who are learning a new language and adjusting to a new culture, can feel isolated. Classrooms focused on empathy and belonging helps students find ways to build friendships across differences. By sharing the challenges faced by the students in this book, children can discuss ways to make everyone feel welcome, and new students can feel supported and share their experiences.
<u>Mariama: Different But Just the Same</u> by Jerónimo Cornelles and Nívola Uyá  <u>Lesson in Spanish</u> Grades: 1st–3rd	Mariama and her parents move to the United States from a village in Senegal. Everything seems different to Mariama from the food to the language. With the help of her new friends and her mother, Mariama adjusts to the differences and realizes she has a lot she can share and teach the children in her class. It is important to understand and acknowledge the stress and challenges some immigrant families face. This empathy and knowledge help reduce bias and prejudice, and, for immigrant children in particular, it eases their transition into a new environment.

Title and Grade Levels	Book Summary
<u>The Name Jar</u> by Yangsook Choi  Grades: 1st-3rd	Unhei (Oon-Hay) has just moved to the United States from Korea and is nervous about being the new kid in school, especially since she fears her peers won't be able to pronounce her name. She chooses a new name instead of telling her classmates her real name, but when her new friend discovers the special meaning behind Unhei, he encourages her to stay true to herself. When children feel unsafe, they often adjust or modify who they are so that they will not stand out. Feeling pride in one's identity strengthens a child's sense of self and well-being.
<u>Dreamers</u> by Yuyi Morales  <u>Lesson in Spanish</u> Grades: 1st-3rd	In this book, a woman and her baby come to the U.S. from Mexico. Feeling alone and unable to speak English, yet hopeful and filled with dreams, they find comfort and belonging through books at the library. It is important to understand and acknowledge the stress and challenges some immigrant families face. It is also important to show the hopes, dreams, and resiliency that immigrants bring with them to make a new place their home.
<u>Their Great Gift</u> By John Coy and Wing Young Huie  Grades: 1st-3rd	This book showcases the challenges, hopes and dreams, sacrifices, and triumphs of immigrants. Using photographs as well as words, this book helps children build social awareness of different cultural ways of being and traditions, which creates empathy through a broader understanding of and appreciation for differences. It also affirms children who may share identities or lived experiences with the people featured in the book's photographs.

Title and Grade Levels	Book Summary
<u>Where Are You From?</u> by Yamile Saied Méndez  <u>Lesson in Spanish</u> Grades: 1st-3rd	Although born in the United States, a young girl is asked where she is from – where she’s really from. These questions make her unsure of her identity (who she is and where she came from). She goes to her abuelo (grandfather) for advice and answers about where she’s from. His responses are different from the answers she expected, and he helps her realize that where we are from is so much more than a physical place. Being bi/multiracial and bi/multicultural can cause children to feel uncomfortable with their complex identities. It is important to recognize and support children in all of who they are.
<u>My Name Is Sangoel</u> by Catherine Stock  Grades: 3rd-5th	Sangoel is a refugee whose family had to leave their homeland of Sudan because war had made it unsafe for them. Sangoel is lonely, and he misses his home. Sangoel is proud of his name, a name handed down by his father who was killed in the war, but no one at his new school knows how to pronounce it correctly. He comes up with a creative way to help everyone at school pronounce his name and finally starts to feel like he belongs. Learning to pronounce names from another culture is a form of respect and can teach children to honor the languages and cultures of those who are different from them.
<u>One Green Apple</u> By Eve Bunting  Grades: 3rd-5th	Farah, a recent immigrant who is Muslim, is on a field trip to an apple orchard with her new school. At first, she feels isolated and different, but the day also brings the promise of connection and new friendships. Being a new student can be daunting for any child, even more so for students whose appearance, language, religion, or culture are not shared with any of their classmates. This book gives readers a glimpse into how isolated and different a student can feel by the actions of others. Gaining insights into the perspective of someone who seems different helps to develop understanding that leads to acceptance and inclusion.

Title and Grade Levels	Book Summary
<u>The Arabic Quilt</u> by Aya Khalil  Grades: 3rd-5th	It's the first day of a new American school for Kanzi, who recently moved from Egypt. Forgetting her lunch at home, Kanzi's mom brings her a traditional Egyptian sandwich and speaks to her in Arabic, which embarrasses Kanzi and draws snickers from her classmates. Kanzi takes comfort in the beautiful Egyptian quilt that her grandmother gave her, and the quilt becomes something that brings the class together by honoring each student's differences. The book provides a positive example of how to show respect for and support children's home cultures and languages and dispel harmful biases and stereotypes.
<u>Lailah's Lunchbox</u> by Reem Faruqi  Grades: 3rd-5th	Lailah is a Muslim girl who recently moved from Abu Dhabi, a country in the Middle East, to Peachtree City, Georgia. As the Islamic holy month of Ramadan begins, Lailah is excited to fast, but she worries about what her teacher and classmates might think. With the support of the school librarian, Lailah learns to feel confident in who she is and finds the courage to speak up for what she needs and wants. Religion/faith is a part of cultural identity and daily life for many immigrant children who may practice a nondominant religion that is subject to bias and stereotypes. Books that share stories about people from varying religions help children connect to the similarities we all share.
<u>From North to South</u> by René Colato Lainez  <u>Lesson in Spanish</u> Grades: 3rd-5th	José and Papá make a trip from their home in San Diego to Tijuana, Mexico to visit Mamá, who has been deported for not having the correct citizenship papers. José and Mamá spend the day together, and they both hope to have Mamá home soon. This book deals with the delicate topic of family separation and deportation by focusing on the love and hope the family shares when they are briefly reunited.

Title and Grade Levels	Book Summary
<u>Home at Last</u> by Susan Middleton Elya  <u>Lesson in Spanish</u> Grades: 4th–5th	When Ana’s family moves to the United States, her mother misses being surrounded by family and the familiar. As Ana adjusts to their new surroundings, her mother struggles. Ana witnesses a shopkeeper mistreating her mother and the isolation that comes with not having a shared language. This book offers insights into a family’s emotional journey when moving to a new country with a new language. Understanding the complexity of the experiences of new immigrants is important for both children and adults.
<u>First Day in Grapes</u> by King Pérez  <u>Lesson in Spanish</u> Grades: 4th–5th	Chico and his family are migrant farm workers in California, so he is often the new kid in school. When Chico’s fourth-grade teacher recognizes his excellent math skills, he feels excited about his new class. Some of his classmates start picking on Chico, but he figures out a way to respond wisely. The teacher in this story encourages Chico, and this gives him the courage to reject mistreatment. Chico uses his problem-solving abilities and creativity to address the conflict and mistreatment he faces.
<u>La Frontera: My Journey with Papa</u> by Deborah Mills and Alfredo Alva  <u>Lesson in Spanish</u> Grades: 4th–5th	This book follows a boy named Alfredo and his Papa as they make a treacherous trip from Mexico to the United States. It is an immigration story that offers a new perspective on why some people choose to cross the border for the safety and security of their families and the challenges of being a new immigrant. While being cautious of reinforcing negative stereotypes about immigrants from Central and South America, this topic must be talked about with children of all ages because of the stigma, bias, and prejudice that immigrant children experience, regardless of status. This book is an important mirror for Latine children and their families who migrated across the U.S.–Mexican border for the dream of a better life to have their lived experiences affirmed and destigmatized.

Title and Grade Levels	Book Summary
<u>Mama's Nightingale</u> by Edwidge Danticat  Grades: 4th-5th	When Saya's mother is sent to an immigration detention center, she sends her daughter bedtime stories to make their separation easier to endure. Inspired by her mother's stories and her father's attempts to reunite their family, Saya uses her own voice to help bring her mother home. For many immigrants or refugees, their lives are dominated by the unknown. Saya's mother's stories provide comfort during a difficult time. This encourages Saya to take action in an effort to help her family.

AmazeWorks Video Lessons for Middle School

Using Videos To Engage Adolescents In Reflection, Dialogue, And Empathy

Lessons linked are taken from the [AmazeWorks Middle School Curriculum](#)

Many middle grade educators want to help their students build empathy and respect across differences, and these immigration/migration lessons can help. By providing adolescents with intentional space for these kinds of conversations, adults communicate that they are important and worthy of engaging in. These lessons give educators the tools needed – including a video to spark reflection and conversation, journal questions for individual reflection, and discussion questions that can be used in small groups or whole-class discussions. Before beginning these lessons, we encourage educators to take time to create a safe and brave environment for the discussions with clearly understood and agreed-upon agreements for all students to follow in order to allow for respectful dialogue between students.

6th Grade

[Students' Immigration Stories](#)

For children and families living in conflict or suffering as a result of poverty, persecution or lack of opportunity—the future is not guaranteed. That's why, each year, millions of people leave home in search of a safer, better tomorrow. Refugees, asylum seekers, migrants, and immigrants are all terms used to describe people on the move, including children. In this lesson, students learn from other teens who share their family immigration stories from Pakistan, the Philippines, Egypt, Mexico, and Vietnam.

[Undocumented in America: Viviana's Story](#)

This lesson provides a glimpse into what it's like to be an undocumented immigrant in Michigan. We meet a 22-year-old undocumented college student and learn about her and her family who work in agriculture as they wait to see if their home of Lansing, Michigan decides to become a sanctuary city.

[What is DACA](#)

The DACA program has given limited protection from deportation to young immigrants in the United States, who are commonly known as "Dreamers". In this lesson, students will learn more about DACA and hear from young people who are a part of this program.

7th Grade	
<u>I'm An Immigrant, But I'm Not...</u>	This lesson and video, made in the UK, features a diverse group of immigrants sharing how their experiences dispel the many myths around immigrants while positively affirming their identities.
<u>Maria is American, But That's Not What We Tell Her</u>	The video in this lesson shows poet, educator, and activist, Clint Smith, performing his poem Memoir, about the memoir one of his students, an undocumented immigrant, wrote for his class.
<u>What It's Like Growing Up Undocumented in America</u>	Over 700,000 immigrants, known as Dreamers, benefit from DACA, a program that allows certain undocumented immigrants who entered the U.S. as children temporary reprieve from deportation, legal authorization to work, and the ability to obtain a driver's license. This lesson introduces DACA, its impact, and what the program's end would mean for DACA recipients.
8th Grade	
<u>When Your Parent is the Target of Linguistic Discrimination</u>	In this lesson, adult children of immigrants share the ways they've witnessed or experienced linguistic discrimination directed at their families.
<u>I Am An Undocumented Student</u>	The young people in the video that accompanies this lesson share their experiences as undocumented students and what it's like to be under DACA status.
<u>The Journey From Undocumented to U.S. Citizen</u>	The process immigrants must go through to become a U.S. citizen (called naturalization) is long, expensive, and complex. In this lesson, students hear from Ana Gabriela Velasquez as she shares her story about why her family came to the U.S. when she was a child and why she wanted to become a U.S. citizen.
<u>We Are Still Here: Native Americans on Immigration</u>	In this lesson, a variety of Native Americans from different tribes express their thoughts on the national debate over immigration. They ask us all to consider the impact of the expansion of European settlement and U.S. territory over the last several hundred years, which includes the history of how Indigenous land became U.S. property.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES for ELEMENTARY

Using Picture Books to Foster Reflection, Dialogue, and Empathy (No lesson provided)

Mango Moon: When Deportation Divides a Family

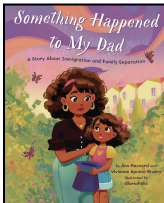
By Diane de Anda



When a father is taken away from his family and faces deportation, the family is left to grieve and wonder what comes next. Maricela, Manuel, and their mother face the many challenges of having their lives completely changed by the absence of their father and husband. Having to move, missing soccer games and birthday parties, and emptiness are just part of the now day-to-day norm. ***Mango Moon*** shows what life is like from a child's perspective when a parent is deported, and the heartbreaking realities the family has to face.

Something Happened to My Dad: A Story about Immigration and Family Separation

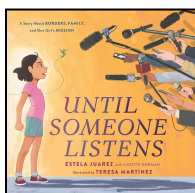
By Ann Hazzard



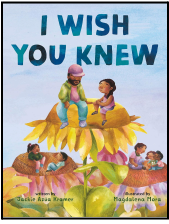
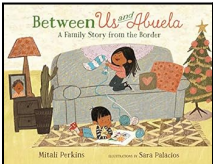
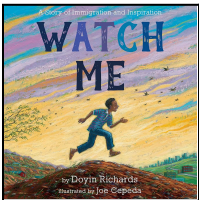
Carmen loves doing magic with her Papi. He can make sarapes fly. He can make rabbits vanish! But one day, her Papi vanishes. She is sad and scared when she learns he has been detained because he is an undocumented immigrant from Mexico. At first, Carmen's family keeps Papi's detention a secret, fearing that they might be judged negatively. As Carmen's community becomes aware of their situation, they rally around her family with love. Carmen learns she can find strength in herself and maintain her connection with Papi, no matter what happens.

Until Someone Listens: A Story About Borders, Family, and One Girl's Mission

By Estela Juarez & Lissette Norman



When Estela Juarez's mom is deported to Mexico, Estela knows she has to speak up for her family. Told in Estela's own words, ***Until Someone Listens*** is a true story about a young girl finding her voice and using it to make change.

<i>I Wish You Knew</i> By Jackie Azua Kramer 	A heartfelt story that explores the aftermath of deportation, <i>I Wish You Knew</i> celebrates the power of connection and empathy among children.
<i>Areli Is a Dreamer. A True Story of a DACA Recipient</i> By Areli Morales 	When Areli was just a baby, her mama and papa moved from Mexico to New York with her brother, Alex, to make a better life for the family--and when she was in kindergarten, they sent for her, too. Everything in New York was different. Gone were the Saturdays at Abuela's house, filled with cousins and sunshine. Instead, things were busy, fast, and noisy. Areli's limited English came out wrong, and schoolmates accused her of being illegal. But with time, America became her home. And she saw it as a land of opportunity, where millions of immigrants who came before her paved their own paths. She knew she would, too.
<i>Between Us and Abuela: A Family Story from the Border</i> By Mitali Perkins 	It's almost time for Christmas, and Maria is traveling with her mother and younger brother, Juan, to visit their grandmother on the border of California and Mexico. For the few minutes they can share together along the fence, Maria and her brother plan to exchange stories and Christmas gifts with the grandmother they haven't seen in years. But when Juan's gift is too big to fit through the slats in the fence, Maria has a brilliant idea. Here is a heartwarming tale of families and the miracle of love.
<i>Watch Me: A Story of Immigration and Inspiration</i> By Doyin Richards 	Joe came to America from Africa when he was young. He worked hard in school, made friends, and embraced his new home. Like so many immigrants before and after him, Joe succeeded when many thought he would fail.

**Counting Kindness:
Ten Ways to Welcome
Refugee Children**

By Hollis Kurman



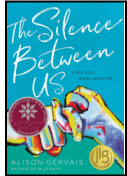
A compassionate counting book that captures the power of a welcoming community. Teach children about refugees and how each kindness can help them find a new home.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES for ADOLESCENTS

Using Literature to Foster Reflection, Dialogue, and Empathy From Learning for Justice (No lesson provided)

The Silence Between Us

by Alison Gervais



The beautiful cover art by Deaf artist Nancy Roark is just one reason ***The Silence Between Us*** stands out. This lovely YA novel follows Maya, a Deaf protagonist, as she navigates her last year of high school, a romantic relationship, and more. For the first time in her life, Maya is attending a school for hearing students, and she struggles with classmates and teachers who don't understand or respect Deaf experience or culture. Written by Alison Gervais, who is Hard of Hearing, the dialogue mixes conversation, sign language, and lip reading to tell Maya's story. Introduces a story too often underrepresented in YA literature.

Punching the Air

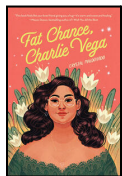
by Ibi Zoboi and Yusef Salaam



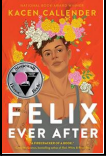
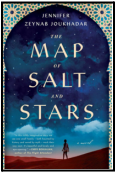
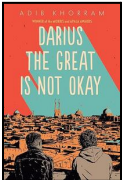
Punching the Air, by Ibi Zoboi and Yusef Salaam, is an intricately crafted novel in verse that paints a portrait of a young Black boy's humanity. At 16, Amal Shahid fights to find hope, freedom, and his truth through the arts in the most debilitating space—a juvenile detention center. Salaam, one of the Exonerated Five, writes with Zoboi to expose how systemic racism creates disdain for Blackness, repressing the genius and creativity of Black boys. This must-read, rhythmic masterpiece amplifies the often stifled gifts of Black boyhood while reminding us to extend grace and mercy to those who are failed by oppressive systems.

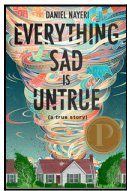
Fat Chance, Charlie Vega

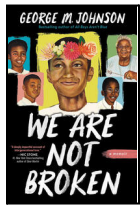
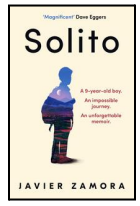
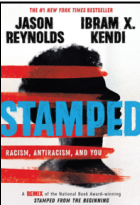
by Crystal Maldonado

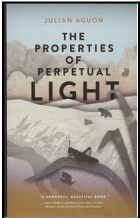
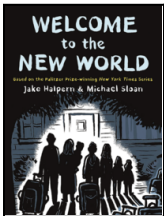


Crystal Maldonado weaves a wonderfully sweet, emotional, and funny story about love, friendship, and family in ***Fat Chance, Charlie Vega***. Charlie is a Brown girl who loves her fat body even when things around her—including her own comparisons to her charismatic best friend—suggest her physical self needs transformation. Charlie is beautiful, charming, and delightful with a measure of self-doubt, all attributes that inform her journey as she winds her way through the twists and turns of adolescence. Beautifully and authentically captures nuanced relationships and what it feels like to navigate self-acceptance.

<i>Felix Ever After</i> by Kacen Callender 	<i>Felix Ever After</i> is a captivating coming-of-age story from the perspective of Felix Love, a 17-year-old transgender boy who longs to fall in love. Through Kacen Callender's richly crafted setting and dialogue, you can practically taste what it's like to be 17 in New York City. In this triumph of a novel, the author offers a window into Felix's many intersecting identities—Black, queer, poor, and young—in a refreshingly unapologetic and deeply human way. <i>Felix Ever After</i> is raw, funny, heartbreaking, and almost impossible to put down.
<i>The Map of Salt and Stars</i> by Jennifer Zeynab Joukhadar 	When war erupts in Homs, Syria, 12-year-old Nour and her family must traverse seven countries in the Arab world in search of safety. For solace on their harrowing journey, Nour recounts the ancient tale of Rawiya, a 12th-century girl who disguises herself as a boy to apprentice with a renowned mapmaker and adventurer. Eight hundred years apart, the two girls chart an identical course on their quests. Written by Syrian-American author Jennifer Zeynab Joukhadar, <i>The Map of Salt and Stars</i> infuses a history of violence and oppression with magic and hope.
<i>Hurricane Child</i> by Kacen Callender 	Twelve-year-old Caroline Murphy's beloved mother left over a year ago and mysteriously never returned. While determined to find her somewhere on St. Thomas of the U.S. Virgin Islands, Caroline is beset by clinging spirits and relentless bullies, all the while trying to sort out her growing feelings for Kalinda, the new student from Barbados. Readers will find that Kacen Callender's <i>Hurricane Child</i> is bookended by dangerous storms, but that Caroline's greatest challenges and discoveries about her family and herself lie in between.
<i>Darius the Great Is Not Okay</i> by Adib Khorram 	<i>Darius the Great Is Not Okay</i>, Adib Khorram's beautiful coming-of-age novel, follows Darius Kellner, a second-generation American and multiracial Persian boy whose life changes when he visits Iran for the first time. The story centers on family, friends, and the rhythm of life for Darius in the U.S. and Iran. Along with excellent explorations of culture and place and new friendships, this book brings into focus mental health, in particular clinical depression. Darius's story will resonate with anyone who has struggled to fit in. The sequel, <i>Darius the Great Deserves Better</i>, elaborates on Darius' acceptance of his LGBTQ+ identity.

Obie Is Man Enough by Schuyler Bailar 	Obie Is Man Enough—a debut novel by acclaimed advocate Schuyler Bailar, the first trans man to compete on an NCAA Division I men’s team—follows Obie Chang as he navigates middle school, swimming competitions, and relationships post-transition. This endearingly honest account of Obie’s life—and how his inherited cultures intertwine to inform his resilience—offers a timely own-voices text exploring what it means to be a trans athlete, to be a kid, and to be a friend. A humanizing portrait that cuts through the callousness of national debates with a strong heart, like a swimmer through water.
Piecing Me Together by Renée Watson 	In Renée Watson’s Piecing Me Together, Jade would like people to see her as someone who doesn’t need “an opportunity,” but instead as someone who can give and doesn’t always need to receive. But it seems like so many adults in her life think otherwise. As Jade navigates the intricacies of living in a low-income household, being one of the very few black kids at a private school, and becoming friends with Sam (a white student who doesn’t always understand her), she owns her voice as an artist and develops a fuller sense of herself.
Unbroken: 13 Stories Starring Disabled Teens edited by Marieke Nijkamp 	One story is the perfect fit for a romantic comedy. Another one will have you on the edge of your seat, wondering if the main character will escape the grip of a terrifying ghost. All of the stories in Unbroken: 13 Stories Starring Disabled Teens, edited by Marieke Nijkamp, feature teens with disabilities as authentic central characters. Fully embodying their disabilities and personhood, they are the heroes and love interests, and, like all teens, they’re learning how to harness their power. Readers are long overdue for a text that moves disabled voices from the margins and into the center. Note: Strong language and content advisory.
Everything Sad Is Untrue (A True Story) by Daniel Nayeri 	In Daniel Nayeri’s Everything Sad Is Untrue (A True Story), narrator Khosrou presents himself as a middle-school avatar of Scheherazade—a figure of Persian legend who told stories to spare her life. For Khosrou, a refugee born in Iran and now living in Oklahoma, sparing his life means holding onto his culture and memories. Khosrou interweaves legends, family histories, and often painful, present realities. These stories illustrate the importance of reclaiming hidden histories and the hurt experienced by young people whose truth is discarded—or worse, erased.

<i>This Book Is Anti-Racist</i> by Tiffany Jewell and illustrated by Aurélia Durand 	<i>This Book Is Anti-Racist</i>, by Tiffany Jewell and illustrated by Aurélia Durand, is a much-needed guide for young people to understand and challenge the oppressive systems and interpersonal behavior that underpin our society. Filled with personal anecdotes and invaluable wisdom, this book provides space for young people to question dominant narratives about identity, race, and racism and reflect on the intersections of their own identities. Throughout, Jewell embraces complexities inherent in discussions about racism, and she gives readers the necessary tools to be part of the diverse coalitions that will dismantle it.
<i>We Are Not Broken</i> by George M. Johnson 	George M. Johnson, an award-winning Black nonbinary writer who identified as a boy in childhood, focuses on joy, adventure, misadventure, loyalty, betrayal, healing, and love in their memoir, <i>We Are Not Broken</i>. A tribute to their beloved grandmother who creates an expansive space for her four young grandsons to be free, Johnson also offers possibilities that would enable Black boys—and the Black women who love and protect them—to live lives that are even more free. Note: This book contains the N-word, homophobic language, and describes instances of sexual abuse.
<i>In Solito: A Memoir</i> by Javier Zamora 	<i>In Solito: A Memoir</i>, Javier Zamora describes his journey as a 9-year-old from El Salvador to “La USA” to reunite with his parents. The coyote promises the trip will take two weeks, but it stretches into two terrifying months. To survive, Zamora leans on his new family, who encircles him with care and love. Zamora’s memoir humanizes the perspective of immigrants, particularly child migrants, who undertake dangerous treks into the U.S.
<i>Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, & You</i> by Jason Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi 	In <i>Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You</i>, Jason Reynolds reimagines Ibram X. Kendi’s 2016 National Book of the Year, <i>Stamped From the Beginning</i>, a work that explores the origins of racist ideas in America. Very much like its predecessor, <i>Stamped</i> explores the insidious ways racist ideas may take form in the lives and experiences of young people and examines how young people can make anti-racism a reality in their spaces. A timely and necessary work that shows young people they are not too young to think deeply about how racist ideas influence the world around them—and gives them valuable resources to challenge those ideas.

<i>Sissy: A Coming-of-Gender Story</i> by Jacob Tobia 	Jacob Tobia's <i>Sissy: A Coming-of-Gender Story</i> follows the author through various stages in their education: elementary school, high school, and college. Across the grade levels, Tobia illustrates the trauma caused by the strict enforcement of gender norms as well as the ways in which resistance and community take shape. Their memoir is an important read for providing genderqueer representation, which is still severely lacking in too many classrooms and school libraries. A force of a book—equally educational as it is humorous, as personal as it is political.
<i>The Properties of Perpetual Light</i> by Julian Aguon 	Julian Aguon, an Indigenous lawyer and writer from Guam, beautifully blends poetry and memoir in <i>The Properties of Perpetual Light</i>. Writing in part about issues that he and other Indigenous peoples face, Aguon incorporates conversations around colonialism, climate change, and family trauma. He also peppers in nods to other writers he admires, like Arundhati Roy, Audre Lorde, and Naomi Klein, offering readers more words to live by. Aguon's words flow down the page with magic, beauty, and power.
<i>The (Other) F Word: A Celebration of the Fat and Fierce</i> Edited by Angie Manfredi 	<i>The (Other) F Word: A Celebration of the Fat and Fierce</i> combines personal essays, prose, poetry, fashion tips, and more into a visual celebration of fat bodies. Edited by Angie Manfredi, this groundbreaking collection of diverse voices combines the talents of renowned fat YA and middle-grade authors with those of fat influencers and creatives. It offers fat teen readers a guidebook to becoming their best, most confident selves while providing readers of all sizes a road map for reconceiving our notions of body and acceptance.
<i>Welcome to the New World</i> by Jake Halpern and Michael Sloan 	Based on the serialized, Pulitzer Prize-winning comic strip by the same name, <i>Welcome to the New World</i> tells the true story of two branches of the Syrian Aldabaan family, who arrived in the United States on Election Day 2016. This graphic novel explores universal themes: desiring safety and belonging, having hopes and dreams, and wanting what's best for one's family. Particularly through the experiences of high schoolers Najji and Amal, we also see the assumptions, stereotypes, and lack of compassion that result when we fail to see each other as fellow human beings.

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