



Welcome Summer!

PS39's Diversity & Inclusion Equity Team is a group of teachers, parents, and administrators who foster and ensure a welcoming environment for all members of our community. All members of the PS 39 community are invited and encouraged to be involved in our meetings and activities.

We believe that if parents, caregivers, teachers, students, and administration all work together, we can achieve our goal of making PS39 a more inclusive community for all. This year we found so many ways to engage in our community. These initiatives will continue through the Summer.

Working together, we can develop a better understanding of the opportunities and challenges we face in undoing racism, fostering inclusion, and raising the next generation of socially responsible citizens. Thank you for believing in the importance of this journey with us. Thank you for volunteering not just your time, but your ideas. And finally, thank you for choosing to invest in making PS39 a more inclusive community for all. Please enjoy this curated list that we've created to keep you engaged and enjoy the Summer!

And, as always, if you would like to get involved in the Diversity & Inclusion Equity Team or have any ideas or suggestions, please email us at

Diversity@ps39.org

With best wishes for a wonderful Summer,
PS39's Diversity & Inclusion Equity Team

PS 39 CORE VALUES

Belonging



- We find ways to see and connect with each other
- We include each other
- We recognize that everyone is important to our school
- We trust that everyone acts with best intentions
- We show empathy by trying to understand another's perspective

Resilience



- We are humble and recognize that we all have something new to learn
- We are grateful
- We are mindful of our feelings, our words and our actions
- We are optimists and look for the positive
- We remember to find the humor
- We show grace by being courteous and considerate

Curiosity



- We keep an open mind
- We use flexible thinking to solve problems
- We learn new things every day
- We seek inspiration and creativity

Care



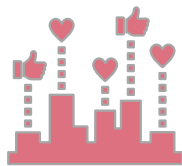
- We choose to treat each other with kindness
- We assume positive intent and take responsibility for impact
- We challenge each other to be our best selves.

In addition to our goals of thoughtfully addressing concerns and incidents around race, class, gender, sexuality and differences in learning, we want to see our school community proactively adopt and promote a culture of respect, social justice, equity, inclusivity and openness at PS39 through policy, practice and engagement in community outreach. Our Core Values reflect these ideas.

IN THIS KIT...



-
- ▶ Free events within NYC
 - ▶ Opportunities to get involved in community outreach
 - ▶ Booklists to encourage discussions on race, gender, ability, and social justice
 - ▶ 2021-2022 Book of the Month selections for students
 - ▶ Adult Dialogue & Drinks selections
 - ▶ Museum exhibits that focus on the cultural diversity and history of NYC and beyond
 - ▶ Gun violence resources
 - ▶ Weekly Challenges to encourage learning and community engagement
 - ▶ A Guide to Digital Citizenship
 - ▶ Mindfulness and Wellness Resources
 - ▶ Resources on how to volunteer and get involved in community action
 - ▶ Community action resources, events, book lists, and organizations you can support
 - ▶ Social Emotional Learning Resources
 - ▶ Last Looks from our Fifth Graders
 - ▶ Useful infographics
 - ▶ Ways to support Ukraine



BOM List & Reading Resources
pp. 7-16

Celebrating Culture & Summer Fun
pp. 17-19

Community Action and Resources
pp. 21-25

New Summer Challenges
pp. 26-28

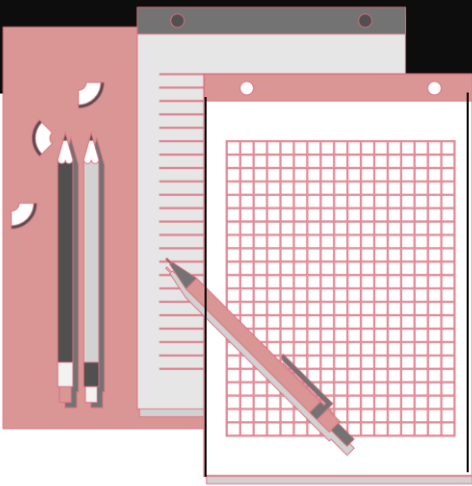
Wellness & Digital Citizenship
pp. 29-33

Last Looks from 5th Graders
pp. 34-38



INITIATIVES

- **Book of the Month:** An at home Book of the Month series with discussion guides centered around monthly themes focusing on Diversity and Equity. Often these stories find their way into classroom libraries and are incorporated into lessons.
- **D&I Padlet:** D&I has created a one stop padlet where you can find all Book of the Month and Dialogue and Drinks picks, as well as resources on various D&I issues along with all our usual newsletter features. This page will be added to regularly and will contain all past newsletter information!
- **September Welcome Dinner Picnic:** The Welcome Dinner is the first school event of the year, a potluck feast to welcome in the new year and welcome new families to PS39. We encourage families to bring a dish that is special to their culture or their family. There is nothing to purchase at this event and no one is required to bring a dish in order to attend.
- **Parent Workshops:** Sex Educator Rachel Lotus presented **The Talk**, a workshop on gender, sex and sexuality for parents, which led to Rachel administering professional development sessions for teachers and workshops for 5th graders.
- **Dialogue & Drinks:** A monthly book club/discussion group for adults that engages parents, families, and caregivers and offers a space to discuss topics of interest aligned with the themes of the Book of the Month series for students.
- **Community Events:** school and community engagement events centered around community engagement with principles of social justice.



Windows and Mirrors Project: Organizing of classroom libraries to ensure that the books to which students have access reflect the community both within the school and outside. Teachers and students work together to sort through books, identifying books that reflect themselves (mirrors) or provide a view into someone different from them (windows).

Teacher Appreciation: In collaboration with the PA, we held multiple Teacher Appreciation events this year and created padlets honoring our PS39 Teachers and staff.

Juneteenth Events: Lots of amazing teacher led content surrounding Juneteenth.

Summer Engagement Kit: A curated list of free community events, books for adults and students, cultural experiences, activities and conversation to keep families engaged around issues of race, class, gender, sexuality, and different abilities throughout the summer months as well.

Parent Educational Equity Group Meet-Ups

The PS 39 Diversity & Inclusion Equity Team invites you to monthly meet-ups with our community members committed to equity in NYC public schools. Join this group for guest speakers and parent-led discussions on current events, podcasts, and articles related to equity issues. Each meeting will end with action items for the group and ways to get involved with equity initiatives throughout the city. The goal is to build community, raise awareness among PS39 parents/caregivers, and to contribute to equity campaigns.

We invite people to not only participate, but to lead discussions on issues that are important to them. Some starting topics will be:

- PTA funding, school desegregation
- LGBTQIA student inclusion
- Rights for differently-abled individuals

We are looking for an additional parent/caregiver lead for these discussions. Please email Diversity@ps39.org if you are interested in joining or facilitating one of our meetings, joining as a parent/caregiver lead, or have topics you would like to see discussed.

Please contact us at Diversity@ps39.org if you are interested in participating in any of these initiatives.



SUMMER READING

BOOK OF THE MONTH PICKS

School's out! Let's Read!

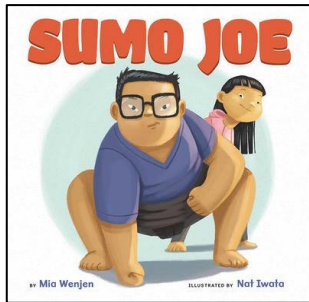
We all know how critical it is for kids to see themselves reflected in books, and to read about a diversity of characters, stories and issues– in both fiction and non-fiction stories.

More and more books that directly or indirectly address issues of diversity and inclusion, from race, to culture, to gender to ability are published each year. If you haven't had a chance to read some of the titles featured in the Book of the Month selections, this is a great place to start.

2021-2022 Book of the Month List

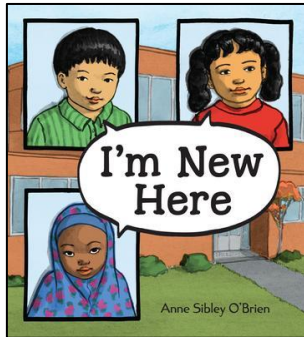
[Complete List of Book of the Month Picks
2017-2022](#)

Additional reading suggestions for both children and adults can also be found [here](#).



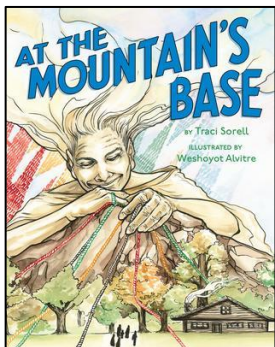
Sumo Joe by Mia Wenjen, Nat Iwata

On Saturday mornings, Sumo Joe is a gentle big brother to his little sister. But on Saturday afternoons, he and his friends are sumo wrestlers! They tie on makeshift mawashi belts, practice drills like teppo, and compete in their homemade dohyo ring. They even observe sumo's ultimate rule: no girls allowed! But when Sumo Joe's little sister wants to join in the fun, Sumo Joe is torn between the two things he's best at sumo, and being a big brother.



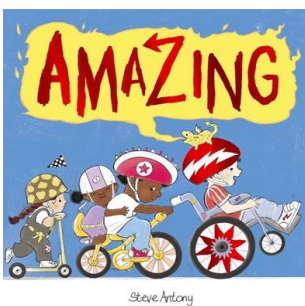
I'm New Here by Anne Sibley O'Brien

Three students are immigrants from Guatemala, Korea, and Somalia and have trouble speaking, writing, and sharing ideas in English in their new American elementary school. Through self-determination and with encouragement from their peers and teachers, the students learn to feel confident and comfortable in their new school without losing a sense of their home country, language, and identity.



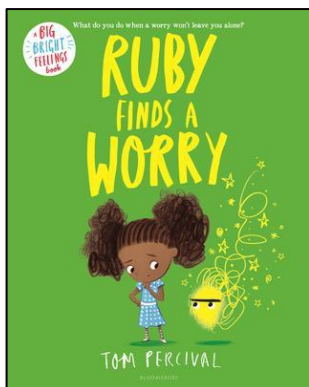
At the Mountain's Base by Traci Sorell and Weshoyot Alvitre

At the mountain's base sits a cabin under an old hickory tree. And in that cabin lives a family -- loving, weaving, cooking, and singing. The strength in their song sustains them through trials on the ground and in the sky, as they wait for their loved one, a pilot, to return from war. This is a story that reveals the roots that ground us, the dreams that help us soar, and the people and traditions that hold us up.



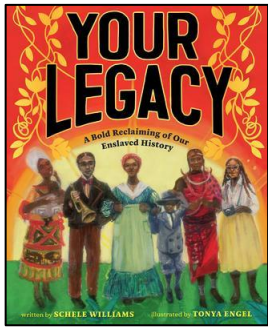
Amazing by Steve Antony

A little boy and his pet dragon are the very best of friends. They laugh, they sing, they dance, they snooze. They are both amazing - just like everyone else! A celebration of friendship and being yourself with a positive message about celebrating diversity. The perfect platform to start conversations about the importance of understanding and acceptance.



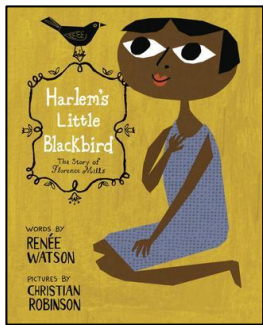
Ruby Finds a Worry by Tom Percival

Meet Ruby -- a happy, curious, imaginative young girl. But one day, she finds something unexpected: a Worry. It's not such a big Worry, at first. But every day, it grows a little bigger . . . and a little bigger Until eventually, the Worry is ENORMOUS and is all she can think about. But when Ruby befriends a young boy, she discovers that everyone has worries, and not only that, there is a great way to get rid of them too . . . she just has to share her feelings.



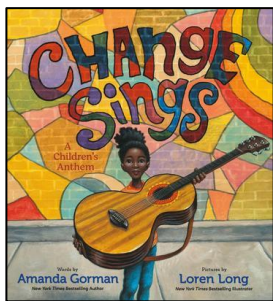
Your Legacy: A Bold Reclaiming of Our Enslaved History by Schele Williams and Tonya Engel

Former PS39 parent and D&I lead, Schele Williams' book is a proud, empowering introduction to African American history that celebrates and honors enslaved ancestors. Your Legacy presents an unprecedentedly accessible, empowering, and proud introduction to African American history for children. This book celebrates your ancestors' accomplishments, acknowledges their sacrifices, and defines how they are remembered—and how their stories should be taught.



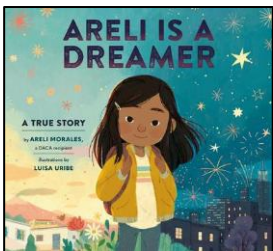
Harlem's Little Blackbird: The Story of Florence Mills by Qee Watson, Christian Robinson

Born to parents who were both former slaves, Florence Mills knew at an early age that she loved to sing, and that her sweet, bird-like voice, resonated with those who heard her. Performing catapulted her all the way to the stages of 1920s Broadway where she inspired everyone from songwriters to playwrights. Yet with all her success, she knew firsthand how prejudice shaped her world and the world of those around her. As a result, Florence chose to support and promote works by her fellow black performers while heralding a call for their civil rights.



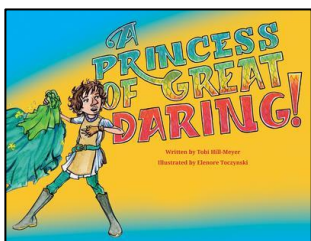
Change Sings: A Children's Anthem by Amanda Gorman, Loren Long

In this stirring, much-anticipated picture book by presidential inaugural poet and activist Amanda Gorman, anything is possible when our voices join together. As a young girl leads a cast of characters on a musical journey, they learn that they have the power to make changes—big or small—in the world, in their communities, and most importantly, in themselves.



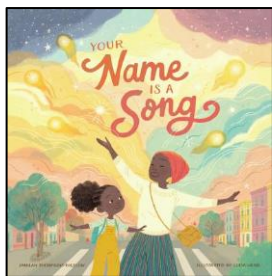
Areli Is a Dreamer - A True Story by Areli Morales, a DACA Recipient By Areli Morales, Luisa Uribe

The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) is an immigration policy that has provided relief to thousands of undocumented children, referred to as "Dreamers," who came to the United States as children and call this country home. 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.



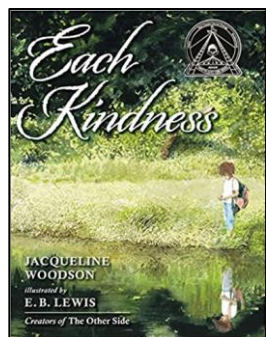
A Princess of Great Daring! By Tobi Hill-Meyer, Eleanor Toczynski

When Jamie is ready to tell people that she's really a girl inside, she becomes a princess of great daring in a game she plays with her best friends to gather her courage. She's pleased (but not surprised) that her friends turn out to be just as loyal and true as any princess could want. This is the story of how a young trans girl and her three best friends use their fabulous play to solidify a loving strategy for helping Jamie come out at school.



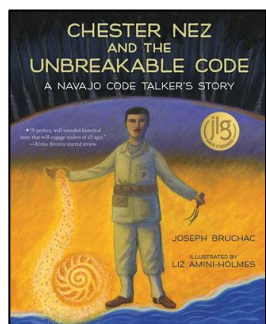
Your Name is a Song by Jamila Thompkins-Bigelow and Luisa Uribe

Frustrated by a day full of teachers and classmates mispronouncing her beautiful name, a little girl tells her mother she never wants to come back to school. In response, the girl's mother teaches her about the musicality of African, Asian, Black-American, Latinx, and Middle Eastern names on their lyrical walk home through the city. Empowered by this newfound understanding, the young girl is ready to return the next day to share her knowledge with her class. *Your Name is a Song* is a celebration to remind all of us about the beauty, history, and magic behind names.



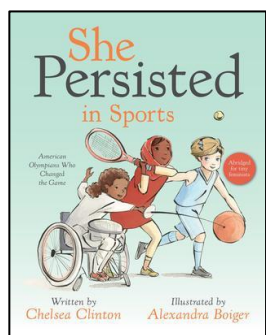
Each Kindness by Jacqueline Woodson, E.B Lewis

Chloe and her friends won't play with the new girl, Maya. Every time Maya tries to join Chloe and her friends, they reject her. Eventually Maya stops coming to school. When Chloe's teacher gives a lesson about how even small acts of kindness can change the world, Chloe is stung by the lost opportunity for friendship, and thinks about how much better it could have been if she'd shown a little kindness toward Maya.



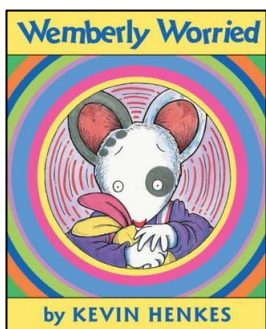
Chester Nez and the Unbreakable Code: A Navajo Code Talker's Story by Joseph Bruchac, Liz Amini-Holmes

As a young Navajo boy, Chester Nez had to leave the reservation and attend boarding school, where he was taught that his native language and culture were useless. But Chester refused to give up his heritage. Years later, during World War II, Chester—and other Navajo men like him—was recruited by the US Marines to use the Navajo language to create an unbreakable military code. Suddenly the language he had been told to forget was needed to fight a war.



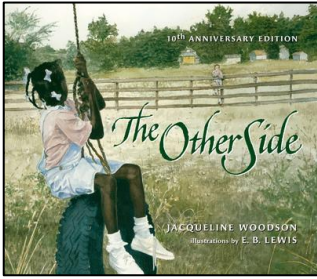
She Persisted in Sports by Chelsea Clinton and Alexandra Boiger

Throughout history, women have been told that they couldn't achieve their dreams, no matter how hard they tried. Women athletes have faced their own unique set of challenges, across countless sports and levels of play. In this third *She Persisted* book, Chelsea Clinton introduces readers to women who have excelled in their sports because of their persistence. *She Persisted in Sports* is a book for everyone who has ever aimed for a goal and been told it wasn't theirs to hit, for everyone who has ever raced for a finish line that seemed all too far away, and for everyone who has ever felt small or unimportant while out on the field.



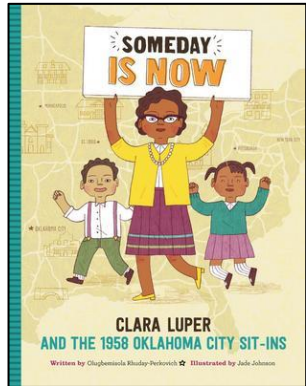
Wemberly Worried by Kevin Henkes

Wemberly worried about everything. Big things. Little things. And things in between. Then it was time for school to start. And Wemberly worried even more. If you ever worry (or know someone who does), this is the book for you. Wemberly worried about one thing most of all: her first day of school. But when it's time to go back to school and she meets a fellow worrywart in her class, Wemberly realizes that school is too much fun to waste time worrying!



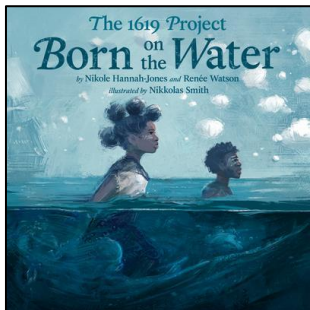
The Other Side by Jacqueline Woodson

Clover's mom says it isn't safe to cross the fence that segregates their African-American side of town from the white side where Anna lives. But the two girls strike up a friendship and get around the grown-ups' rules by sitting on top of the fence together. As always, Woodson moves readers with her lyrical narrative, and E. B. Lewis's amazing talent shines in his gorgeous watercolor illustrations.



Someday Is Now: Clara Luper and the 1958 Oklahoma City Sit-ins by Olugbemisola Rhuday-Perkovich, Jade Johnson

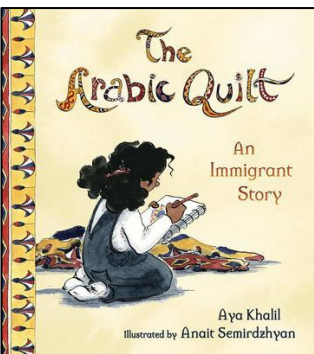
More than a year before the Greensboro sit-ins, a teacher named Clara Luper led a group of young people to protest the segregated Katz Drug Store by sitting at its lunch counter. With simple, elegant art, Someday Is Now tells the inspirational story of this unsung hero of the Civil Rights Movement. Clara led the movement to desegregate Oklahoma stores and restaurants that were closed to African Americans. With courage and conviction, she led young people to "do what had to be done."



The 1619 Project Born on the Water

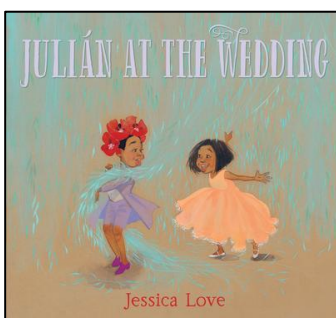
by Nikole Hannah-Jones, Qee Watson, Nikkolas Smith

A young student receives a family tree assignment in school, but she can only trace back three generations. Grandma gathers the whole family, and the student learns that 400 years ago, in 1619, their ancestors were stolen and brought to America by white slave traders. But before that, they had a home, a land, a language. She learns how the people said to be born on the water survived. With powerful verse and striking illustrations by Nikkolas Smith, Born on the Water provides a pathway for readers to reflect on the origins of American identity.



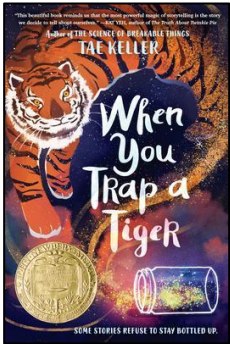
The Arabic Quilt: An Immigrant Story by Aya Khalil, Anait Semirdzhyan

Kanzi's family has moved from Egypt to America, and on her first day in a new school, what she wants more than anything is to fit in. Mama wears a hijab and calls her daughter Habibti (dear one). The teasing starts. Kanzi wraps herself in the beautiful Arabic quilt her teita (grandma) in Cairo gave her and writes a poem in Arabic about the quilt. In the end, Kanzi's most treasured reminder of her old home provides a pathway for acceptance in her new one.



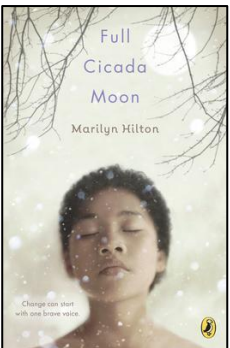
Julián at the Wedding by Jessica Love

Jessica Love returns with a joyful story of friendship and individuality in this radiant follow-up to Julián Is a Mermaid. Julián and his abuela are going to a wedding. Better yet, Julián is in the wedding. Weddings have flowers and kissing and dancing and cake. And this wedding also has a new friend named Marisol. It's not long before Julián and Marisol set off for some magic and mischief of their own, and when things take an unexpected turn, the pair learns that everything is easier with a good friend by your side. Jessica Love returns with a joyful story of friendship and individuality in this radiant follow-up to Julián Is a Mermaid.



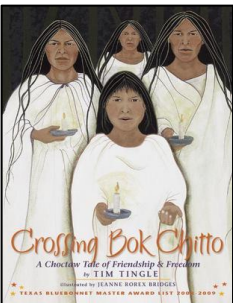
When You Trap a Tiger by Tae Keller

When Lily and her family move in with her sick grandmother, a magical tiger straight out of her halmoni's Korean folktales arrives, prompting Lily to unravel a secret family history. Long, long ago, Halmoni stole something from the tigers. Now they want it back. And when one of the tigers approaches Lily with a deal--return what her grandmother stole in exchange for Halmoni's health--Lily is tempted to agree. But deals with tigers are never what they seem! With the help of her sister and her new friend Ricky, Lily must find her voice...and the courage to face a tiger.



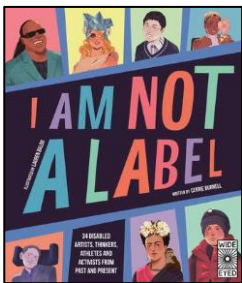
Full Cicada Moon by Marilyn Hilton

It's 1969, and the Apollo 11 mission is getting ready to go to the moon. But for half-black, half-Japanese Mimi, moving to a predominantly white Vermont town is enough to make her feel alien. Suddenly, Mimi's appearance is all anyone notices. She struggles to fit in with her classmates, even as she fights for her right to stand out by entering science competitions and joining Shop Class instead of Home Ec. Mimi's dreams of becoming an astronaut never fade--no matter how many times she's told no.



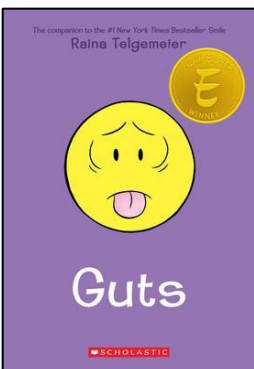
Crossing Bok Chitto: A Chocktaw Tale of Friendship & Freedom by Tim Tingle, Jeanne Rorex Bridges

When it was first published, Crossing Bok Chitto took readers by surprise. This moving and original story about the intersection of Native and African Americans received starred reviews and many awards, including being named an ALA Notable Children's Book and a Jane Addams Honor Book. Jeanne Rorex Bridges' illustrations mesmerized readers--Publishers Weekly noted that her "strong, solid figures gaze squarely out of the frame, beseeching readers to listen, empathize and wonder.



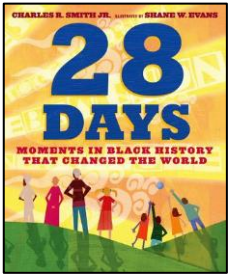
I Am Not a Label: 34 disabled artists, thinkers, athletes and activists from past and present by Carrie Burnell, Lauren Mark Baldo

These short biographies tell the stories of people who have faced unique challenges that have not stopped them from becoming trailblazers, innovators, advocates, and makers. Each person is a leading figure in their field, be it sports, science, math, art, breakdancing, or the world of pop. Challenge your preconceptions of disability and mental health with the eye-opening stories of these remarkable people.



Guts by Raina Telgemeier

Raina wakes up one night with a terrible upset stomach. Her mom has one, too, so it's probably just a bug. Raina eventually returns to school, where she's dealing with the usual highs and lows: friends, not-friends, and classmates who think the school year is just one long gross-out session. It soon becomes clear that Raina's tummy trouble isn't going away... and it coincides with her worries about food, school, and changing friendships. What's going on?



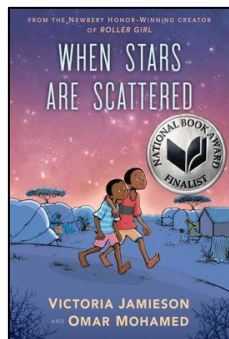
28 Days: Moments in Black History that Changed the World by Charles R. Smith Jr., Shane W. Evans

Each day features a different influential figure in African-American history, from Crispus Attucks, the first man shot in the Boston Massacre, sparking the Revolutionary War, to Madame C. J. Walker, who after years of adversity became the wealthiest black woman in the country, as well as one of the wealthiest black Americans, to Barack Obama, the country's first African-American president.



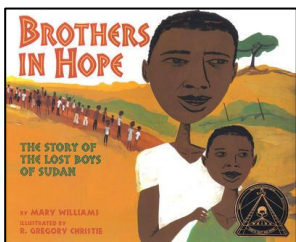
Reaching for the Moon: The Autobiography of NASA Mathematician Katherine Johnson by Katherine Johnson

As a young girl, Katherine Johnson showed an exceptional aptitude for math. But ability and opportunity did not always go hand in hand. As an African American and a girl growing up in an era of brutal racism and sexism, Katherine faced daily challenges. Still, she lived her life with her father's words in mind: "You are no better than anyone else, and nobody else is better than you." In the early 1950s, Katherine was thrilled to join the organization that would become NASA AND worked on many of NASA's biggest projects.



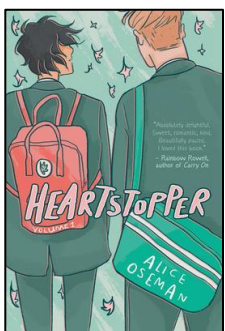
When Stars are Scattered by Victoria Jameson and Omar Mohamed

Omar and his younger brother, Hassan, have spent most of their lives in Dadaab, a refugee camp in Kenya. Life is hard there: never enough food, achingly dull, and without access to the medical care Omar knows his nonverbal brother needs. So when Omar has the opportunity to go to school, he knows it might be a chance to change their future . . . but it would also mean leaving his brother, the only family member he has left, every day.



Brothers in Hope by Mary Williams, R Gregory Christie

Eight-year-old Garang is tending cattle far from his family's home in southern Sudan when war comes to his village. Frightened but unharmed, he returns to find everything has been destroyed. Soon Garang meets other boys whose villages have been attacked. Before long they become a moving band of thousands, walking hundreds of miles seeking safety - first in Ethiopia and then in Kenya. The boys face numerous hardships and dangers along the way, but their faith and mutual support help keep the hope of finding a new home alive in their hearts.



Heartstopper Vol. 1 by Alice Oseman

Boy meets boy. Boys become friends. Boys fall in love. A sweet and charming coming-of-age story that explores friendship, love, and coming out. Shy and softhearted Charlie Spring sits next to rugby player Nick Nelson in class one morning. A warm and intimate friendship follows, and that soon develops into something more for Charlie, who doesn't think he has a chance.

But Nick is struggling with feelings of his own, and as the two grow closer and take on the ups and downs of high school, they come to understand the surprising and delightful ways in which love works.

SUMMER READING



Fold Here

Here is a bookmark to cut out with prompts for discussing our Books of the Month with your children.

HAPPY READING!



Diversity & Inclusion at PS 39

As you read each book, take some time to think about and answer the following:

Feel: Put yourself in the character's shoes. What would it be like to spend a day as someone else?

Wonder: What questions would you like to ask the characters about their life?

Connect: "This reminds me of...but it's different from...."

Imagine: "If I met this character, I would say..."



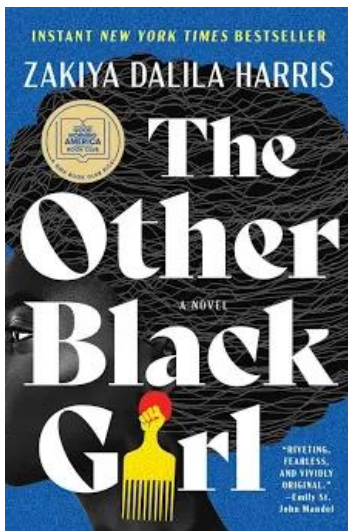
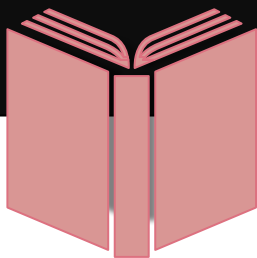
Through our work we will develop a better understanding of the opportunities and challenges we face as members of the PS 39 community in undoing racism, fostering inclusion and raising the next generation of socially responsible citizens. We are committed to engaging in this work with respect, curiosity, authenticity and vulnerability. We seek to build community and partnerships and maintain accountability to ourselves, our families and school in the process.



BOOK PICKS FOR ADULTS

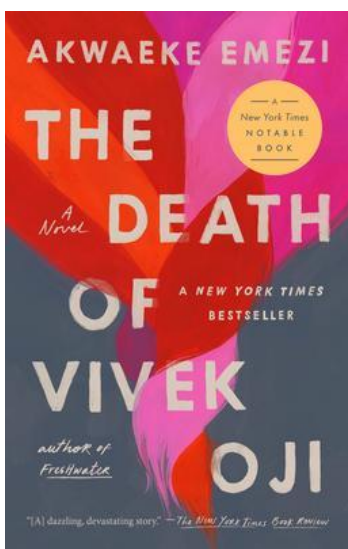
Complete list of Dialogue & Drinks Book Choices
2017-2022

2021 - 2022 List of Dialogue & Drinks List



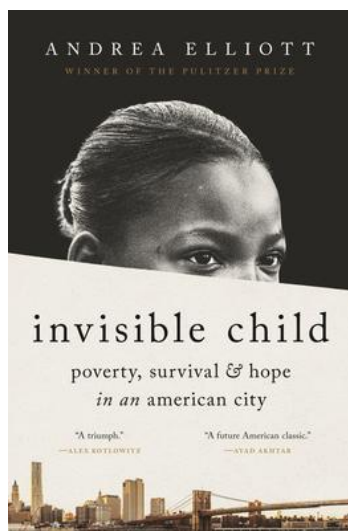
The Other Black Girl by Zakiya Dalila Harris

Twenty-six-year-old editorial assistant Nella Rogers is tired of being the only Black employee at Wagner Books. Fed up with the isolation and microaggressions, she's thrilled when Harlem-born and bred Hazel starts working in the cubicle beside hers. They've only just started comparing natural hair care regimens, though, when a string of uncomfortable events elevates Hazel to Office Darling, and Nella is left in the dust. Then the notes begin to appear on Nella's desk: LEAVE WAGNER. NOW.



The Death of Vivek Oji by Akwaeke Emezi

One afternoon, in a town in southeastern Nigeria, a mother opens her front door to discover her son's body, wrapped in colorful fabric, at her feet. What follows is the tumultuous, heart-wrenching story of one family's struggle to understand a child whose spirit is both gentle and mysterious. Raised by a distant father and an understanding but overprotective mother, Vivek suffers disorienting blackouts, moments of disconnection between self and surroundings. As adolescence gives way to adulthood, Vivek finds solace in friendships with the warm, boisterous daughters of the Nigerwives, foreign-born women married to Nigerian men. But Vivek's closest bond is with Osita, the worldly, high-spirited cousin whose teasing confidence masks a guarded private life. As their relationship deepens—and Osita struggles to understand Vivek's escalating crisis—the mystery gives way to a heart-stopping act of violence in a moment of exhilarating freedom.



Invisible Child: Poverty, Survival & Hope in an American City by Andrea Elliot

Invisible Child follows eight dramatic years in the life of Dasani, who was named after the bottled water that signaled Brooklyn's gentrification and the shared aspirations of a divided city. As Dasani comes of age, the homeless crisis in NYC has exploded amid the deepening chasm between rich and poor. Dasani must guide her siblings through a city riddled by hunger, violence, drug addiction, homelessness, and the monitoring of child protection services. Dasani becomes a fierce fighter to protect the ones she loves. When she finally escapes city life for boarding school, she faces an impossible question: What if leaving poverty means abandoning your family, and yourself?



READING RESOURCES



[LGBTQIA Book List for parents of all ages](#)

[Epic: Start a Conversation About Race](#)

[We Need Diverse Books](#)

[A Guide to Selecting Anti-Bias Children's Books](#)

[Stories For All: Human Rights Reading List](#)

[Lee and Low's Diverse Summer Reading List](#)

[Storyline: Celebrated Actors Reading Children's Books](#)

[Coretta Scott King Book Award Winners](#)

[Schomburg Center Black Liberation Reading List](#)

[Check out this comprehensive list of Anti-Racism Books](#)

[Anti-Racist Book List for All Ages](#)

[Libby: An online book resource](#)

[Lee and Low Checklist: 8 Steps to Creating a Diverse Book Collection](#)

[Here Wee Read's 2022 Book List](#)

[NYPL simplyE free resource for books online](#)

[Thems Health Book List Children's books on the exploration of gender, identity, and sexuality](#)

[NYC Black Owned Bookstores](#)

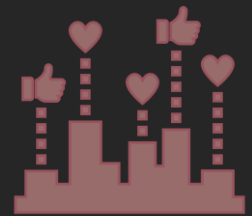
[Join the PS39 Book Swap! K/1st, 2nd/3rd, 4th/5th](#)

[Brooklyn Public Library Summer Reading Program](#)

[LGBTQIA Book Lists for Kids of All Ages](#)



CELEBRATE CULTURE



We are lucky to live in a city that celebrates cultural diversity and makes it easy for us to learn about the richness of the people and communities that make up our city—and have fun while doing so!

This summer, take some time to share the experience of exploring history and cultures different from your own.

Urban Archive

<https://www.urbanarchive.nyc/>

Chock full of digital resources to explore in partnership with 40 museums, cultural organizations, and government agencies. The archive offers a seemingly endless collection of curated historic images and their histories.

The Brooklyn Museum

<https://www.brooklynmuseum.org/>

Collections Include American art, Egyptian, classical, Ancient Near Eastern art, feminist, European and art of the Pacific Islands. Museum admission is free the first Saturday of every month.

BAM: Next Wave 2022

<https://www.bam.org/nextwave>

The New York Historical Society: Current Exhibitions include Black Citizenship in the Age of Jim Crow, An Immigrant Modernist and Title IX: Activism on and off the Field

<https://www.nyhistory.org/exhibitions>

Museum of the City of New York

<https://www.mcny.org/>

Governor's Island Arts & Culture Events

<https://www.govisland.com/about/arts-culture>

Free Performances at Lincoln Center

<https://www.timeout.com/newyork/news/lincoln-center-is-opening-nycs-largest-outdoor-dance-floor-this-summer-042022>

Noguchi Museum

<http://www.noguchi.org/>

Works by Japanese-American sculptor Isamu Noguchi.

Brooklyn Historical Society

<https://www.brooklynhistory.org/public-programs/>

Leslie Lohman Museum of Gay and Lesbian Art

<https://www.leslielohman.org/>

Mmuseumm:

<https://www.mmuseumm.com/>

Peruse unusual items such as ISIS currency, personal objects of immigration and much more.

The Tenement Museum

<https://www.tenement.org/experience-the-museum-from-home/>

Explore the "Your Story, Our Story" project. To expand on the PS 39 Pilot project, explore stories from across the country and see the similarities and differences you find between your story and others.

<https://yourstory.tenement.org/>

Bric Arts Media

Re: generation | Student Exhibition

<https://www.bricartsmedia.org/art-exhibitions/re-generation-33rd-annual-student-exhibition>

NYC Art and Event Calendar

<https://www.nycgo.com/things-to-do/events-in-nyc/art-calendar>

Uplifting, Connecting, Rising **July 13-27**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/uplifting-connecting-rising-el-barrios-artspace-ps109-tickets-358752447227?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>

Go Africa Street Festival in Harlem:

7/16/21: <http://goafricaharlem.org/>

The Studio Museum in Harlem

<https://studiomuseum.org/exhibitions-events>

Offerings that encourage public engagement and access to art and artists of African descent.

El Museo del Barrio

<http://www.elmuseo.org/>

Uptown Bounce 2022: series of free summer block parties.

Ellis Island Museum

<https://www.nps.gov/elis/index.htm>

Tours by boat; the immigration experience and history of immigrants.

Museum of Reclaimed Urban Space: MoRUS

<http://www.morusnyc.org/>

As a living history of urban activism celebrates the local activists who transformed abandoned spaces and vacant lots into vibrant community spaces and gardens.

Museum of Chinese in America

<http://www.mocanyc.org/>

The Museum of Chinese in America (MOCA) is dedicated to preserving and presenting the history, heritage, culture and diverse experiences of people of Chinese descent in the United States.

International African Arts Festival **July 1-4**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/51st-international-african-arts-festival-iaafestival2022-tickets-334502234187?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>

Socrates Sculpture Park

<https://socratessculpturepark.org/artist/guadalupe-maravilla/>

Guadalupe Maravilla's "Planeta Abuelx," rooted in ancestral and Indigenous practices of holistic healing.

Go on a [Nature Scavenger Hunt](#)

Play [Bird Bingo](#) in Prospect Park!

Day [Hikes/Local Adventures](#)

Kid-Friendly [Hiking](#)

Visit [Greenwood Cemetery](#)

Open from 7am - 7pm. And don't forget their [Scavenger Hunt!](#)

Be Creative with Paint:

Try [hydro dipping](#), [fluid art](#) or [tie-dying](#).

Write a letter to a grandparent, camp friend, school friend, or relative

Take a walk with a friend or lots of friends!

Write notes with chalk on the sidewalk with friends

Read a book in the park

Have a water balloon fight!

Go on a [Printable Scavenger Hunt](#)

Turn a friend into a pen pal: Write letters to each other!

Create [Kindness Rocks](#). Collect Rocks and paint messages of kindness on them and leave them for friends or in the PS39 Rock Garden!

Backyard [Science Experiments](#)

Make your own [Carnival!](#)

Make a [Time Capsule](#)

[Visit Drag Queen Story Hour!](#)

Create a [Kindness Chart](#)

And of course, connect with your community with Ms. Reyes' [AOK Missions!](#)

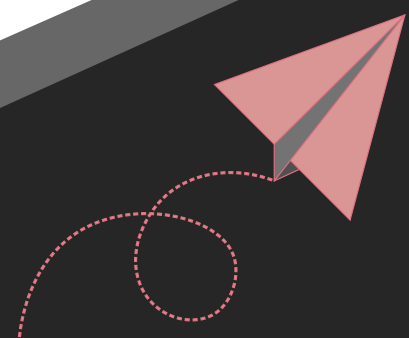
Have a book swap: Do this with just one friend or in a group

[K/1st](#), [2nd/3rd](#), [4th/5th](#)

[And, here are 18 more ways for kids to get outdoors!](#)



SUMMER PROGRAMMING



Free & Low Cost Summer Camps

<https://growingupnyc.cityofnewyork.us/summer/>

<https://mommypoppins.com/ny-kids/free-and-cheap-summer-camps>

Varsity Summer Camps

<https://www.varsitytutors.com/virtual-summer-camps?fbclid=IwAR327wZ8wveaAsgAoL4SOY0Z9tDNw5Z4NuxAdpX9U3DdsdStgzWdz8LmnQ>

Podcasts

Good Night Stories for Rebel Girls

<https://www.rebelgirls.com/podcast>

Ear Snacks. A musical podcast for kids about the world

<https://www.earsnacks.org/>

But Why: A Podcast For Curious Kids

<https://www.npr.org/podcasts/474377890/but-why-a-podcast-for-curious-kids>

Code Switch Episodes for Kids

<https://tinyurl.com/4j9frr8u>

Circle Round: Folktales from across the globe.
<https://www.wbur.org/podcasts/circleround>

Storytelling

Drag Queen Story Hour

<https://www.dragqueenstoryhour.org/#events>

Music

NY PopsUp

<https://www.nypopsup.com/>

Celebrate Brooklyn!

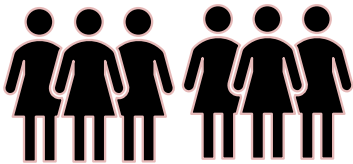
<https://www.bricartsmedia.org/bric-celebrate-brooklyn-festival>

Summerstage is Back!

<https://cityparksfoundation.org/summerstage/>



COMMUNITY ACTION



Here are a few recommendations for organizations who support community action!

Support any number of **Bail Funds**

Everytown.org: Gun Control: Stop Gun Violence

Moms Demand Action: Stop Gun Violence

Equal Justice Initiative

Shop Local, **Black Owned** Stores

Check Out **Black Owned Brooklyn**

NAACP

The Conscious Kid

Embrace Race

SURJ NYC

Black Women's Blueprint

Color of Change: Do something real about Injustice

Transgender Support

Gender Cool Project

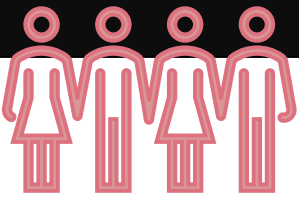
The Audre Lorde Project

Callen Lorde

Local Food Pantries in need of Volunteers and Donations:

- ❖ Camp Friendship
- ❖ SCO Food Pantry
- ❖ CHIPS
- ❖ Brooklyn Museum
- ❖ Roots Café





Brooklyn Book Bodega

The mission of Brooklyn Book Bodega is to increase the number of 100+ book homes for kids 0-18 in NYC

<https://www.brooklynbookbodega.org/>

Citizen Squirrel

Based in Bklyn, Citizen Squirrel inspires families with young kids to participate in community

<https://www.facebook.com/CitizenSquirrel/>

Center for Racial Justice Trainings

<http://centerracialjustice.org/register-for-a-training>

BPL Summer Reading Program

<https://www.bklynlibrary.org/summer-reading>

The 6 Step Process Toward Social Action Projects

<http://www.teachpeacenow.org/takingaction.html>

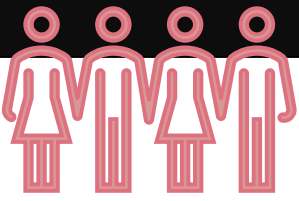
Planned Parenthood: Talking to Kids About Gender Identity

<https://www.plannedparenthood.org/learn/parents/identity>

Take Action! Kids in Action Guide!

<https://www.teamup4community.org/files/pdfs/resources/kids-in-action-guide.pdf>

Volunteer! <https://www.newyorkcares.org/ways-to-volunteer>



Ways to Support Ukraine

International Rescue Committee

<https://.help.rescue.org>

World Central Kitchen

<https://wck.org/>

NPR List of Organizations to Support

<https://.npr.org/2022/02/25/1082992947/ukraine-support-help>

Global Citizen List of Organizations to Support

<https://globalcitizen.org/en/content/ways-to-help-ukraine-conflict/>

Global Empowerment Mission

<https://www.globalempowermentmission.org/mission/ukraine-crisis/>

In addition, one of our PS39 5th Graders has created an [Amazon wish list](#), where all materials purchased will be sent directly to the Global Empowerment Mission and distributed to Ukrainians in need.

Mental and Emotional Health

NYC Well

NYC Well is your connection to free, confidential mental health support. Speak to a counselor via phone, text, or chat and get access to mental health and substance use services, in more than 200 languages, 24/7/365.

Mental Health Hotline: Starting in mid-July, Dial 988
(Like 911 for mental health emergencies)

Resources

The Problem With Kindness: [SEL & the Death of George Floyd](#)

Non-Black Folks Can Self Educate and Practice Direct Action: [A Working List](#)

13 Ways to Show up as [Anti-Racist](#)

Check out [Jane Elliot](#)

Check out the Fantastic [Minor Collective](#)

Black Lives Matter: [Now What?](#)

[106 things](#) White People Can do for Racial Justice

National Museum of African American History and Culture: [Talking about Race](#)

[Read](#) or [listen to The 1619 Project](#)

[New Victory Theater](#) with free performance art-based resources

The New York Times' [Interactive Stories and Projects on Race](#)

When Kids March: [A View From a Local Teacher](#)

PSP: [Understanding Race in Today's Times](#)

This [Paradigm Shift](#) Could Stop Racism: Robin D'Angelo

[A Conversation on Race](#): A series of Short Films About Identity in America

A Friend Shared Their Journey Regarding Racism and Whiteness: [And Lots and Lots of Resources](#)

Act To Change: [Solidarity Resources](#)

Events and Talks

The [Brown Bookshelf Rally](#) Recording Please Watch: Author [Kimberly Jones](#) "How Can You Win?" [Video](#)

[TED Talks](#): Ibram X. Kendi: The Difference Between Being Not Racist and Anti-Racist

Solidarity Convos: [Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders for Black Lives](#)

[PBS Special Event](#): Talking to Children Authentically About Race and Racism

CNN/Sesame Street [Town Hall on Racism](#)

Author [Jason Reynolds](#) Talks About Racism and Protests: Audio

[Race Forward's](#) Building Racial Equity Virtual Training Series

John Oliver on [Defunding the Police](#)

DoNYC's [Virtual Workshops](#) and [Events](#) on Racial Equity and Solidarity

Gun Violence and Safety

Spark and Stitch Institute: Provides age-by-age advice on how to process violence

Giffords: Giffords is fighting to end the gun lobby's stranglehold on our political system.

Allyship

Anti-Racism Daily: A Daily email to dismantle white supremacy. (It's really fantastic).

Let's also Talk to our Kids **About Microaggressions**

Understanding Systemic Racism

Resource Roundup for Talking to Kids about Racism

The Center for Racial Justice's **Resource Guide** and **Guide** to Talking to Kids About Race

100 Race-Conscious Things To **Say to your Child** to Advance Racial Justice

Unpacking White Privilege and Raising Anti-Racist Children Center for Racial Justice in Education

Transgender Rights

GLSEN: LGBTQ+ Youth advocacy network providing support to students

Gender and Family Project at Ackerman Institute for the Family: Clinic providing therapy, support groups and educational resources and trainings for LGBTQ+ youth and families

Planned Parenthood **Talking to Kids About Gender Identity**

Diversity in NYC Education Plans

Integrate NYC

A youth run organization that stands for integration and equity in NYC schools.

AAPI Support

Asian Americans Advancing Justice

Learning Differences How to Teach Children About Disabilities and Inclusion

We continue adding resources like these to our **D&I PADLET** regularly!



READING CHALLENGE



WHAT TO READ:

- Read an ebook
- Read a comic book
- Read a mystery
- Read a recipe
- Read a window book
- Read a mirror book
- Read a poem
- Read a "how-to" book
- Read a biography
- Read a joke book
- Read CC on TV
- Read a magazine
- Read song lyrics

HOW TO READ:

- Read with a flashlight
- Read to a parent
- Read to a sibling/pet/friend/
- Read outside
- Read to a grandparent
- Read to a neighbor
- Read to a baby
- Read at the library
- Whisper Read

Challenge yourself with some new ways to approach reading! Do any or ALL of these challenges over the Summer! Post your progress to the Summer Challenge Padlet.

#30Days of Kindness Challenge



- Day 1 leave uplifting notes with sidewalk chalk
- Day 2 play FreeRice.com & feed the hungry
- Day 3 leave a thank you for the trash collector
- Day 4 donate favorite books to the library
- Day 5 **print & use at dinner: bit.ly/PithyPlacemat**
- Day 6 give 3 honest compliments
- Day 7 count stuffed animals & donate that many quarters to an animal shelter
- Day 8 send a thank you note to a family friend
- Day 9 spend time with your (or a friend's) pet
- Day 10 write a poem and give it to your teacher
- Day 11 leave popcorn near a Redbox
- Day 12 write an inspirational letter & leave it in your community
- Day 13 bake & share with neighbors
- Day 14 **teach tolerance over breakfast: bit.ly/dgteggs**
- Day 15 play educational games at EcoKids.ca
- Day 16 **sign petitions together: bit.ly/BHFPetition**
- Day 17 offer to pick up groceries for a neighbor
- Day 18 leave a thank you for your mail carrier
- Day 19 read a big-hearted book & discuss
- Day 20 create art and send to ColorASmile.org
- Day 21 offer to house-sit for a neighbor on a trip
- Day 22 hang homemade birdfeeders
- Day 23 **write a kind story: bit.ly/BHFStoryStarter**
- Day 24 decorate a food shelf donation box
- Day 25 count the items in your fridge & donate that many quarters to your donation box
- Day 26 add food shelf donations to shopping list
- Day 27 pay for the person behind you in line
- Day 28 drop off donations at local food shelf
- Day 29 tape quarters to a vending machine
- Day 30 brainstorm kindness/service ideas you'd like to try next!

Visit us for more SIMPLE tools to grow BIG hearts!
DoingGoodTogether.org/BigHeartedFamilies

Supplies for the month

(click image)

- Printed copy of either version of [the #30Days of Kindness Challenge](#) Printed copy of the [Kindness Labels](#)
- Sidewalk chalk
- Outgrown books (for donations)
- Simple card-making supplies (construction paper, markers, crayons, etc.)
- Spare quarters
- Microwave popcorn
- Birdseed
- Spare box

Don't forget to post your progress to the [Summer Challenge Padlet!](#)

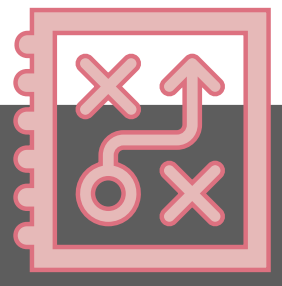
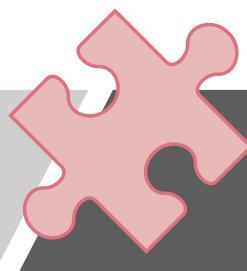
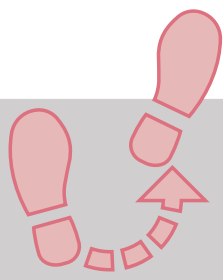
And Remember, Ms. Reyes' [AOK Missions](#) are a lifestyle, not a project

WEEKLY CHALLENGES

Check out the activities below for fun ways to keep your learning skills sharp, your curiosity peaking, and your body moving!

Don't forget to post your progress to the [Summer Challenge Padlet!](#)

- **Week 1 (July 5-11)** We challenge you to Read! Choose 1 of the items from the [Reading Challenges](#)
- **Week 2 (July 12-18)** We challenge you to Explore! Choose one [Celebrating Culture](#) experience.
- **Week 3 (July 19-25)** We challenge you to a Scavenger Hunt! Send your artifact photos from the "Great Outdoors" [Nature Scavenger Hunt on padlet.](#)
- **Week 4 (July 26- Aug 1)** We challenge you to Create! Pick an activity from [STEM Hands On Learning Activities](#) or make your own upcycled clothing design and share your creation on [padlet.](#)
- **Week 5 (Aug 2-8)** We challenge you to go Camping! Pitch a tent in a park or even make a fort out of pillows and blankets in your bedroom. Make s'mores and submit your favorite ghost story on [padlet.](#)
- **Week 6 Aug 9-15** We challenge you to Remember! Create a time capsule to capture the summer of 2022!
- **Week 7 (Aug 16-23):** Volunteer! Get out in the community and help where help is needed!
- **Week 8 (August 24-29):** We challenge you to Celebrate! The summer is almost over, so dance, flip, and sing! Post a picture on [padlet](#) of how you're celebrating the end of Summer.
- **Week 9(Aug 30 - Sept 5)** Do a craft activity that focuses on the different physical features of people. The [Many Shapes and Sizes Project](#) is a perfect guide!





MINDFULNESS AND WELLNESS



Five Senses Exercise:

A Mindfulness Practice in engaging our senses helps us focus on the present moment.

Notice how you and your child are feeling as you begin. Then, together with your child:

- Notice five things that you can see. Look around you. Notice and name five things that you can see.
- Notice four things that you can feel. Tune in to your sense of touch. Notice and describe the texture of four things you can touch.
- Notice three things you can hear. Listen carefully. Notice and name three sounds you hear in your environment.
- Notice two things you can smell. Notice and name two smells you recognize.
- Notice one thing you can taste. Focus and name one thing that you can taste right now. You can take a sip or bite of something, or simply notice the current taste in your mouth.

How are you and/or your child feeling now? Do you feel more connected to your surroundings and the present moment?

A Parent's Guide to Social and Emotional Learning

DID YOU KNOW? ADOLESCENTS ARE...

Undergoing developmental changes in the brain that shift how they interact with peers and adults

Experiencing a changing and more complex social world



Developing the ability to reevaluate their emotional responses to social situations



Taking on more adult roles and responsibilities



Improving their capacity to understand and engage in complex social interactions



Forming new types of relationships (romantic, professional, deeper friendships)



Increasingly sensitive to evaluation from others



Understanding themselves and how they fit within larger social contexts



Shifting behavior based on peer influence and adult presence



Navigating cultural influences and societal expectations



Adolescents are at greater risk for certain issues related to mental health, making it increasingly critical that adults support students during this vulnerable stage of development.

These developmental changes and shifting social environments impact academic learning. Educators can help students navigate these changes by supporting the development of social and emotional skills.

Students with social and emotional skills are¹ ...

Self-aware:
Recognize their emotions and talk about their values

Regulating emotions:
Manage stress, control impulses

Socially aware:
Understand the perspective of others and empathize

Managing relationships:
Establish and maintain healthy relationships

Making responsible decisions:
Consider social norms, ethics, and consequences when making decisions

CONNECTING WITH *kids*

A step by step guide to effective emotion coaching.

What to do for YOUR CHILD

1. Become aware of your child's feelings.

Only 7% of a person's communication comes from the words they speak. Pay extra attention to their non-verbals!

- Observe body language and behaviour.
- Note the tone of voice.
- Listen to their words.

3. Connect through empathy.

Soothing words and affection are great ways to show you care.



4. Encourage your child to talk about their feelings and listen without judgment.

- Allow them to speak.
- Use open ended questions to encourage sharing.
- Seek clarification.
- Paraphrase.

6. Help them name their emotions and show you understand.

Naming emotions helps kids identify each different feeling they experience. This helps them understand themselves better.

7. Help your child problem solve.

- Use open ended questions to provoke thought & discussion.
- Help them expand their thinking to take other people's feelings into account.
- Set limits on unacceptable behaviour.

Move to this step only when your child feels validated and has calmed down. Otherwise, problem solving will not be effective.

What to do for YOU

2. Become aware of your own feelings in response to your child's emotions.

Trigger alert! The way your child displays their emotions can impact how you feel. Pay attention to how you react to your child when they express their feelings.

Stay present in the Moment. Look past their behaviour to focus on the feelings behind. Extreme behaviour signals strong emotions.

Did you know: when you are angry, you can't be empathetic. The empathy part of the brain shuts down during anger, making it almost impossible to connect with your child.

5. Maintain awareness of, and focus on, your child's feelings.

If your emotions start to interfere with your ability to connect empathetically with your child, use strategies to calm down and re-centre yourself, such as:

- Re-read these steps.
- Get yourself a drink of water.
- Take some deep breaths.

If you find yourself repeatedly triggered by your child's emotions, it is useful to discover why. Understanding the real cause of your triggers will bring you greater self-awareness.

8. Resist the temptation to solve the problem for them.

If you try to solve the problem for them it sends a message you don't trust them to solve their problems. This can leave them feeling insecure in their own abilities.

The result: kids who regulate their emotions better, are more confident and have higher emotional intelligence. Your home will be more peaceful too!



DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP



What is Digital Citizenship?

Digital Citizenship is responsible technology usage, & teaching digital citizenship is essential to helping students achieve & understand digital literacy, as well as ensuring cyberbully prevention, online safety, digital responsibility, & digital health & wellness. Digital citizens are learners who use their technology-driven powers conscientiously and with empathy, to help make the world a better place.

TIPS FOR STUDENTS

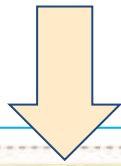
DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP AND INTERNET SAFETY

- 1 LAWS** Many sites and web tools are 13+. Most images and work online are protected by copyright. 
- 2 TALK** Tell your parents what you're doing online. Always ask a trusted adult if you're unsure of anything. 
- 3 FRIENDS** Don't add or meet online friends without parent permission. Don't trust everything friends tell you. 
- 4 PRIVACY** Keep personal info private: **Y**our full name, **A**ddress, **P**hone number, **P**asswords, **Y**our plans and birthday. 
- 5 REPUTATION** Don't post anything you wouldn't want teachers, family, friends, and future employers to see. 
- 6 QUESTION** You can't believe everything you read and see online. There's a lot of incorrect and biased info. 
- 7 BULLYING** Tell someone if you think cyberbullying is happening to you or other people you know. 
- 8 ACCOUNTS** Choose sensible email addresses and usernames. Use strong passwords and don't share them with others. 
- 9 MANNERS** Be polite and respectful at all times. Treat others online how you'd like to be treated. 
- 10 UNPLUG** Balance your screen time and green time. Get outdoors, move, play, and interact face to face. 

If in doubt, **think** about and **talk** it out



Print and sign the Digital Citizenship Pledge!



WE, THE DIGITAL CITIZENS, PLEDGE TO...

COMMUNICATE RESPONSIBLY AND KINDLY WITH ONE ANOTHER.

PROTECT OUR OWN AND OTHERS' PRIVATE INFORMATION ONLINE.

STAND UP TO CYBERBULLYING.

RESPECT EACH OTHER'S IDEAS AND OPINIONS.

GIVE PROPER CREDIT WHEN WE USE OTHERS' WORK.

SIGN HERE

SIGN HERE

common sense media

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And check out this [Brain Pop Video](#) for more on what it means to be a responsible Digital Citizen!



And finally, Our 4th graders asked our graduating fifth grade students to share some “last looks” with the PS39 community. Here is what they had to say!

5th Grader: Maela Glennie
4th Grade Interviewer: Stella Martin

Q: Looking back, what is the funniest thing that happened in your years at PS39?

A: *When I got stuck in the fence at Pre-K*

Q: As a 4th grader. What should I most look forward to about 5th grade?

A: *You get to do a lot of fun things at Graduation*

Q: What will you miss most about PS39?

A: *My friends*

5th Grader: August Kramer
4th Grade Interviewer: Kelter Kampf

Q: Looking back, what were some of the fun things that happen to you during the years at PS 39?

A: *It would be hanging out with my friends, making new friends, and having a good time.*

Q: As a 4th grader, what should I most look forward to about 5th grade?

A: *In 5th grade, you get to do a lot of fun projects that involved drawing in a group, and as a class.*

Q: What was your favorite project?

A: *My favorite project was our fantasy writing unit.*

Q- What will you most miss about PS 39?

A: *I will miss my friends because I made a lot of long friendships here.*

Q- Who was your favorite teacher?

A: *Ms. Reyes, but I liked all of my teachers.*



5th Grader: Jackson Margulies
4th Grade Interviewer: Ren Spielman

Q: Looking back, what is the funniest thing that happened in your years at PS39?

A: There have been a lot of moments at recess, some Foursquare rallies that have been long and entertaining. There's a lot that I probably can't remember, and a lot that I just can't name right now.

Q: As a 4th grader, what should I look forward to about the 5th grade?

A: The end of the year. Right now, we're getting ready for graduation, and doing all these celebrations, and the 4th graders come to our classroom. Also, the math gets more challenging and more fun...that's something I enjoyed this year.

Q: What will you miss most about PS39?

A: How tightly knit the community is. Because we have no hallways, you almost have to know everyone. So that's a fun and unique thing.

Q: What was your favorite part of Science?

A: Once we made ice cream, that was really fun. We made vanilla ice cream.

Q: What was your favorite subject besides clusters?

A: Good question. I would say Reading. I like books...and I like some of the reading work we do; we get to do reading projects where you can write a newspaper about it and those are always fun.

Q: Last, but not least, what was your favorite cluster?

A: Probably Gym or Science.

Q: And what special things did you get to do in Gym that you didn't do in the 4th grade?

A: Juke ball. It's a fun European sport. And we got to play Battleship.

5th Grader: Sol Sidran
4th Grade Interviewer: Eleanor Woodworth

Q: What was the funniest moment that happened at PS39?

A: In six years, it's a very difficult question. Well, in kindergarten, we had class pets, they were lizards, and I think one of them got loose. I think it was in the classroom, and everybody got really, really scared.

CONT...



5th Grader: Sol Sidran
4th Grade Interviewer: Eleanor Woodworth

CONT...

Q: So like, the class pet, escaped.? It sounds funny. *What was one thing that happened at PS.39 that made you feel most like you belonged?*

A: *Well, it's not one specific thing, but it's kind of the fact that you know everybody, even though you don't have to. Even if you don't know their name, you know who they are. Like, you can recognize everybody.*

Q: Yeah, I agree with that, because that happens to me all the time. Like, I see people and I'm like, I know you, but like, forget their name. What is one thing that you're going to miss about PS39?

A: *That's a really hard question. Probably the community, because it's like a really small, tight, tightly knit space. So, like I said before, you know everybody, and it's not like, like, middle school is so much bigger, and you're not going to know everybody there. But PS39 is really small. So, everybody is familiar with each other.*

Q: Okay, so what was your favorite subject that's like a special subject or like reading, writing, music, stuff like that?

A: *I really enjoy writing, but that is because I can express myself more than I can in any other subject.*

Q: Nice. I love to express myself in writing too. As a fourth grader, what should I look forward to in 5th grade?

A: *Well, a lot of people think it gets harder. And I mean, in a way it does, but you don't notice. So, it kind of feels the same. It feels more open.*

Q: Okay, so it's like, open and you feel that it feels like more open and more relaxed?

A: *Because it feels like you're finishing, and like, accomplished.*

Q: What was your favorite event at PS39? That makes it so special? Like, for example, Spooktacular, spring picnic, field day, winter concert?

A: *I was gonna say Spooktacular because those are things that not every school has. And, yeah, also, I just feel like there are things that our school does that a lot of other schools don't do. It just feels different than other places.*

CONT...



5th Grader: Sol Sidran
4th Grade Interviewer: Eleanor Woodworth

CONT...

Q: I would say Spooktacular, too. Where are you going to middle school? And was it fun or hard to pick it out?

A: *So, I'm going to MS88. Oh, yeah. I don't think it was hard to pick because you know that whatever you get, it's not going to be bad. They're all kind of the same, like you can't get anything wrong. So, it was relaxing, knowing that.*

Q: Would you like it if PS 39 was bigger or smaller?

A: *I don't think so. I feel like it's kind of perfect with the amount of people. You don't have to miss out on anything but there's not too much.*

Q: Nice. And one more question. What was your favorite grade that you ever had at PS39? What was your favorite time?

A: *The earlier grades, I feel like I would say, but I don't remember as much. So, it's hard to know if I would pick that. But seeing other kids who are younger than me makes me think that I would enjoy it more. I'm not entirely sure.*

Q: So is there anything I didn't ask about that you think I should have asked?

A: *Well, I feel like fifth grade kind of makes you feel more accomplished. But also it makes you feel like you're done. Like you're moving on and have an adulthood and it makes you feel more grown up.*

5th Grader: Joey Luria
4th Grade Interviewer: Cora Tarantino

Q: Looking back, what is the funniest thing that happened in your years at PS39?

A: *Every Friday in Ms. Drapala's class we would have a dance party with candy.*

Q: As a 4th grader, what should I most look forward to about 5th grade?

A: *Fun projects and assignments. Also, you can talk to your teachers and no bad teachers!*

Q: What will you miss most about PS39?

A: *The art teacher. I love art! Also, I will miss knowing everybody.*



5th Grader: Nils Stefman

4th Grade Interviewer: Kelter Kampf

Q: What was the funniest thing that happened to you at PS39?

A: *When my teacher played a prank on us.*

Q: As a 4th grader, what should I look up to?

A: *5th Grade is pretty fun. At the end of the year, we get to do a lot of fun things!*

Q: What will you miss most about PS39?

A: *My classmates and my teacher*

Q: Who was your favorite teacher?

A: *My 5th Grade teacher*

Q: What was your favorite field trip?

A: *Probably the Harry Potter And the Cursed Child on Broadway*

Q: Did you learn anything new in 5th Grade?

A: *Yah, Coordinate Planes and lots of fractions.*

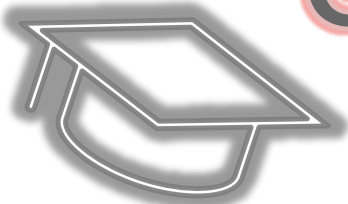
Q: Do you do anything different at like gym?

A: *Not really, we have the same units. Like Volleyball, Basketball, Soccer, etc.*

Q: Any comments about Middle School?

A: *Uh yah, at the beginning of the year everyone was like what middle school am I going to get into!? We found out recently some people were disappointed, and others were happy.*

**CONGRATULATIONS
TO ALL OF OUR
GRADUATING 5th
GRADERS!**





**ENJOY
SUMMER,
EVERYONE!**

