

Beginning with Books: Affirming Identities & Raising Voices - Year Three

A Yearlong, Schoolwide Initiative at Orchard School

2022-2023

<https://bit.ly/BeginningWithBooks3>

Students develop an understanding of identity at an early age. Learning about different racial, cultural, and gender identities helps students develop empathy and care for those who have identities different than their own. Previously known as the "Reading to Raise Anti-Racists" project, this schoolwide initiative uses picture books as a place to begin having meaningful, transformative conversations. These books will be read and discussed at school each month and we hope that you will be able to continue the conversations at home.

Possible Discussion Protocol:

1. What did the story make you think about or wonder?
2. How does this story connect to your own life?
3. What did you learn from this story/what will you take with you after reading this story?

This document from Teaching Tolerance (now [Learning for Justice](#)) is a good introduction to this work and includes the opportunity for some self-assessment:

[Let's Talk!: Discussing Race, Racism, and Other Difficult Topics with Students](#)

Also, [Classroom Resources](#) that would work for many of the books below are available through the Learning for Justice website.

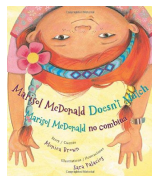
Age appropriate standards for anti-bias, multicultural, and social justice education:

[Teaching Tolerance Social Justice Standards K-2 and 3-5](#)

[START HERE START NOW: A Guide to Antibias and Antiracist Work in Your School](#)

[Community](#) by Liz Kleinrock - two copies available in Orchard's library

To further collective understanding, the DEI Team suggests that each grade level team (one class per grade each month) share something about the month's book during the final whole school meeting of the month. A prompt will be offered, but it's ok to go outside of that.



SEPTEMBER

[Marisol McDonald Doesn't Match](#) by Monica Brown

Marisol McDonald has flaming red hair and nut-brown skin. Polka dots and stripes are her favorite combination. She prefers peanut butter and jelly burritos in her lunch box. To Marisol, these seemingly mismatched things make perfect sense together.

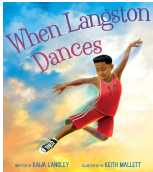
Other people wrinkle their nose in confusion at Marisol—can't she just choose one or the other? Try as she might, in a world where everyone tries to put this biracial, Peruvian-Scottish-American girl into a box, Marisol McDonald doesn't match. And that's just fine with her. ([Summary from publisher.](#))

Selected Resources:

- [Activity Kit](#) by Monica Brown
- [Classroom Guide](#) with Questions
- [Social Emotional Related](#) Questions/Activities
- [Video of Monica Brown reading her book](#)

Companion Books:

- [Your Name is a Song](#) by Jamilah Thompkins-Bigelow



OCTOBER

When Langston Dances by Kaija Langley

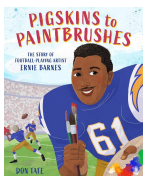
Langston likes basketball okay, but what he *loves* is to dance—ever since he saw the Alvin Ailey Dance Company perform. He longs to twirl into a pirouette, whirl into a piqué. He wants to arabesque, grand battement and grand jeté. When he walks, the whole street is his stage. With his neighborhood cheering him on, will Langston achieve his dream? ([Summary from publisher.](#))

Selected Resources:

- Video with author reading book - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=scMdExqR4-w>
- Summary w ideas - <https://www.mariacmarshall.com/single-post/when-langston-dances-perfect-picture-book-friday-ppbf>
- Video of person extending book through activities – better for younger students – scroll down to about the middle of the web page until you see “Langston Dances” <https://www.brighthorizons.com/growingreaders>
- A solo dancer from the Alvin Ailey Company <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jVf7fMAh12>

Companion Books for When Langston Dances:

- [Alvin Ailey](#) by Andrea Davis Pinkney
- [Dance](#) by Susan Kuklin
- [Ballet](#) by Wendy Hinote Lanier
- [Trailblazer: The Story of Ballerina Raven Wilkinson](#) by Leda Schubert
- [Tallchief: America's Prima Ballerina](#) by Maria Tallchief
- [John's Turn](#) by Mac Barnett
- [Emma and Julia Love Ballet](#) by Barbara McClintock
- [Powwow Day](#) by Traci Sorell



Pigskins to Paintbrushes by Don Tate

Young Ernie Barnes wasn't like other boys his age. Bullied for being shy, overweight, and uninterested in sports like boys were “supposed” to be, he instead took refuge in his sketchbook, in vibrant colors, bold brushstrokes, and flowing lines. But growing up in a poor, Black neighborhood during the 1930s, opportunities to learn about art were rare, and art museums were off-limits because of segregation laws. Discouraged and tired of being teased, Ernie joined the school football team. Although reluctant at first, he would soon become a star.

But art remained in Ernie's heart and followed him through high school, college, and into the NFL. Ernie saw art all around him. He poured his passion into his game and his craft, and became famous as both a professional athlete *and* as an artist whose paintings reflected his

love of the sport and celebrated Black bodies as graceful and beautiful.

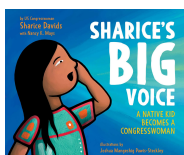
He played for the Baltimore Colts (1959–60), Titans of New York (1960), San Diego Chargers (1960–62), and the Denver Broncos (1963–64). In 1965, Barnes signed with the Saskatchewan Roughriders in Canada, but fractured his right foot, which ended his professional football career. Soon after, he met New York Jets owner Sonny Werblin, who was impressed by Barnes and his art. In 1966, Barnes had a debut solo exhibition in New York City and all the paintings were sold. Barnes became so well-known as an artist that one of his paintings was featured in the opening credits of the TV show *Good Times*, and he was commissioned to create official posters for the Los Angeles 1984 Summer Olympics. ([Summary from publisher](#), with edits.)

Selected Resources:

- Interview with Don Tate - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uqA71ae2_7Q
- Educator guide - https://dontate.com/wp-content/uploads/Tate_DonPIGSKINStoPAINTBRUSHSEducatorGuide.pdf
- Other books by Don Tate - <https://dontate.com/books/>
- Don Tate reads his book & answers some Qs - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pf3urczR0mU>

Companion Books for *Pigskins to Paintbrushes*:

- [Play with Paint](#) by Sara Lynn
- [Paint and Painting](#) by Scholastic Voyages of Discovery
- [Action Jackson](#) by Jan Greenberg
- [Linnea in Monet's Garden](#) by Christina Bjork
- [On the Wing: Bird Poems and Paintings](#) by Douglas Florian
- [UnBelievable: Honeybee Poems and Paintings](#) by Douglas Florian
- [Mammabilia: Poems and Paintings](#) by Douglas Florian
- [The Noisy Paintbox: The Colors and Sounds of Kandinsky's Abstract Art](#) by Barb Rosenstock
- [Diego Rivera: An Artist for the People](#) by Susan Goldman Rubin
- [The People's Painter: How Ben Shahn Fought for Justice with Art](#) by Cynthia Levinson
- [Camille and the Sunflowers: A Story About Vincent Van Gogh](#) by Laurence Anholt
- [Lily Brown's Paintings](#) by Angela Johnson
- [Auntie Luce's Talking Paintings](#) by Francie Latour
- [Mr. Wayne's Masterpiece](#) by Patricia Polacco
- [Hey, Wall: A Story of Art and Community](#) by Susan Verde
- [Art & Max](#) by David Wiesner
- [Yasmin the Painter](#) by Saadia Faruqi



NOVEMBER

[Sharice's Big Voice](#) by Sharice Davids

When Sharice Davids was young, she never thought she'd be in Congress. And she never thought she'd be one of the first Native American women in Congress. During her campaign, she heard from a lot of doubters. They said she couldn't win because of how she looked, who she loved, and where she came from.

But everyone's path looks different and everyone's path has obstacles. And this is the remarkable story of Sharice Davids' path to Congress. ([Summary from publisher](#).)

Selected Resources:

- [Video of author talking about her book on author website](#)
- [Sharice Davids talks about her life](#) - from the Library of Congress
- [Read Aloud of Sharice's Big Words](#)
- At 19:55 seconds, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G7YacuAX5fA&t=833s>, the author reads a couple of pages of her book and gives some advice.
- [Native American and Alaska Native Heritage Month](#) - lesson plans and resources from the NEA
- [Native Americans Today](#) - lesson from Read Write Think by Debbie Reese
- [Native American Heritage Month](#) - resources from Library of Congress
- [Native American Cultures Across the US](#) - lesson plans, teacher guides and media resources from NEH.gov

Companion Books:

- [Right Now!: Real Kids Speaking Up for Change](#) by Miranda Paul
- [Speak Up](#) by Miranda Paul
- [Dear Boy](#) by Paris Rosenthal
- [Dear Girl](#) by Amy Krouse Rosenthal
- [I Am Courage: A Book of Resilience](#) by Susan Verde
- [Be Who You Are](#) by Todd Parr
- [Who Will You Be](#) by Andrea Pippins
- [We Are Still Here: Native American Truths Everyone Should Know](#) by Traci Sorell



DECEMBER

[Milo Imagines the World](#) by Matt de la Pena

Milo is on a long subway ride with his older sister. To pass the time, he studies the faces around him and makes pictures of their lives. There's the whiskered man with the crossword puzzle; Milo imagines him playing solitaire in a cluttered apartment full of pets. There's the wedding-dressed woman with a little dog peeking out of her handbag; Milo imagines her in a grand cathedral ceremony. And then there's the boy in the suit with the bright white sneakers; Milo imagines him arriving home to a castle with a drawbridge and a butler. But when the boy in the suit gets off on the same stop as Milo—walking the same path, going to the exact same place—Milo realizes that you can't really know anyone just by looking at them. ([Summary from publisher.](#))

Selected Resources:

- [Story read by author Matt de la Pena](#)
- [Matt de la Pena's website](#) - includes short book trailer
- [NPR interview with both author & illustrator](#) includes both print and 6 minute audio
- [Study guide](#) from publisher (scroll towards bottom for fine resources)
- [New York City Subway - Sounds and People](#) - Video taken at the 14th Street–Union Square Subway Station will give students a feel for what Milo is experiencing and the sights and sounds the author describes in the opening of the story.
- [Christian Robinson illustrating the book](#) (Begin at 11:40 until 14:06)
- [Christian Robinson backstory](#) (mother was incarcerated) (Begin at 14:07 until 19:09)

Companion Books:

- [They All Saw a Cat](#) by Brendan Wenzel
- [Red: A Crayon Story](#) by Michael Hall
- [Each Kindness](#) by Jacqueline Woodson



JANUARY

[I Am Golden](#) by Eva Chen

This joyful and lyrical picture book from *New York Times* bestselling author Eva Chen and illustrator Sophie Diao is a moving ode to the immigrant experience, as well as a manifesto of self-love for Chinese American children. ([Summary from publisher.](#))

Selected Resources:

- [Activity kit from Macmillan](#)

Companion Books:

- [A Big Mooncake for Little Star](#) by Grace Lin
- [A Big Bed for Little Snow](#) by Grace Lin
- [Ling & Ting Together in All Weather](#) by Grace Lin
- [Ling & Ting: Not Exactly the Same!](#) By Grace Lin
- [Amy Wu and the Perfect Bao](#) by Kat Zhang
- [Thanking the Moon: Celebrating the Mid-Autumn Moon Festival](#) by Grace Lin



[Eyes that Kiss in the Corners](#) by Joanna Ho

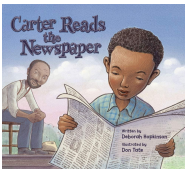
A young Asian girl notices that her eyes look different from her peers'. They have big, round eyes and long lashes. She realizes that her eyes are like her mother's, her grandmother's, and her little sister's. They have eyes that kiss in the corners and glow like warm tea, crinkle into crescent moons, and are filled with stories of the past and hope for the future. ([Summary from publisher.](#))

Selected Resources:

- [Activity guide](#) from publisher
- [Educator guide](#) from publisher

Companion Books:

- [Eyes that Speak to the Stars](#) by Joanna Ho
- [Moon Lady](#) by Amy Tan



FEBRUARY

[Carter Reads the Newspaper](#) by Deborah Hopkinson

"Carter G. Woodson didn't just read history. He changed it." As the father of Black History Month, he spent his life introducing others to the history of his people.

Carter G. Woodson was born to two formerly enslaved people ten years after the end of the Civil War. Though his father could not read, he believed in being an informed citizen, so Carter read the newspaper to him every day. As a teenager, Carter went to work in the coal mines, and there he met Oliver

Jones, who did something important: he asked Carter not only to read to him and the other miners, but also research and find more information on the subjects that interested them.

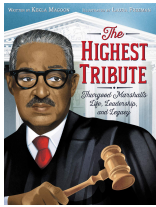
“My interest in penetrating the past of my people was deepened,” Carter wrote. His journey would take him many more years, traveling around the world and transforming the way people thought about history. ([Summary from publisher.](#))

Selected Resources:

- [Teachers' Guide](#) from publisher
- [Poster of Carter](#) with quote
- [Lesson Plan](#) from freedomcenter.org
- [Read aloud of the book](#)
- [THIS DAY IN HISTORY: Feb. 7, 1926: Carter G. Woodson Launched Negro History Week](#)

Companion Books:

- [William Sill and His Freedom Stories](#) by Don Tate
- [No Small Potatoes: Junius G. Groves and His Kingdom in Kansas](#) by Tonya Bolden
- [Schomburg: The Man Who Built a Library](#) by Carole Boston Weatherford



The Highest Tribute by Kekla Magoon

Growing up in Baltimore, Thurgood Marshall could see that things weren't fair. The laws said that Black and white people couldn't use the same schools, parks, or water fountains. When Thurgood had to read the Constitution as punishment for a prank at school, his eyes were opened. It was clear to him that Jim Crow laws were wrong, and he was willing to do whatever it took to change them.

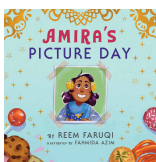
His determination to make sure all Americans were treated equally led him to law school and then the NAACP, where he argued cases like *Brown v. Board of Education* in front of the Supreme Court. But to become a Justice on the highest court in the land, Thurgood had to make space for himself every step of the way. ([Summary from publisher.](#))

Selected Resources:

- [YouTube video of read aloud](#)
- [YouTube video](#) - “Thurgood Marshall Taking a Stand In Court Against Segregation”
- [Teaching Guide](#) from publisher
- [Short video interview](#) with author Kekla Magoon from Reading Rockets

Companion Books:

- [Thurgood](#) by Jonah Winter
- [Hand in Hand : Ten Black Men Who Changed America](#) by Andrea Davis Pinkney



MARCH

Amira's Picture Day by Reem Faruqi

Just the thought of Eid makes Amira warm and tingly inside. From wearing new clothes to handing out goody bags at the mosque, Amira can't wait for the festivities to begin. But when a flier on the fridge catches her eye, Amira's stomach goes cold. Not only is it Eid,

it's also school picture day. If she's not in her class picture, how will her classmates remember her? Won't her teacher wonder where she is?

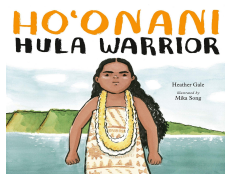
Though the day's celebrations at the mosque are everything Amira was dreaming of, her absence at picture day weighs on her. A last-minute idea on the car ride home might just provide the solution to everything. ([Summary from publisher.](#))

Selected Resources:

- [Book trailer](#) from Dreamscape Publishing (about a minute long)
- [Author Reem Faruqi Talks About Her Book](#) (only 36 seconds long, but good background info)
- [YouTube video of read aloud](#)
- [Eid Teaching Resources](#) from BBC
- [What is Eid and When Is It?](#) from BBC

Companion Books:

- [Lailah's Lunchbox](#) by Reem Faruqi
- [Ramadan](#) by Molly Aloian
- [Ramadan](#) by Rachel A. Koestler-Grack
- [Under the Ramadan Moon](#) by Sylvia Whitman
- [The Best Eid Ever](#) by Asma Mobin-Uddin
- [The Gift of Ramadan](#) by Rabiah York Lumbard



APRIL

[Ho'Onani: Hula Warrior](#) by Heather Gale

Ho'onani feels in-between. She doesn't see herself as *wahine* (girl) OR *kane* (boy). She's happy to be in the middle. But not everyone sees it that way.

When Ho'onani finds out that there will be a school performance of a traditional kane hula chant, she wants to be part of it. But can a girl really lead the all-male troupe?

Ho'onani has to try . . .

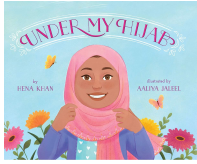
Based on a true story, *Ho'onani: Hula Warrior* is a celebration of Hawaiian culture and an empowering story of a girl who learns to lead and learns to accept who she really is—and in doing so, gains the respect of all those around her. ([Summary from publisher.](#))

Selected Resources:

- [YouTube read aloud](#) of the book
- [Educators' Guide](#) from Tundra Books
- [A Place in the Middle: A Strength-Based Approach to Gender Diversity & Inclusion](#)
The book is based on this 25 minute documentary. Includes teaching resources.

Companion Books:

- [Ohana Means Family](#) by Ilima Loomis
- [A True Princess of Hawai'i](#) by Beth Greenway



MAY

Under My Hijab by Hena Khan

Grandma's hijab clasps under her chin. Auntie pins hers up with a whimsical brooch. Jenna puts a sun hat over hers when she hikes. Iman wears a sports hijab for tae kwon do. As a young girl observes the women in her life and how each covers her hair a different way, she dreams of the possibilities in her own future and how she might express her personality through her hijab. ([Summary from publisher.](#))

Selected Resources:

- [Teacher's guide](#) from publisher
- [Video interview](#) with three Muslim children discussing why they wear a hijab and what it means to them.
- [Author Hena Khan talks about her book](#) (about 3 minutes long).
- [Read aloud](#) of the book
- [Why Do Some Women Wear a Hijab?](#) from Wonderopolis

Companion Books:

- [The Proudest Blue](#) by Ibtihaj Muhammad
- [One Green Apple](#) by Eve Bunting
- [My Religion, Your Religion](#) by Lisa Bullard
- [Muslim Mosque](#) by Angela Wood