

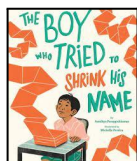
Beginning with Books: Affirming Identities & Raising Voices

A Yearlong, Schoolwide Initiative Year Four 2023–2024

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. Our “Beginning with Books” project began four years ago and was originally named “Reading to Raise Anti-Racists.” Since its inception, this schoolwide initiative uses picture books as a place to begin having meaningful, transformative conversations that promote equity, inclusivity and speaking up for justice. 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.

In this trifold you will find the titles for all four years of the project. These books are available in the Orchard School library and in public libraries.

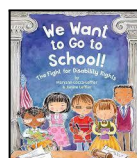
Our Monthly Read Alouds



September

The Boy Who Tried to Shrink His Name

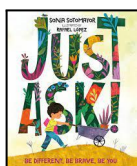
by Sandhya Parappukkaran



October

We Want to Go to School: The Fight for Disability Rights

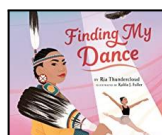
by Maryann Cocca-Leffler



AND/OR

Just Ask

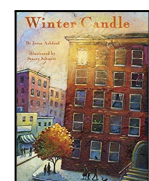
by Sonia Sotomayor



November

Finding My Dance

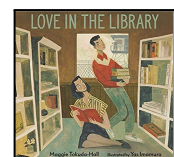
by Ria Thundercloud



December

Winter Candle

by Jeron Ashford



January

Love in the Library

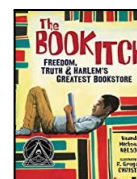
by Maggie Tokuda-Hall



February

These Hands

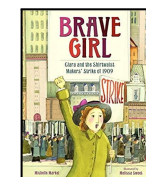
by Margaret H. Mason



AND/OR

The Book Itch

by Vaunda Micheaux Nelson



March

Brave Girl

by Michelle Markel



AND/OR

Shirley Chisolm Is a Verb

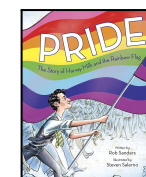
by Veronica Chambers



April

The Boy Who Grew a Forest

by Sophia Gholz



May

The Story of Harvey Milk and the Rainbow Flag

by Rob Sanders

Books from Year One

2020–2021

Book choices inspired in part by the 13 Guiding Principles of Black Lives Matter.

Let's Talk About Race by Julius Lester

Granddaddy's Turn: A Journey to the Ballot Box by Michael S. Bandy & Eric Stein

Young Water Protectors: A Story About Standing Rock by Asian Tudor & Kelly Tudor

Saturday by Oge Mora

Someday is Now: Clara Luper and the 1958 Oklahoma City Sit-Ins by Olugbemisola Rhuday-Perkovich

Separate Is Never Equal: Sylvia Mendez & Her Family's Fight for Desegregation by Duncan Tonatiuh

Lailah's Lunchbox: A Ramadan Story by Reem Faruqi

Can I Touch Your Hair by Irene Latham & Charles Waters

When Aidan Became a Brother by Kyle Lukoff

Books from Year Two

2021–2022

Book choices inspired in part by the crisis at the border and immigration.

Your Name is a Song by Jamilah Thompkins_Bigelow

A Journey Toward Hope by Victor Hinojosa & Coert Voorhees

We Are Still Here: Native American Truths Everyone Should Know by Traci Sorell

The Most Beautiful Thing by Kao Kalia Yang

The Power of Her Pen: The Story of Groundbreaking Journalist Ethel L. Payne by Lesa Cline-Ransome

The Arabic Quilt: An Immigrant Story by Aya Khalil

Call Me Max by Kyle Lukoff

In My Mosque by M. O. Yuksel

Farmer Will Allen and the Growing Table by Jacqueline Briggs Martin

Intersection Allies: We Make Room for All by Chelsea Johnson, LaToya Council, and Carolyn Choi

Books from Year Three

2022–2023

Book choices inspired to create awareness of overlapping identities.

Marisol McDonald Doesn't Match by Monica Brown

When Langston Dances by Kaija Langley

Pigskins to Paintbrushes by Don Tate

Sharice's Big Voice by Sharice Davids

Milo Imagines the World by Matt de la Pena

I Am Golden by Eva Chen

Eyes That Kiss in the Corners by Joanna Ho

Carter Reads the Newspaper by Deborah Hopkinson

The Highest Tribute by Kekla Magoon

Amira's Picture Day by Reem Faruqi

Ho'Onani: Hula Warrior by Heather Gale

Under My Hijab by Hena Khan