

MACMILLAN CHILDREN'S PUBLISHING GROUP

INSPIRES COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT!



TIPS AND TRICKS

for Community Engagement Activities

When choosing books, consider books that do the following:

- Reflect diverse voices.
- Reflect your students' lived experiences.
- Relate to current issues.

- Demonstrate meaningful student action.

local librarian.

When in doubt, involve your media specialist or

How to Identify Activism

- Consider age-appropriate actions.
- Invite community members to visit with students.

- Identify local activities that directly impact students.

- Connect national or global issues to local grassroots efforts.

How to Showcase Student Voice

- Identify phrases and words from books that improve students' "agency vocabulary."

- Draw connections between books' voices and past/present voices.
- Highlight the different ways that students take action.

- Identify young people currently taking action to make change.

Ways to Encourage Student Action

- Point out that voting is important but not the only way to take action.
- Demonstrate ways to be an ally.

- Normalize! Include student action as often as possible.
- Give students space in class to brainstorm or work on action items.

- Empower students to encourage their grown-ups to vote and take action.

Cautions:

Discussions and books about student action should lead to conversation, which can sometimes be challenging. Be aware that:

- Conversations may be politicized.
- Parents may have concerns.
- Students may not have the resources to participate in specific actions.

- Students may be reluctant to participate, due to trauma or fear.
- Work might not be able to be completed outside the classroom.

- Gender and racial tensions might increase.





BOOK SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES



We Are Water Protectors

by Carole Lindstrom; illustrated by Michaela Goade

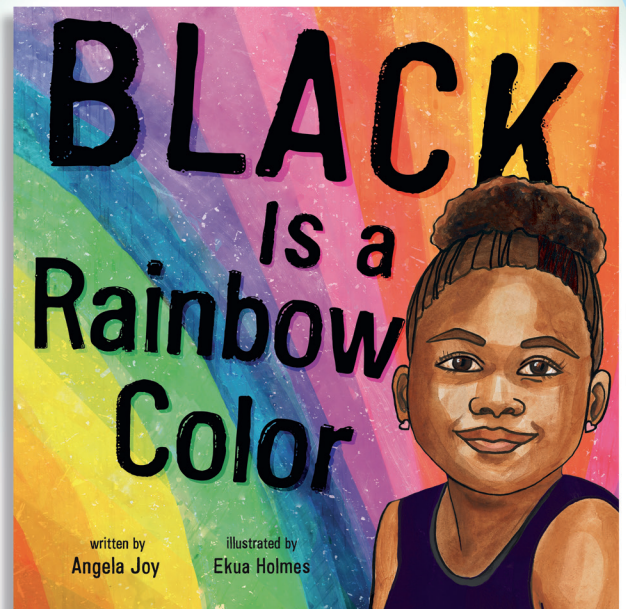
1. Think about the natural resources in your community. How are they the same as and different from the ones you see in the book?
2. The book is full of images showing humans as one with nature. Have students draw a picture of themselves as part of the natural resource they want to protect.
3. Brainstorm all the ways we use water every day. Talk about where your water comes from. Come up with ideas to protect and save your water.
4. Look at the last two pages, featuring many indigenous people. Learn about the indigenous people who live near you today and the people who lived in your place long ago.



Black Is a Rainbow Color

by Angela Joy; illustrated by Ekua Holmes

1. Learn about the individuals shown in the book and find photographs of them online. Talk to students about how these people made a difference in their communities.
2. Play a song from the playlist. Ask students how the song makes them feel or how they think the singer feels. Have students draw a picture to illustrate these feelings. Make sure you have crayons or markers to reflect many skin tones.
3. After reading the book, ask students what skin and hair colors they noticed in the book, and how they would describe their own skin and hair color. Do the students feel that any of the characters look like them or different from them? How does it feel to see, or not to see, people who look like you in books?
4. This book shares that black is a color and a culture. Define "culture" for students (behaviors and beliefs shared by a group of people) and discuss the many aspects of culture. Read the book again and have students call out when they notice words or pictures that reflect black culture.





Go with the Flow

by Lily Williams and Karen Schneemann;
illustrated by Lily Williams



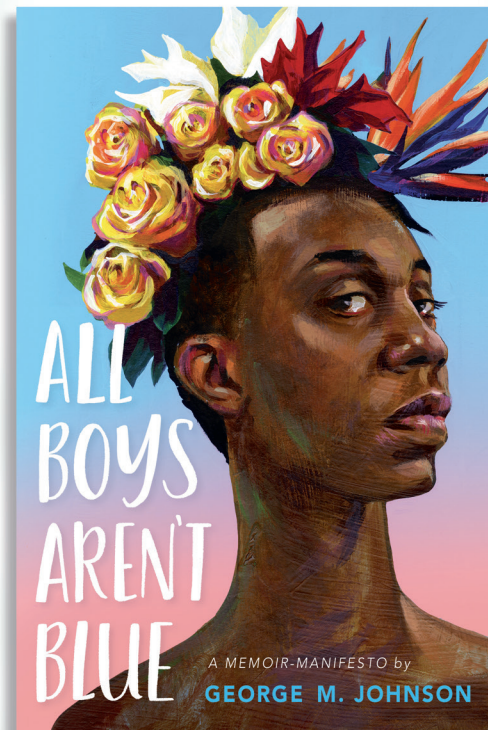
1. Start to make small changes in the way you talk about menstruation. Use language that refers to periods as normal and nothing to be embarrassed about.
2. Do an investigation at your school or district. Are there pads and tampons available? Are they free? Petition administration to add menstrual items to school purchases of toilet paper, paper towels, and hand soap. Encourage the adults in your life to do the same at their workplaces.
3. Research menstrual inequity and period poverty in the United States and around the world and how it affects health, education, and work. Learn how individuals and groups are fighting for greater equity, and present your findings to your peers at school. These issues relate to science, economics, civics, history, geography, technology, ethics, and a variety of other school subjects.
4. Identify all the ways the four girls took action to make change. Consider topics important to you and adapt their methods to your cause.

All Boys Aren't Blue

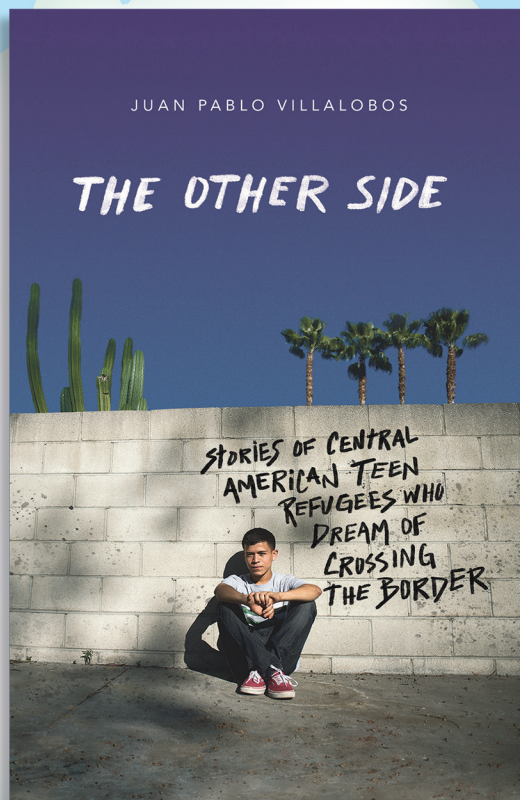
by George M. Johnson



1. When you need to introduce yourself, share your preferred pronouns (she/her, he/him, they/them).
2. In your classes at school, share with your teachers that you'd like LGBTQ people included in the curriculum, if they aren't already. Do research on LGBTQ authors, scientists, politicians, artists, athletes, and activists so you have examples to offer (i.e. Bayard Rustin, Alan Turing, Billie Jean King, and Laverne Cox).
3. Carefully examine your school to see if it is a safe space for LGBTQ students. Is there a student group to support LGBTQ students and their allies? Are there tangible signs of welcome, such as posters, inclusive language, and supportive adults? If not, talk to counselors or administrators about a plan to make your school safer for all students.
4. Organize a speakers bureau at your local library or community center, with speakers on topics addressed in the book, such as LGBTQ issues, racial disparities, and sexual assault. People who can help you organize and fundraise could include local business leaders, your school district, a community action group, or your teachers.



9780374312718 | Ages 14-18 | April 2020



9780374305734 | Ages 12-18 | Sept. 2019

The Other Side

by Juan Pablo Villalobos

1. Identify the countries in Central America and why their citizens are migrating. Identify the immigrants who came to your community in the past, where they came from, and why they came. Find similarities.
2. Learn about the immigrants living in your community or state and the resources available to help them integrate. Contact these organizations to see where they need help and how you could volunteer.
3. Track your daily routine, including transportation, meals, school, activities, purchases, and technology use. Consider how all these would be a challenge in a country where you don't speak the language or feel familiar with the culture. Also consider this daily routine in the context of being separated from family, escaping violence in your home country, or facing prejudice in your new country.
4. Protests against immigration policies in the United States have increased rapidly in the past few years. Have you or anyone you know attended a protest? What type of protests do you think are the most effective and why? Contact someone who has organized a protest to learn about logistics, marketing, and safety measures.

Light It Up

by Kekla Magoon

1. An immediate need of gunshot victims is blood. Organize a blood drive at school or another community space with the American Red Cross. Even if your community has not had a shooting, blood banks can transfer donations where they are needed.
2. Read and analyze the tweets of gun control advocates and detractors. Dissect their word choices, motivations, and actions. How can you tell if a tweet is effective in its intent?
3. Contact your state and federal elected officials to determine where on the gun control spectrum they fall. Invite them to have a dialogue at your school, and remind them that although you can't vote, you're still constituents.
4. Learn about violence against black people in the American past and present, as well as the names of survivors and victims. How does *Light It Up* reflect systemic violence and the strength of black communities present during slavery, Jim Crow, and mass incarceration?

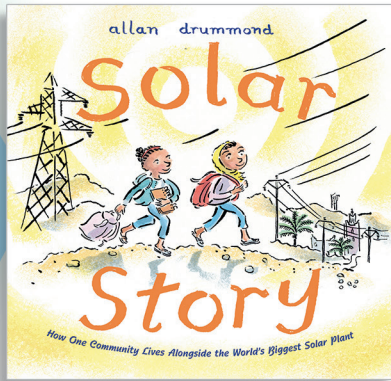


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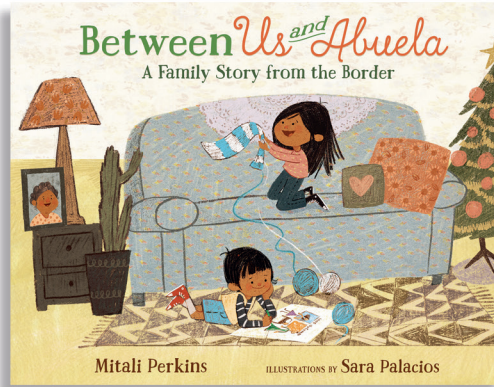


CONSIDER THESE ADDITIONAL TITLES

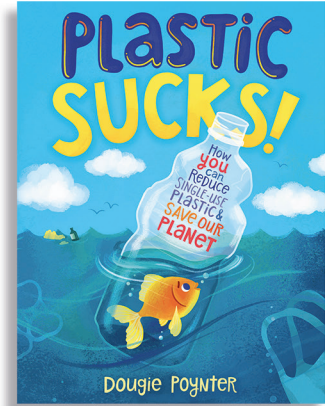
for Your Community Engagement Activities!



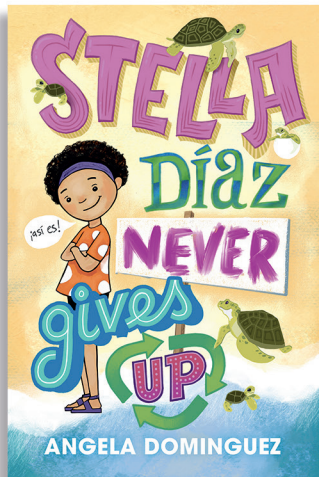
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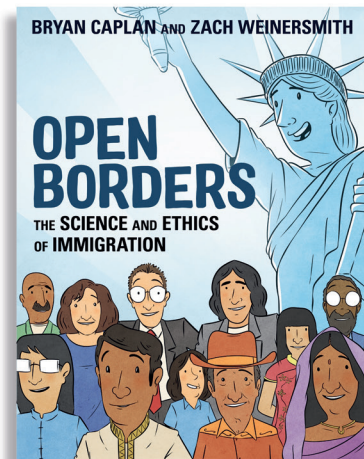
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9781250309853 | Ages 14-18 | Jan. 2020



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Guide prepared by Jessica Ellison, a teacher educator at the Minnesota Historical Society, where she creates professional development and curriculum for social studies teachers. She is a strong advocate for community engagement at all ages and currently serves on her local school board.



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