

Diversity Rocks the Book 2019 Book Prompts

This document is NOT intended for you to memorize or for you to include each talking point. The hope is that it will help you think critically about what kinds of questions to ask during your read aloud to help the students engage more deeply with the books. Please consider coming up with your own questions and language so it feels natural for you! Asking a few questions throughout the book is entirely appropriate.

I Walk with Vanessa: A Story About A Simple Act Of Kindness by Kerascoet (pronounced “kehreh-skwet”)

- *Start with the inside flap and read the descriptions of the 3 major characters in the story. You can skip “Here’s a simple but powerful...”
- *Take time to look at the title page “What do you think is happening in this picture? Which character do you think is moving?”
- p1 It looks like Vanessa is a new student. Have any of you ever had to move and start at a new school?
- p2 Do you see Vanessa in this picture? How do you think she feels?
- p3 It looks like school is out and every one is saying goodbye to their friends. Oh, here’s Vanessa....
- p5 When we look at the pictures on this page, what do you think is happening? Why do you think the boy is being mean to Vanessa?
- p6 He must have said something terrible to Vanessa! Look at the red around the picture.
- p6 How would you feel if you were Vanessa?
- p7 It looks like someone noticed Vanessa is upset. What would you do if you saw someone being mean to someone else? Let’s see what she does....
- p11 What do you think she’s telling her friends?
- p12 How do you think they all feel?
- p13 What do you think she’s thinking about?
- p18 What do you think these lines about her head mean? What do you think she’s going to do?
- p22 How do you think Vanessa feels?
- p23 Oh wait! It looks like there are more people joining them as they walk to school! Would you join them?
- p25 And more! And more!
- p27 Can you find Vanessa in this picture? How do you think Vanessa feels now?
- p31 This picture looks a lot different than the one on Vanessa’s first day of school.
- *For older classes, consider reading the For Children: How you can help someone who is being bullied portion

Drawn Together by Minh Le (pronounced Min Lay) and Dan Santat

- *The title page should not be missed! It gives great context for the story. “It looks like someone is getting dropped off somewhere. Let’s see where he’s going...”
- p2 Oh, it looks like it’s his grandfather’s house. How are they greeting each other in this top frame?
- p2 Hmm...he looks a little hesitant/skeptical/not sure about this visit with his grandfather.
- p3 They’re having lunch! Wow look how different their lunches are. Looks like grandfather is eating ramen or pho and what is the boy eating? Which one would you like to eat?
- p4 *read the text “How does grandfather respond? I don’t know what he’s saying? Can anyone read that? Hmm...I guess they can’t understand each other...”
- p5 Since they can’t talk it looks like they’ve decided to watch television. Looks like there’s a dragon...
- p6 *read the text “Looks like he can’t understand his grandfather again. I guess they’re just going to keep watching this television show.
- p7 Oh, he’s decided he doesn’t want to watch that show so he goes and gets some paper and art supplies out of his backpack.
- p8 Grandfather goes to see what he’s doing and, wait! How does grandfather look in this bottom frame?
- p10 Woah! He came back with his own sketchbook! I wonder if he draws pictures too...
- p10 *read text
- p11 *read text “How do these pictures look the same? How do they look different?”
- p13 *read text Which pictures does grandfather draw and which ones does the boy draw?
- p14 *read text “Can anyone describe this picture with words? What’s happening?”
- p15 *read text “Oh no! It looks like they’re being separated!”
- p17 *read text “What do you think is separating them? What’s in the water?”
- p19 *read text “It’s a water dragon! What do you think they’re going to do?”
- p21 Wait! What does grandfather see? And the boy? *read text
- p23 Whoa! They’re destroying the water dragon together! *read text
- p25 *read text They made a bridge!
- p26 *read text
- p27 *read text “Look at all of the drawings they made together! How do you think they both feel?”
- p29 Looks like it’s time to say goodbye...Everyone looks happy! And...it looks like they switched art supplies...grandfather now has his marker and the boy has his grandfather’s paintbrush.

A Big Mooncake for Little Star by Grace Lin

- *show the endpaper “What does it look like they’re making?”
- *show title page “Looks like it’s going into the oven!”
- p2 Has anyone ever been told to not eat something even though they really wanted to?
- p6 What do you think Little Star is going to do?
- p9 Do you think her mother will notice if she took a bite? Would YOU take a bite?
- p13 What do you think? IS the cake still there?
- p17 What are all of those specks?
- p23 Have you ever noticed how the moon looks different sometimes? How do you think that happens?
- p26 How do you think Little Star’s mama is going to feel now that the mooncake is gone? What would you do if you were Little Star?
- p27 What do you think “even though her mouth was curving means?”
- *show the endpaper “And they DID!”

Mango, Abuela, and Me by Meg Medina

- *this book contains words in Spanish
- p2 Does anyone have family that lives far away that you don’t know very well? How would you feel if they moved into your family? Does anyone have grandparents living in their home now?
- p3 “she can’t unlock the English words...” what do you think that means? What kind of animal do you think Edmund is?
- p6 Tu abuelo: does anyone know what that means?
- p6 What kind of animal do you think that feather came from?
- p8 How do you think Abuela feels about not being able to understand Mia?
- p9 poquito: that means small
- p12 Imagine how it must feel to not understand a language..How would you feel?
- p15 *before reading the words on the page “What did Mia do to help her Abuela learn English?”
- p18 What kind of animal do you think is at the pet store?
- p23 Just like Abuela and Mia have practiced to learn English and Spanish! Does anyone have anything like to do that they had to practice in order to get better at doing? (Share a story of your own)
- p27 buen dia means “good day.” What do you think pintura means?
- p30 How did Abuela and Mia’s relationship change?

Dreamers by Yuyi Morales (pronounced ju-gee)

- p2 Define the word “resplendent.” If reading to older children, ask if they know what the word means.
- p3 What kind of gifts do you see in the picture?
- p4 *read Adios Corazon and define: goodbye heart
- p6 Define the word “immigrants.” If reading to older children, ask if they know what the word means.
- p7 & 8 *draw attention to the words written out backwards
- p10 What is happening in this picture? Where do you think they are?
- p11 Caminantes means “walkers”-why do you think she calls themselves that?
- p13 Where do you think they are? Why would they be “suspicious?” What does the word “improbable” mean?
- p15 What do you think they find unbelievable and surprising about being in a library? Why?
- p17 Ask what they see in the picture and how they might be feeling
- p19 What is the librarian holding? Does anyone here have a library card?
- p22 How do you think it made her feel to learn how to read? How did you feel? How will you feel when you learn to read?
- p27 Does anyone know what “lucha” means? (fight/struggle) Or resilience? How about “soñadores?” (dreamers)

The Word Collector by Peter H. Reynolds

- p2 *after Some people collect comic books ask “Does anyone collect anything?” Share if there’s something YOU collect to get the conversation going.
- p3 *throughout the book, read some of the words Jerome collects and define them if you’re reading to younger classes.
- p4 “My trip to Peru was perfectly pleasant.” What word catches YOUR attention in that sentence?
- p5 *read the sign and ask if they can define the word based on the picture
- p6 *read the book title and the word he writes down
- p7 *have students clap along to the syllables of the words
- p9 *read the words on the page
- p10 *choose a few and ask how the words and the pictures are connected
- p13 How do you think Jerome feels about his words getting scrambled up? How would you feel?
- p15&16 read some of the words that are near each other and ask how those words make the students feel
- p17 *read the words
- p18 *read the words
- p20 What kind of instrument do you think Jerome is playing? How are poems and songs the same? How are they different?
- p22 What makes these words powerful?
- p26 What do you think Jerome is going to do with all of his words?
- p28 Why do you think Jerome is smiling?
- p30 How would you feel if words fell from the sky? What would you do with the words?
- *read the endpapers

The Day You Begin by Jacqueline Woodson

- p4 How do you think it feels to look different from everyone else?
- p6 How do you think it feels to have people laugh at the way you talk?
- p14 People like lots of different kinds of food, but sometimes it’s hard when you like something no one else has ever heard of. *Share an experience of your own and ask students to share some of their experiences.*
- p18 Have you ever said things like this to kids? How do you think it makes them feel?
- p21 *Flip the book upside down and ask what is different between the 2 pictures*
- p27 How did you feel when the book started? How do you feel at the end of the book?