



Dear NEA Members:

Books and stories are tools children of all ages need to discover themselves and shape their own narrative. In our diverse and complex society, students need books that provide both windows and mirrors if we are going to create more readers, more writers, people who feel included and recognized, and people who understand that the world is far richer than just their experiences alone.

We know it is challenging to find the time to seek out new books to share, let alone create fun, exciting learning experiences around them. We hope that you'll see how the books and resources we've provided here and online can blend effectively into existing classroom activities and units of study. The titles featured in this calendar all reflect Read Across America's *Celebrating A Nation of Diverse Readers* theme. They also support many topics relevant not only to language arts, but other curricular areas. You'll find connections in these titles to themes around community, family, friendship, identity, sharing, and even hygiene!

Online, you'll find more resources designed to be supportive of readers with a range of experiences and interests. Themed text sets, questions for students for discussion or reflective writing, and links to materials for educators are available to provide you with the means of connecting all students to the themes presented in the titles featured in this calendar.

There's also a poster to display that features recommended titles appropriate for independent and older readers. One side of the poster features middle grade titles and the reverse recommends great reads for young adults. More resources to support readers of these titles are also available online.

To help you share our recommended titles with students, nearly all of them are available through the **First Book Marketplace**. Eligible educators, librarians, program leaders, and others serving children in need can sign up at firstbook.org/register to purchase titles at a significant discount.

All this we bring you in the hopes that it will strengthen your efforts to celebrate Read Across America year-round and grow your community—and our nation—of diverse readers.

Lily Eskelsen García
President
National Education Association

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