

No Place for Hate[®] Activity Library

One Book, One School

Lesson Plan and Overview

Select a book about bullying, identity, diversity or social justice for the intended age group. You can use suggested books from the [We Need Diverse Books](#) collection or another online collection of diverse books.

Because reading with children is a cherished activity for adults and children and a key component of students' literacy development, children's/young adult literature is an effective tool to explore and discuss identity, culture, diversity, bullying, discrimination and equity. Books have the power to foster empathy, provide affirmation about one's identity, transport to new places and meet new people and inspire action on behalf of social justice. This activity provides an opportunity for schools to select a book and engage in an all-school read on a book that addresses one or more of these important themes.

Grade Level

Grades K–12

Learning Objectives

- Students will explore and discuss an anti-bias theme by reading a book together.
- Students will analyze the theme in more depth by engaging in a follow-up activity.

Materials Needed

Selected book from [We Need Diverse Books](#) collection or another online collection of diverse books.

Defining Terms

It is important to ground any conversation about identity and experience through shared definitions. Consider the topic that you will be discussing with your students and ensure that terms are defined so all students approach the conversation from the same place.

Core Activity

First, have the whole school engage in reading the book. Selection of the book can be done by the NPFH committee, school administration and/or teachers, or you may choose to involve students in the selection process (i.e. survey, class nomination). For the youngest students in elementary school, read the book aloud. For older children, tweens and teens, you can either do a read aloud, independent reading or a combination of both.

Core Activity (Continued)

After reading the book, engage students in a discussion about the book using the following type of discussion questions:

- Ask questions about the theme or message of the book, especially as it relates to an anti-bias or bullying prevention theme.
- Ask questions about how students feel while were reading the book or after reading the book.
- Ask text-to-self questions to make connections to students' experiences including questions about how they relate to the characters, what happened (i.e.the plot), similar situations, themes, and other connections.
- If applicable, ask text-to-text questions that engage students in making connections between this book and other books they've read with similar plots, themes and messages.
- Ask overall questions like: What is the message of the book? What did you learn from the book? What is your biggest takeaway after reading the book? Why do you think the author wrote this book?

Finally, engage students on a deeper level with the book and its themes by doing at least one extension activity. Extension activities can include creating art, wrting essays, poems or letters, creating timelines, acting out scenes from the book, engaging in small group discussions about the book, creating imagine diary/journal entires of characters, conducting research, conducting imagined character interviews, rewrite alternative endings, etc.

Optional Follow-Up/ Going Further

Note: These additional activities can be done as follow-ups to the core activity and they can also serve as an additional NPFH activity if the core activity is completed first.

- For elementary students, use this lesson plan to engage students in a discussion about the importance of [diverse books](#).
- Have all students write an essay about their reflections on the book, how it relates to something in their lives or use one of the discussion questions as a writing prompt for them to elaborate their thoughts in writing. You may choose to have them write this in the form of an essay, poem or letter.
- Organize a "book buddies" program where elementary schools, students in the upper grades (grades 3–5) read to students in the younger grades (grades K–2). For middle and high schools, partner with an elementary school that is close in proximity and have students come to the schools and read to the elementary students.
- Invite students to pick a favorite or most memorable book or a section from a book and make a poster (to hang around school) about the book and why it was memorable. As an alternative, create a video where students share their favorite or most memorable book or section and why it was memorable or meaningful. Then share the video with the whole school community.

Home Connection

Share ADL's Table Talk [Why We Need Diverse Books](#) with families.