# Literacy Spotlights

| | |
|---|---|
| Spotlight Topic | Culturally-Relevant Reading |
| Background Information | "Students' knowledge and cultures are shaped by their sociocultural and sociolinguistic backgrounds, as well as the socioeconomic and political circumstances in which their lives take shape. Things like gender, ethnicity, race, sexual orientation, language, religion, social class and generational group all shape students' experiences in and out of school and as such, must all be taken into account in the classroom and during reading instruction" (Ladson–Billings, B., *Reading Between the Lines and Beyond the Pages*). In order for students to be engaged in reading it is important for them to be able to relate to characters or situations that are similar to what they have experienced themselves. Also, students become better global thinkers when they are exposed to diverse situations. |
| Standard | RL 13: Read independently and comprehend a variety of texts for the purposes or reading for enjoyment, acquiring new learning, and building stamina; reflect on and respond to increasingly complex text over time. |
| Activity | After talking to your child about their reading, it is important to find a genre that is relatable or grabs their interest. Once students are able to find "that book" then asking questions about the reading can come easy. Using some of the suggested questions linked here can make things easier. Diversifying reading content can allow students to be more aware of who or what is around them.<br>Resources:<br>http://libguides.luc.edu/c.php?g=49784&p=320661<br>https://lexile.com/using-lexile/lexile-at-home/how-to-discuss-a-book-with-your-child/<br>Middle school<br>http://coloursofus.com/multicultural-summer-reading-middle-school/<br>https://www.theguardian.com/childrens-books-site/2014/oct/13/50-best-culturally-diverse-childrens-books<br>High school<br>https://www.goodreads.com/list/tag/diversity<br>http://www.madisonpubliclibrary.org/booklists/multicultural-fiction-teenagers<br>http://guides.ccclib.org/c.php?g=43935&p=277543 |