

## 4th Grade

### September:

- **Book 1: [Your Name is a Song by Jamilah Thompkins-Bigelow](#)**
  - **Activity:**
    - Talk with students about why names are important and why pronouncing names correctly is a big deal. Have each student pronounce their own names while other students repeat the name back.
    - Prompt students to reflect on their names, whether their first name, last names, nickname or entire name. What do they want others to know about their name?
    - If there is time you can have students write poems (acrostic or free verse) or songs about their names and plan an in-person or virtual poetry performance and/or concert for the class to enjoy.
- **Book 2: [My Abuelita by Tony Johnston](#) (Hispanic Heritage Week 9/19-9/23)**
  - **Activity:** After reading discuss the following:
    - Discuss the dolls and artifacts used by Abuelita. Ask the students what they think they mean. Explain their significance.
    - Abuelita uses the dolls, temples, serpents, and other artwork to represent her culture. What could you use to represent your own culture?
    - You can also talk about family relationships and passing down stories.

### October:

- **Book 1: [The Train by Jodie Callaghan](#) (Respect Week)**
  - **Activity:** Ask the following questions after reading the story:
    - In what ways was respect not shown?
    - In what ways was respect shown in the story?
- **Book 2: [What If by Samantha Berger](#) (National Art Day)**
  - **Activity:** Students will create an art piece using the idea of “What if”.
    - If you have paper and pencil, or anything else (like recycling, old paper, leaves), instead of starting to draw, ask yourself “what if?” And start a piece of art another way.
    - For example, what if I:
      - Rip paper into pieces and stick it back together?
      - Scrunch up paper and draw along the cracks in it?
      - Draw 3 lines and make art from that?
      - Draw with my eyes closed?
      - Make art only out of squares? Or circles? Or triangles?!

## November:

- **Book 1: [The Poppy Lady: Moina Belle Michael and Her Tribute to Veterans by Barbara E. Walsh](#) (Veterans Day)**
  - **Activity:** Discuss with the class what Veteran's Day is. After reading, ask students if they know any veterans and how they can show appreciation for them. Share with students that it is not only important to show appreciation and thanks to these veterans, but it is also important to understand their true value on this day. Have students write a letter to a veteran.
- **Book 2: [Swimmy by Leo Lionni](#) (Kindness Week)**
  - **Activity:**
    - Before reading the book discuss the following:
      - Show the front cover of the book. Discuss how sometimes, it's hard to do something on your own and sometimes you need the help of others. If you work together it can be easier to get the job done. When you work with others it is important to listen to everyone's ideas and make everyone feel included. Ask if they've ever had an experience working on a team or in a group.
    - After reading the book discuss the following:
      - Why do you think the little fish travel together (in schools)? How does working together help the little fish? What do you think would happen if one little red fish didn't do its job? If it didn't help make the big fish? Why is it important for each member of the group to do their job? How did swimmy help lead the school of fish? How did Swimmy use his special talent (speed) to help others? How can we use our own talents to help the group?

## December:

- **Book 1: [A Piñata in a Pine Tree by Pat Mora](#) (Holidays)**
  - **Activity:** Ask students the following questions:
    - Ask the students when and where they hear languages other than English. Do they like to learn new words in other languages?
    - What new words did they learn in this book?
    - Using the pictures to help, do you see any similarities to any holidays you celebrate?
- **Book 2: [Night of the Moon by Hena Khan](#) (Holidays)**
  - **Activity:** Ask students the following questions:

- After finishing the story, ask students what made Ramadan different from some of the holidays they are familiar with. Then examine what some of the similarities were with those same holidays.

## January:

- **Book 1: Being Mindful Like Grandpa by Sheri Mabry (Wellness Week)**
  - **Activity:** Ask the students the following questions:
    - How was the grandfather showing mindfulness?
    - How can you use mindfulness?
    - When can you use mindfulness?
- **Book 2: Sam's Super Seats by Keah Brown**
  - **Activity:** Ask the students the following questions before reading:
    - Discuss the words "include" and "exclude" with the class. What does it mean to be included? What does it mean to be excluded? How does it feel to be included? How does it feel to be excluded?
  - Ask the students the following questions after reading:
    - Think about people you know. Do they all learn the same, move the same? Our abilities are part of who we are, and what is known as a disability may bring challenges and joy. What are some things about you that make you who you are?
    - How can you make sure that everyone feels included?

## February:

- **Book 1: Going Places: Victor Hugo Green and His Glorious Book by Tonya Bolden (Black History Month)**
  - **Activity:** Ask students the following questions:
    - What do you know about the civil rights movement?
    - What were some of the challenges that people faced during that time in our nation's history?
    - How do you think children felt during that time? Parents? Teachers?
    - Who were some of the leaders of the civil rights movement?
    - What similar challenges do people in our nation face today?
- **Book 2: [Speak Up, Molly Lou Melon by Patty Lovell and David Catrow](#) (Say Something)**
  - **Activity:** Discuss the following: Have you ever stood up for a friend? How did it feel?

## March:

- **Book 1: [Book Fiesta!: Celebrate Children's Day/Book Day](#) (Read Across America)**
  - **Activity:** Ask the following questions:
    - Where do you like to read?
    - What are your favorite types of books to read?
    - What is a celebration?
    - Why do we celebrate?
    - Identify elements of celebration within this book
- **Book 2: [Elizabeth Started All the Trouble by Doreen Rappaport](#) (Women's History)**
  - **Activity:** Ask the following questions:
    - Many books convey a theme that is aligned to the beliefs, actions, and solutions presented in the story. What is a recurring theme presented in Elizabeth Started All the Trouble? What details support the theme that you selected?
    - In your opinion, what does the author want us to learn by reading Elizabeth Started All the Trouble?

#### April:

- **Book 1: [Sticks and Stones by Patricia Polacco](#) (Diversity Week)**
  - **Activity:** After reading discuss the following:
    - Celebrate your strengths and the strengths of those around you! What are you good at?
    - What makes you special, unique, or different?
- **Book 2: [Benji, the Bad Day, and Me by Sally J. Pla](#) (Autism Awareness)**
  - **Activity:** After reading discuss the following:
    - How does Benji demonstrate empathy in Benji, the Bad Day, and Me? How does he show that he cares about Sammy through his actions?
    - What are ways that students can show empathy without saying anything to their classmates or friends? Give examples.

#### May:

- **Book 1: [Punky Aloha by Shar Tulasoa](#) (Asian American & Pacific Islander Heritage)**
  - **Activity:** Ask the students the following questions after reading:
    - How did Punky overcome being shy?
    - Is there something you do to make you feel brave?
- **Book 2: [Rolling Thunder by Kate Messner](#) (Military)**

- **Activity:** Discuss the following questions after reading the book:
  - Why is it important to know about the First Memorial Day?
  - What is the purpose of Memorial Day?
  - How do we celebrate it, and why do we celebrate it that way?

**June:**

- **Book 1: [F is for Flag by Wendy Cheyette Lewiston](#) (Flag Day)**
  - **Activity:**
    - Before reading discuss the following questions:
      - What is a symbol?
      - What is an example of an American symbol?
    - After reading discuss the following:
      - What does our Flag represent?
      - Are there any symbols that have significance in your life?
- **Book 2: [Where's Rodney by Rebecca Lehr](#)**
  - **Activity:**
    - Think about people you know. Do they all learn the same, move the same? Rodney loves to be active when he learns because he finds it hard to sit still.
    - How do you like to learn?