

## Unit of Inquiry Recommended Reading List

### How We Express Ourselves

Below you will find a list of books related to the Unit of Inquiry, “How We Express Ourselves”. Each book is related to the Central Idea. Included with each book title is a short summary. All titles are carried at the BCA2 Library unless otherwise indicated. This list is not exhaustive, but suggestions based on reviews and the librarian’s knowledge of children’s literature.

#### Pre-K

- Bang, Molly. *When Sophie thinks she can't. . .*. New York: Scholastic, 1999.
  - “Sophie is discouraged because she always struggles with math and puzzles—until her teacher shows her the hidden value of ‘try’ and ‘yet’” (Provided by publisher)
- Waber, Bernard. *Courage*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 2002.
  - The author provides fun illustrations of many different kinds of courage. It’s a very visual way for students to connect with being courageous.
- Viorst, Judith. *Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day*. New York: Aladdin, 1987.
  - On a day when nothing goes right, Alexander learns that everyone has bad days. A great way to look at how to respond when things go wrong.
- Rash, Andy. *The Happy Book*. New York: Viking, 2019.
  - The author uses two best friends to explore being happy, sad, scared, and angry. Each feeling has a corresponding color that dominates the page. Kids love this book.
- Berk, Sheryl. *Giving is the Best Gift*. New York: Advance Publishers, 2000.
  - This is one of 18 books in the collection from Disney called “Lessons from the Hundred-Acre Wood”. Through the familiar characters of Pooh and his friends, the readers discover that giving is the best gift of all.

#### Kindergarten

- Le, Minh. *Drawn Together*. Los Angeles: Hyperion/Disney, 2018.
  - A grandfather and son bridge a language and cultural barrier through art.
- Novesky, Amy. *Me, Frida*. New York: Abrams Books, 2010.
  - This lovingly illustrated book follows Frida as she and her husband, Diego Rivera, travel to the United States. The move inspired Frida and her art. She shared her passion for Mexico through her art.
- Uegaki, Chieri. *Hana Hashimoto, Sixth Violin*. Toronto: Kids Can Press, 2014.
  - Inspired by a visit to her grandfather in Japan, Hana signs herself up for the talent show after only three violin lessons. **King County Library Only**
- Soundar, Chitra. *You’re Safe with Me*. London: Lantana Publishing, 2018.
  - Baby animals in a jungle can’t sleep, and they explore until Mama’s words bring them home. This book’s illustrations are inspired by Indian folk art.
- Rosenstock, Barb. *The Noisy Paintbox*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2014.
  - Vasya Kandinsky’s balance of life growing up in Russia and his unique artistic expression.

## 1<sup>st</sup> Grade

- McDermott, Gerald. *Raven: A Trickster Tale from the Pacific Northwest*. San Diego; Harcourt, 1993.
  - A classic Pacific Northwest American Indian tale, Raven goes looking for the sun.
- Steptoe, John. *Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters*. New York: Scholastic, 1987.
  - A beautifully illustrated African story about two beautiful sisters. They are opposites in character. One is kind and one is bad-tempered. Which one will be chosen as a wife to the king depends on how they respond to what they encounter on their journey.
- Aardema, Verna. *Why Mosquitos Buzz in People's Ears*. New York: Dial Press, 1975.
  - A classic children's literature book; it illustrates a West African pourquoi folktale.
- York, M.J. *The Boy at the Dike: A Dutch Folktale*. Mankato, MN: The Child's World, 2013.
  - A popular folktale that been told so many times that its first author is unknown. Peter, the central character, is very observant. He shows the power of one person's bravery.
- Gerson, Mary-Joan. *Why the Sky is Far Away: A Nigerian Folktale*. New York: Hachette Book Group, 1974.
  - This Nigerian folktale is over 500 years old. It teaches us to respect the sky and the earth, and to be good stewards of our planet.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

- Harris, Chris. *I'm Just No Good at Rhyming and Other Nonsense for Mischievous Kids and Immature Grown-Ups*. New York: Little, Brown and Company, 2017.
  - This book is perfect for those 2<sup>nd</sup> graders who have started to learn about poetry, rhyming, and symbols and say they just don't like it. Harris injects fun humor into every poem.
- Creech, Sharon. *Love that Dog*. New York: HarperCollins, 2001.
  - Jack hates poetry, at first, but after reading a Walter Dean Myers poem he is inspired to write one about his recently deceased dog. The age range for this book is wide, but it is a good challenge for 2<sup>nd</sup> graders. There is a sequel, too, called *Hate that Cat*.
- Singer, Marilyn. *Mirror, Mirror*. New York: Dutton Children's Books, 2010.
  - Inventing her own poetry style, the poems all start out the same way. They are about traditional fairy tales like Red Riding Hood. Then, changing punctuation and style, but not the words, they present the alternate point of view (for example from the Wolf's side). Interesting and fun, it plays with poetry and fairy tale tropes.
- Trueit, Trudi Strain. *What is Poetry?* Minneapolis, MN: Lerner Publishing Group, 2015.
  - This "how-to" book about poetry is a great way to introduce reluctant students to the world of writing poetry. The author identifies several aspects of poetry and then at the end, gives students a chance to create their own poem. A glossary of terms is included.
- Keenan, Sheila. *O Say Can You See? America's Symbols, Landmarks, and Inspiring Words*. New York: Scholastic, Inc., 2004.
  - Important places, interesting objects, inspiring words, and American holidays are the sections of this book of symbols. This is a great resource to learn about all of the symbols of America.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

- Curtis, Andrea. *Eat This! How Fast-food Marketing Gets You to Buy Junk (and How to Fight Back)*. Markham, Ontario: Red Deer Press, 2018. **King County Library Only**
  - A slim but complex book easily relatable to children gives them the tools and power to make their own choices when it comes to eating healthy.
- Minden, Cecilia. *How to Write an Ad*. Ann Arbor, MI: Cherry Lake Publishing, 2012.
  - Part of a “How to Write” series, this book focuses on attention grabbing techniques to create advertising. **King County Library Only**
- Heard, Georgia, editor. *The Arrow Finds Its Mark: A Book of Found Poems*. New York: Roaring Brook Press, 2012.
  - This is a compilation of poems that were created from text found in everyday life. Sources of text were found in very diverse places, such as a hardware store ad, a photo caption, and an airline magazine. This is a great way to discuss the power of words in marketing.
- Wing, Natasha. *An Eye for Color: The Story of Josef Albers*. New York: Henry Holt & Co., 2009.
  - Within the pages of this book, students are introduced to the effects of different colors on your emotions. Makes a great jumping off point to discuss how color is used in marketing.
- Grimshaw, Caroline. *World Book Encyclopedia Presents Music*. Chicago, IL: World Book, 1996.
  - Music is a big influence in our world, even the world of marketing. This is a great resource to learn about all aspects of music. It begins with how sound becomes music, moves on to how music is made, and ends on how it affects our emotions.

### 4<sup>th</sup> Grade

- Laliberte, Michelle. *What Are the 7 Wonders of the Ancient World?* Berkeley Heights, NJ: Enslow Publishers, 2013.
  - A quick overview of the 7 wonders of the ancient world.
- Kallen, Stuart A. *Burj Khalifa: The Tallest Tower in the World*. Chicago, IL: Norwood House Press, 2014.
  - A quick overview of how this building was constructed and the challenges encountered along the way. It includes a glossary and some great photos.
- Dillon, Patrick. *The Story of Buildings*. Somerville, MA: Candlewick Press, 2014.
  - This book focuses more on text than the previous recommendation, and as a result is more lyrical. The information is a bit light in the prehistoric era, but the illustrations are just as strong.
- *Where Is. . .* New York: Grosset & Dunlop, Assorted dates.
  - This series is a great way to introduce students to a wide variety of important structures around the world. Titles range from the Eiffel Tower to Taj Mahal and Stonehenge.
- Hayes, Vicki C. *12 Architects Who Changed the World*. Mankato, MN: 12-Story Library, 2020.
  - A great resource containing short biographies of 12 well-known architects. They include Frank Lloyd Wright, Antoni Gaudi, Maya Lin, and 9 others. The book is filled with facts and photos that will delight students.

## 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

- Wyatt, Valerie. *How to Build Your Own Country*. Toronto, Ontario: Kids Can Press, 2009.
  - Funny and silly way to help a 5<sup>th</sup> grader start a capstone project.
- Krull, Kathleen. *A Kids' Guide to America's Bill of Rights*. New York: Avon Books, 1999.
  - A fun introduction to our country's idea of how to protect people from their government.
- Williams-Garcia, Rita. *One Crazy Summer*. New York: Amistad, 2010.
  - In the summer of 1968 three siblings visit their mother in Oakland, CA. They learn firsthand about the Black Panthers when they attend a summer camp. It gives an intriguing point of view about that time period that is worth a read.
- Adler, David A. *Heroes for Civil Rights*. New York: Holiday House, 2008.
  - A collection of brief illustrated biographies of people who were known for their contribution to the civil rights movement.
- Christopher, John. *The White Mountains*. New York: Collier Books, 1988, c1967.
  - This science fiction novel is an adventurous way for students to explore the importance of civil rights and freedom. What happens when people lose the ability to think freely? It is a great book to use as a discussion tool.