

Unit of Inquiry Recommended Reading List

Who We Are

Below you will find a list of books related to the Unit of Inquiry, “Who We Are”. 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

- Appelt, Kathi. *Incredible Me!* New York: HarperCollins, 2003.
 - A child explains why she is special.
- Parr, Todd. *Love the World.* New York: Little, Brown & Co., 2017.
 - There is always something to love in the world!
- Henkes, Kevin. *Chrysanthemum.* New York: Greenwillow, 1991.
 - What happens when you begin school and find out your name is very different? This classic book is a great way to help children take pride in their uniqueness.
- Skutch, Robert. *Who’s in a Family?* Berkeley, CA: Tricycle Press, 1995.
 - A look at the variety of family configurations in our country. The author also utilizes the animal kingdom to draw parallels.
- Santat, Dan. *The Adventures of Beekle.* New York: Scholastic, 2015.
 - An imaginary friend goes on an adventure to find the right child.

Kindergarten

- De La Pena, Matt. *Last Stop on Market Street.* New York: Putnam Sons, 2015.
 - A boy is traveling with his grandmother on the bus, and wonders why he can’t ride in a car or have a small computer device. On the bus ride the grandmother helps the boy to see that what he has is beautiful.
- Harrison, Hannah. *Friends Stick Together.* New York: Dial Books for Young Readers, 2018.
 - A rhino has a new friend that is annoying him to pieces. He finds out how to get the bird to leave him alone, but something is still missing.
- Becker, Bonny. *A Visitor for Bear.* Cambridge, MA: Candlewick, 2008.
 - Bear is content with living on his own, however, a mouse has his own ideas.
- Willems, Mo. *Sam the Most Scaredy-Cat Kid in the Whole World.* New York: Hyperion, 2017.
 - Sam and his friend, monster Leonardo, come across another monster-kid duo who is as scaredy-cat as Sam is. The monsters leave the kids to work it out.
- Valentine, Madeline. *I Want That Nut!* New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2017.
 - Best friends have to figure out how to share when they discover only one nut! There is an unexpected ending that celebrates solutions.

1st Grade

- Arnold, Caroline. *Too Hot? Too Cold?* MA: Charlesbridge, 2013.
 - Demonstrates how your body, and other animals' bodies, regulate their internal temperature.
- Rabe, Tish. *Oh the Things That You Can Do That Are Good For You!* New York: Random House, 2001.
 - A book written with Dr. Seuss' rhyming scheme that details healthy habits.
- Rockwell, Lizzy. *Good Enough to Eat.* New York: HarperCollins, 1999.
 - Outlines how the body digests food, and what the body receives from the food it digests.
- Dyckman, Ame. *Horrible Bear.* New York: Little, Brown, 2016.
 - A girl loses a kite in a bear cave, and the bear accidentally breaks it. She stomps away mad before trying to understand what had happened from Bear's point of view.
- Barnett, Mac. *Rules of the House.* Los Angeles, CA: Hyperion, 2016.
 - Ian and Jenny are spending their summer in a cabin in the woods. Ian likes to follow the rules, and Jenny tends to find a way to break them. What happens when they open the one door they are not supposed to?

2nd Grade

- Singer, Marilyn. *Every Month is a New Year.* New York: Lee & Low Books, 2017.
 - In the shape of a calendar this book is a collection of poems about New Year celebrations around the world.
- Delacre, Lulu. *Salsa Stories.* New York: Scholastic, 2012.
 - A party is happening, and Carmen Teresa is gifted a notebook. She spends the rest of the party recording her families own childhood stories from all over Latin America.
- Del Rizzo, Suzanne. *My Beautiful Birds.* Ontario: Pajama Press, 2016.
 - As Sami and his family flee from a war torn Syria he releases his birds that he had as pets. In a refugee camp, Sami and the rest of the children learn to adapt to their new home.
- Hood, Susan. *Ada's Violin: The Story of the Recycled Orchestra of Paraguay.* New York: Simon & Schuster, 2016.
 - Recounts the true story of an orchestra made up of students using instruments recycled from the garbage dump. Includes photos of the actual orchestra.
- Yolen, Jane, ed. *Favorite Folktales from around the World.* New York: Random House, 1986.
 - Folktales teach us a lot about culture and this compilation is a great resource. The author organizes the tales by topics and then by country.

3rd Grade

- Assorted Authors. *Who Is/Who Was series*. New York: Penguin Random House for Young Readers, Assorted dates.
 - The Who Is/Who was series is a great introduction to biographies for children. With modern and historical selections, and relevant information everyone will be happy.
- Winter, Jonah. *Ruth Bader Ginsburg: The Case of R.B.G vs. Inequality*. New York: Abrams for Young Readers, 2017.
 - A book about how Ruth Bader Ginsburg became the symbol for gender equality through her determination and hard work.
- Rowell, Rebecca. *Rachel Carson Sparks the Environmental Movement*. Minneapolis, MN: Abdo Publishing, 2016.
 - A look into Rachel Carson's life as she invigorates the environmental movement.
- Pinkney, Andrea Davis. *Sit-In How Four Friends Stood Up By Sitting Down*. New York: Little, Brown, 2010.
 - An inspiring retelling of the sit-ins at restaurants during the Civil Rights Movement.
- Rhuday-Perkovich, Olugbemisola. *The Hero Next Door*. New York: Crown Books for Young Readers, 2019.
 - A collection of short stories by a variety of authors. Each story explores acts of bravery.

4th Grade

- Simon, Seymour. *The Brain: Our Nervous System*. New York: Morrow Junior, 1996.
 - A visually stunning book that explores the brain and its various functions.
- Glass, Susan. *The Circulatory System*. Logan, IA: Perfection Learning, 2004.
 - A study of the heart, blood vessels, four parts of the blood, blood pressure, and cardiovascular disease.
- Gold, Dudley Susan. *Learning about the Musculoskeletal System and the Skin*. New Jersey: Enslow Publishers, 2013.
 - Explains how the musculoskeletal system works and how it helps you in sports.
- Swanson, Jennifer. *Brain Games*. Washington, D.C.: National Geographic, 2015.
 - The book includes brain challenges that children can solve, and then on the next page explains what is happening in their brain and the rest of their body as they try and solve the problem.
- Perrin, Clotilde. *At the Same Moment, Around the World*. San Francisco, CA: Chronicle Books, 2014.
 - A look at how time zones are a system. If one could step outside of time and look, what would people around the world be doing at one particular moment.

5th Grade

- Alexander, Kwame. *The Undefeated*. New York: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2019.
 - A Newbery award book of poems to honor those who persevered in the face of injustice. Lovely illustrations help to bring meaning to the poems. The book also has short biographical sketches for each poem. . . as each one relates to a person or persons.
- Braun, Eric. *The American Indian Rights Movement*. Minneapolis, MN: Lerner Publications, 2019.
 - A non-fiction introduction to the American Indian rights movement. A great way for students to draw parallels between people groups and the struggle for rights.
- Smith-Llera, Danielle. *TV Shows the World Freedom as the Berlin Wall Falls: An Augmented Reading Experience*. North Mankato, MN: Compass Point Books, 2019.
 - Through historical photographs and narration students will learn about the Berlin Wall. A complete picture includes the history of the Wall and the pressures that led to its fall. The fall would become a symbol of freedom.
- Wittenstein, Barry. *A Place to Land: Martin Luther King Jr. and the Speech That Inspired a Nation*. New York: Holiday House, 2019.
 - “The true story behind the writing of Martin Luther King’s ‘I Have a Dream’ speech” – provided by the publisher.
- Yep, Laurence. *Dragon’s Gate*. New York: Harper Trophy, 1995.
 - This award-winning book recounts the difficult life that Chinese immigrants encountered during the late 1800s.