

A Blog for Busy Teachers

FREE LANGUAGE-BASED TEACHING STRATEGIES

The 2020 summer reading list was created by our high school librarian, Amy Veling, and inspired by the work of and conversations with Landmark's Diversity and Inclusion Advocates, a group of faculty on campus that strives to recognize racial and cultural inequality and to help make sure that the school community embraces diversity and is welcoming and safe for all.

This reading list includes titles with links to purchase, as well as the number of pages in each book and (if known) its lexile level. For more information about determining a student's lexile level, see [this resource](#).

Adult/Professional

[Anxious to Talk About It: Helping White Christians Talk Faithfully About Racism](#) by Carolyn B. Helsel (128 pages)

[Between the World and Me](#) by Ta-Nehsis Coastes (176 pages)

[Good Talk](#) by Mira Jacob (368 pages)

[How to be an Antiracist](#) by Ibram X Kendi (320 pages)

[The Nickel Boys](#) by Colson Whitehead (This year's Pulitzer Prize winner) (224 pages)

[So You Wanna Talk About Race](#) by Ijeoma Olou (256 pages)

[The Sun Does Shine: How I Found Life and Freedom on Death Row](#) by Anthony Ray Hinton (movie in the works) (288 pages)

[This Book is Anti-Racist](#) by Tiffany Jewel (action-oriented) (160 pages)

[White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism](#) by Robin DiAngelo (192 pages)



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Race/Ethnicity

[The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian](#) by Sherman Alexie (320 pages, 600 lexile)

[American Street](#) by Ibi Zoboi (352 pages, 690 lexile)

[Black Enough: Stories of Being Young and Black in America](#) ed. by Ibi Zoboi (416 pages, lexile N/A)

[Color Me In](#) by Natasha Diaz (384 pages, 950 lexile)

[Dear Martin](#) by Nic Stone (240 pages, 720 lexile)

[Forward Me Back to You](#) by Mitali Perkins (432 pages, 690 lexile)

[Grass](#) by Keum Suk Gendry-Kim (Graphic Novel) (480 pages, GN lexile) [Graphic Novel=story told in pictures]

[The Hate U Give](#) by Angie Thomas (464 pages, 590 lexile)

[Heavy: An American Memoir](#) by Kiese Laymon (256 pages, lexile N/A)

[The House on Mango Street](#) by Sandra Cisneros (110 pages, 870 lexile)

[I'm Not Dying with You Tonight](#) by Gilly Segal/Kimberly Jones (272 pages, 740 lexile)

[I Was Their American Dream: A Graphic Memoir](#) by Malaka Gharib (160 pages, GN lexile) [Graphic Novel=story told in pictures]

[On the Come Up](#) by Angie Thomas (464 pages, 550 lexile)

[This Tender Land](#) by William Kent Krueger (464 pages, lexile N/A)

[Watch Us Rise](#) by Renee Watson (368 pages, 800 lexile)

[With the Fire on High](#) by Elizabeth Acevedo (400 pages, 810 lexile)



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Belief/Religion

[Darius the Great is Not Okay](#) by Adib Khorram (336 pages, 710 lexile)

[It's a Whole Spiel: Love, Latkes, and Other Jewish Stories](#) by ed. Katherine Locke (320 pages, 850 lexile)

[Just Mercy \(Adapted for Young Adults\): A True Story of the Fight for Justice](#) by Bryan Stevenson (288 pages, 1040 lexile)

[The Names They Gave Us](#) by Emery Lord (416 pages, 600 lexile)

[The Poet X](#) by Elizabeth Acevedo (384 pages, 800 lexile)

[The Sun Does Shine: How I Found Life and Freedom on Death Row](#) by Anthony Ray Hinton (288 pages, lexile N/A)

Family/Home

[Carry On: A Story of Resilience, Redemption and an Unlikely Family](#) by Lisa Fenn (320 pages, lexile N/A)

[Look Both Ways](#) by Jason Reynolds and Alexander Nabaum (208 pages, 750 lexile)

[The Nickel Boys](#) (Colson Whitehead) (224 pages, 940 lexile)

[Orbiting Jupiter](#) by Gary D. Schmidt (192 pages, 740 lexile)

[Sorry for Your Loss](#) by Jessie Ann Foley (336 pages, lexile N/A)

[Taking Flight: From War Orphan to Star Ballerina](#) by Michaela DePrince (256 pages, 940 lexile)

[The Smell of Other People's Houses](#) by Bonnie-Sue Hitchcock (240 pages, 960 lexile)



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Gender/Identity

[The 57 Bus: A True Story of Two Teenagers and the Crime that Changed Their Lives](#) by Dashka Slater (320 pages, 930 lexile)

[Damsel](#) by Chandra Prasad (272 pages, 660 lexile)

[A Danger to Herself and Others](#) by Alyssa Sheinmel (368 pages, 790 lexile)

[Gender Queer: A Memoir](#) by Maria Kobabe (Kindle Edition) (239 pages, GN lexile)
[Graphic Novel=story told in pictures]

[I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter](#) by Erika L. Sanchez (368 pages, 730 lexile)

[I Wish You All the Best](#) by Mason Deaver (320 pages, 570 lexile)

[Leah on the Offbeat](#) by Becky Albertalli (368 pages, 500 lexile)

[Like a Love Story](#) by Abdi Nazemian (432 pages, lexile N/A)

[Luna](#) by Julie Anne Peters (256 pages, 500 lexile)

[The Music of What Happens](#) by Bill Konigsberg (352 pages, 670 lexile)

[SLAY](#) by Brittney Morris (336 pages, 930 lexile)

[There There](#) by Tommy Orange (304 pages, 810 lexile)

[Untamed](#) by Glennon Doyle (352 pages, lexile N/A)

[Will Grayson, Will Grayson](#) by John Green and David Levithan (320 pages, 930 lexile)



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FREE LANGUAGE-BASED TEACHING STRATEGIES

Immigrant/Culture

[American Dirt](#) by Jeanine Cummins (400 pages, lexile N/A)

[The Book of Unknown Americans](#) by Cristina Henriquez (304 pages, 760 lexile)

[Born a Crime](#) by Trevor Noah (304 pages, 770 lexile)

[The Downstairs Girl](#) by Stacey Lee (384 pages, 810 lexile)

[The Field Guide to the North American Teenager](#) by Ben Philippe (384 pages, 830 lexile)

[Internment](#) by Samira Ahmed (400 pages, 660 lexile)

[Patron Saint of Nothing](#) by Randy Ribay (352 pages, lexile N/A)

[A Long Walk to Water : Based on a True Story](#) by Linda Sue Park (128 pages, 720 lexile)

[Soldier Boy](#) by Hutton Keely (336 pages, 860 lexile)

[They Called Us Enemy](#) by George Takei (208 pages, GN lexile) [Graphic Novel=story told in pictures]

[When Dimple Met Rishi](#) by Sandhya Menon (384 pages, 700 lexile)



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Socioeconomics

[Breaking Night: A Memoir of...my journey from homelessness to Harvard](#) by Liz Murray (352 pages, lexile N/A)

[Educated: A Memoir](#) by Tara Westover (352 pages, 870 lexile)

[Nickel and Dimed: On \(Not\) Getting by in America](#) by Barbara Ehrenreich (256 pages, 1340 lexile)

[Heft](#) by Liz Moore (368 pages, lexile N/A)

[The Help](#) by Kathryn Stockett (544 pages, 730 lexile)

[Sleeping in My Jeans](#) by Connie King Leonard (240 pages, lexile N/A)

[Such a Fun Age](#) by Kiley Reid (320 pages, lexile N/A)

[Trash](#) by Andy Mulligan (240 pages, 850 lexile)

[We'll Fly Away](#) by Bryan Bliss (416 pages, 670 lexile)

[Where the Crawdads Sing](#) by Delia Owens (384 pages, 880 lexile)



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Short Story Collections

[Behind the Song](#) ed. By K.M. Walton (376 pages, 740 lexile)

[Black Enough: Stories of Being Young and Black in America](#) ed. by Ibi Zoboi (416 pages, lexile N/A)

[Dear Teen Me: Authors Write Letters to Their Teen Selves](#) by Miranda Kenneally (192 pages, 880 lexile)

[Flying Lessons & Other Stories](#) ed. by Ellen Oh (240 pages, 800 lexile)

[Fresh Ink: An Anthology](#) ed. Lamar Giles (224 pages, 700 lexile)

[Geektastic: Stories from the Nerd Herd](#) ed. by Holly Black (432 pages, 760 lexile)

[The Guide for White Women who Teach Black Boys](#) eds. Eddie Moore, Ali Michael, Marguerite W. Penick-Parks (472 pages, lexile N/A)

[Here We Are: Feminism for the Real World](#) by Kelly Jensen (240 pages, 1070 lexile)

[The Letter Q: Queer Writers' Notes to Their Younger Selves](#) by Sarah Moon (288 pages, 950 lexile)

[Open Mic: Riffs on Life Between Cultures](#) ed. by Mitali Perkins (144 pages, 810 lexile)

[Our Stories, Our Voices: 21 YA Authors Get Real About Injustice, Empowerment, and Growing Up Female in America](#) ed. by Amy Reed (320 pages, lexile N/A)

[Pick-Up Game: A Full Day of Full Court](#) ed. by Marc Aronson (176 pages, 720 lexile)

[Sacred Stories: Wisdom from World Religions](#) by Marilyn McFarlane (192 pages, 820 lexile)

[Unbroken: 13 Stories Starring Disabled Teens](#) ed. by Marieke Nijkamp (320 pages, lexile N/A)

[Welcome Home: An Anthology on Love and Adoption](#) by Eric Smith (352 pages, lexile N/A)

