



# OAKLAND SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS

## TIPS FOR READ-IN VOLUNTEERS

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### 1. EVENT VALUES

- All students deserve the opportunity to relate to characters in books. Seeing and hearing from characters who look like you is an imperative component of this. Diversity is a gift!
- We celebrate agency, as defined as the capacity of individuals to act independently and to make their own choices. People should be able to speak for themselves as opposed to being spoken about. This is why we read literature written **by** the community we are celebrating.
- We acknowledge that reading one story at a time does not at all accurately portray the vast cultures we celebrate. By sharing one story at a time, volunteers can introduce different author's perspectives on their cultures, as one piece of an infinitely large whole.

### 2. WHY READING ALOUD IS IMPORTANT

- Associates reading with fun and excitement. Helps instill a lifelong love of reading!
- Expands a student's body of background knowledge.
- Increases exposure to rare words, building vocabulary.
- When students relate to a book, their self-esteem can grow!

### 3. PREPARING TO READ ALOUD

- Always read through your book before presenting it to students. This is called pre-reading. Identify:
  - The flow of the story, and find any surprises.
  - The theme of the book. What you think might have motivated the author to write this book.
  - Any words that might be challenging or new for students. Plan to stop here and check for understanding before moving on (sticky notes can help!).
- Please quickly research the author (and illustrator). Find out where they're from, etc.

### 4. TIPS FOR READING ALOUD

#### **Entering the Classroom:**

- Come in quietly, the teacher will introduce you.
- Say hello to the students and let them know that you're excited to be there. Thank the teacher and students for inviting you to read today.
- Introduce yourself and tell students a little bit about yourself. Ex: where you work, where you're from, where you went to school. Whatever you choose to share, please make it relatable. We want students to be inspired by your path and realize how many opportunities are open to them for their own futures.
- Students can ask you a few questions about yourself before you get started.

#### **Introducing the Book:**

- Start by introducing the author (and illustrator). Share about the author's background.
- If you're reading with younger students, show them the front cover and ask if they'd like to make any predictions about what they think the book might be about before getting started.
- Explain that this is just one book by and about the community we are celebrating and that there are thousands of other books within this category that they can read in the future and that all are very different because there are so many different kinds of people in the world.

### **While Reading:**

- Discuss any challenging or confusing words that come up. Ask students if they know the word or want to guess what it means. Be sure to provide the accurate definition.
- If reading with younger students, ask them to make observations about the artwork every few pages. This will help them to stay engaged and actively processing the content of the book.
- Stop and ask questions a few times while reading. Example include:
  - Has anything like this ever happened to you?
  - How do you think this character is feeling?
  - Have you ever read a book similar to this in the past?
- Read with expression, and not too quickly.
- React as you read to model interaction and reading comprehension.

### **After Reading:**

- Review the vocabulary words that you discussed.
- Ask open-ended questions to help students reflect on the book and connect it to their own lives and practice their comprehension skills. Ex:
  - What was your favorite part?
  - Would you have done anything differently?
  - What happened at the beginning, middle, and end?
- Let students know that they can write to the author to share their opinion on the story, and that they can write their own books to tell their own stories too!

## **5. GOING ABOVE AND BEYOND**

- If you are able, we invite you to please donate the book(s) that you bring to read.
- Ask the teacher if they'd like to exchange contact information with you to stay in touch in the future.
- Volunteer again with us for a future read-in!
- Become an ongoing academic volunteer through Oakland School Volunteers ([www.OaklandEdFund.org/Community-Volunteers](http://www.OaklandEdFund.org/Community-Volunteers)) or one of our non-profit partners.