



**OAKLAND**  
PUBLIC EDUCATION FUND



**OAKLAND  
SCHOOL  
VOLUNTEERS**

## 6<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Activity Guide for Families

- [Read-Aloud Tips](#)
- [2020 Recommended Book List](#)
- [Oakland Public Library's eBooks and Digital Content](#)

---

### READING

Reading books aloud to middle and high school students: improves comprehension, reduces stress, and expands exposure to different types of texts. In addition to supporting language and literacy development, reading with students expands their body of background knowledge. This shared experience associates reading with fun, builds community, and instills a love for reading that will benefit them in school and beyond. This is a great opportunity to model reading strategies, including:



- **Thinking aloud:** Demonstrate how to think critically and often by posing questions and making connections
- **Monitoring understanding:** Check for comprehension by asking open-ended questions and reread when needed
- **Visualizing text:** Encourage your child to think about what images form in their mind while reading
- **Application:** Ask your child to consider how the book connects to their own life, other books, current events, etc.
- **Consider** taking turns reading the story with your child. You each might choose a part of the book to read so that your child can practice reading aloud.

### VOCABULARY

Providing a simple explanation for unfamiliar words can help build your child's language skills. Here are some words to explore with your child during your read-aloud and the additional suggested activities offered in this guide:

**CULTURAL HERITAGE:** Inherited values and traditions that are handed down from previous generations; a shared bond, belonging to a community; it represents a people's history and identity

**DIVERSITY:** The ways that people are both different and alike; what makes people unique; Aspects, or dimensions, of diversity include race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, language, culture, religion, mental and physical ability, class, and immigration status

**INCLUSION:** The behaviors and social norms that ensure people feel welcome

**LEGACY:** Something (as memories or knowledge) that comes from the past or a person of the past

## ART

Encourage your child to express thoughts, feelings, and inspiration through art. First, gather any materials you may have available such as paper, tissue, wrapping paper, newspapers, magazines, junk mail, maps, brochures, recyclable packaging materials, etc. The more diverse the materials, the better! If you don't have glue or tape at home, encourage your child to draw designs, powerful scenes from the book, or any other illustration they feel inspired to produce. When they are done, help them bring their art to life by asking about their work. Encourage them to add words (words, a phrase, a reflection, a poem) that describe how they felt while reading and how they feel about celebrating APA Heritage Month. Share your child's art with your community by posting to social media: #APARead-InArt #APAHeritageMonth #ReadingisPower #OaklandReads



## WRITING



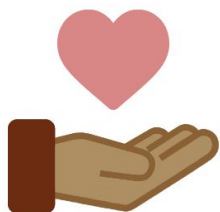
Celebrating a Heritage Month means paying tribute, honoring, praising, appreciating, and celebrating the generations who have enriched America's history and are so vital in its future success. Talk to your child about what they are excited to have learned about this community, and what they are still curious about. Encourage them to write a note to the author/illustrator or a character from the book about what they learned and any questions they still have. We also recognize that there are many unifying themes you may be interested in exploring through written reflection. Check out some [additional writing prompts here](#).

## COOK TOGETHER

Collaborate with your child to cook something delicious. You can choose to make anything from a special family recipe to a simple boxed recipe. You can start by making an ingredient list so that you can pull the items from your kitchen together. Talk about the steps that go into preparing your dish, and let your child take the lead on as much of the recipe as possible. Use questions that prompt children to consider this dish's significance to your family, community, and/or culture. What memories do you each have associated with this dish? What does the smell or taste remind you of? When the dish is complete, consider sharing a photo with someone in your community or family to celebrate this special project?



## COMMUNITY GRATITUDE JAR



Using a jar (or any container you have available), create a gratitude jar. Your child can decorate the jar. When it's done, cut some small slips of paper and have your child write the name of something or someone they are grateful for. Encourage your child to think not only about people, but also about traditions, customs, or other practices within your community that they appreciate. Keep the jar available, so that your child, and your whole family, can add to it. Feel free to pull some notes out and reread them aloud in order to celebrate special people and things in your life.

## KEEP READING

Visit Oakland Public Library's [eBook webpage](#) to access free, downloadable eBooks. Feel free to search for books using search terms like "Asian-American", "Hawaii", "Latinx", "African American", etc. Often, videos of book read alouds are posted online, so search for titles from our recommended book list.

