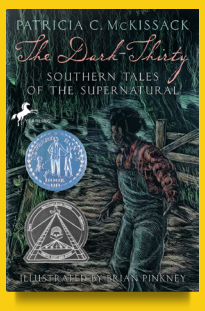
TEACH IT

Tomorrow

Anthologies, collections, and novels in verse—texts with modular formats—make it easy to incorporate high quality texts into classrooms for close reading, discussion, and text pairing.

The titles included in this can be broken into modules: Teach a single segment in one class period or incorporate multiple segments throughout a unit. Because the modules are short, they make for excellent contemporary pairs for canonical works, mentor texts for close reading, or a simply a compelling way to introduce a new unit or essential question. They also allow us to incorporate a wide range of texts without overhauling curriculum—you can pair nonfiction with fiction or a novel in verse, offering rich opportunities for discussion and analysis.

Grades 3–7



The Dark-Thirty: Southern Tales of the Supernatural

Patricia McKissack
Illustrated by Brian Pinkney

In this Newbery Honor book and Coretta Scott King Award winner, Patricia McKissack brings us ten original and standalone spine-tingling tales inspired by Black history.

This is ideal for

- Close reading practice focusing on motifs, folktale elements, and theme, as well as author craft
- Pairing with U.S. history units, especially when discussing Jim Crow, segregation, and racism
- Including in units on folktales
- Reading around Halloween and during Black History Month

Flying Lessons & Other Stories

Published in partnership with We Need Diverse Books

Edited by Ellen Oh

Ten profound short stories and a collection of poetry highlight diverse experiences with authenticity and astute insight. Covering everything from dreaming of playing professional basketball to the thrill of holding hands with a girl for the first time, *Flying Lessons & Other Stories* will resonate across all audiences.

This is ideal for

- Close reading practice, especially analyzing point of view, voice, and theme

EDUCATORS' BROCHURE

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The Hero Next Door

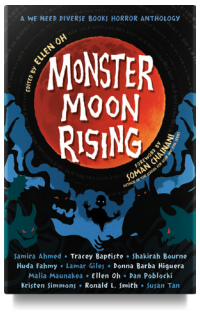
Published in partnership with We Need Diverse Books

Edited by Olugbemisola Rhuday-Perkovich

Not all heroes wear capes. Some heroes teach martial arts. Others talk to ghosts. A few are inventors or soccer players. They're also sisters, neighbors, and friends, because heroes come in many shapes and sizes. But they all have one thing in common: They make the world a better place. These thirteen short stories capture what it means to make the world a better place.

This is ideal for

- Close reading practice, especially analyzing point of view, voice, and theme
- Sparking discussions about finding your voice, making a difference, and our responsibility to others
- Exploring teachable moments
- Reading over the course of a unit or even the school year



Monster Moon Rising

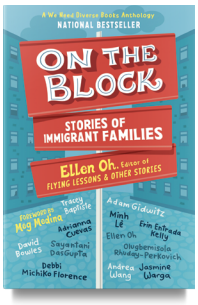
Published in partnership with We Need Diverse Books

Edited by Ellen Oh

This is a middle grade horror anthology edited by Ellen Oh. When a blood moon rises, creatures from folklore awaken across the world and twelve kids must confront the monsters of their nightmares before it's too late. Featuring stories, (including one graphic) from award-winning authors and a foreword by bestselling author Soman Chainani. This is a modular book not to be missed.

This is ideal for

- Pairing with full length texts that have identity narratives
- Framing a unit about folklore or mythology
- Read-aloud and independent reading suggestions around Halloween



On the Block

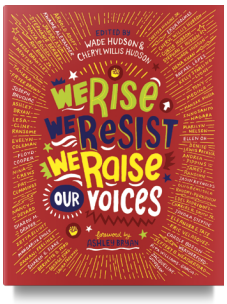
Published in partnership with We Need Diverse Books

Edited by Ellen Oh

Welcome to the Entrada, home to twelve families and twelve cultures. Each story in this anthology centers on a kid's experience living in the Entrada and their immigrant narrative—whether their grandparent's or they are immigrants themselves. All the stories are interconnected through various neighbor interactions and friendships.

This is ideal for

- Pairing with full length texts that have immigration and identity narratives
- Framing a unit about family, community, and belonging
- Close reading, especially for voice, theme, and setting as a character



We Rise, We Resist, We Raise Our Voices

Edited by Wade Hudson and Cheryl Willis Hudson

Featuring poems, letters, personal essays, art, and other works from such industry leaders as Jacqueline Woodson (*Brown Girl Dreaming*), Jason Reynolds (*All American Boys*), Kwame Alexander (*The Crossover*), Andrea Pippins (*I Love My Hair*), Sharon Draper (*Out of My Mind*), Rita Williams-Garcia (*One Crazy Summer*), Ellen Oh (cofounder of We Need Diverse Books), and artists Ekua Holmes, Rafael Lopez, James Ransome, Javaka Steptoe, and more, this anthology empowers the nation's youth to listen, learn, and build a better tomorrow.

This is ideal for

- Close reading, especially for voice and theme
- Pairing with social studies units that touch on social movements
- Dedicated lessons on empowerment and using your voice

Grades 5 & Up

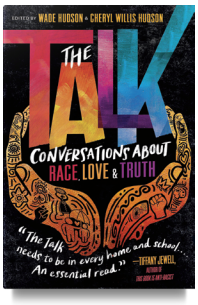
Iveliz Explains It All

Andrea Beatriz Arango
Illustrated by Alyssa Bermudez

Powerful and compassionate, Andrea Beatriz Arango's Newbery Honor–winning novel in verse navigates mental health, finding your voice, and discovering that those who really love you will stay by your side. It features poignant subject matter, sparse text, and spot art throughout.

This is ideal for

- Close reading for characterization, voice, and tone
- Mentor texts for writing in first-person



The Talk: Conversations About Race, Love, and Truth

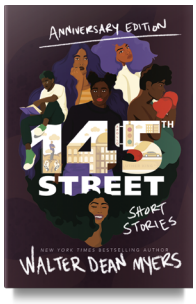
Edited by Wade Hudson and Cheryl Willis Hudson

Thirty diverse, award-winning authors and illustrators invite you to witness the conversations they have with their children about race in America today in this powerful call-to-action that invites all families to be anti-racist advocates for change.

This is ideal for

- Dedicated lessons on civic engagement and anti-racism
- Close reading for theme, voice, and author's purpose
- Incorporating into social studies units through discussions of identity and social movements

Grade 7 & Up



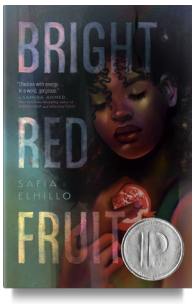
145th Street: Short Stories

Walter Dean Myers

This collection of powerful and poignant stories about 145th Street—an unforgettable block in the heart of Harlem—celebrates African American life in all of its glory. This twentieth-anniversary edition of Myers's work features brand-new content, including historical information about Harlem's rich past, an immersive map of the neighborhood's iconic landmarks, and touching tributes from authors, artists, and literary legends. Celebrating two decades in print, this edition honors Myers's enormous legacy and brings his work to a new generation of readers.

This is ideal for

- Close reading, especially for voice, theme, characterization, and author craft
- Exploring setting as a character
- Incorporating stories into units on community, identity, and place



Bright Red Fruit

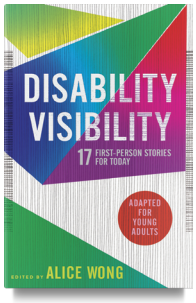
Safia Elhillo

This Printz Honor title is an unflinching, honest novel in verse about a teenager's journey into the slam poetry scene and the dangerous new relationship that could threaten all her aspirations. She searches for the balance between honoring her family, her art, and her dreams—navigating gender, sexuality, religion, and chosen family as she struggles to reconcile her traditional upbringing and the exciting future that's been advertised to her.

This is ideal for

- Close reading
- Incorporating sections into units that explore identity, coming-of-age, family expectations, and narrative writing
- Poetry units, especially poetry units that incorporate spoken word

Grade 7 & up *(continued)*



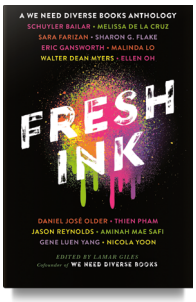
Disability Visibility (Adapted for Young Adults): 17 First-Person Stories for Today

Edited by Alice Wong

The seventeen eye-opening essays in *Disability Visibility*, all written by disabled people, offer keen insight into the complex and rich disability experience, examining life's ableism and inequality and its challenges and losses, and celebrating its wisdom, passion, and joy. Readers will be proud to see themselves reflected in this hopeful, compelling, and insightful essay collection, adapted for young adults from the critically acclaimed adult book *Disability Visibility: First-Person Stories from the Twenty-First Century*.

This is ideal for

- Close reading for voice and author's purpose
- Incorporating essays into units that touch on disability and identity



Fresh Ink

Published in partnership with We Need Diverse Books

Edited by Lamar Giles

Thirteen of the most accomplished YA authors deliver a label-defying anthology that includes ten short stories, a graphic novel, and a one-act play about topics like gentrification, acceptance, untimely death, coming out, and poverty and ranging in genre from contemporary realistic fiction to adventure and romance. This collection will inspire you to break conventions, bend the rules, and color outside the lines. All you need is fresh ink.

This is ideal for

- Close reading for author craft and theme
- Pairing with current events

Grade 9 & Up

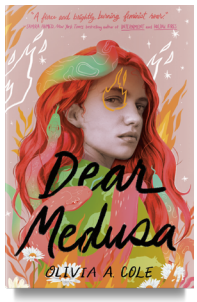
Annie Burned the House Down

Olivia A. Cole

A girl follows the trail of a missing teenager—but the secrets she uncovers reignite the embers of her own past in this haunting novel in verse about the things we hide, even from ourselves.

This is ideal for

- Close reading for characterization, theme, voice, and social context
- Framing for a unit that touches on memory, identity, grief, gender studies, and mental health
- For grades 11 and 12: Pair with nonfiction works frequently taught in AP Language and Composition courses, such as *Sister Outsider* and *Feminism Is for Everybody*, to explore questions of sexism, credibility, and intersectionality



Dear Medusa

Olivia A. Cole

This searing and intimate novel in verse follows a sixteen-year-old girl coping with sexual abuse as she grapples with how to reclaim her story, her anger, and her body in a world that seems determined to punish her for the sin of surviving.

This is ideal for

- Close reading for characterization, theme, voice, and social context
- Framing for a unit that touches on trauma or sexism
- For grades 11 and 12: Pair with nonfiction works frequently read in AP Language and Composition courses, such as *Know My Name* and *Sister Outsider*, which explore questions of sexism, power, silence, and the significance of personal experience