YOU CAN USE CTA’S CALIFORNIA READS TO PROMOTE READING IN YOUR SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES

As educators, we know how important reading is to student success. It’s not just success at school, though. Researchers often look at literacy as a means to predict how lawful our students will grow up to be.

Teaching a child to read and to love reading is giving them one of the best life skills. And that’s why CTA has expanded our Read Across America efforts to promote more than one book on one day. Instead, through our California Reads program, we promote teacher-recommended books in all grades and reading levels (Pre-K through K-12) throughout the year.

AND CELEBRATE READ ACROSS AMERICA TURN THE PAGE FOR RESOURCES

Download the full year of recommended reading at www.cta.org/californiareads.

Official Selections for Read Across America

It’s Okay To Be Different (Pre-K/TK/K)
Told with Todd Parr’s signature wit and wisdom, It’s Okay to Be Different cleverly delivers the important messages of acceptance, understanding, and confidence in an accessible, child-friendly format. The book features the bold, bright colors and silly scenes that made Todd a premiere voice for emotional discussions in children’s literature. Targeted to young children first beginning to read, this book will inspire kids to celebrate their individuality through acceptance of others and self-confidence—and it’s never to early to develop a healthy self-esteem.

Natsumi! (Grades 1-2)
Natsumi is small but full of big exuberance, and puts her girl-power to good use when she discovers a Japanese tradition as energetic as she is.

When Natsumi’s family practices for their town’s Japanese arts festival, Natsumi tries everything. But her stirring is way too vigorous for the tea ceremony, her dancing is just too imaginative, and flower arranging doesn’t go any better. Can she find just the right way to put her exuberance to good use?

This heartwarming tale about being true to yourself is perfect for readers who march to their own beat.

Barbed Wire Baseball: How One Man Brought Hope to the Japanese Internment Camps of WWII (Grades 3-5)
A true story set in a Japanese-American internment camp in World War II. As a young boy, Kenichi Zenimura (Zeni) wanted to be a baseball player, even though everyone told him he was too small. He grew up to become a successful athlete, playing with Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig. But when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor in 1941, Zeni and his family were sent to one of several internment camps established in the U.S. for people of Japanese ancestry. Zeni brought the game of baseball to the camp, along with a sense of hope, and became known as the “Father of Japanese-American Baseball.”

Ghost Boys
(Grades 6-8)
Twelve-year-old Jerome is shot by a police officer who mistakes his toy gun for a real threat. As a ghost, he observes the devastation that’s been unleashed on his family and community in the wake of what they see as an unjust and brutal killing.

Soon Jerome meets another ghost: Emmett Till, a boy from a very different time but similar circumstances. Emmett helps Jerome process what has happened, on a journey towards recognizing how historical racism may have led to the events that ended his life. Jerome also meets Sarah, the daughter of the police officer, who grapples with her father’s actions.

Once again Jewell Parker Rhodes deftly weaves historical and socio-political layers into a gripping and poignant story about how children and families face the complexities of today’s world, and how one boy grows to understand American blackness in the aftermath of his own death.

I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter (Grades 9-12)
Perfect Mexican daughters do not go away to college. And they do not move out of their parents’ house after high school graduation. Perfect Mexican daughters never abandon their family.

But Julia is not your perfect Mexican daughter. That was Olga’s role.

Then a tragic accident on the busiest street in Chicago leaves Olga dead and Julia left behind to reassemble the shattered pieces of her family. And no one seems to acknowledge that Julia is broken, too. Instead, her mother seems to channel her grief into pointing out every possible way Julia has failed.

But it’s not long before Julia discovers that Olga might not have been as perfect as everyone thought. With the help of her best friend Lorena, and her first love, first everything boyfriend Connor, Julia is determined to find out. Was Olga really what she seemed? Or was there more to her sister’s story? And either way, how can Julia even attempt to live up to a seemingly impossible ideal?

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Once you learn to read, you will be forever free. —Frederick Douglass

### Teacher Recommended Books

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<thead>
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<td>It’s Okay To Be Different by Todd Parr</td>
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<td>Barbed Wire Baseball Written by Marissa Moss, Illustrated by Yuko Shimizu</td>
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<td>I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter by Erika L. Sánchez</td>
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While we promote literacy throughout the year, we still enjoy participating in our national literacy events through Read Across America. So, again this year, CTA has created resources for you and your members to download and use locally. There are posters, certificates in English and Spanish, a bookmark, and our “6 Reading Keys” flyer in 8 languages (these make great handouts for parents).

As you make your plans to celebrate reading on March 1, 2019, the official Read Across America Day, consider using one of the books from our recommended reading list.

Download these resources at www.cta.org/californiareads.

**Resources**

- Certificate of Participation
- Parent handout “6 Keys” available in 8 languages
- Bookmark
- Poster with all 2018-2019 recommended books
- Inspirational Posters

And let us know what you are planning and we will help promote that to your local media. Just email Anqi Hong at ahong@cta.org with the details about your event.
You can use CTA’s California Reads to promote reading in your schools and communities.

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And Celebrate Read Across America turn the page for resources.