

PreK-8

Read for a Better World

Summer Reading Book Packs

**NEW take-home books
and student activities to keep
kids engaged during summer**

- High-interest fiction and nonfiction
- Social-Emotional Learning
- Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion
- Culture and Creativity

Award-winning books at a 50% educator discount

Lerner





Dear Educator,

Strong literacy skills are an essential part of education. Literacy allows students to communicate effectively, keep up with current events, and understand the issues that are shaping the world. Ultimately, literacy can transform students into socially-engaged global citizens.

In the more than 60 years that Lerner Publishing Group has been creating children's books, inclusion and diversity have been important considerations for our company. In fact, the very first books we published in 1959—titles such as *Michael Gets the Measles*—were written by a female doctor and featured a female doctor in the illustrations, at a time when only 6 percent of the doctors in the United States were female. We now publish hundreds of books each year, and it's a critical part of our work that each book be inclusive in topic, language, illustration, and photography. We believe children can learn diversity and acceptance when **learning to read** and when **reading to learn**.

This summer, we are committed to helping schools reduce COVID-related learning loss with some of our strongest titles for improving both literacy and diversity.

The Read for a Better World summer reading collection supports and aligns to Title I programs and CARES Act funding through:

- A **broad selection of genres**, including fiction, nonfiction, poetry, counting books, science fiction and fantasy, humor, reference, and others
- Diverse books that allow students to **see themselves** and **the experiences of others** around the world
- Books and activities that support social emotional development, provide opportunities for reflection and encourage using student voices to inspire change
- IDEA Sheets include activities to increase **family involvement in their children's education**, including writing exercises, extended learning, and discussion prompts

Lerner is committed to making our award-winning titles available to all students, so we have priced these resources starting at just **\$19.99 per student**. Many of the books in this program are available in paperback for the very first time, exclusively through the Read for a Better World summer reading book packs. We thank you for your dedication and continued efforts to achieve student engagement, and we look forward to partnering with you.

Sincerely,

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adam Lerner'.

Adam Lerner

CEO & Publisher, Lerner Publishing Group



COMMITTED TO GROWING READERS

Strong literacy skills are an essential part of education. Learning loss over the summer is a challenge educators, students, and family members face annually. On average, students lose about one month of learning over the summer⁽¹⁾. Due to the global pandemic, the 2020 school year looked very different from a typical year. By the fall of 2021, students are predicted to have lost between three months to a year of learning as a result of disruptions due to COVID-19⁽²⁾.

Sources: <https://www.brookings.edu/research/summer-learning-loss-what-is-it-and-what-can-we-do-about-it>
<https://www.mckinsey.com/~media/McKinsey/Industries/Public%20and%20Social%20Sector/Our%20Insights/COVID-19%20and%20student%20learning%20in%20the%20United%20States%20The%20hurt%20could%20last%20a%20lifetime/COVID-19-and-student-learning-in-the-United-States-FINAL.pdf>



Home-based
summer reading
programs can **HELP**
address
learning loss



Why choose Lerner for Summer Reading?

- * Lerner knows literacy
- * Top 5 independent children's book publisher since 1959
- * Known and trusted by teachers and librarians
- * Books kids choose to read
- * 60+ years of publishing diverse books
- * Committed to helping readers grow as students and as people
- * Exclusive educator discount on award-winning and highly reviewed books

The **#1**
recommendation
is to **READ** over
the summer

Sources: <https://www.communitiesinschools.org/blog/2020/07/six-tips-responding-covid-19-learning-loss-summer-and-beyond>
<https://edpolicyinca.org/publications/what-can-be-done-address-learning-losses-due-school-closures>

INTRODUCING

Read for a Better World

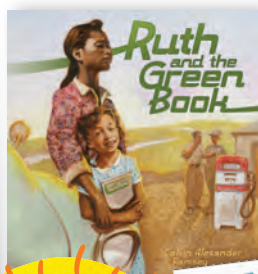
Summer Reading Take-Home Book Packs with Activities

The Read for a Better World Summer Reading Collection is one tool families and educators can use to keep students engaged over the summer. To build the just-right kits, we reached out to experts including principals, superintendents, librarians, reading specialists, and master teachers to deliver a variety of reading experiences and text types while keeping a theme of diverse perspectives front and center.

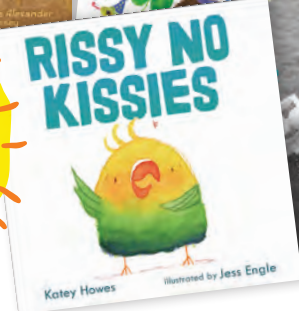
Students start or expand their home libraries with books to keep. Includes award-winning fiction and nonfiction paperbacks at the lowest price ever available.

"The books and activities in this collection will help educators facilitate activities that encourage students to think, create, share, and grow along the themes of identity, diversity, justice, and action. This collection helps children see themselves as authors of their lives in a diverse world."

—Tonya Leslie, PhD
teacher, author, educator



Educator Discount
Over 50%
Per Summer Pack



Family Resource Letter

Dear Supportive Family Members,

We are excited to share with you the books and activities that are part of the Read for a Better World Summer Reading Collection. These resources are designed to help you and your child explore themes of identity, diversity, justice, and action.

Here are some additional activities you can do together to make learning fun:

- **Make a rainbow:** Use Crayola markers to create a rainbow on a piece of paper.
- **Read and act it out:** Read the book and act out the story.
- **Make a grocery list:** Write a grocery list for the story.
- **Make a map:** Draw a map of the story's setting.

For more information about learning to be a better person, visit our parent resource page.

Visit www.readforabetterworld.org

Lerner

Read For A Better World - IDEA Sheet

One Plastic Bag: Isatou Ceesay and the Recycling Women of the Gambia

Super You to the Rescue!

With these books, you have the power to change the world. That's because small acts of kindness can have big impacts. Think about all the ways you could do this to make your community a better place. Write down these actions and how they would help your community. Then, choose one of these acts to try yourself. Ask for a grown-up to help if needed.

Act of Kindness	How to Help
Pick up trash at the park	Choose park for people and animals

Lerner

5 IDEA Sheets for reflection

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Program Aligns with: Title I, CASEL Social-Emotional Learning Core Competencies, CARES Act Funding, Common Core, Teaching Tolerance/Learning for Justice, AASL Standards

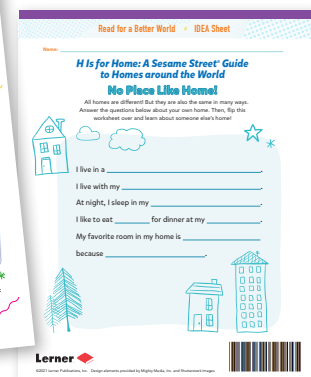
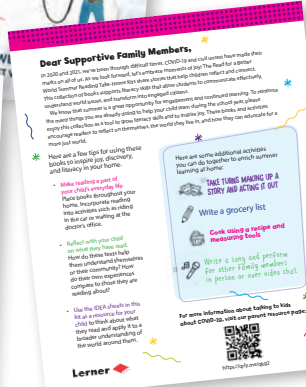
PreK-K

Books especially curated to introduce young readers to themes of difference, acceptance, and identity. Includes two illustrated picture books, two photographic nonfiction titles, and a decodable reader.



BE A MAKER:
 "Provided space for creativity and imagination for small children without boundaries. Text balances and reinforced nontraditional roles."
 —Dr. Cynthia Mitchell
 Program Coordinator

Over 50%
 Educator Discount
\$19.99
 Per Summer Pack



ISBN: 978-1-72844-363-8

Title	©	Pages	Classification	Text Type	Alignment
H Is for Home	2021	32	Nonfiction	Informational/Explanatory	SEL, Teaching Tolerance
Be a Maker	2019	32	Fiction	Fiction	SEL, AASL Standards
Rissy No Kissies	2021	32	Fiction	Fiction	SEL, AASL Standards, Teaching Tolerance
Feelings Like Mine	2021	24	Nonfiction	Informational/Explanatory	SEL, Common Core, AASL, Teaching Tolerance
Tag! & In Pip's Bag	2020	32	Fiction	Fiction	Common Core, Title I, CARES Act, AASL Standards

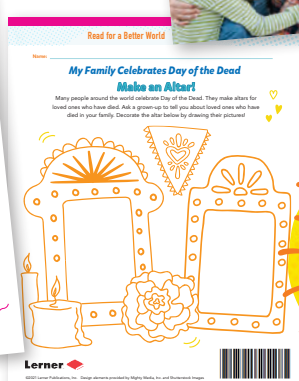
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1st Grade

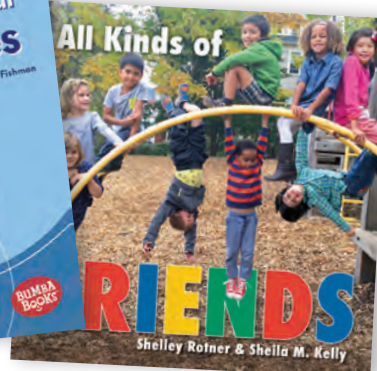


Titles were chosen to celebrate different cultures through holidays, emphasize friendship and belonging, and share stories of accomplishment. Includes a biography, three photographic nonfiction titles with a variety of text types, and an illustrated picture book.

FAMILIES LIKE MINE:
 "Such an important topic for our times and it was presented in a way that children of all ages can understand."
 —Nikol Boyd
 Principal



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Family Resource Letter

5 IDEA Sheets for reflection

ISBN: 978-1-72844-364-5

Title	©	Pages	Classification	Text Type	Alignment
My Family Celebrates Day of the Dead	2019	24	Nonfiction	Informational Fiction	SEL, Teaching Tolerance, AASL Standards
Families Like Mine	2021	24	Nonfiction	Informational/Explanatory	SEL, Common Core, AASL, Teaching Tolerance
Crayola® Holi Colors	2019	32	Nonfiction	Informational/Explanatory	CARES Act, Title I, Common Core
All Kinds of Friends	2018	32	Nonfiction	Informational/Explanatory	SEL, Teaching Tolerance, AASL Standards
Gymnastics Superstar Simone Biles	2019	24	Nonfiction	Narrative Nonfiction	Common Core, Title I, CARES Act, AASL Standards

2nd Grade

Explore a variety of different cultures and experiences through illustrated fiction and nonfiction. Includes narrative nonfiction and fictional stories with engaging illustrations to draw readers into the story.



BUNDLE:
"Highly engaging texts that could be enjoyed by all age levels, including adults. I loved them!"

—Dr. Debbie Battles
Principal

Family Resource Letter

5 IDEA Sheets for reflection

ISBN: 978-1-72844-365-2

Title	©	Pages	Classification	Text Type	Alignment
One Plastic Bag	2015	32	Nonfiction	Narrative Nonfiction	NCSS, Common Core, AASL Standards, Teaching Tolerance
The Key from Spain	2019	32	Fiction	Narrative Nonfiction	NCSS, Common Core, BSL, AASL Standards, SEL
Kevin's Kwanzaa	2013	24	Nonfiction	Informational Fiction	NCSS, Common Core, AASL Standards, Teaching Tolerance, SEL
The Most Beautiful Thing	2020	32	Nonfiction	Narrative Nonfiction	SEL, AASL Standards, Teaching Tolerance
Everybody Cooks Rice	1991	32	Fiction	Informational Fiction	NCSS, Common Core, BSL, AASL Standards, SEL

3rd Grade



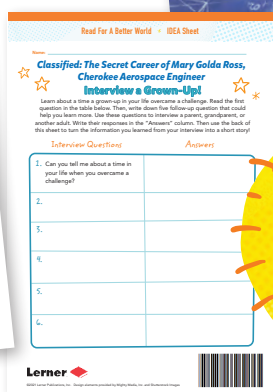
Learn about hidden figures and events in history and explore current celebrities working to further social justice and inclusiveness. Includes three illustrated titles, a graphic novel, and a photo-driven biography.

CLASSIFIED:
"Excellent story! I love that the details of the Cherokee are included."

—Ms. Christine Wade
Master Teacher



Family Resource Letter



5 IDEA Sheets for reflection

ISBN: 978-1-72844-366-9

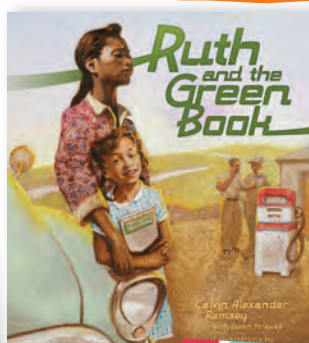
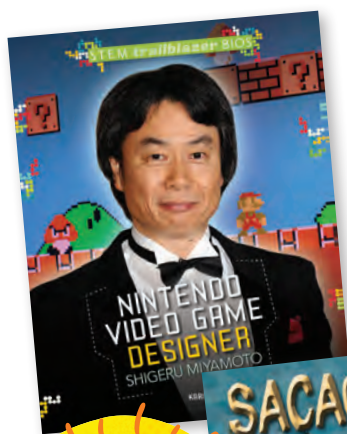
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Per Summer Pack



Title	©	Pages	Classification	Text Type	Alignment
Classified	2021	32	Nonfiction	Narrative Nonfiction	Common Core, AASL Standards, Title I, SEL
Juneteenth	2006	48	Nonfiction	Narrative Nonfiction	NCSS, Common Core, AASL Standards, Teaching Tolerance, SEL
The Vast Wonder of the World	2018	40	Nonfiction	Narrative Nonfiction	Common Core, AASL Standards, Title I, SEL, Teaching Tolerance
Little Sima and the Giant Bowl	2009	48	Nonfiction	Folktale/Legend	NCSS Standards, Common Core, Title I, SEL, Teaching Tolerance
LeBron James, 2nd Edition	2021	32	Nonfiction	Narrative Nonfiction	Common Core, SEL, Teaching Tolerance, AASL Standards

4th Grade

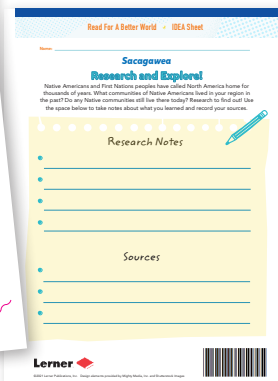
Explore historical and modern elements of diversity through true stories as well as fictional retellings of real events.



MY BEIJING:
"This is a sweet graphic novel
full of wonder and charm.
A great book to get young
readers ready for chapter books."

— Tonya Leslie, Ph.D

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Family Resource Letter

5 IDEA Sheets for reflection

ISBN: 978-1-72844-367-6

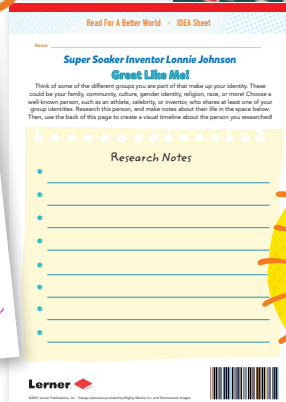
Title	©	Pages	Classification	Text Type	Alignment
Sacagawea	2003	40	Nonfiction	Nonfiction	NCSS, Common Core, Title I, SEL, Teaching Tolerance, AASL Standards
Serena Williams	2020	32	Nonfiction	Narrative Nonfiction	SEL, Teaching Tolerance, AASL Standards
Ruth and the Green Book	2010	32	Fiction	Fiction/Historical	NCSS, Common Core, Teaching Tolerance, AASL Standards, SEL
Nintendo Video Game Designer Shigeru Miyamoto	2016	32	Nonfiction	Narrative Nonfiction	Common Core, AASL Standards
My Beijing	2018	128	Fiction	Fiction	AASL Standards, Teaching Tolerance, SEL

5th Grade



People who make a difference are front and center in this collection. Includes three biographies, a narrative overview of major moments in the intersection of sports and social justice, and a fun novel.

BUNDLE:
"Touches on diversity from
a variety of perspectives."
—Dr. Ann Ferrell
Retired Middle School Principal



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Family Resource Letter

5 IDEA Sheets for reflection

ISBN: 978-1-72844-368-3

Title	©	Pages	Classification	Text Type	Alignment
Super Soaker Inventor Lonnie Johnson	2018	32	Nonfiction	Narrative Nonfiction	Common Core, AASL Standards
Malala Yousafzai	2021	32	Nonfiction	Narrative Nonfiction	Common Core, AASL Standards, Teaching Tolerance, SEL
Kamala Harris	2021	48	Nonfiction	Narrative Nonfiction	Common Core, AASL Standards, Teaching Tolerance, SEL, CARES Act
The Secret of the Puzzle Box	2016	192	Fiction	Fiction	AASL Standards, Common Core
More Than a Game	2020	64	Nonfiction	Narrative Nonfiction	Common Core, Teaching Tolerance, AASL Standards, SEL

6-8th Grades

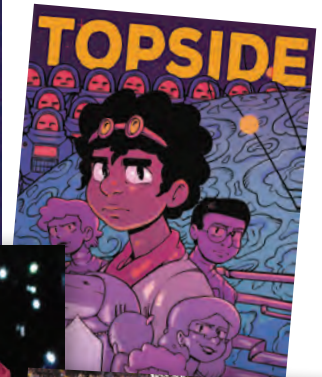
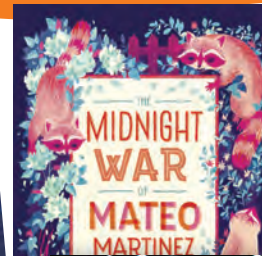
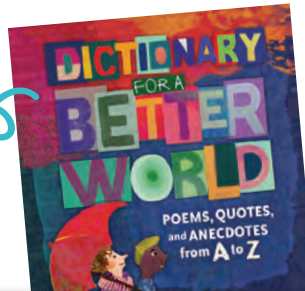


Inspire empathy and a love of reading with high-interest choices for middle schoolers. Includes two biographies, a book of poetry, a novel, a graphic novel, and a narrative nonfiction title, as well as a journal for response and reflection.

DICTIONARY FOR A BETTER WORLD:

"This is a great mentor text for teaching various forms of poetry and it is an excellent tool in support of social emotional learning focused conversations."

—Lisa Romano
Assistant Principal



Family Resource Letter



Journal



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ISBN: 978-1-72844-858-9

Title	©	Pages	Classification	Text Type	Alignment
The Midnight War of Mateo Martinez	2016	184	Fiction	Fiction	AASL Standards, Common Core
Topside	2019	200	Fiction	Fiction— Science Fiction/Fantasy	Teaching Tolerance, AASL Standards, SEL
Dictionary for a Better World	2020	120	Nonfiction	Poetry	CARES Act, Title I, Common Core, AASL Standards, SEL, Teaching Tolerance
The NBA Playoffs	2019	64	Nonfiction	Narrative Nonfiction	AASL Standards, Common Core
Lizzo	2021	48	Nonfiction	Narrative Nonfiction	AASL Standards, Common Core, SEL, Teaching Tolerance
Billie Eilish	2021	48	Nonfiction	Narrative Nonfiction	AASL Standards, Common Core

Sesame Street®

Bring social-emotional learning to the forefront with Sesame Street titles. Hand-picked to focus on Sesame Street's core values of friendship, inclusiveness, and learning for students in grades PreK-1.

ISBN: 978-1-72844-370-6

PLAY AT HOME WITH ELMO
"Great Book! Love the ideas and I'm sure parents will too!"

—Amy Lemons
Principal

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Crayola®

Crayola titles focus on creativity and the ability of all readers to create. Activities are appropriate for students in grades 1-3.

ISBN: 978-1-72844-369-0

BUNDLE:
"Highly engaging for younger elementary school students."
—Dr. Kamaria Shauri-Webb
Master Teacher

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INDEPENDENT READING LIBRARIES

Read for a Better World

Classroom Libraries

Read for a Better World Classroom Libraries were developed to share stories of diversity, equity, inclusion and social justice, bringing real issues to life for young readers. Libraries include fiction and nonfiction, a variety of text types (narrative, graphic, informational, expository, poetry), and a range of reading levels.

These well-rounded collections for Grades PreK-1, 2-3, and 4-5 classrooms helps readers understand the world and their place in it. Digital extensions and activities will also be available. Educator guidebooks and student reflection and activity books round out this robust offering.

