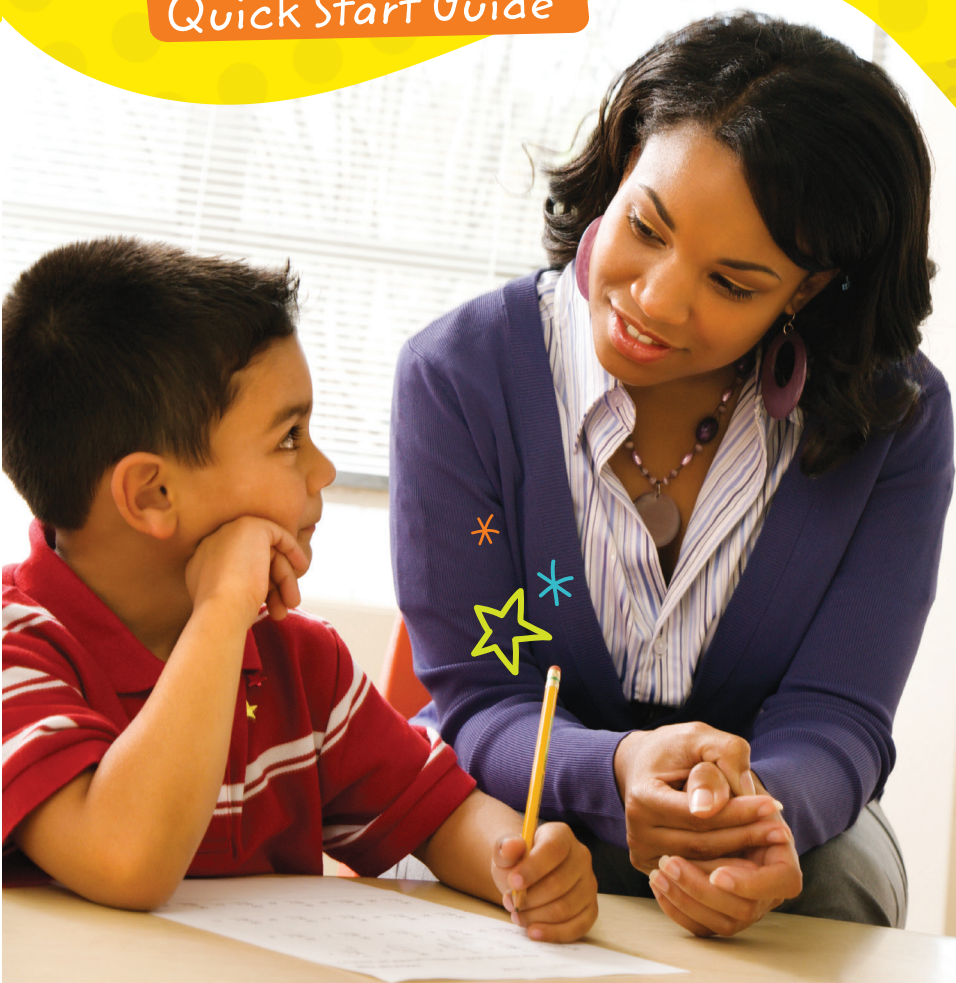


Read for a Better World

Quick Start Guide





Welcome to Read for a Better World!

Read for a Better World™ is a new kind of inclusive library curated with a focus on diversity, social justice, and equity. The collection encourages the development of empathy, critical thinking, and student voice. A variety of text types in print and digital formats offer a content library that allows readers to broaden and deepen their understanding of diversity in an increasingly global society. We want to help educators create a better, more just world through reading.

At the earliest grades, readers explore stories of a big, diverse world. As they grow in understanding, they are introduced to historical and current events and key figures and issues. By engaging with narratives of change, students can establish and develop their own sense of agency and begin to see how they can make a difference at home, at school, and in their wider community.

Our goal at Lerner is to offer rich stories that help readers cultivate and celebrate empathy, compassion, and equity. We want all students and learning communities to have access to culturally rich texts that allow students to see themselves and to experience the perspective of others. With Read for a Better World, we support you in building inclusive libraries that encourage action and emphasize student voice, social and emotional learning, and equity.

Sincerely,



Adam Lerner

CEO & Publisher, Lerner Publishing Group



Diverse classroom libraries are **critical** in schools with **marginalized populations**—but are **equally valuable** in schools with **homogeneous populations**.¹



Discussions and activities related to reading help students absorb the lessons taught by those books.²



Research shows that **access to culturally diverse materials** in curriculum and classroom libraries is **critical** for both **literacy achievement** and **reading motivation**.³

1. <https://www.edutopia.org/article/why-diverse-classroom-libraries-matter>

2. <https://www.literacyworldwide.org/blog/literacy-now/2020/10/20/the-importance-of-a-diverse-classroom-library>

3. Henderson, Janelle W., Katherine Warren, Kathryn F. Whitmore, Amy Seely Flint, Tasha Tropp Laman, and Wanda Jaggars. 2020.

"Take a Close Look: Inventorying Your Classroom Library for Diverse Books" *Reading Teacher* 73 (6): 747–55. doi:10.1002/trtr.1886.

Read for a Better World

A Deeper Look at Diversity

A diverse classroom library is a critical tool for teaching readers about the world. As they explore the experiences and perspectives of others, readers can better understand their own identity and how best to use their voice. Libraries at schools are especially important for children who have limited access to books in their homes or communities. *As an educator, you play a critical role in creating an inclusive, literacy-rich environment.*



But what constitutes an inclusive library? Research suggests that books about diverse groups often have limited content.⁴ These books lack a key kind of diversity—diversity of story. In building **Read for a Better World**, we've focused on not just diversity of representation, but also on narrative diversity. Read for a Better World Classroom Libraries offer text types such as expository, narrative, and graphic that appeal to a wide variety of readers.

While there is great diversity in the collection, one thing remains constant: these titles will help students grow as readers and as people. We hope you can use Read for a Better World to build literacy skills and empathy.

We've also given a lot of thought to how you will weave these books into your daily instruction. The *Read for a Better World Educator Guide* will help you talk about race, culture, and gender with various age groups. These hands-on guides offer practical tips and lesson plans to help you put theory into action. Readers can use the activities in the *Student Action and Reflection Guide* to further build skills and extend learning.

Perspective-shifting work is critical to building empathy and self-knowledge. These research-based theories, tips, and tools provide a strong foundation for building a diverse library and for talking about diverse subjects with your students.

Sincerely,

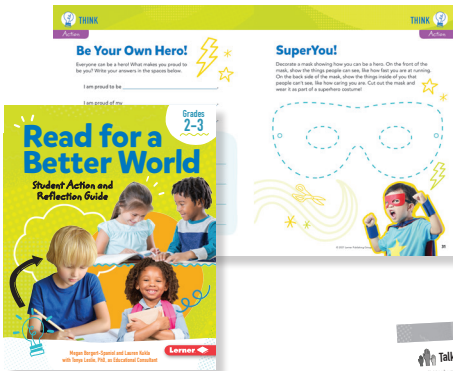
Tonya Leslie

Tonya Leslie, PhD



4. Aronson, K., B. Callahan, and A. O'Brien. 2017. "Messages Matter: Investigating the Thematic Content of Picture Books Portraying Underrepresented Racial and Cultural Groups." *Sociological Forum*. 33 (1): 165-185. <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/socf.12404>.

Using Read for a Better World



▲ STUDENT ACTION AND REFLECTION GUIDES



▲ CLASSROOM LIBRARY + BIN

▼ EDUCATOR GUIDE



▼ DICTIONARY FOR A BETTER WORLD + DISCUSSION GUIDE

Anchor Text Discussion Guide

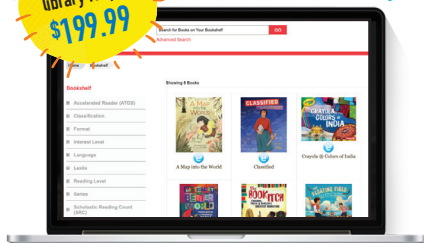


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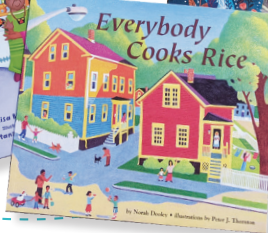
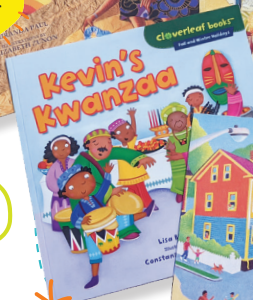


▲ **DIGITAL LIBRARY** If you purchased the digital library, visit [LernerBooks.com/ReadBetter](https://www.lernerbooks.com/ReadBetter) for an implementation guide.

▲ **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES**



\$19.99
per student



◀ **QUARTERLY TAKE-HOME BOOK PACKS**

Where to Start *



1. Set up your classroom library using the bin provided. You can download customizable bin labels at

[LernerBooks.com/ReadBetter](https://www.lernerbooks.com/ReadBetter).

2. Familiarize yourself with the texts that are included in the classroom library. Each title was carefully selected by literacy and diversity experts to support the domains of identity, diversity, justice, and action, as defined by Learning for Justice. You can download a list of alignments and guided reading levels for each library at **[LernerBooks.com/ReadBetter](https://www.lernerbooks.com/ReadBetter)**.



3. Place your library wherever your students look for books for independent reading time. Decide whether you want to integrate Read for a Better World into your existing classroom library or keep it nearby as a dedicated library of its own.

4. Begin with the Introduction of the Educator Guide, which will help you talk with your students about race, gender, ethnicity, and ability. This will help you use the different text types from the Read for a Better World Classroom Libraries to teach diversity, justice, identity, and action.

5. Review the Student Action and Reflection Guides as well as the lesson plans from the Educator Guide, and decide how to incorporate these lessons into your existing curriculum, during small group and independent reading time, or at special times throughout the day.

6. Consider conducting the classroom library audit on pp. 8–9 in the Educator Guide. This will help you identify gaps in the books your students can access in your classroom and find additional ways to use the texts in the Read for a Better World library.

7. Visit **[LernerBooks.com/ReadBetter](https://www.lernerbooks.com/ReadBetter)** for an on-demand professional development webinar about implementing the library in your classroom and register for personalized ongoing professional development sessions.



Once You're Established



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Sign up for the Read for a Better World newsletter at [LernerBooks.com/ReadBetter](https://www.lernerbooks.com/ReadBetter) to hear about new professional development opportunities, updates to the collection, and ongoing tips to help you integrate diversity into your classroom libraries and curriculum. Personalized professional development is available upon request.

SUMMER

During your summer planning time, evaluate your entire classroom library, including your Read for a Better World library. New student activity books can be ordered using the table on the following page, and if you bought the digital library, it can be renewed following the instructions at [LernerBooks.com/ReadBetter](https://www.lernerbooks.com/ReadBetter).

CONTACT

Let us know your thoughts! We'd love to hear your feedback on how Read for a Better World is going for you, ideas for improvements, questions, and suggestions.

Please contact us at custserve@lernerbooks.com.

Replacement Educator and Student Guides

TITLE	SINGLE COPIES	SET OF 25
Read for a Better World Educator Guide (PreK-1) <i>One Educator Guide is included in the PreK-1 Classroom Library</i>	\$22.99 978-1-72844-308-9	
Read for a Better World Educator Guide (Grades 2-3) <i>One Educator Guide is included in the Grades 2-3 Classroom Library</i>	\$22.99 978-1-72844-310-2	
Read for a Better World Educator Guide (Grades 4-5) <i>One Educator Guide is included in the Grades 4-5 Classroom Library</i>	\$22.99 978-1-72844-312-6	
Read for a Better World: Student Action and Reflection Guide (PreK-1) <i>25 copies of Student Guide are included in the PreK-1 Classroom Library</i>	\$14.99 978-1-72844-305-8	\$269.99 978-1-72845-754-3
Read for a Better World: Student Action and Reflection Guide (Grades 2-3) <i>25 copies of Student Guide are included in the Grades 2-3 Classroom Library</i>	\$14.99 978-1-72844-306-5	\$269.99 978-1-72845-756-7
Read for a Better World: Student Action and Reflection Guide (Grades 4-5) <i>25 copies of Student Guide are included in the Grades 4-5 Classroom Library</i>	\$14.99 978-1-72844-307-2	\$269.99 978-1-72845-758-1

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