



Lerner Publishing Group Collection Curation Methodology

Every book in the Lerner Read for a Better World collection was reviewed and carefully considered by a team of principals, superintendents, librarians, reading specialists and master teachers who evaluated nearly 150 titles for content, grade level connections, relation to other books in that collection, and to the collection as a whole. Their goal was to ensure that our take-home book packs:

- Deliver a variety of reading experiences to boost student engagement, including accounting for a range of reading proficiencies within a classroom but always aiming for high-interest topics to keep students' attention
- Provide a range of text types, including a fiction/nonfiction mix and spanning narrative nonfiction, graphic novels, picture books, decodable readers, expository literature and more to foster literacy skills development
- Represent diverse perspectives to help all students find themselves in books
- Include Social-Emotional Learning themes to build empathy, encourage reflection and collaboration, and develop healthy identities
- Develop activities that would encourage both literacy skills development and increase family involvement in education

All titles in the Read for a Better World and Lerner Take-Home Pack Collection aim to meet the following goals for our student readers.

High Interest: Books that kids *want* to read, featuring subjects or characters that represent the child's world or help to expand the child's world by presenting them with new information on science, social studies, and fictional topics.

Leveling: We consider both interest levels and reading levels, with a focus on providing a range of titles within a package to accommodate below level, on-level, and above-level readers in a grade. We use Lexile, Guided Reading, ATOS, and other leveling systems to evaluate all titles.

Appropriateness: We consider interest level, reading level, genre, page counts, content, and topic as we consider how to build packs for students so that the books make sense for the students for whom they are intended.

Variety: We aim to provide a variety of text types (narrative, expository, poetry, fiction, graphic novels, and more), a fiction/nonfiction mix, various genres and varying topics to appeal to all readers.

Social and Emotional Connections: Lerner has identified books supporting specific Social and Emotional Learning competencies using the CASEL Five, from the Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning. The CASEL Five are: self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills, and responsible decision-making. Each book in the collection meets at least one of the CASEL Five competencies.



Literacy Support: How to educate and nurture a truly literate child is a puzzle that requires many pieces. Parents, teachers, school officials, community members, society at large, a variety of programs and strategies all contribute in some way to how – and how well – a child learns to read. One component that is universally recognized as critical to learning to read is consistent practice with and ready access to books. The books in the take-home packs provide access to books for independent reading at home, which helps students:

- Recognize the difference between books that tell stories and books that give information
- Use context to confirm or self-correct word recognition and understanding, re-reading as necessary
- Describe characters, settings, or events using illustrations and details from the story
- Gain exposure to different text types such as narrative, expository, poetry, fiction, graphic novels, and more
- Recognize text features such as captions, bold print, subheadings, glossaries and indexes to find key facts in a text
- Read and understand grade-appropriate vocabulary
- Read unfamiliar words in and out of context using letter-sound correspondence (phonics), syllabication patterns and morphology

Curriculum and Standards Connections: Titles in Lerner’s Take-Home Packs adhere to a number of state and national curriculum standards, including Common Core, Informational Literacy, Science and Social Studies Curriculum, NGSS, STEM, and College and Career Readiness. In addition, the Take-Home Packs align to Title I and ESSER programs and policy designed to help ensure that all children meet challenging state academic standards.

Cost-Effective: Lerner’s Take-Home Packs were built to provide great value to school districts looking to improve student literacy. Featuring authentic trade titles, these packs are the most affordable way for school districts to provide these highly reviewed, award-winning books at an exclusive educational discount.