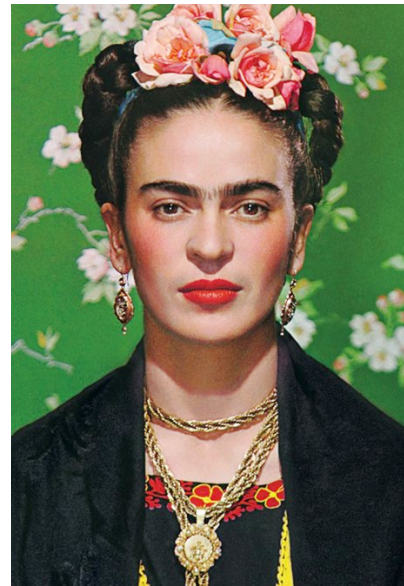


Diversity and Equity in Reading Plus

Providing Equity for All Students with a Diverse Content Library

Reading Plus is committed to providing students with a diverse content library that represents the wide range of their emotional and academic needs and interests.

The Reading Plus program contains an extensive library of engaging informational and literary selections that maintains the highest standards of quality, integrity, and diversity. Reading Plus content respects and reflects the experiences and cultures of all students, with special care for students whose backgrounds have historically been underrepresented.



Diverse Content to Meet the Needs of All Students

The Reading Plus content library includes informational and literary selections that support instructional objectives through student-centered learning. Selections are written to meet readability and text complexity recommendations outlined in national and state standards, and literary content has been curated to expand students' knowledge about the world.

Various Text Types for All Reading Abilities

Reading Plus includes 19 reading levels that range from early-first-grade readability through college-level texts, as well as five levels of age-appropriate content for older students reading well below grade level. This “hi-lo” (high interest, low readability) content enables older, struggling readers to build efficiency at lower readability levels while reading about topics that respect their interests.

Selection Examples

Nonfiction

- ✓ Biographies
- ✓ History
- ✓ Essays
- ✓ Speeches
- ✓ News articles

Fiction

- ✓ Myths and legends
- ✓ Folk tales
- ✓ Contemporary fiction
- ✓ Historical fiction
- ✓ Science fiction



Cross-Curricular Reading Selections

Students self-select texts through eight interest filters that provide agency over reading material. Within each category, students will find a wide variety of texts from global sources that support the acquisition of knowledge in curriculum areas of STEM, social science, American civics, and literature.



Expansive Team of Authors

In addition to content crafted by the Reading Plus team, we partner with some of the most well-respected names in publishing to provide students with quality texts from a wide range of perspectives that reflect their reading interests.

Examples of Publishing Partners



Science News for Students is an award-winning online publication run by a nonprofit committed to making science more appealing to students.

- ✓ STEM
- ✓ Middle School
- ✓ Nonfiction
- ✓ High School



Cricket Media challenges the minds of children with age-appropriate texts that encourage curiosity about the world.

- ✓ Fiction
- ✓ Elementary School
- ✓ Nonfiction
- ✓ Middle School



Founded in 1946, *Highlights* is a monthly magazine that helps children explore new topics and encourages them to use their creativity and imagination.

- ✓ Fiction
- ✓ Middle School
- ✓ Nonfiction
- ✓ Elementary School



ABDO is a leader in educational publishing that provides high-quality reading and research for children and young adults.

- ✓ Fiction
- ✓ Nonfiction



Cherry Lake Publishing provides students with quality content that supports their educational needs in the 21st century.

- ✓ Fiction
- ✓ Elementary School
- ✓ Nonfiction
- ✓ Middle School



The Guardian is a daily newspaper with an international perspective on news for American and global audiences.

- ✓ Nonfiction
- ✓ High School

Multicultural Approach to Content

Reading Plus provides students with texts that depict a wide range of experiences and celebrate the diversity of people and cultures. Reading Plus offers texts that are “mirrors” and “windows”—an approach advocated by scholar Rudine Sims Bishop, widely regarded as the mother of multicultural literature. Through reading texts in Reading Plus, students have the opportunity to see themselves and their lives reflected in the selections they read, and gain an understanding and appreciation of experiences different from their own.

Students deserve texts worth reading. Reading Plus texts reflect the diversity of ALL student readers, providing a rich and deep reading experience.

Reading Plus texts are written and selected to include and respect all people.

A diverse content library benefits all children. Reading Plus content is strategically written and selected to encourage new ways of thinking and foster discussions. We believe that all students should feel included and supported as they develop reading skills in Reading Plus, and we strive to include content and imagery that reflects our diverse student community.



Examples of Text Selections

A portrait of Nelson Mandela, an elderly Black man with grey hair, wearing a light blue suit jacket, a white shirt, and a red patterned tie. He is raising his right fist in a gesture of solidarity or protest. The background is dark and out of focus.

South Africa's Greatest Son

Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela was the first person democratically elected to the presidency of South Africa. After spending almost 30 years in prison, Mandela guided his country to freedom for all the people.



Filipino Heritage

The Philippines is a country in Southeast Asia. It is made up of a chain of small islands. Filipino culture has a rich history. Learn about the foods, religions, and languages of the Philippines in this selection.



Oprah's Legacy

As a powerful business person and cultural icon, Oprah Winfrey's influence spans the globe. With a career stretching four decades, Oprah has impacted many lives through acts of kindness as well as through personal and business success.



Yo-Yo Ma

Yo-Yo Ma is one of the world's greatest cello players. He was a great player when he was a boy. Today he is one of the greatest players in the world.



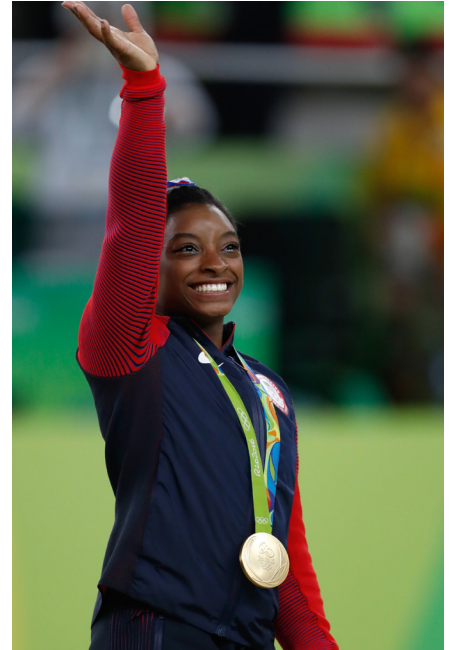
The Flea

Leo Messi is a soccer player from Argentina. Messi overcame a medical condition that prevented him from growing properly. Nothing could stop Messi from becoming a soccer superstar.



A Woman of Two Worlds

Maria Tallchief was the first Native American prima ballerina. Tallchief grew up watching members of her family taking part in Osage dances. Watching these dances deepened her love for dancing, and for her Native American culture.



Simone Biles!

Simone Biles is the most decorated American gymnast ever, with a total of 30 medals. Many people around the world have dubbed her the greatest gymnast of all time.



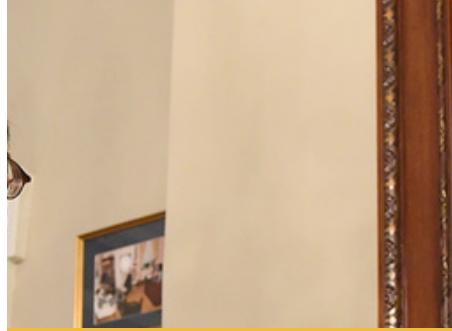
On the Road for Racial Equality

More than 1,000 people participated in the Freedom Rides in the summer of 1961 where protesters of racial segregation took bus trips through the South.



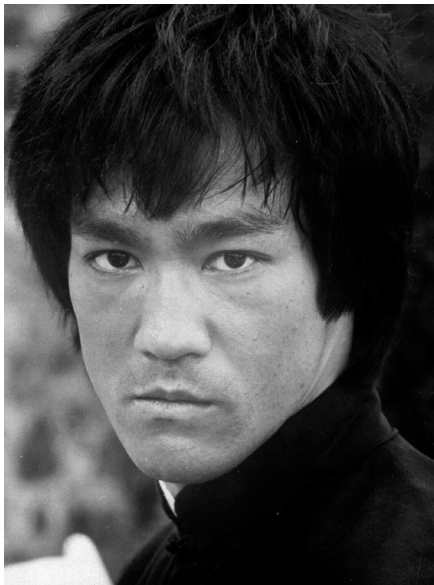
A Writer Finds Her Voice

Sandra Cisneros is a Mexican-American writer best known for her novel, *The House on Mango Street*. Cisneros believes that a woman needs her own place—a room of her own—in order to realize her full potential.



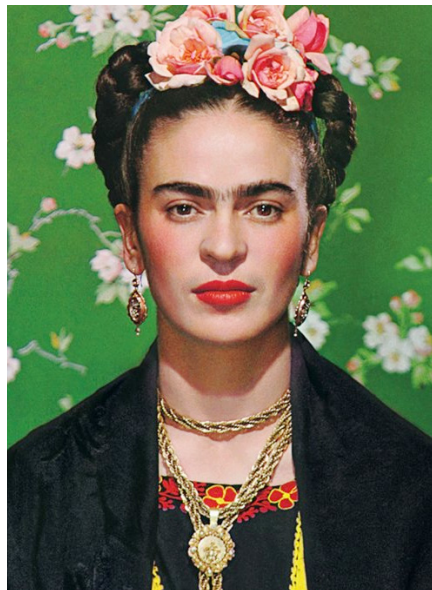
“Hamilton” Is a Hit

Lin-Manuel Miranda is an actor, composer, and playwright who created a hit musical about Alexander Hamilton. Miranda rebelled against the traditions of American musical theater while attracting a whole new generation of theater-goers.



A Man of Action

“When life gives you hardships,” Bruce Lee once said, “you must walk on!” Bruce Lee was a martial artist and an actor. He knew life would sometimes be hard. But he never let that stop him.



Kahlo: An Artist Ahead of Her Time

Frida Kahlo was a Mexican artist whose vivid colors and surrealistic use of symbolism make her artwork easily recognizable, highly prized, and extensively collected by art aficionados around the world.



John Herrington: Chickasaw Astronaut

Mission specialist John Bennett Herrington was the first tribally enrolled Native American in space. To pay tribute to his Chickasaw heritage, Herrington carried the Chickasaw Nation flag, six eagle feathers, a handful of sacred ground, and two arrowheads on the trip.



“Books are sometimes windows, offering views of worlds that may be real or imagined, familiar or strange.... When lighting conditions are just right, however, a window can also be a mirror. Literature transforms human experience and reflects it back to us, and in that reflection we can see our own lives and experiences as part of the larger human experience.”

Rudine Sims Bishop, “Mirrors, Windows, and Sliding Glass Doors,”
Perspectives: Choosing and Using Books for the Classroom, 1990