



The goal of the Families and Literacy Committee of the WSRA is to develop and carry out plans which convey to parents the value of involvement in reading activities with children.

Members:

Amy Sippert – chair
Nicole Cilley
Teresa Prus
B Whalen
Deb Stensen
Mary Pohlman
Nina Ruskey
Jen Garty
Rachel Huntzicker
Kelsey Guenther



Family Reading Fun

Schools and communities across the state are becoming more and more diverse. We are all in different places on the journey toward accepting diversity. If you are at the beginning of your journey engaging in some of the activities that follow may be a good place to start. Get the whole family involved and take the journey together.

1. Read books with ethnic characters. Ask your local librarian for suggestions.
2. Try foods from other cultures.
3. Visit various ethnic fests in your community.
4. Watch videos that focus on cultural issues. Some suggestions for middle grade children include: *Remember the Titans* and *Bend it Like Beckham*. For young adults try movies like *Boyz in the Hood*, *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner* or *The Joy Luck Club*.
5. Visit a local Art History Museum to observe and discuss how various cultures have influenced art over time.
6. Visit the CCBC's website and check out their list of 50 Multicultural Books that everyone should read.

Accept where you and your family are with accepting diversity. Every journey always begins with the first steps.

Literacy Tips

There is a lot more to a picture book than the pictures. Picture books can be a springboard for great conversations! When reading a picture book try talking about the following:

1. What information can you gain from the pictures that aren't in the text?
2. What new information did you learn that you didn't know before?
3. What message is the author trying to teach you? What could you learn from the story?
4. After reading the story, what questions do you still have? What else do you want to know about?

Talking about books leads to deeper thinking!



The goal of the Families and Literacy Committee of the WSRA is to develop and carry out plans which convey to parents the value of involvement in reading activities with children.



Author Spotlight



Fairy tales from around the world can be great resources to help develop a multicultural understanding. Check out two classics below.

Cinderella

Did you know there are more than 500 versions of the Cinderella story from around the world? Here are the titles of just a few.

[Cindy-Ella: An Aussie Cinderella](#)
[The Korean Cinderella](#)
[Adelita: A Mexican Cinderella Story](#)
[The Golden Sandal: A Middle Eastern Cinderella Story](#)
[The Orphan: A Cinderella Story from Greece](#)
[The Rough-Faced Girl](#)

Little Red Riding Hood

There are also several different versions of Little Red Riding Hood. Here are some of the titles.

[Lon Po Po](#)
[Petite Rouge: A Cajun Red Riding Hood](#)
[Flossie and the Fox](#)
[Pretty Salma: A Little Red Riding Hood Story from Africa](#)

After reading some of the different versions, talk about the following:

How were the characters, setting, plot, ending, etc the same? How were they different?

Point out the different cultural references in clothing, housing, animals, landscape, etc.

Is there a version that you didn't like? Why?

Website Spotlight

Are you looking for a great resource to help you celebrate diversity? Check out <http://kidworldcitizen.org>. Here you can find art projects, food, book titles and celebrations from around the world. You can also print a diversity calendar that lists holidays and celebrations from around the world.

