Exploring Identity

What is identity? It is who you are, the characteristics that define you. It is the way you think about yourself, but it is also the way you are viewed by the world. It’s complicated. How do you tackle such a difficult concept with your students? You use books, of course!

- **New Kid** by Jerry Craft
- **Paper Son: The Inspiring Story of Tyrus Wong, Immigrant and Artist** by Julie Leung
- **A Good Kind of Trouble** by Lisa More Ramee
- **I Remember: Poems and Pictures of Heritage** compiled by Lee Bennett Hopkins
- **Sing a Song: How “Lift Every Voice and Sing” Inspired Generations** by Kelly Starling Lyons
- **Where Are You From?** by Yamile Saied Méndez

**Tristan Strong Punches a Hole in the Sky** by Kwame Mbalia


Encourage your students to watch Riordan interview Mbalia.

**Read-Aloud Roundup**

- **Some Places More Than Others** by Renée Watson
  On a birthday trip to New York City, a girl learns about her roots, Harlem, and how to stay true to herself.

- **Feed Your Mind: A Story of August Wilson** by Jen Bryant
  One of America’s greatest modern playwrights is introduced to generations of younger readers in this lyrical picture book in two acts.
Fueled by Facts

**Thurgood** by Jonah Winter
Thurgood Marshall was a born lawyer—the loudest talker, funniest joke teller, and best arguer from the time he was a kid growing up in Baltimore in the early 1900s. He would go on to become the star of his high school and college debate teams, a stellar law student at Howard University, and, as a lawyer, a one-man weapon against the discriminatory laws against black Americans. After only two years at the NAACP, he was their top lawyer and had earned himself the nickname Mr. Civil Rights. He argued—and won—cases before the Supreme Court, including one of the most important cases in American history: *Brown v Board of Education*. And he became the first black U.S. Supreme Court Justice in history. This biography is illustrated by six-time Coretta Scott King, four-time Caldecott Honor-winning illustrator Bryan Collier.

**Rise! From Caged Bird to Poet of the People, Maya Angelou** by Bethany Hegedus
In celebration of the 50th anniversary of the publication of *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, this beautiful biography describes how she rose above a childhood of trauma and emotional pain to become one of the most inspiring voices of our lifetime.

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**Read This, Not That**

Drop what you’re reading and try one of these 2020 award winners.

*Across the Bay* by Carlos Aponte
*All in a Drop: How Antony van Leeuwenhoek Discovered an Invisible World* by Lori Alexander
*Bear Came Along* by Richard T. Morris
*The Bell Rang* by James E. Ransome
*Double Bass Blues* by Andrea J. Loney
*Each Tiny Spark* by Pablo Cartaya
*Fry Bread: A Native American Family Story* by Kevin Noble Maillard
*Genesis Begins Again* by Alicia D. Williams
*Gittel's Journey* by Lesléa Newman
*Going Down Home with Daddy* by Kelly Starling Lyons
*Hey, Water* by Antoinette Portis
*I Can Make This Promise* by Christine Day
*Indian No More* by Charlene Willein McManis
*Just Ask!: Be Brave, Be Different, Be You* by Sonia Sotomayor
*The Key from Spain: Florí Jagoa and Her Music* by Debbie Levy
*Lety Out Loud* by Angela Cervantes
*New Kid* by Jerry Craft
*Planting Stories: The Life of Librarian and Storyteller Pura Belpre* by Anika Aldamuy Denise
*Sal and Gabi Break the Universe* by Carlos Hernandez
*Scary Stories for Young Foxes* by Christian McKay Heidicker
*Songs for a Whale* by Lynne Kelly
*Stargazing* by Jen Wang
*Stop! Bot!* by James Yang
*The Undefeated* by Kwame Alexander
*¡Vamos! Let's Go to the Market* by Raúl Gonzalez
*White Bird: A Wonder Story* by R. J. Palacio

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Follow the Stars