

FAMILY READING KIT

I'm yours to keep!
Please remember to return
the Library book.



“Books are sometimes windows, offering views of the world that may be real or imagined, familiar or strange. These windows are also sliding glass doors, and readers have only to walk through in imagination to become part of whatever world has been created or recreated by the author. When lighting conditions are just right, however, a window can also be a mirror. Literature transforms the human experience.”

— Rudine Sims Bishop

Diverse children’s fiction, like this book, may have perspectives and content that are new and sometimes complex. Reading a wide variety of children’s literature gives children a chance to develop their own opinions and encourages deep thinking, emotional intelligence, and imagination. The contents of this reading kit can help to initiate conversations and spark interest, provide learning and teaching opportunities, and create time for your family to connect. The questions and activities encourage discussion on various topics to help foster self-reflection and a lifelong love of learning. We hope you enjoy reading together!

<p>BOOK <i>New Kid</i></p>	<p>Jerry Craft’s <i>New Kid</i> is a graphic novel that tells the story of Jordan Banks. Jordan loves to draw. But his parents send him to a new, fancy private school focused on academics instead of art, and it’s far away from his Washington Heights neighbourhood and all his friends. Jordan isn’t just navigating being a new kid in middle school, he also has to manage all the micro — and macro — aggressions that come with being one of the only non-white kids in his school. Can Jordan learn to navigate his new school culture while keeping his neighborhood friends and staying true to himself?</p>
<p>AUTHOR Jerry Craft</p>	<p>Jerry Craft was born on January 22, 1963, in New York City. After working as a copy writer in advertising for 12 years, he became a cartoonist, working on Marvel and Harvey comics. Like his character Jordan, he grew up in Washington Heights and wanted to become an artist but was sent to a private school by his parents.</p>
<p>CONTEXT</p>	<p>This book is set in the present day, around 2019. <i>New Kid</i> includes themes of racial injustice, socio-economic difference, struggling to fit in, and standing up for yourself and others. <i>New Kid</i> made history by becoming the first graphic novel to win the Newbery Medal as the “the most distinguished contribution to American literature for children” in 2020.</p>
<p>RECOMMENDED FOR Ages 8 – 12</p>	



This booklet is yours to keep.

Please return the Library books when they are due.

HOW TO USE THE FAMILY READING KIT

WHAT IS THE FAMILY READING KIT?

The Family Reading Kit is an opportunity to encourage literacy by reading a book together and doing fun learning activities inspired by the book. The reading kit can be used in a classroom or by independent readers, too. Each year, Calgary Public Library chooses titles that are relevant, high-interest, and appealing to readers of all ages.

What is family literacy and why is it so important?

Family literacy is a great way to practise, encourage, and develop reading skills as a family. Sharing a book out loud and reading together strengthens bonds between family members and helps create lifelong learners. The Library is proudly committed to supporting lifelong learning.

More information about Family Literacy can be found at abclifeliteracy.ca

English Language Arts Curricular Connections

While each grade and subject have specific curricular topics, each Family Reading Kit supports the overlapping outcomes between grade levels in English Language Arts in Alberta. Some titles may also connect to other topics and subjects in school, such as Science or Social Studies.

More information about ELA curricular connections can be found at calgarylibrary.ca/ela-curriculum-connect

WHAT IS INCLUDED IN THE FAMILY READING KIT?

Everything you need to explore this book is included! This package contains:

BOOK SUMMARY AND TIPS FOR READING TOGETHER

pages 2 and 5

Get some background information on the book and its author(s) and illustrator(s). Use this section to plan your family's reading journey and try out some tips and ideas for making reading together fun and enjoyable for all ages.

BOOK DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

pages 6 – 9

Book discussion questions are a great way to start thinking about the book you are reading. They help you slow down and think about what you have just read or what you are about to read next. There are discussion questions to answer before the book, in the middle of the book, and at the end.

ACTIVITIES

Each package contains two activities that help you explore the book in different and exciting ways at home and in your community.

THINGS YOU CAN DO:

Emotional Charades

pages 10 – 11

We don't just use language, spoken or written, to communicate. Up to 93% of the communicating we do every day is non-verbal. These activities will let you flex your muscles literally, but also practise

your physical literacy skills, or your comfort and ability to communicate information with your body and interpret others' body language, gestures, and other non-linguistic communication.

THINGS YOU CAN CREATE:

Draw your own Superhero Comic

pages 12 – 13

Visual literacy is the ability to read, recognize and understand visual imagery as well as to write and create your own. The activities in this portion of the package will rely on your creativity and imagination!

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

pages 14 – 15

All packages include Additional Resources with further reading on topics / themes in the book and suggestions for what to read next.

Please fill out a survey to provide your feedback on your family's experience at calgarylibrary.ca/family-reading-survey

SHARING WITH OTHER FAMILIES

Share your family's photos, book review, writing, artwork, audio, and video with others who read this book, on the Library's Padlet at calgarylibrary.ca/family-reading-padlet

TIPS FOR READING TOGETHER

1. Create a Special Reading Space

- Nice lighting, no distractions, and a cozy nook make a great spot for reading. Or take reading on the go with an audiobook on your next family road trip.

2. Schedule Reading Time

- Plan for your family reading. Read ahead, take turns reading, and make time to chat about what you learned. As a group, make decisions about how you will read and who will read.

3. Think Outside the Book

- Involve your listeners — encourage them to get involved in the story with laughter, sound effects, actions, and different voices for different characters. Little readers might get distracted, so offer a pen and paper for their own illustrations.

4. Listening / Pausing / Talking

- Listening is an important part of reading skills. It takes practise to focus and listen to what is said.
- Let everyone have a turn talking and sharing.
- As you read, take time to talk about what is happening and what is going to happen in the story. If your listeners are curious, this is where your book discussion questions can shine and spark great conversations!

Get more tips and tricks for reading together at calgarylibrary.ca/reading-tips

BOOK DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Share each question, or choose a few that you like to read aloud and share your answers. Don't worry about staying on topic! See where the conversation leads you and encourage kids to ask questions of their own.

BEFORE THE BOOK

1. What do you think will happen during the book based on the title and cover? What can you guess about the plot or the characters?
2. What do you know about the author? What do you wonder about the author?
3. How might reading a graphic novel be the same or different than reading a chapter book or a picture book?

As you dive deeper into reading together, you may come across some tough questions and topics. Here are some tips from Common Sense Media on talking about these questions with your kids:

- Check in by sharing how you feel and ask them how they feel. You can say, "I feel angry when I know that someone got hurt," or "It makes me feel sad to hear that someone didn't get a good education or the right treatment to help them," and "What are you feeling right now?"
- Ask open-ended questions to get kids to think more deeply about serious topics. For example, "What did you hear?," "What did it make you think?," and "Why do you think that?" For older kids, you can ask, "Do you think families from other backgrounds would view this the same way as us?"
- Admit when you don't know something. You can say, "I don't know. Let's try to find out more."

Source: calgarylibrary.ca/difficultsubjects

HALFWAY THROUGH THE BOOK

Page 121 or after Chapter 7

Pause here to check in and see how everyone is feeling about the book. Make some predictions to help stay engaged and redirect focus to specific areas of the story.

1. What will happen next? What will happen in the end?
2. Do you notice any changes in the characters from the beginning of the book? Have they grown in some way? Have their circumstances changed?
3. What similarities do you see between yourself and Jordan? What makes you different? Examples could be related to gender, race, culture, age, opinions on sports, etc.
4. Re-read pages 86 to 90. As you read, imagine you are Drew. What do you hear, smell, and see as you sit in the hallway? Write down what you notice, then read it again and focus on how you would feel if you were Drew. Write what you notice the second time. You can also try this exercise from Jordan's perspective, or from another scene in the book.

AFTER FINISHING THE BOOK

When you're done reading the book, you can keep asking questions. Try asking:

1. Were your predictions about the book correct? What surprised you?
2. Jordan chooses to stand up for himself and his friends both in the cafeteria and when his teacher reads his notebook without his permission. Have you ever witnessed someone being accused of something they didn't do, or someone being treated unfairly? Has something like that happened to you? Talk about what happened or brainstorm ideas of how you can stand up for yourself and others.
3. If you were one of Jordan's classmates, what would you do to make him feel welcome? It might help to think about how you have been treated when starting at a new school or with a new group and what you would like to have happened to you.
4. Did any of the characters remind you of anyone? (It could be someone you know personally or someone you've heard of.)
5. Throughout the book Jordan is upset when his teacher calls him and other students of colour by the wrong name. On the other hand, Jordan and Drew regularly call each other by nicknames. Why do you think it is important to call people by their real name? When is it OK to use a nickname?
6. What did you enjoy the most about the book?
7. What do you think happens to the characters in ten years? Do you think Jordan will end up in art school? Will they all still be friends?



THINGS YOU CAN DO:

EMOTIONAL CHARADES

WHAT IS EMBODIED LITERACY?

Embodied literacy is both the ability to understand the meaning that others are trying to create or communicate with their bodies, as well as being able to communicate with your own body. This can be through facial expression, body language, and gestures. Usually, this communication happens along with other modes of communication, like speaking, hearing, reading, or writing. When more than one mode of communication is used at once, it's called "multi-modal communication." Each mode offers different possibilities for how meaning can be created and understood. Readers can use their literacy skills and make meaning through multi-modal and embodied learning such as active listening, gestural body language, and physical action.

ACTIVITY

Throughout the book, Jordan spends time with other students who all have unique personalities, home lives, and things that they struggle to deal with. Over time, Jordan starts to develop empathy — the ability to feel what the other kids are feeling — and it helps him make friends. He is even able to help Alexandra make friends by learning more about why she acts the way she does. One way we can start to practise empathy is to practise noticing how others are feeling.

MATERIALS REQUIRED:

- Paper cut or torn into small / medium squares
- Pen or pencil
- Bowl or hat

INSTRUCTIONS:

Option 1:

1. Start by writing down different emotions on the pieces of paper. You can brainstorm as a group or each write down a few ideas.
2. Fold the paper so you can't see the writing and put them in a bowl or hat and mix them up.
3. Take turns picking a piece of paper and acting out the emotion in front of the group. Have the others guess what emotion is being acted out. The actor cannot talk!
4. You can make the game a competition by splitting into teams and see which team can guess the most emotions in 30 seconds.

Option 2:

1. Write down scenarios that might cause someone to feel different emotions. You can brainstorm as a group or each write down a few ideas.
2. Read two scenarios aloud to the group, then put both in a hat to be picked randomly by the actor.
3. The actor acts out how the scenario they picked would make them feel and the participants guess which scenario they chose.

IDEAS

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THINGS YOU CAN CREATE:

DRAW YOUR OWN SUPERHERO COMIC

WHAT IS VISUAL LITERACY?

Visual literacy is the ability to read and write, and create visual images. We use visual literacy to understand the world around us and connect with other people. We can read a note left for us and write a message back, adding a smiley face. We interpret visual cues and we leave visual cues for others with words and pictures.

ACTIVITY

In *New Kid*, Jordan does a lot of drawings to explain his thought process. He did a drawing called “Tales of the Not-So-Dark Knight” where he wishes he was Batman and had superpowers. In this activity, think of a time where you wished you were different and what you would have done. Tell your story through a comic format in the same way Jordan did.

MATERIALS REQUIRED:

- Paper
- Pencil
- Optional: Pencil crayons or markers

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Consider a time when you wished you were different. What happened to make you feel that way? What would you change so the story had a different ending? Would you change your behaviour? Your appearance? Your response? Would you use superpowers like the Not-So-Dark Knight? What would those superpowers be and what would they allow you to do?
2. Make a list of what your superpowers are, the difference in your appearance and behaviour, and the name of your superhero.
3. Write down where the story will take place and who will be involved. (What other characters are there? How are they affected by the superpowers you have?)
4. Consider the plot. What happens at the beginning, the middle, and the end? What will the characters in your comic say to each other? To themselves? Write the sequence of your story.
5. Look carefully at the format of Craft's graphic novel and on your paper draw a series of squares and rectangles to create a storyboard like his. A storyboard is a graphic organizer that helps you lay out your story in order that things happen. Big scenes may have bigger "frames."
6. After planning it all out, start drawing out each scene in your storyboard. Colour your comic.
7. Share it with friends and family.



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

CALGARY PUBLIC LIBRARY DIGITAL LIBRARY eRESOURCES:

Access these resources and more for free with your Library card! Need help? Contact the Library at 403.260.2600.

eReading Room for Kids (from Overdrive)

Find eBooks and eAudiobooks made just for kids. You can even find the eAudiobook version of *New Kid* and listen to it as a family.

calgarylibrary.ca/ereading-room

EXTERNAL RESOURCES:

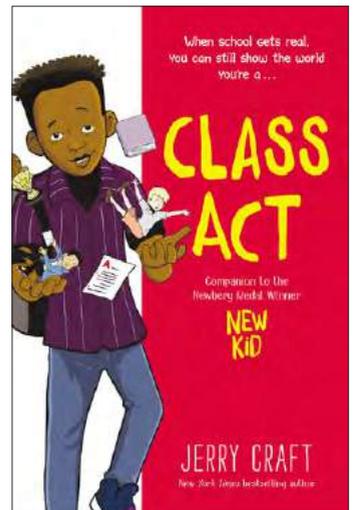
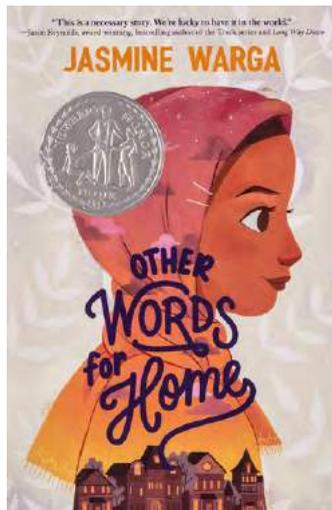
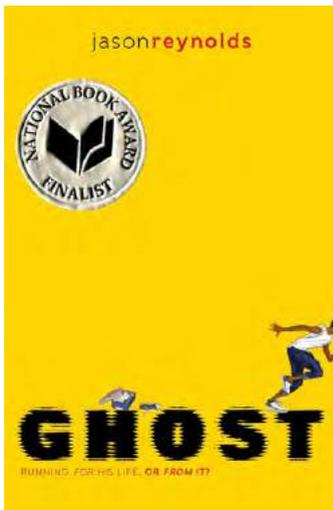
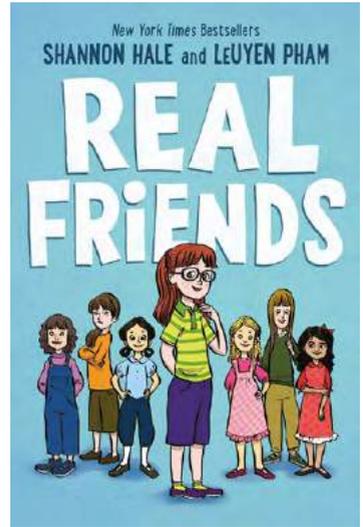
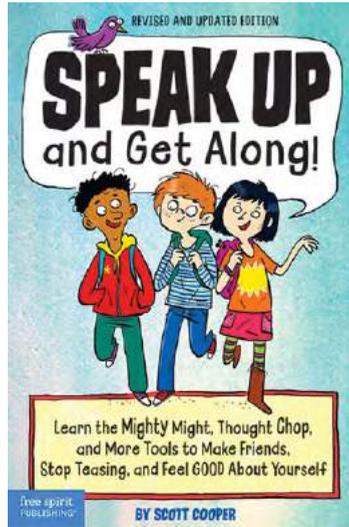
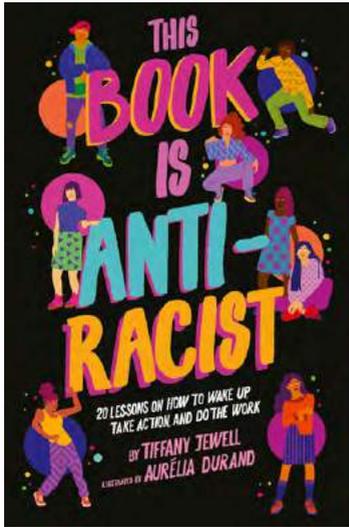
Read this helpful article for caregivers of children on discussing race and racism with children while reading together from EmbraceRace:

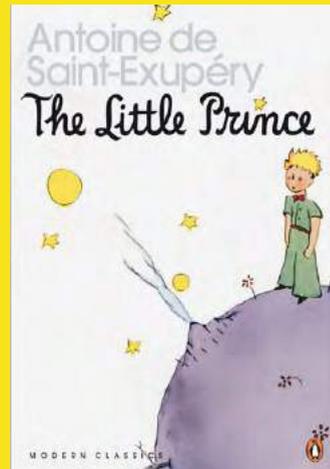
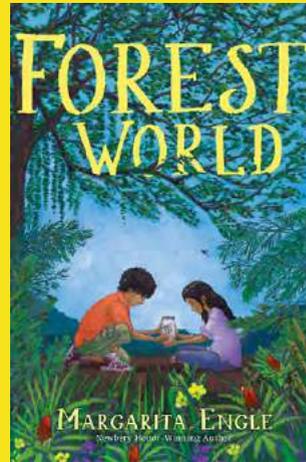
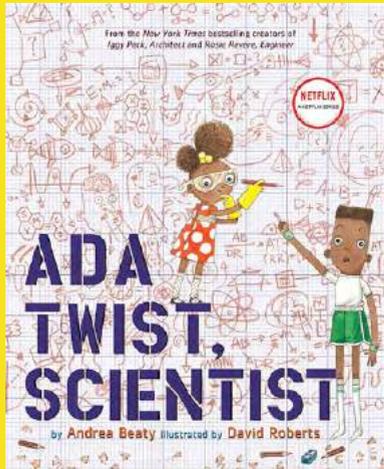
calgarylibrary.ca/embrace-race

FURTHER READING

If your family enjoyed *New Kid*, you'll want to check out these related titles at your Library location or in this booklist at calgarylibrary.ca/if-you-liked-new-kid:

- *This Book is Anti-Racist* by Tiffany Jewell
- *Speak Up and Get Along!* by Scott Cooper
- *Real Friends* by Shannon Hale
- *Ghost* by Jason Reynolds
- *Other Words for Home* by Jasmine Warga
- *Class Act* by Jerry Craft





CHECK OUT ALL OF THE 2022 FAMILY READING KIT TITLES

calgarylibrary.ca/family-reading-kit