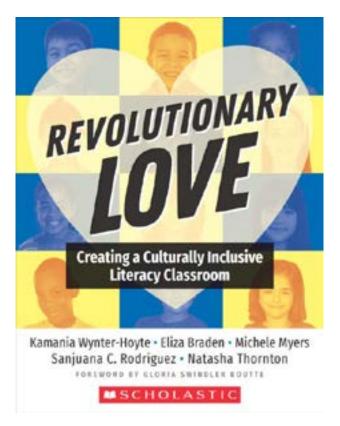
Leadership Council Chronicle

July 2024

Teachers and School Leaders: Here's What to Read Next

Reading during the summer break gives you access to new ideas and allows you to think about implementation strategies while your mind is fresh and rested. Don't miss these three books!



Love All the Kids All the Time

The first book we suggest for your summertime reading list is <u>Revolutionary Love: Creating a Culturally Inclusive Literacy Classroom</u> by Kamania Wynter-Hoyte et al.

What's It All About

The authors share how they overcome challenges in the classroom by putting love at the center of their work. They examine common but harmful practices and discuss how to avoid those mistakes. The book gives you practical tips and tools for affirming and celebrating all students' identities, languages, and cultures; examining your own beliefs; engaging students, families, and communities; and selecting books that help children become more empathetic as they become more proficient readers and writers.

What People Say About It

Reviews include comments such as:

- Contains compelling stories of each author, step-by-step guides, and foundational techniques
- Invaluable advice on creating a literature-rich reading and writing classroom for all kids
- Great ideas for assessment and instruction
- Guidance on teaching in the most culturally sensitive and responsive ways possible

About this book, <u>UNC Center for Urban Education</u> (CUE) Director Dr. Rosanne Fulton said, "The authors carefully define the strategies for a reader's and writer's workshop, including many important books to read aloud to children and suggestions for mentor texts. The book is based on the premise that all children are geniuses and teachers and students can accomplish more than imagined."



CHOOSING THE CULTURALLY RELEVANT CLASSROOM



Make #BlackLivesMatter in Elementary Classrooms

Our second recommendation is "We've Been Doing It Your Way Long Enough": Choosing the Culturally Relevant Classroom by Janice Baines et al.

What It's All About

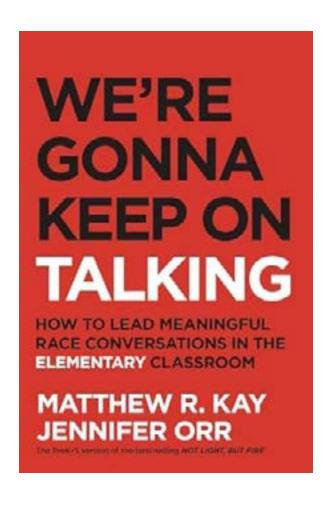
This book helps elementary school teachers dismantle privilege in literacy education. The authors transport readers into classrooms where students are learning literacy and critical thinking using a variety of culturally relevant tools. The authors share strategies to teach within standards and testing guidelines while challenging unjust systems. You will learn how to examine your classroom practices, nurture relationships with families and community members, and teach in accordance with the ethics of the African cultural practice that values every student.

What People Say About It

Reviews include comments such as:

- For any teacher who wants to create and sustain a curriculum that values more than one voice, group, or culture
- Explains how and why #BlackLivesMatter in every elementary classroom
- Compels critically conscious educators to say, "We have been doing it your way long enough, we choose the culturally relevant classroom."
- Voices of scholars, practitioners, community members, and students are brilliantly woven throughout.

Fulton said, "If you are working to teach in culturally relevant, responsive and sustaining ways, you won't want to miss the action strategies described in this book. Connecting with and learning from families is an important and necessary step that the authors focus on."



Have Meaningful Conversations About Race

The third book we recommend this summer is <u>We're Gonna Keep on Talking: How to Lead Meaningful Race Conversations in the Classroom</u> by Matthew R. Kay and Jennifer Orr.

What It's All About

The book focuses on how to build classroom communities that encourage meaningful, authentic, and truthful conversations about race. The authors share strategies for building safe and supportive classrooms; dozens of practical moves for facilitating race conversations; stories that demonstrate how you can weave picture books, art, and current events into the conversation; and tips for aligning the work of race conversations to your grade-level standards.

The authors encourage elementary teachers to set solid foundations for students that secondary teachers can build on, such as:

- Teaching students that their lived experiences are not the only lived experiences;
- Opinions conflict and evidence should be the deciding factor; and
- When confronted with better information, it is not a weakness to change your mind.

What People Say About It

Reviews include comments such as:

- A guide to preparing our youngest students to lovingly negotiate race and identity in the classroom
- Full of honest and relatable stories
- Invaluable resource for fostering social-emotional learning and creating a more inclusive and just classroom
- Actionable strategies to fold meaningful race conversations into your everyday pedagogy

What Fulton likes about this book is, "The authors provide a careful set of directions for establishing and supporting classroom discussions at the K/1, 2/3, and 4/5 grade levels. They include descriptions of specific discussions that are inspiring and thoughtful."

If you'd like to recommend a book for the CUE faculty/mentor book study group, please email Rosanne Fulton at rosanne.fulton@unco.edu. We appreciate your suggestions!

