

Art & Storytelling Book Club  
Week I - Week IV Overview



Identity



Empathy



Belonging

CulturedKids

Cultured Kids is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization whose mission is to:

*Cultivate empathy and belonging through innovative, multidisciplinary youth programs that embrace cultural differences and unify school communities.*

Educators and students use our unique interdisciplinary materials to cultivate cultural awareness, share knowledge, and build an understanding of themselves and others that will serve them well in our culturally complex world. We're creating lasting change in education by enabling kids to feed their curiosity, strengthen their community, and learn from each other.

This Art & Storytelling Book Club curriculum was developed by a team of professionals and is evaluated based upon its ability to execute our desired outcomes: increased self-awareness, empathy, and sense of belonging.

Please refer to the executive summary for themes and target areas specific to this curriculum.

Thank you for partnering with us as we impact the future of global citizenship.

The following professionals contributed to the development of the Art & Storytelling Book Club Curriculum:

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## Executive Summary

Cultured Kids is a non-profit organization developing programs to enhance unity within school communities. We want to challenge students to grow equally in their understanding of self and others. We believe that unity and prosperity will not come without empathy and understanding. The Art & Storytelling Book Club program is for upper elementary students and will increase their ability to express themselves and understand others in complex cross-cultural situations.

The world we live in is becoming increasingly cross-cultural. Whether it is more than one culture represented in a home, or schools and communities populated with multiple cultures, our children are tasked with navigating multiple sets of cultural norms. Day-to-day interactions for cross-cultural kids necessitate empathetic attitudes and actions among, but not limited to: immigrants, refugees, adoptees, racial minorities, and mono-cultural students. Because our cultures are more than ethnic heritage and nationality, each individual in our society has multiple category identities that affect how they live their daily lives.

Each student will have unique insights and responses to navigating cross-cultural moments. To that end, this curriculum will focus on children's identities in terms of their cultural backgrounds and communities in which they live. We believe that using Literature and Visual Arts, two disciplines that transcend time and culture, students will:

- 1) Increase their awareness of self-identity
- 2) Increase their empathy towards others
- 3) Increase their understanding of cross-culturalism

The twelve-week Art & Storytelling Book Club (see outline below) is divided into three 4-week sections:

Weeks I - IV: Identity

Weeks V - VIII: Empathy

Weeks IX - XII: Belonging

The three sections are progressive, going from a focus on individual (Weeks I - IV) to interpersonal relationship building (Weeks V - VIII) to community building (Weeks IX - XII).

Educators will read aloud an engaging multicultural literary text that progresses through these topics alongside students.

The addition of group discussions, individual journal writing, and individual and large group art projects, will bring an important social/emotional health component to our goals and expectations. We believe this curriculum will be challenging, community-building, and rewarding. Please refer to the Book Club Outline of goals and objectives for more details and further explanation.



# Identity

## Week I - IV Outline

Week I	Week II	Week III	Week IV
<p><b>Program Introduction</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Instructor Intro</li> <li>Club Structure</li> <li>Materials</li> </ul> <p><b>Team-building</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tangled Web</li> <li>Discussion-defining culture</li> <li>Club Expectations</li> </ul> <p><b>Interactive Read Aloud</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discussion questions relating to identity</li> </ul> <p><b>Closing Circle</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exit Question: <i>What does my tangled web look like?</i></li> </ul>	<p><b>Greeting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Club meeting - Reminder club expectations</li> <li>Discussion - Exit Question from previous week</li> </ul> <p><b>Team-building</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tangled Web</li> <li>Discussion-Culture of Trust</li> </ul> <p><b>Interactive Read Aloud</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discussion questions relating to identity</li> </ul> <p><b>Activity</b></p> <p>Mystery Zine</p> <p><b>Project Introduction</b></p> <p>Individual Zine's</p> <p><b>Closing Circle</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exit Question: <i>What does your pie chart look like?</i></li> </ul>	<p><b>Greeting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Club meeting - Culture of Trust</li> <li>Discussion - Exit question from previous week</li> </ul> <p><b>Team-building</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strengths</li> <li>Explorer/Tangled Web</li> </ul> <p><b>Activity</b></p> <p>Pie Chart</p> <p><b>Interactive Read Aloud</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discussion questions relating to identity</li> </ul> <p><b>Closing Circle</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exit Question: <i>Who are "my people"? What makes them "my people"?</i></li> </ul>	<p><b>Greeting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Club meeting</li> <li>Discussion - Exit question from previous week</li> </ul> <p><b>Activity</b></p> <p>Individual Zine's</p> <p><b>Interactive Read Aloud</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discussion questions relating to identity</li> </ul> <p><b>Closing Circle</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reflect on data collected from survey</li> <li>Practice Gratitude</li> <li>Exit Question: <i>What is significant about the last sentence in Chapter 15: When Malú says, "Because we're starting a band."</i></li> </ul>