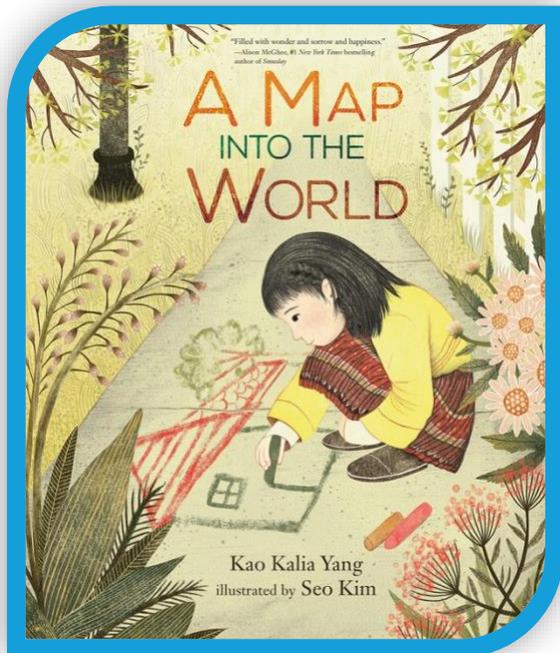




Book of the Month

Presented by ADL's Education Department

About the Book of the Month Parent/Family Discussion Guide: This collection of featured books is from Books Matter: The Best Kid Lit on Bias, Diversity and Social Justice. The books teach about bias and prejudice, promote respect for diversity, encourage social action and reinforce themes addressed in education programs of [A World of Difference® Institute](#), ADL's international anti-bias education and diversity training provider. For parents, guardians and family members, reading the books listed on this site with your children and integrating the concepts into your interactions with them is an excellent way to help children grapple with and learn about these important principles.



A Map into the World

Kao Kalia Yang (Author), Seo Kim (Illustrator)

ISBN: 9781541538368

Publisher: Carolrhoda Books

Year Published: 2019

Age Range: 5–9

Book Themes

People, Identity and Culture, Hmong People, Family, Friendship, Nature, Neighbors

About the Book

Paj Ntaub, a young Hmong girl, moves into a new home with her family. As the seasons change, so too does her world as she encounters both birth and death. As this curious girl explores life inside her house and beyond, she collects bits of the natural world. But who are her treasures for?

Conversation Starters

Whether you read the book along with your child or your child reads it on their own and you discuss it later, use these open-ended questions to deepen the conversation. Remember not to judge their responses and to listen thoughtfully and engage in a give-and-take that helps them expand upon their understanding of the book and its themes.

- What happens in the book?

- What did you learn about Paj Ntaub and her family?
- What was Paj Ntaub's relationship with her neighbors, Ruth and Bob, like? How does she feel about them? How do you know?
- Who are our neighbors? How do we show our neighbors that we care about them?
- How is Paj Ntaub's world different in the spring and the winter? Is life different for you in the spring and winter?
- What is included in Paj Ntaub's map into the world? Why do you think Bob needs it?
- What would you include in your map of the world?
- Why do you think the book is called *A Map into the World*?
- How did you feel when the book ended? What do you think will happen next?
- What do you think is the message of the book?

Talking Points

Below are some important considerations that will make this a learning opportunity for your child and your family.

1. Hmong People and Asian Pacific Islander Month

Paj Ntaub and her family are Hmong (pronounced "Mohng"). If your child doesn't know what this means, explain that Hmong people are an Asian ethnic group that live in the mountainous regions of southern China. Beginning a long time ago in the 1700's, the Hmong people began migrating (moving from one place to another) to parts of Southeast Asia, including Vietnam, Laos, Thailand and Myanmar. You can show your child on a map where those countries are. Starting in 1975, many Hmong families came to the U.S. as refugees of war. In addition to the U.S., other countries with significant numbers of Hmong people include France, Australia, French Guiana, Canada and Argentina.

Explain that the month of May is Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Month, an annual celebration of the history, culture, achievements and contributions of people who are Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI). Explain that there is a monthly dedication to honoring AAPI people and history because sometimes AAPI people are not included when we discuss and teach history, due to bias and exclusion. This is also true for other themed months such as Black History and National Hispanic Heritage Month. The history of Hmong people is an important part of Asian and U.S. history.

2. Neighbors and Connection

The book focuses on Paj Ntaub and her family's relationship with their neighbors, Bob and Ruth. As you are reading the book, elicit the ways in which Paj Ntaub and her family show interest, caring and compassion towards Bob and Ruth (i.e., Paj Ntaub and her Mom introduce themselves to Bob and Ruth; she watches as Bob rakes the leaves; she feels badly when she learns that Ruth has died; she creates a "map of into the world" out of chalk for Bob).

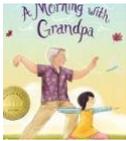
Talk with your child about what a neighbor is and elicit/explain that a **neighbor** is a person who lives next to or near another person. Talk with your child about our neighbors; include those who live nearby (either in the same building, block or neighborhood) and people who work in stores or businesses in our neighborhood. Explore with your child all the ways that we express interest in and caring for our neighbors and how our neighbors do the same for us. This can include checking in with

them, talking with them, asking if they need help, expressing interest in who they are, sharing food, etc. Share examples of how you have reached out to your neighbors and think about things you can do together as a family to do that in the future.

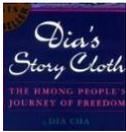
3. Our Map into the World

Talk with your child about how Paj Ntaub uses chalk to draw a “map into the world.” Ask about and explore what is included in Paj Ntabub’s map and why she felt Bob needed a map into the world. You can watch this [Youtube video](#) to hear the author’s perspective on the book. Ask your child why they think Paj Ntaub included those things (both natural objects and manmade objects), and how do they think it made her feel to draw it. You can also discuss how did it made Bob feel when she presented the map to him. Together you can draw a map into the world, including anything that is part of your world and important to you—from the outside and inside. Brainstorm some ideas and then either create one map as a family or you can each create one and then connect the maps to one another, showing the interconnectedness of our lives.

Other Books You May Like



A Morning with Grandpa by Sylvia Liu, www.adl.org/education/educator-resources/childrens-literature/a-morning-with-grandpa



Dia's Story Cloth by Dia Cha, www.adl.org/education/educator-resources/childrens-literature/dias-story-cloth



Juna's Jar by Jane Bahk, www.adl.org/education/educator-resources/childrens-literature/junas-jar

ADL Additional Resources

The following are curriculum and resources on people, identity and culture, Hmong people and diversity.

Curriculum Resources

Who Am I? Identity Poems, www.adl.org/education/educator-resources/lesson-plans/who-am-i-identity-poems.

Websites

6 Ways to Be an Ally

www.adl.org/education/resources/tools-and-strategies/6-ways-to-be-an-ally-en-espanol

Some simple things a student can do to be an ally to targets of name-calling and bullying. (Also in Spanish.)

Asian Pacific American Heritage Month Resources

www.adl.org/education/resources/tools-and-strategies/creating-an-anti-bias-learning-environment

A collection of resources to teach help you teach and celebrate the Asian Pacific American heritage in school, communities and at home.

Parent, Family and Caregiver Resources

www.adl.org/education/resources/tools-and-strategies/parent-family-and-caregiver-resources

Strategies, tips, guiding principles and resources to help parents, family members and caregivers impart values and principles to the children in their lives.

The Question Corner: Early Childhood FAQs

www.adl.org/education/resources/tools-and-strategies/question-corner

A collection of answers to frequently asked questions about anti-bias issues faced by early childhood professionals and family members interested in promoting respect for diversity among young children. See [How Should I Respond When Children Notice Differences in Others?](#)

Table Talk: Family Conversations about Current Events

www.adl.org/education/resources/tools-and-strategies/table-talk

Provides the tools parents and family members need to engage their families in conversations about important news stories and other timely discussions about societal and world events. Includes discussion guides containing a topic summary, questions to start the conversation and dig deeper, ideas for taking action and additional resources. See [Why We Need Diverse Books](#).

Children's Books

Below are links to lists of recommended anti-bias and multicultural books for the indicated category.

[People, Identity and Culture](#)

[People, Identity and Culture: Asian/Asian-American/South Asian/South-Asian American/Pacific Islander](#)