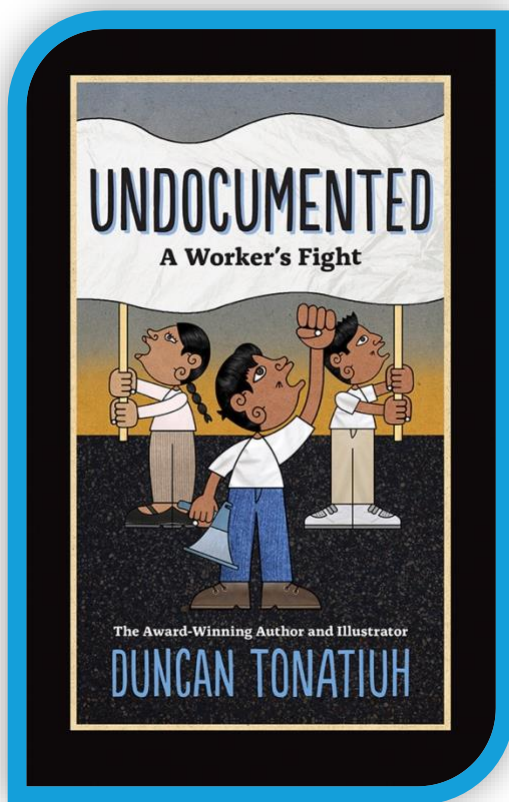




Book of the Month

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.



Undocumented: A Worker's Fight

Duncan Tonatiuh (Author & Illustrator)

ISBN: 978-1419728549

Publisher: Harry N. Abrams

Year Published: 2018

Age Range: 12 and up

Book Themes

Immigration, Workers' rights, Undocumented immigrants, Discrimination

About the Book

Juan grew up in Mexico working in the fields to help provide for his family. Struggling for money, he crosses over into the U.S. and becomes an undocumented worker, living in a poor neighborhood, working hard to survive. Though he is able to get a job as a busboy at a restaurant, he is severely under-compensated; he

receives less than half of the minimum wage. Risking his boss reporting him to the authorities for not having proper resident papers, Juan risks everything and stands up for himself and the rest of the community. This graphic novel tells the story of immigrant workers who have come to the U.S. without "papers." Every day, they join the work force and contribute positively to society.

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 story?
- What happens to Juan when he crosses the border the first time? What do you think that was like for him?
- What are the different types of work Juan and his cousins do in the U.S.? Do you know anyone who works in jobs like that?
- Why do you think the restaurant where Juan works doesn't pay him well?
- Why do you think Juan gets his coworkers involved in trying to get minimum wage?
- Have you ever heard, read about or been in a situation where people joined together to fight for something important? What happened?
- What do you think Juan means when he says, "what matters is that we face the same problems." Can you relate to that?
- Why do you think the author decided to make this a graphic novel? In what ways were the graphics helpful or not?
- What do you think is the overall message of the book?

Talking Points

Below are some important considerations to highlight in order to make this a learning opportunity for your child and your family.

1. Immigration

Talk with your child about immigration by first reading the "Author's Note" in the back of the book. Talk with them about what immigration means, defining it as the process of coming into a non-native or foreign country to live. You can share with them that 40 million people living in the U.S. were born in another country (from all over the world) and that the U.S. has more immigrants than any other country in the world. Also, the topic of being undocumented is mentioned in the book. Depending on your child's age and knowledge, you may want to share some information about people who are undocumented immigrants. You can share that people who are undocumented are foreign-born people who come to the U.S. without the legal papers to do so and who often have left their home country because of extreme poverty, danger or desire to be with their families in the U.S. Some enter the country legally as tourists, students or temporary workers and become undocumented when their papers expire. Many have lived in the U.S. for a long time, have families here and feel like citizens. If your family are immigrants or have immigration as part of your family's story, share that information with your child. You can also share that there is sometimes disrespect, bias and discrimination directed towards people who are immigrants.

2. Worker's Rights

In addition to exploring immigration, the "Author's Note" in the back of the book addresses the working conditions that people who are undocumented often have to face. Read the note together and emphasize the limited employment options for undocumented immigrants and how they often have to work in low-wage jobs where they are paid less than minimum wage. In addition, they cannot easily challenge unfair bosses who don't treat them respectfully or equitably because of their immigration status. Talk in general with your child about workplace safety, dignity and respect that

can include a variety of components including healthy and safe conditions; fair compensation (salary); benefits like paid sick leave and health insurance and being treated with respect and dignity. You can share your own work situation and how you are treated and what you know about other family members and friends' work situations, again stressing the importance of safety, dignity and equity.

3. Art Inspiration

Duncan Tonatiuh's illustrations in the book (as well as his other books) are inspired by Pre-Columbian art, particularly that of the Mixtec codex. Talk with your child about his artistic style reflected in the book. You can go through the illustrations and ask what your child notices about the drawings, what resonates with them and what they like and don't like about them. You can talk about how we often find inspiration in other writers' and artists' styles. Talk about art or writing that you find inspiring and why and ask them what kind of art they connect or resonate with. You can also talk with them about learning more about the artist and artistic styles they find inspiring and even have them create illustrations or other types of art that may be inspired by that art form. Since art is a great way to express oneself in non-verbal ways, it is helpful to open those doors for young people.

Other Books You May Like

Front Desk by Kelly Yang, www.adl.org/education/educator-resources/childrens-literature/front-desk

Ink Knows No Borders by Patrice Vecchione, www.adl.org/education/educator-resources/childrens-literature/ink-knows-no-borders

Same Sun Here by Silas House and Neela Vaswani, www.adl.org/education/educator-resources/childrens-literature/same-sun-here

Separate is Never Equal by Duncan Tonatiuh, www.adl.org/education/educator-resources/childrens-literature/separate-is-never-equal-sylvia-mendez-and-her

ADL Additional Resources

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

Curriculum Resources

8 Ideas for Teaching National Hispanic Heritage Month, www.adl.org/education/educator-resources/lesson-plans/8-ideas-for-teaching-national-hispanic-heritage-month

Websites

National Hispanic Heritage Month: Ideas for Teachers

www.adl.org/education/resources/tools-and-strategies/national-hispanic-heritage-month

A collection of ADL resources to help educators and students understand and celebrate the achievements, contributions, culture and history of Hispanic and Latino-Americans.

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.

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.

Children's Books

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

Bias, Discrimination & Hate: Anti-Immigrant, [www.adl.org/education-and-resources/resources-for-educators-parents-families/childrens-literature?tid\[178\]=178&tid\[207\]=207&tid\[210\]=210&tid\[181\]=181](http://www.adl.org/education-and-resources/resources-for-educators-parents-families/childrens-literature?tid[178]=178&tid[207]=207&tid[210]=210&tid[181]=181)

People, Identity & Culture: Immigrants, [www.adl.org/education-and-resources/resources-for-educators-parents-families/childrens-literature?tid\[207\]=207&tid\[181\]=181&tid\[210\]=210](http://www.adl.org/education-and-resources/resources-for-educators-parents-families/childrens-literature?tid[207]=207&tid[181]=181&tid[210]=210)

People, Identity & Culture: Latino/Hispanic, Latino-American, Hispanic-American, [www.adl.org/education-and-resources/resources-for-educators-parents-families/childrens-literature?tid\[210\]=210&tid\[181\]=181](http://www.adl.org/education-and-resources/resources-for-educators-parents-families/childrens-literature?tid[210]=210&tid[181]=181)

Bias, Discrimination & Hate: Socioeconomic Bias, [www.adl.org/education-and-resources/resources-for-educators-parents-families/childrens-literature?tid\[181\]=181](http://www.adl.org/education-and-resources/resources-for-educators-parents-families/childrens-literature?tid[181]=181)