



Monthly Featured Book

Presented by ADL's Education Department

About the Monthly Featured Book: 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 ADL Education's programs. 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.



Something, Someday

Amanda Gorman (Author) and Christian Robinson (Illustrator).

Age Range: 4-8

Year Published: 2023

Book Themes

Hope, Making a Difference, Community, Working Together, Social Justice, Poetry

About the Book

Sometimes the world feels broken. And problems seem too big to fix. But somehow, we all have the power to make a difference. With a little faith, and maybe the help of a friend, together we can find beauty and create change. With intimate and inspiring text and powerfully stunning illustrations, this book reveals how even the smallest gesture can have a lasting impact.

Conversation Starters

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

- What does the child notice on the street and sidewalk?
- How does the child try to help? What do others think and say about the child trying to help?

- The book says, “There is a problem, but it’s our problem to fix together.” What is the problem and how are they going to fix it?
- Have you ever seen a problem and tried to fix it? What happened? How did you feel?
- How do things change when the child finds others to help? Has anything like that ever happened to you?
- How do the people in the neighborhood feel about the garden? How do you know?
- If the story continued, what do you think would happen next?
- How did you feel when the book ended?
- Why do you think Amanda Gorman (author) wrote this book? Why do you think she called it *Something, Someday*?

Talking Points

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

1. Making a Difference in my Community

Talk with your child about one of the main themes in the book, doing something to make a difference in our community. Elicit and remind them about what happens in the story. At first, the child notices the garbage on the sidewalk and begins to clean it up. Some neighbors help (e.g., holding an umbrella over him) and others tell the child the problem cannot be fixed or they need to wait to fix it. Then, the child finds a friend, “someone who will hope with you,” and that friend helps. Then the two of them make another friend and they work together to clean up the street and build a garden. Then more people help. Talk with your child about how the child sees a problem (garbage all over the street and sidewalk) in their community and wants to do something about it, trying at first to do something alone. When others help, that can make a difference in creating a beautiful garden for others in their community to see and enjoy. Ask your child if they ever had something like this happen in their school, block, neighborhood, town or city. Talk with them about what happened when they tried to do something alone and how it may have been different when they worked with others. Discuss how working alone can make a difference but sometimes when you work together with other people, that can help move the project along and can also make you feel less alone and more hopeful. Talk with your child about problems they see in their community and if they have any ideas to help. You can share your own ideas too. If there is interest, think together about something you can do together or with others to make a difference in your community. Make a plan to begin.

2. Expressing Feelings

This book provides an opportunity to talk about feelings and how people express them. Talk with your child about what feelings are and ask for and share some examples. Ask if they remember some of the feelings in the book. If they don’t remember, re-read the book, highlighting the feelings expressed such as sad, scared, confused, angry, hopeful, happy, loved. As you look at the book again, notice how the characters in the book express those feelings—either through their words, the look on their faces or the way their bodies move or don’t move. Talk about what each of those feeling words mean and then add other feeling words that your child knows and share some others you may want them to know. Using some of the feeling words, ask them to show you with their words, face or body what that feeling expresses. Talk with them about the importance of knowing our

feelings so we know how we feel in different situations and if we choose to, can share those feelings with others. As you read other books together, encourage your child to reflect on the feelings of the characters and their own feelings while reading the book. You can do this by asking how different characters feel throughout the book and how they know. You can also ask how your child feels about the different characters, what happens in the book and how they feel about the book as a whole.

3. National Poetry Month

Talk with your child about National Poetry Month (NPM) that takes place in April every year. Share that this book was written by Amanda Gorman, who is a poet and who delivered the Inaugural poem in 2021. Explain that NPM was started by the [Academy of American Poets](#), which is the largest literary celebration of poetry in the world and is observed by publishers, libraries, booksellers and poets. Some teachers focus on poetry in April. Ask your child if they are talking about, reading or writing poetry in school, what they like or don't like about poetry and how poetry is different than other types of creative writing. If there is interest, seek out other poems through other children's books or poems at [Poems for Kids](#), [Poems for Children by Famous Poets](#), [poems by Amanda Gorman](#) and the [Poetry Foundation](#). You may also consider listening to [audio recordings](#) of poetry or writing your own poems. You could also have a poetry night at your home where you read aloud your favorite poems.

Other Books You Might Like



Change Sings: A Children's Anthem - <https://www.adl.org/change-sings-childrens-anthem>



I Remember: Poems and Pictures of Heritage - <https://www.adl.org/i-remember-poems-and-pictures-heritage>



More than Peach - <https://www.adl.org/more-peach>



The Smallest Girl in the Smallest Grade - <https://www.adl.org/smallest-girl-smallest-grade>

ADL Additional Resources

The following are curriculum and other resources on making a difference, activism and poetry.

- 10 Ways Youth Can Engage in Activism <https://www.adl.org/resources/tools-and-strategies/10-ways-youth-can-engage-activism>
- Bellen Woodward, Identity and “Crayon Activism” <https://www.adl.org/resources/lesson-plan/bellen-woodward-identity-and-crayon-activism>
- Children’s Books About Social Justice <https://www.adl.org/education-and-resources/resources-for-educators-parents-families/childrens-literature?f%5B0%5D=topic%3A1583>
- Early Childhood Frequently Asked Questions <https://www.adl.org/education/resources/tools-and-strategies/question-corner>
- Identity, Hair and Seeing Myself <https://www.adl.org/resources/lesson-plan/identity-hair-and-seeing-myself>
- Kids Can Make a Difference <https://www.adl.org/resources/tools-and-strategies/kids-can-make-difference>
- Table Talk: Family Conversations about Current Events <https://www.adl.org/education/resources/tools-and-strategies/table-talk>
- The Power of Poetry to Teach about Identity, Bias and Social Justice <https://www.adl.org/resources/tools-and-strategies/power-poetry-teach-about-identity-bias-and-social-justice>
- Who Am I? Identity Poems <https://www.adl.org/resources/lesson-plan/who-am-i-identity-poems>