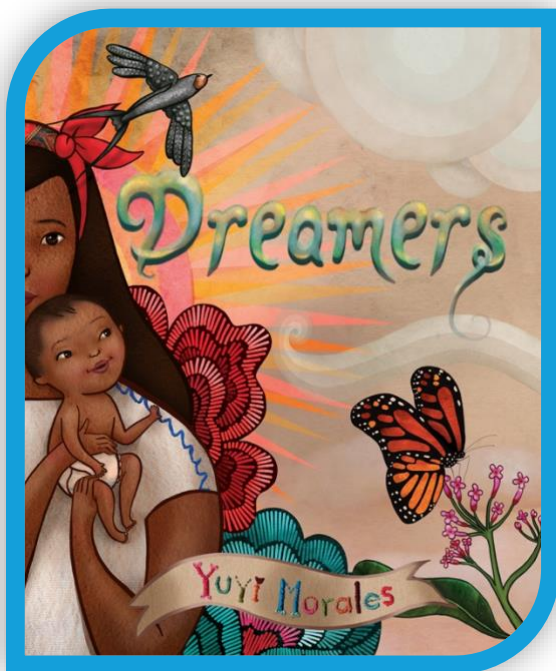


ADL / Book of the Month

Presented by ADL's Education Division

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.



Dreamers

Yuyi Morales (Author and Illustrator)

ISBN: 978-0823440559

Publisher: Neal Porter Books

Year Published: 2018

Age Range: 4–8

Book Themes

Immigration, Dreams, Identity, Family, Love of books

About the Book

This book explores what people who are immigrants bring with them when they leave their homes. It's a story about family. And it's a story to remind us that we are all dreamers, bringing our own gifts wherever we roam. The lyrical text is complemented by detailed illustrations, rich in symbolism. Also included is a brief autobiographical essay about the author's own experiences. A Spanish-language edition, *Soñadores*, is also available.

Conversation Starters

Whether you read the book aloud or children read 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 their understanding of the book and its themes.

- What happens in the story?
- Why do you think the woman and her child left home?
- What items do you think are in their backpack? If you had to travel to a new place, what items would you bring?
- What does it mean when they woman realizes “we became immigrants?” What does it mean to be an immigrant?
- What is it like for the woman and child to live in this new unfamiliar place?
- How do the woman and her child feel when they discover the library? How do you know?
- Why do you think the book is called *Dreamers*?
- What do you think is the 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. Traveling to and Living in a New and Unfamiliar Place

In the book, the woman and her child travel to live in a new and unfamiliar place. They become “immigrants” and everything is new to them—the language, the rules (how things work), the people, etc. Foster empathy with your child by talking with them about what that might be like for people who are new to their school, town/city or country, asking questions such as: *What do you think it's like to move to a completely new place? How do you think it feels to speak a different language than what most people are speaking? What would it be like to be in a school, city or country where you don't know anyone?* Build on experiences they or you may have had with being in a new place and certain feelings that could emerge such as discomfort, anxiety, fear, sadness and excitement about those experiences. Together, explore ideas for how you could try to help someone who is new feel welcome and comfortable in the new place. This could be at school, in your community or in a new activity/group.

2. Immigration and “Dreamers”

Talk with your child about immigration by first reading “My Story” in the back of the book (pages 30–31) about the author’s immigration story. 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 and that the U.S. has more immigrants than any other country in the world. Also, the topic of being undocumented is mentioned indirectly in the book by the title, *Dreamers*. Depending on your child’s age and knowledge, you may want to share some information about “dreamers” and undocumented immigrants. The term “**dreamers**” refers to people who were brought to the U.S. as children, who are “undocumented,” many of whom have lived and were educated in the U.S. 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.

3. Our Dreams

The title of the book is *Dreamers*, which has two meanings. The book makes an indirect reference to “**dreamers**,” people who were brought to the U.S. as children (see above). The term also refers to people having dreams about the future and how to make those dreams come true. Talk with your child about their dreams, which may include hopes and dreams they have for the near future (next week, next month, next year) or for something they dream about for when they are older or an adult. You can discuss how they can work on making those dreams come true. You can also share with them your own dreams and how you were able to make those dreams come true or not, and what kinds of barriers sometimes get in the way of us being able to fulfill our dreams. These can include bias and discrimination, as sometimes happens with people who are immigrants or other biases.

Other Books You May Like

Mama's Nightingale: A Story of Immigration and Separation by Edwidge Danticat, www.adl.org/education/educator-resources/childrens-literature/mamas-nightingale-a-story-of-immigration-and

From North to South/Del Norte al Sure by Rene Colato Lainez, www.adl.org/education/educator-resources/childrens-literature/from-north-to-southdel-norte-al-sure

Pancho Rabbit and the Coyote by Duncan Tonatiuh, www.adl.org/education/educator-resources/childrens-literature/pancho-rabbit-and-the-coyote

ADL Additional Resources

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

Curriculum Resources

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

Websites

National Hispanic Heritage Month

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. See also, [What is DACA and Who Are the DREAMers?](#)

Children's Books

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

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](http://www.adl.org/education-and-resources/resources-for-educators-parents-families/childrens-literature?tid[210]=210)

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