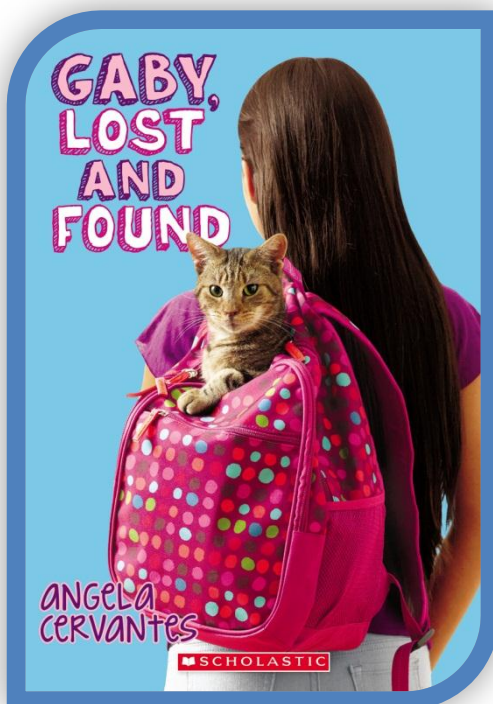




Book of the Month

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.



Gaby, Lost and Found

Angela Cervantes (Author)

ISBN: 978-0545798631

Publisher: Scholastic

Year Published: 2015

Age Range: 8-12

Book Themes

Immigration, Bullying, Bias, Friendship, Family

About the Book

When Gaby Ramirez Howard starts volunteering at the local animal shelter, she takes special pride in writing adopted advertisements. Her fliers help the dogs and cats there find their forever homes: places where they'll be loved and cared for, no matter what. Gaby is still in need of a forever home herself. Her mother has recently been deported to Honduras and Gaby doesn't know where to turn. Meanwhile, Gaby's favorite shelter cat, Feather, needs a new place to live. Gaby would love to adopt her but if Gaby doesn't have a place that feels like home to her, how can she help Feather?

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 upon their understanding of the book and its themes.

- What was the overall message of the book?
- Why were Dolores and Jan calling Gaby names and bullying her? What might you do if you saw that happening?
- What usually happens in your school if someone gets teased or bullied?
- What do you think it was like for Gaby to be separated from her mother?
- What was Gaby and Alma's friendship like?
- Why do you think Gaby had such a strong connection with the animals, especially Feather?
- What did you think about Gaby's mother's story? Have you ever known anyone who was in a situation like that? What do you think it felt like for her?
- If you were going to do community service for something you really cared about, what would it be?
- What were the different people in the book who helped Gaby in some way and what actions did they take to show her that they cared?
- What did you learn about immigration, being undocumented and deportation that you didn't know before?

Talking Points

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

1. Anti-Immigrant Bias

In the book, there is a lot of anti-immigrant bias and bullying directed at Gaby. Talk about some of the specific comments, names and ways in which Gaby is being bullied. Make sure your child knows what it means to be an immigrant and that anti-immigrant bias is a form of prejudice. Ask them what they know about immigration and immigrants and see if they have heard any stereotypes or comments about people who are undocumented. Reading this story is a good way to dispel some of the myths and stereotypes about people who are undocumented. You can also talk about other [Myths and Facts About Immigrants and Immigration](#) in order to provide accurate information. It is important to convey the message that we are a nation of immigrants and that people and their stories deserve our compassion and understanding. Help them understand that immigration is complicated; not everything people say about immigrants is true and in fact, some comes from their own biases.

2. Being an Ally

Gaby is the target of ongoing teasing, name calling and bullying by some students in the class who focus on her being poor and her mother having been deported to Honduras because of her undocumented status. Talk with your child about whether they have seen this kind of identity-based bullying in their school and what other people in the school (both children and adults) do to address

it. With your child, brainstorm the different ways they can be an ally to a person in a similar situation including: supporting the target, informing a trusted adult, not participating themselves or telling the aggressors to stop. Clarify that before jumping in to be an ally, they need to think through their goals, what they need to be safe, what support they need and possible fallout. Model being an ally yourself in situations where bullying and/or bias take place and talk to your child about what you did and why.

3. Community Service

At the center of the book's plot, Gaby and her classmates engage in a community service project. As the book opens, the students are deciding between two possible projects: The City Harvest Center or the Furry Friends Animal Shelter. Talk with your child about what it means to do community service—whether it is through school, with family members or on their own. If they've had any experience with doing community service in the past, talk about why they did it and what it meant to them—from walking dogs at the local animal shelter to helping to feed people at a homeless shelter to cleaning up their neighborhood park. Ask them why they think people volunteer in situations like these—what does the volunteer get out of it and what does the community or people who are being helped get out of it? If you think that it might be something you want to do together or as a family, brainstorm with your child ideas for service based on their interests and the problems they identify that are in need of assistance. Community service or service learning works best when the ideas come from children themselves.

Other Books You May Like

The following are curriculum and resources on immigration and immigrants and general anti-bias.

How Tía Lola Came To Visit Stay by Julia Alvarez, www.adl.org/education-outreach/books-matter/books/how-tia-lola-came-to-stay.html

Pancho Rabbit and the Coyote by Duncan Tonatiuh, www.adl.org/education-outreach/books-matter/books/pancho-rabbit-and-the-coyote.html

Same Sun Here by Silas House and Neela Vaswani, www.adl.org/education-outreach/books-matter/books/same-sun-here.html

Yes! We Are Latinos by Alma Flor Ada and Isabel Campoy, www.adl.org/education-outreach/books-matter/books/yes-we-are-latinos.html

ADL Additional Resources

The following are curriculum and other resources on immigration and immigrants, being an ally and anti-bias education.

Curriculum Resources

"Huddled Mass or Second Class? Challenging Anti-Immigrant Bias in the U.S.," *Curriculum Connections*, http://archive.adl.org/education/curriculum_connections/spring_2009/

"Identity-Based Bullying," *Current Events Classroom*, www.adl.org/education-outreach/lesson-plans/c/identity-based-bullying.html

Websites

10 Ways Youth Can Engage in Activism

www.adl.org/education-outreach/curriculum-resources/c/10-ways-youth-can-engage-in.html

Ideas for bringing social activism into the classroom and outside of the school walls. These are lifelong skills and attitudes that teach students about citizenship and that there is something you can do when faced with injustice.

Be An Ally: 6 Simple Ways

<http://www.adl.org/assets/pdf/education-outreach/Be-an-Ally-Six-Ways-online-version.pdf>

Some simple things youth can do to be an ally to targets of name-calling and bullying.

Definitions Related to Bias, Injustice and Bullying: For Educators, Parents and Family Members of Elementary Age Children

www.adl.org/education-outreach/curriculum-resources/c/definitions-related-to-bias-injustice-bullying.html

Definitions for words relating to bias, diversity, bullying and social justice concepts written for elementary-age children.

Myths and Facts about Immigrants and Immigration

www.adl.org/assets/pdf/education-outreach/myths-and-facts-about-immigrants-and-immigration.pdf

A list of common myths and the facts about immigrants and immigration.

Parent, Family and Caregiver Resources

www.adl.org/education-outreach/anti-bias-education/c/parent-family-and-caregivers.html

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

Children's Books

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

Anti-Immigrant Bias, www.adl.org/education-outreach/books-matter/general-books.html?generalsub=anti-immigrant

Immigrants and Immigration, www.adl.org/education-outreach/books-matter/people-books.html?subpeople=immigrants

Latino/Hispanic, Latino-American, Hispanic-American, www.adl.org/education-outreach/books-matter/people-books.html?subpeople=latinohispanic-latino-american-hispanic-american