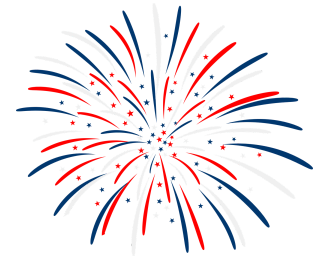


America 250 Read Aloud Guide



Celebrate America's 250th anniversary by exploring the people, places, and stories that have shaped our nation.

BEFORE READING

To activate schema, build background knowledge, and set a purpose.

- Ask, "What people, places, or events do you think have helped shape America's story? What makes someone or something important enough to remember?"
- Purpose for Reading: "As we read, think about what we learn about this person, place, or event, how it has influenced America's story, and why it is important to remember."

DURING READING

To engage students, check for understanding, and make connections.

- What important people, places, ideas, or events are introduced in the story?
- What challenges, discoveries, choices, or accomplishments shaped this story?
- How did this person, place, or event make an impact on others?
- What can we learn from the experiences, ideas, or actions shared in this book?
- How does this story connect to other moments in American history or to our lives today?
- Why do you think this story is an important part of America's story?

AFTER READING

To summarize, question, and reflect.

- Ask, "What did we learn about the person, place, or event in this story, and how did it help shape America's story?"
- Have students create a "piece of America's story" by choosing a person, place, event, or idea they think is important. Students can draw a picture, write a short description, or create a mini timeline explaining why their choice matters. Then, have students share their ideas with a partner or group.
- Use the questions on the next page to continue the conversation after reading. Talk together, share personal connections, and explore how the themes in the story connect to history, communities, and the world around us. There are no right or wrong answers, just thoughtful discussion and listening.

Beyond the Book: Conversation Starters



For the classroom

1. What impact did the person, place, or event in this story have on America's story?
2. What challenges, choices, or actions helped shape the outcome of this story?
3. How does learning about different people, places, and experiences help us better understand the history of our country?

For at home

1. What is one new thing you learned from this story about America, its history, or the people and places that shaped it?
2. Why do you think this person, place, or event is important to remember?
3. How does this story connect to your own life, community, or experiences?

