Building Classroom Communities

At HMH, commitment to accuracy and inclusivity in our content is vital to our goal of improving student outcomes for learners of all backgrounds everywhere. In our classroom programs we dedicate learning moments and teaching strategies to help teachers establish a classroom community that values all students’ voices. We encourage teachers to embrace differences, honor home languages, and consciously make cultural considerations when planning and teaching. We understand that each student is unique and approaches learning differently.

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Professional Learning

HMH’s Live Online Course modules allow you to create an implementation plan that works for you! Explore the relationship between Culturally Responsive Education and student-centered learning. Our live, online courses give you concrete strategies to use in the classroom today.

Coaching is delivered:

- Live, online sessions
- In-person sessions
- Asynchronous feedback via Coaching Studio

Course titles include:

1. Building a Foundation in Culturally Responsive Education
2. Culturally Responsive Education: Assessing Student Learning
3. Culturally Responsive Education: Making Instructional Decisions

The Coaching Membership is available as a separate purchase.
Teacher and Leader Resources

Embedded Supports (included with subscription) provide ongoing support via bite-sized articles, live sessions, and media on topics related to Culturally Responsive-Sustaining Education.

Breakroom Resources
Hear exclusively from prominent thought leaders, experienced coaches and former teachers, and practicing teachers:

- **Creating a Diverse Library That Your Readers Will Notice** by Brigitte Bjorklund and Camille Baldassar
  This resource will support an honest reflection on the diversity of your library so that you can work toward ensuring your students experience choice and representation.

- **What’s in a Name? My name is C-A-S-E-E-N and it is pronounced . . .** by Caseen Gaines
  Names are part of our identity, but why do they have to be the very first way that people introduce themselves? Ponder more questions and ideas as Caseen shares his personal stories as a student, teacher, and colleague.

- **And more!**
The *HMH Into Reading* Commitment

HMH is using this framework to guide our content and services. Created in 2019, it has been used by educators across the country as a tool to reflect on and strengthen their culturally responsive teaching practices.

Reflecting on one’s cultural lens

Cultural competence is developed by reflecting on one’s own experiences and identity groups and how these factors influence beliefs and actions.

Teacher’s Corner online professional learning is customizable and on-demand and helps teachers deepen their understanding of culturally responsive education.

Examples of Teacher’s Corner™ Live Events:

- Culturally Responsive Teaching: I See You
- Teacher’s Corner™ Open House: Connecting to Families and Community
- Hip Hop Teacher Moves with Dr. Chris Emdin
- The Power of AND: Celebrate the Learning and Recognize Your Impact
- Hug YourSELF: Journaling with LaQuisha Hall
- A Writer’s View on the Essentials of Diverse Books

Into Reading Program Guides give strategies for consciously making cultural considerations when planning and teaching.

Cultural Considerations

In literacy instruction, carefully curated, high-quality texts that reflect the rich diversity in our school communities provide natural ways to cultivate a culturally responsive classroom. Make the most of HMH Into Reading and HMH Arriba la Lectura! through these program features:

- **ethnically diverse literature** that rejects stereotypes and reflects the limitless possibilities for all students’ future success
- suggested opportunities to share cultural perspectives and language connections, as in the Text X-Ray feature shown below
- student-centered Inquiry and Research Projects related to real-world experiences
- connections to home and family through Family Letters in multiple languages

Listening in at the Right Time

What does culture have to do with building relationships? Hannah Hopson explains how she uses her students to build relationships and discuss their cultural backgrounds, which helps her to plan lessons that reflect their unique experiences.

Suggested Reading

Santiago Hernández, Culturally Responsive Teaching and the Body: Promoting Authentic Engagement and Rites Among Culturally and Academically Diverse Students

Not your thing? “If you’re not interested in reading about diversity,” writes Suzanne Miller, “what’s the use of a resource that could make you reach online, instead?” Reading how others deal with the challenges of teaching through the lens of culture provides you with concrete strategies to help marginalized students in your classroom.

For more information, visit hmh.com/teacherichernandez
Recognize and redress bias in the system

Culturally responsive teachers expand their understanding of equality vs. equity by examining the causes and effects of bias.

HMH conducts rigorous reviews of our materials for quality and bias throughout the development process. We listen to and learn from students and educators, respecting their feedback and acting with their best interests at heart.

In the Teacher’s Guide, Into Reading program author Dr. Tyrone Howard articulates the research-based approach behind culturally responsive teaching, including a positive correlation between culturally responsive classrooms and students’ effort and participation.

The student grouping feature on Ed allows teachers to group students by more than just similar instructional needs. Teachers can reorganize groups to ensure diversity and disrupt patterns of marginalization.
Draw on students’ culture to shape curriculum and instruction

Culturally responsive teachers regularly incorporate student input into their lesson design to connect new academic concepts to students’ background knowledge from their families, communities, and lived experiences.

Select modules are dedicated to building knowledge around cross-curricular and social and emotional learning topics. Module videos engage students and stimulate discussions.

Social Awareness
Reinforce the key messages about social awareness by discussing these questions after reading the text.
ASK: How did Will Allen’s beliefs impact his decision to make a difference in his community? How can you apply what you learned in this story to your own community?

Point-of-use prompts and collaborative discussions help teachers build relationships with students and guide students to reflect on their own experiences and consider others’ points of view.

The Program Guide provides teachers with specific, concrete ways to ensure that children’s differences are respectfully celebrated and that bias and stereotypes are rejected.
Bring real-world issues into the classroom

Teachers build relevant learning opportunities by centering on students’ real-world experiences, their community and family context.

Anchor Charts for Social and Emotional Learning are used alongside text-based discussions to help students build understanding of topics such as community and diversity, empathy, and communication skills.

Modules in each grade level are dedicated to building knowledge around topics such as citizenship, relationship skills, and leadership skills.

Ready-made Social and Emotional Learning PowerPoint Lessons with guided notes help teachers easily integrate SEL into daily instruction through discussions and activities.
Model high expectations for all students

Culturally responsive teachers actively work to maintain the belief and to reflect in their actions that all students can meet high expectations if given proper support and scaffolds.

The Ed online platform provides actionable data to inform personalized instruction and to help hold students to high expectations, creating true data-driven differentiation for all learners.

Also available for purchase: Online ELA Skills and Oral Reading Fluency Practice deliver lessons and tutoring that are personalized, so students have the exact steps they need to reach their learning milestones.
Promote respect for students’ differences

With *Into Reading*, diversity is seen as an asset and strength. **Authentic program literature** is filled with stories that celebrate differences. HMH ensures that students will see themselves celebrated and presented accurately in our programs.

*Into Reading* creates a classroom environment that **fosters appreciation and respect for all people** and cultures through its support for home languages, ethnically diverse literature, family connections, inclusive activities, and more.

Also available for purchase: **Rigby® JillE Literacy® K–3** is built on the conviction that **meeting the needs of every student is what equity is all about.** With guidance from Jill Eggleton on every page, **JillE Literacy** provides the instructional tools teachers need to support all learners.
Collaborate with families and the local community

Culturally responsive teachers see themselves as members of the local community and remove barriers of engagement for all students’ families.

The Into Reading Ed learning platform has a space for families and caregivers to support learning at home. These resources are available in both English and Spanish.

Family Room is easily accessible from the Ed student log in.

Resources include:

• 5 Questions Teachers Wants You to Ask Them
• Navigating HMH’s Learning Platform, Ed
• Meet Your HMH Program
• Getting to Know Your HMH Resources
• The Power of Talk
• 5 Steps to Managing Attention and Behavior
• How to Ask Follow-Up Questions to Get Talk Started
• Avoid the Meltdown with Brain Breaks
• No “I’m Bored” Here: Activities to Spark Learning

Family Letters for each module are available in 10 languages. The letters explain what’s being studied in the classroom and give ideas for activities and games to support learning at home.
Communicate in linguistically and culturally responsive ways

Culturally responsive teachers are mindful of and respect differing communication styles. They learn about cultural influences on communication, such as speaking tone and rhythm, space between speakers, eye contact, gestiulation, etc., and encourage students to use their natural ways of communication in the classroom.

High communications standards and expectations are highlighted throughout *HMH Into Reading*. Students participate in daily discussions in grades K–6 as they engage with their peers to talk about texts, projects, and writing tasks.
Communicate in linguistically and culturally responsive ways

With Ed’s grade 3-6 online writing tool students have an engaging way to hone their writing skills and share their thoughts and perspectives about issues that impact them and their communities. The platform gives students choices for adding images or videos and choices of formats for previewing writing submissions.
A Vision for

**Student Growth**

To learn more about *HMH Into Reading*, please visit [hmhco.com/intoreading](http://hmhco.com/intoreading)