**Classroom Activities & Library Resources**

1. Show a short movie or animated book without the volume. This will remove the listening

component so that students can focus on their own interpretation of what happened by using their sense of sight. Have students discuss what they think happened and give reasons to support their thoughts. Afterwards, you can show it again, but this time with

the volume on. Students will then be able to compare the language to what was happening in the plot. Were their original thoughts the same or different than what actually happened? How does language affect our interpretation of events?

1. Host an All About Me Celebration. Students can create posters about their life, family, interests, customs and traditions. Posters can include pictures, drawings and writing. They can present their poster to the class. This would be a great way to get to know the students and for them to get to know each other. It would provide insight into their home life, things that motivate them and possibly holidays they celebrate.

1. Host a “Thanksgiving Feast” around Thanksgiving time. While learning about America’s traditions and culture, students can share about their home culture. Invite students and parents to come into the class for a “feast.” Families can prepare foods that are part of their family tradition during holiday times. When everyone comes in to celebrate what they are thankful for, students and families will be able to try foods from other cultures. This will allow students to appreciate other cultures and try new foods they typically may not be exposed to. Additionally, it creates a sense of community.
2. Edutopia is a website for teachers that shares articles on best practices. The following Edutopia article is for ELLs: 12 Fun Speaking Games for English Language Learners. Website: https://www.edutopia.org/discussion/12-fun-speaking-games-language-learners:

This article shares 12 ways to get English Language Learners speaking. Many activities are games.

1. Colorin Colorado is a bilingual website for teachers and families of English Language Learners. There are many articles for best practices and strategies with teaching ELLs.

[www.colorincolorado.org](http://www.colorincolorado.org)

1. Reading Rockets is a website that provides information and resources on how young kids learn to read, why some struggle and how adults can help. There are articles, videos and podcasts available. There are articles specifically addressing the needs of ELLs.

www. readingrockets.org

1. The TESOL (Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages) website provides educators with current research, news, journals, latest events and research in the field of teaching ELLs. [www.tesol.org](http://www.tesol.org)
2. *Multicultural Teaching: A Handbook of Activities, Information and Resources 8th Edition* by Pamela Tiedt & Iris Tiedt. This book focuses on esteem, empathy and equity while bringing theory and practice together. Topics covered include language diversity, academic achievement gap racism while developing a community of learners in the classroom.
3. *The Crayon Box That Talked* by Shane DeRolf. This book can be used to teach students that we get better results when we all work together. Just like a colorful box of crayons, we are all unique. This can fit into a lesson any time of year, but especially when talking about MLK, Jr.
4. M&M activity. Pass out one M&M to each student. Take notice of how they are all different colors. Next, have students bite into half of one. What do they notice? They are all the same inside. People are just like those M&Ms. We are all the same on the inside but look different on the outside. That’s what makes us unique.
5. Celebrate different holiday traditions. Students can learn to play Dreidel when learning about Hanukkah, make a clay kinara when learning about Kwanzaa and make masks when learning about the Day of the Dead (Dia de Los Muertos).
6. Th*e Name Jar* by Yangsook Choi. This book is about a student who is new to school and America. Knowing that no one will be able to pronounce her name, the main character decides to choose a new one. Her new friends learn about her name and its special meaning. They encouraged Yoon-Hey to keep her name and be proud of it. This can be read in the class any time of year, but especially when a new student arrives in class. Focuses on the fact the everyone has a special name.
7. *Enemy Pie* by Derek Munson. This book focuses on how we shouldn’t judge others based on outward appearances alone. Sometimes people on the outside aren’t who they really are on the inside. By taking time to get to know someone we can find out that we have more in common with them they we originally thought!
8. Teach students a different way to say hello each day. Focus on different languages throughout the world. Incorporate songs as much as possible.
9. Take a digital holiday field trip. Choose a country to visit online to learn more about their country, culture or holidays. Make sure to include countries of origin for all of your students.
10. *6 Ways to Implement a Real Multicultural Education in the Classroom* by Matthew Lynch. This article is on Edupedia and provides 6 ways to bring multicultural education into the classroom. <https://www.theedadvocate.org/6-ways-to-implement-a-real-multicultural-education-in-the-classroom/>
11. Teachhub.com is a website for teachers that includes hot topics and tips. There are resources for bringing multicultural education into the classroom.
12. *Becoming Multicultural Educators* by Geneva Gay. This book is for both new and veteran teachers. It offers fourteen stories from different cultures and ethnic groups in an attempt for educators to understand diversity. Teachers need to understand themselves and their biases in order to understand the their students.
13. *Beyond Heroes and Holidays* by Enid Lee. This book is a guide for students, teachers, administrators and parents. It analyzes the roots of racism, take a look at its impact on families and the community and discusses how to dismantle it in our schools and communities. The mission is to build social change within the classroom producing positive outcomes for all students.
14. Invite all parents to come into the classroom to read to the students. Set a specific day and time each week for this special activity. Allow parents to read in their native language. This will give students an appreciation of all languages and cultures.
15. Tribal College Journal of American Indian Higher Education. These journal articles, available on line, provides teachers with strategies and ways to connect with diverse learning styles.
16. *Strategies to Promote a Multicultural Environment in the Classroom* by Heidi McIntyre. This article is located on the Bright Hub Education website. It discusses the benefits of a multicultural classroom and being attentive to creating a learning environment for all diverse learners. Embracing language differences is one key component.
17. Drawn Together by Minh Le. This book is about a young boy who visits his grandfather. They do not have a common language to communicate. This leads to frustration and silence. They soon find out that they share a love of art. This leads to storytelling and the development of a bond. This is a wonderful book about language barriers and how they can be overcome. This book would be appropriate for any classroom, especially immersion and those with ELLs.