



Ted Alejandre, County Superintendent

San Bernardino County

Superintendent of Schools

Transforming lives through education

Tuesday, May 12

1:00pm

The Great American Read, Part 8 – 4th thru 8th grade

THE GREAT AMERICAN READ was an eight-part series that explored and celebrated the power of reading, told through the prism of America’s 100 best-loved novels (as chosen in a national survey). It investigated how and why writers create their fictional worlds, how we as readers are affected by these stories, and what these 100 different books have to say about our diverse nation and our shared human experience.

The series was the centerpiece of an ambitious multi-platform digital, educational and community outreach campaign, designed to get the country reading and passionately talking about books. And the winner is... after millions of votes, find out which of the 100 nominated books is crowned America's best-loved novel.

After watching this episode, choose from the following questions and/or tasks to extend your learning

Question Box 1

- What were some of the most interesting discoveries I made while viewing this program and/or the others in the series?
- How was the winning book chosen?
- What genre is America’s best loved novel?
- Did the episode describe the plot of the book? If so, what is it about? If not, based on the cover and the details in the episode, make a prediction about the book’s plot and/or topic.

Question Box 1

- Now that it's over, what are my first thoughts about this program? Are they mostly positive or negative? Explain?
- What is the most important thing I learned personally?
- Do you agree with the winning book? Why or why not?
- Have you read a book that you think should hold the title for America’s best? Why should your book have been the winner?
- Did your favorite book make the top 100? If it didn't, what is your favorite book? What book on the list is most like it? Why do you think so?

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Box 3 (Tasks)

- Choose a novel off of the Great American Read list: <https://www.pbs.org/the-great-american-read/results/>
- Choose one of the novels and begin to read it. Why did you choose this novel? How do you identify with the story? (ELD) Use sentence frames such as "I chose the novel _____, because _____."
- Choose a novel and create a book cover, poster or advertisement for the book.

Box 4 (Enrichment)

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- "We all can't be Atticus" Who is Atticus Finch? What makes him so special? Why can't we all be Atticus Finch? Who is the Atticus Finch in your life? Why?
- What story developed your love for knowledge? What genre is your story? Is it a different medium than print? Is it different than a novel? Compare the genre of your story that developed your love with that of a novel? What elements do they share? How are they radically different? Imagine your story turned into a novel. What changes would need to be made? Where would you need to go deeper, where might you need to cut some things? Take a look at how to write a jacket cover summary: <https://www.firstediting.com/how-to-write-a-book-jacket-cover/> Write one for your story turned novel.

Box 5 (Extend/Real-Life)

- This series was designed to encourage people to read. Many youth do not enjoy reading.
- Do you enjoy reading? Why or why not?
- What is the title of the last book you read because you wanted to?
- It is never too late to learn to enjoy reading. Watch this interview with an author who did not read a novel until he was 17. <https://www.cbsnews.com/video/jason-reynolds-writes-for-youth-searching-for-themselves-as-characters/>
 - Where did he get his inspiration to become a writer?
 - Would you enjoy reading the books he has written? Why or why not?
- Brainstorm a list of benefits of being an avid reader.
- How could your ability and enjoyment of reading help you in getting a job?