



**PS 39**

BROOKLYN, EST. 1877

## SUMMER ENGAGEMENT KIT

## FROM THE DIVERSITY COMMITTEE

# SCHOOL'S OUT FOR SUMMER!



There is so much to celebrate that we have achieved this year as a school community working together – staff, students and parents! We are excited that among this year's successes was the launch of PS 39's first ever committee on diversity and inclusion. We're writing to you today to let you know a little bit of what we've been up to and to suggest ways for all of us to engage around these issues over the summer.

PS 39's Diversity Committee was created to promote a culture of respect, social justice, equity and openness at PS 39. The committee is currently made up of 30 parents, teachers and staff members and we welcome you, your ideas and your energy to the group, too. We are so grateful for the dedication and hard work of Anita, Cathleen, Karen and the numerous teachers and parents that have taken up this work! We believe that if parents, teachers, students, administration all work together, we can achieve our goal of making PS 39 a more inclusive community for all.

To date we've identified these priorities for our work together:

- Provide resources for parents who want to raise race-conscious and social justice-minded children on our [website](#).
- Seek out and provide training opportunities throughout the year for teachers and parents
- Foster a just, inclusive community through school events, the classroom and all communications from PS 39
- Infuse our thinking and actions with consciousness about diversity and inclusion in ways that create a fun and enlightening school experience for kids and parents alike

What can PS 39 do to embrace all types of diversity next year and beyond?

In August, we will send a survey to the entire school community to answer that question. Your responses will help guide the committee's focus and approach as we enter a fresh school year. We're confident that our community of active and engaged families can help us answer this question. Working together, we can develop a better understanding of the opportunities and challenges we face in undoing racism, fostering inclusion and raising the next generation of socially responsible citizens.

In the meantime, we want to offer a "Tool Kit" that will provide some ideas for starting conversations around these issues with family and friends over the summer.

The Tool Kit includes:

- [A curated list of diverse books about race and social justice](#)
- Museum exhibits and events around the city that focus on the rich cultural diversity and history of NYC and beyond.
- [Some activity sheets and conversations starters you can do at home](#)

While our committee is focused on building our school community and providing tools for our school, you may have noticed that there is a larger conversation about diversity happening on the district level in a number of forums. We are encouraged that school leaders and parent leaders across New York City are as passionate about diversity and equity as PS 39 but there is much work to be done and more conversations we need to have at PS 39. If anyone is interested in more information about district-wide or city-wide efforts, feel free to reach out to us via the info form on our [website](#).

And, if you would like to get involved in the diversity committee or have any ideas or suggestions, please email us via the info form on the [website](#).

With best wishes for a wonderful summer,

PS39's Diversity & Inclusion Committee Members

# SCHOOL'S OUT, NEXT STOP: SUMMER READING!

Just because school's out doesn't mean we stop learning. Enjoy these Summer Reading recommendations.

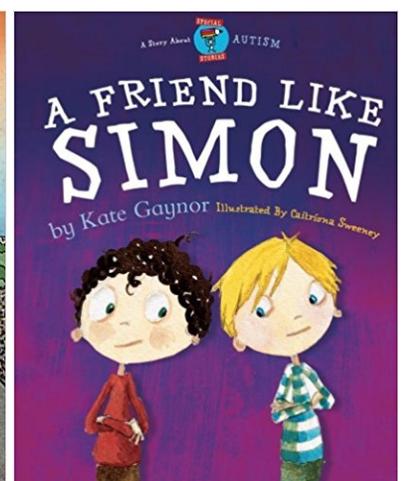
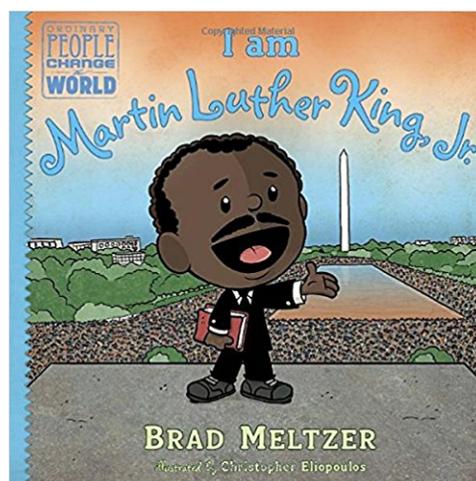
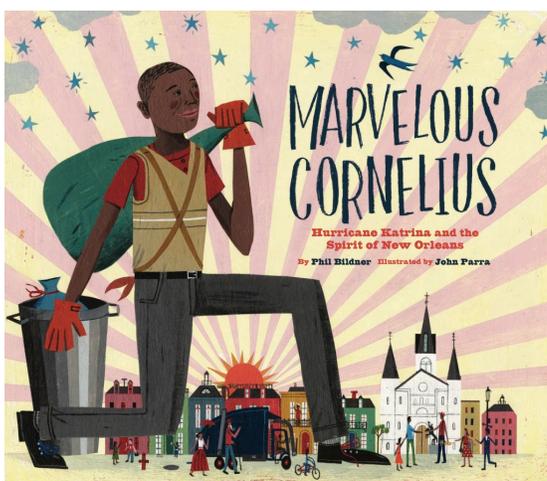
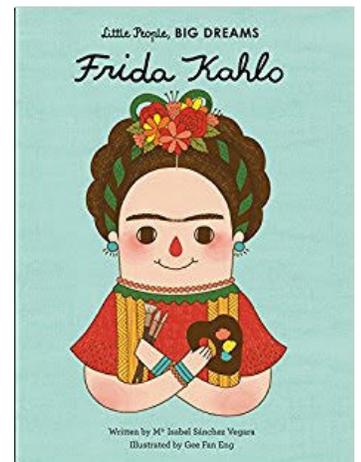
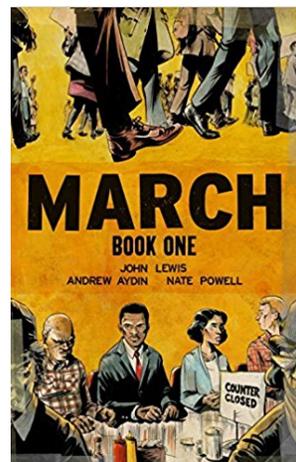
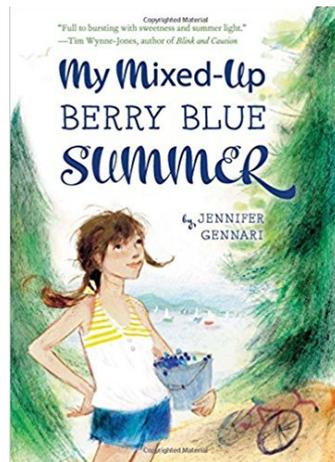
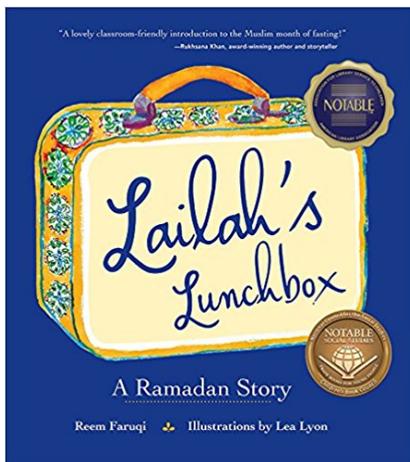
We all know how critical it is for kids to see themselves reflected in books, and also to read about a diversity of characters, stories and issues – both based in fantasy and in real life situations.

More and more books that directly or indirectly address issues of diversity and inclusion – from race to culture to gender to disability – are published each year. We've curated a list of books for suggested summer reading.

For additional suggestions, visit our [website](#), where we feature additional books and link to even more. We're also developing a much more comprehensive list that we'll launch in the fall - so if you have suggestions, please go to our [website](#) and submit them through our info form!

Finally, enclosed with this kit is a bookmark that has prompts for discussing these books with your children.

HAPPY READING!



# DIVERSITY & INCLUSION READING LIST

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
<a href="#">From Far Away</a> Munsch, Robert PRESCHOOL - 1	This books tells the true story of a family's flight from war-ridden Lebanon basedon a letter written to the author.
<a href="#">Malala Yousafzai: Warrior with Words</a> Abouraya, Karen Leggett PRESCHOOL - 2	A young Pakistani girl who stands up and speaks out for every child's right to education after a violence incident. Discusses the power of education.
<a href="#">People</a> Spier, Peter PRESCHOOL - 2	The book celebrates mankind in all its diversity-how we are similar and how we are different; in what we wear, eat, play, and how we worship and the variety of people of different cultures and races.
<a href="#">A Friend Like Simon</a> Gaynot, Kate PRESCHOOL - 3	Encourages other children to be mindful and patient of the differences that exist and to also appreciate the positive contribution that an autistic child can make to the group
<a href="#">Emmanuel's Dream: The True Story of Emmanuel Ofose Yeboah</a> Thompson, Laurie Ann PRESCHOOL - 3	The true story of a boy from Ghana, West Africa wit one deformed leg who became a cyclist and rode an astonishing four hundred miles across Ghana in 2001, spreading his powerful message: disability is not inability. Themes of parental support, overcoming adversity, social change.
<a href="#">Jacob's New Dress</a> Hoffman, Sarah and Ian Hoffman PRESCHOOL - 3	The kids at school say Jacob can't wear "girl" clothes, but Jacob wants to wear a dress to school. This heartwarming story speaks to the challenges faced by boys who don't identify with traditional gender roles.
<a href="#">I am Jazz</a> Herthel, Jessica and Jazz Jennings PRESCHOOL - 3	The story of a transgender child based on the real-life experience of Jazz Jennings, who has become a spokesperson for transkids everywhere
<a href="#">Momma, Did You Hear the News?</a> Whittaker Gragg, Sanya PRESCHOOL - 3	Little Avery becomes concerned after seeing another police shooting of an unarmed man. His parents decide it is time to have "The Talk". They teach him and his brother a catchy chant to help remember what to do if approached by an officer, while also emphasizing that all policemen are not bad.
<a href="#">She Persisted: 13 American Women Who Changed the World</a> Clinton, Chelsea PRESCHOOL - 3	Chelsea Clinton introduces tiny feminists, mini activists and little kids who are ready to take on the world to thirteen inspirational women who never took no for an answer, and who always, inevitably and without fail, persisted.
<a href="#">The Case for Loving: The Fight for Interracial Marriage</a> Alko, Selina PRESCHOOL - 3	This is the story of Mildred and Richard Loving whose marriage Virginia's state laws against interracial marriage. The Lovings refused to allow their children to get the message that their parents' love was wrong and so they fought the unfair law, taking their case all the way to the Supreme Court - and won!
<a href="#">Worm loves Worm</a> Austrian, J.J. PRESCHOOL - 3	When a worm meets a special worm and they fall in love, you know what happens next: They get married! But their friends want to know—who will wear the dress? And who will wear the tux? A celebration of love in all its splendid forms
<a href="#">Hi, I'm Syrian!</a> Frag, Shama K - 2	A picture book telling a Syrian refugee's story.
<a href="#">Iggy Peck, Architect</a> Beaty, Andrea K - 2	Iggy has one passion: building. When his second-grade teacher declares her dislike of architecture, Iggy faces a challenge. He loves building too much to give it up!
<a href="#">Frida Kahlo (Little People, Big Dreams)</a> Sanchez Vegara, Isabel K - 3	A story about Frida Kahlo, whose desire to study medicine was destroyed by a childhood accident. Frida began painting from her bedside and produced over 140 works, culminating in a solo exhibition in America.

<p><a href="#">I am Martin Luther King, Jr. (Ordinary People Change the World)</a> Meltzer, Brad and Christopher Eliopoulos K - 3</p>	<p>A story about Martin Luther King, Jr. who helped gather people together for nonviolent protests and marches, and spoke up about loving other human beings and doing what's right, bravely leading the way toward racial equality in America.</p>
<p><a href="#">Marvelous Cornelius: Hurricane Katrina and the Spirit of New Orleans</a> Bildner, Phil K - 3</p>	<p>This heartwarming book about a real garbage man, tells the inspiring story of a humble man and the heroic difference he made in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans.</p>
<p><a href="#">Spaghetti in a Hot Dog Bun: Having the Courage To Be Who You Are</a> Dismond, Maria and Kathy Hiatt K - 5</p>	<p>This charming story empowers children to always do the right thing and be proud of themselves, even when they are faced with someone as challenging as Ralph.</p>
<p><a href="#">The Youngest Marcher: The Story of Audrey Faye Hendricks, a Young Civil Rights Activist</a> Levinson, Cynthia K - 5</p>	<p>This is the story of the youngest child known to be arrested in the civil rights movement. It champions the importance of young people using their voice, the strength of community and protesting injustice.</p>
<p><a href="#">Chocolate Milk, Por Favor: Celebrating Diversity with Empathy</a> Dismond, Maria and Nancy Day K - 5</p>	<p>It's Gabe's first day of school in America, and he doesn't speak English. This story shows how a simple act of kindness is worth more than a thousand words. Kindness really is a universal language.</p>
<p><a href="#">My Story, My Dance: Robert Battle's Journey to Alvin Ailey</a> Cline-Ransome, Lesa K - 5</p>	<p>A boy discovers his passion for dance and becomes a modern hero in this inspiring picture book biography of Robert Battle, artistic director of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater.</p>
<p><a href="#">Lailah's Lunchbox: A Ramadan Story</a> Faruqi, Reem and Lea Lyon K - 7</p>	<p>Lailah is in a new school in a new country, thousands of miles from her old home and friends. Centered on fasting during Ramadan this is the story of how Lailah makes new friends who respect her beliefs.</p>
<p><a href="#">Katherine Johnson (You Should Meet)</a> Feldman, Thea K - 3</p>	<p>Champions girl power and women scientists while touching on themes of never giving up and problem solving, Jumpstart conversations about gender roles</p>
<p><a href="#">Separate Is Never Equal: Sylvia Mendez and Her Family's Fight for Desegregation</a> Tonatiuh, Duncan 1 - 4</p>	<p>The story of Sylvia Mendez and her parents, who helped end school segregation in California almost 10 years before Brown vs. Board of Education,</p>
<p><a href="#">El Deafo</a> Bell, Cece 3 - 7</p>	<p>In this funny, poignant graphic novel memoir, author/illustrator Cece Bell chronicles her hearing loss at a young age and her subsequent experiences with the Phonic Ear, a very powerful—and very awkward—hearing aid.</p>
<p><a href="#">Wonder</a> Palacio, R.J. 3 - 7</p>	<p>Ten-year-old Auggie Pullman, who was born with extreme facial abnormalities and was not expected to survive, goes from being home-schooled to entering fifth grade at a private middle school in Manhattan, which entails enduring the taunting and fear of his classmates as he struggles to be seen as just another student.</p>
<p><a href="#">Brown Girl Dreaming</a> Woodson, Jacqueline 3 - 8</p>	<p>In vivid poems, Woodson shares what it was like to grow up as an African American in the 1960s and 1970s, living with the remnants of Jim Crow and her growing awareness of the Civil Rights movement. The book confronts issues of faith, race, sexual identity, alcoholism and sexual abuse</p>
<p><a href="#">March: Book One</a> Lewis, John and Andrew Aydin 5</p>	<p>Book One spans John Lewis' youth in rural Alabama, his life-changing meeting with Martin Luther King, Jr., the birth of the Nashville Student Movement, and their battle to tear down segregation through nonviolent lunch counter sit-ins, building to a stunning climax on the steps of City Hall.</p>
<p><a href="#">The Mixed Up Berry Blue Summer</a> Gennari, Jennifer 5</p>	<p>Twelve-year-old June Farrell spends the summer at her Vermont home getting used to the woman her mother is planning to marry and practicing her pie-baking skills, as she hopes to win the blue ribbon at the fair.</p>

# GET OUT OF YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD...

## CELEBRATE CULTURE ON-THE-GO!

We're lucky to live in a city that celebrates cultural diversity and makes it easy - and sometimes FREE - for us to learn about the richness of the people and communities that make up our city - and have fun while doing so!

This summer, take some time to share the experience of exploring history and cultures different from your own at these museums around town. While these represent just a fraction of offerings, the selections cover a variety of experiences.

In addition to checking out some of those we've highlighted, consider taking a walking tour in a neighborhood you've never been to, or search for community and cultural events happening all around town.

Children's Museum of Manhattan <http://cmom.org/> Free first Friday nights from 5-8pm.

- Exhibition: America to Zanzibar: Muslim Cultures Near and Far showing now till December 31, 2017. <http://cmom.org/exhibitions/#america-to-zanzibar-muslim-cultures-near-and-far>

The Brooklyn Museum <https://www.brooklynmuseum.org/> Collections Include American art, Egyptian, classical, Ancient Near Eastern art, feminist, European and art of the Pacific Islands. Museum admission is free the first Saturday of every month.

Studio Museum in Harlem <https://www.studiomuseum.org/> Art of African-Americans, specializing in 19th and 20th century work as well as exhibits of Caribbean and African art. Museum admission is free every Sunday. For full list of upcoming events: <https://www.studiomuseum.org/event-calendar/>

- 7/2/17: 2-4pm Hands On Paper Pulp Sculptures, Kids & Family Programs at the Studio Museum of Harlem. Consider texture and color as you work to create a dynamic sculpture, much like the work of [Samuel Levi Jones](#). Discover how paper can be shaped and molded as you use special sculpture materials! <https://www.studiomuseum.org/event-calendar/event/hands-2017-07-02>
- 7/9/17: Gallery Tour Crossing 125th 1-2pm Kids and Family Programs at the Studio Museum of Harlem. Explore community, self-determination and the complexities of black life through a selection of photographic images during this one hour gallery tour. View work spanning twenty-five years by the Brooklyn-born street photographer [Jamel Shabazz](#). This gallery tour will have something for everyone: adults, families and kids of all ages are welcome! <https://www.studiomuseum.org/event-calendar/event/gallery-tour-2017-07-09>
- 7/23/17: Hands On Sculpting in Nature! 2-4pm Kids & Family Programs at the Studio Museum of Harlem at Marcus Garvey Park: Madison Ave & E 123rd Street. Join us in Marcus Garvey Park for an exciting outdoors art-making adventure inspired by [inHarlem: Simone Leigh](#), a site-specific installation! Incorporate tactile materials into a unique work of art as you build a sculpture in nature, much like the artist Simone Leigh! <https://www.studiomuseum.org/event-calendar/event/hands-2017-07-23>

El Museo del Barrio <http://www.elmuseo.org/> Latin American and Caribbean art, with an emphasis on works from Puerto Rico and the Puerto Rican community in New York City. Museum admission is always free for children under 12.

Jewish Children's Museum <http://www.jcm.museum/> Jewish heritage, fostering inclusion and understanding.

Ellis Island Museum <https://www.nps.gov/elis/index.htm> Tours by boat from Battery Park in Manhattan or Liberty State Park in Jersey city, New Jersey; immigration experience and history of immigrants.

Museum of the City of New York <http://www.mcny.org/> Art and local history. Some current exhibits of interest:

- Exhibition: Muslim in New York showing now through August 13, 2017 at the City Museum of New York <http://www.mcny.org/exhibition/muslim-new-york>
- Exhibition: Rhythm & Power Salsa in New York now through November 26, 2017 at the City Museum of New York <http://www.mcny.org/exhibition/rhythm-power>
- Exhibition: A City Seen, Todd Webb's Postwar New York, 1945-1960 now through September 4, 2017 at the City Museum of New York

Noguchi Museum <http://www.noguchi.org/> Works by Japanese-American sculptor [Isamu Noguchi](#) Free for children under 12. Family programs: <http://www.noguchi.org/programs/education/families>

- Exhibition: Self-Interned, 1942: Noguchi in Poston War Relocation Center now through January 2018 <http://www.noguchi.org/programs/exhibitions>

Louis Armstrong House Museum <https://www.louisarmstronghouse.org/> The home & history of jazz legend Louis Armstrong.

- Exhibition: Ella and Louis: A Celebration of Jazz's Greatest Duets. Featuring rare photographs and sound recordings that tell the story of the immortal music made by Ella Fitzgerald and Louise Armstrong.
- 7/4/17: In celebration of Louis Armstrong's birthday (July 4, 1900) the Louis Armstrong museum stays open every fourth of July, offering a special jazz concert in the Armstrongs' Japanese-inspired garden. Free birthday cake for every visitor! <https://www.louisarmstronghouse.org/programs-and-exhibit/>

The Tenement Museum <https://www.tenement.org/>

- Featuring a new tour and exhibit opening in fall 2017 titled *Under One Roof*. The Tenement Museum is comprised of two historic tenement buildings, 97 and 103 Orchard Street. Where 97 Orchard Street served as home to immigrant families between 1863 and 1935, Under One Roof will feature the stories of the immigrants and migrants who started their lives anew at 103 Orchard Street in the decades after World War II and helped to make the Lower East Side one of New York's most diverse neighborhoods. Hear the stories of former resident Bella Epstein, whose parents survived the Holocaust; Jose and Andy Velez, whose seamstress mother left Puerto Rico for new opportunities; and the Wong siblings, whose mother supported the family by sewing in the Chinatown garment shops.
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# TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE, START A CONVERSATION

Sometimes we don't know what we don't know and sometimes we think we know things that we don't know either! We've pulled together three activities to try at home that may challenge your understanding of culture and history. We hope that these can be a springboard for talking about how we all have room to grow and learn – especially when it comes to social justice and equity - and that we must always strive to question the world around us and our assumptions about it.

## FOURTH OF JULY

We all know that on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July we celebrate Independence Day in recognition of our country's founding in 1776. But not everyone was independent – or free – in 1776, and that it took a civil war and many more struggles –that continue to this day - to move toward a country that we can all celebrate being a part of. This year, we invite you to learn more about our history, and the significance of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July beyond 1776. (From July 4<sup>th</sup>: Beyond 1776, <https://zinnedproject.org/2016/07/peoples-history-of-fourth-of-july/>)

On July 4, 1827, slavery was abolished in New York.

In 1852, Frederick Douglass delivered his speech “The Meaning of July Fourth for the Negro.”

On July 4, 1854, abolitionists addressed a rally sponsored by the Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society.

On July 4, 1876, suffragists crash the Centennial Celebration at Independence Hall to present the “Declaration of the Rights of Women.”

On July 4, 1876, a black militia is accused of blocking the road—punished with Hamburg Massacre.

On July 4, 1917, The Voice: A Newspaper for the New Negro, edited by Hubert H. Harrison, made its debut.

On July 4, 1963, unsung hero Clyde Kennard died.

On July 4, 1965, the first Annual Reminder demonstration was held for gay and lesbian rights.

On July 4, 1966, the Minimum Wage March began.

On July 4, 1969, Cesar Chavez was on the cover of Time magazine.

On July 4, 2013, “Restore the Fourth” protests draw attention to the National Security Agency's spying program.

# BIAS BUSTERS - INTERACTIVE QUIZ

## *Test your cultural competency*

1. Mexico is the country of origin for the largest number of U.S. Hispanics and Latinos. How many can trace their ancestry to Mexico?
  - a. One-third
  - b. One-half
  - c. Two-thirds
  - d. Three-fourths
2. An American college student who says “that’s my jam” probably means:
  - a. That's my song
  - b. I'm in a predicament
  - c. My schedule is packed
  - d. This is my favorite lunch
3. Which is NOT true about people on the island of Puerto Rico?
  - a. If they were born there, they are automatically U.S. citizens.
  - b. They may not vote in U.S. presidential elections.
  - c. They pay no U.S. taxes.
  - d. They can travel to the United States without a passport
4. Which of these countries has fewer than 100 million Muslims?
  - a. Indonesia
  - b. Bangladesh
  - c. Egypt
  - d. India
5. The Korean Wave is:
  - a. A cultural movement
  - b. A long hairstyle often dyed blue or pink
  - c. The way young Koreans greet each other at clubs
  - d. An area on the East Sea known for great surfing
6. Only one of these is a Spanish-speaking country. Which one?
  - a. Haiti
  - b. Brazil
  - c. Guyana
  - d. Panama

7. The art form manga draws inspiration from:
- a. Edouard Manet
  - b. Popeye
  - c. Edgar Degas
  - d. Betty Boop
8. Which is the world's largest religious group?
- a. Islam
  - b. Hinduism
  - c. Christianity
  - d. No affiliation
9. Kawaii is ... ?
- a. Geologically the oldest of the main Hawaiian islands
  - b. A Middle-Eastern dish of ground meat and onions
  - c. Japanese cuteness
  - d. A coffee liqueur from Mexico
10. What is the correct order of countries by land mass?
- a. China, Canada, Russia, the United States
  - b. China, Russia, the United States, Canada
  - c. Russia, China, Canada, the United States
  - d. Canada, Russia, China, the United States
11. Which of these is not an Arab country?
- a. Iran
  - b. Iraq
  - c. Oman
  - d. Yemen
12. Which state has the highest proportion of Hispanics?
- a. New Mexico
  - b. Florida
  - c. Texas
  - d. California

Find the answers to the quiz at: <http://msutoday.msu.edu/feature/2014/busting-biases/>

The questions above are taken directly from the books written by Grimm's Bias Busters students. Courtesy of MSU

# I AM FROM POEM

-I am from (an aspect of your culture)\_\_\_\_\_ from (everyday product in your home)\_\_\_\_\_ and (everyday item in your home)\_\_\_\_\_.

-I am from (description of your home)\_\_\_\_\_ (a detail about your home smell, taste or feel)\_\_\_\_\_

-I am from the (plant, flower, natural item)\_\_\_\_\_The (plant or tree near your home)\_\_\_\_\_

-I'm from (family member)\_\_\_\_\_ and (family member)\_\_\_\_\_

-I am from (family habit)\_\_\_\_\_

-I'm from (things you were told as a child)\_\_\_\_\_ And (a song you learned as a child)\_\_\_\_\_ And (a saying you learned as a child)\_\_\_\_\_

-I am from (place of birth)\_\_\_\_\_ and (family ancestry), (family food)\_\_\_\_\_ and (family food)\_\_\_\_\_ From (story about a family member)\_\_\_\_\_ (detail about the story or person)\_\_\_\_\_ (description of family mementos, pictures or treasures)\_\_\_\_\_ (location of mementos- under my bed, on the wall, in my heart)\_\_\_\_\_ (More descriptions if needed)\_\_\_\_\_

We hope you enjoy exploring this kit over the summer.

See you in the fall!