

# Lesson 18: Journeys

*"I promise you nothing . . . I accept your promise . . . of the same we are simply riding . . . a wave . . . that may carry . . . or crash . . . It's a journey . . . and I want . . . to go . . ."* —Nikki Giovanni

**Social Justice Standard: Diversity 8**

## Summary

Life has many adventures in store for all of us, and we have so much that we can learn from the stories that others have lived through. Books help show us that not everyone has been or is able to travel in the same ways. Many family histories are marked by stories of important journeys.

In the following lesson, you will find help in starting a conversation about important journeys in your own family.

## Booklist

- *One Big Day* by Anne Wynter, illustrated by Alea Marley
- *The Year We Learned to Fly* by Jacqueline Woodson, illustrated by Rafael López
- *Bright Star* by Yuyi Morales
- *Powwow Day* by Traci Sorel, illustrated by Madelyn Goodnight

## Consider This

- Talk to those in your family about what important journeys or migrations may have made your family what it is today. How might things be different had your family not made those journeys?
- If you could journey anywhere, where would you go?
- What is the most meaningful or memorable trip you've been on?
- What are some things that may stop you from your journey?

## *Talk Together*

- Image together how the characters in the stories might be feeling. How do you know?
  - Can you think of any times when you felt that way? How could you tell this same story through another character's perspective—one of the adults for example?
- Where was the last place that you took a trip? What did you do on the trip? Who went with you?
- Have you ever made a trip that took you away from all the people and places that are familiar to you for a long time or permanently? What made you excited about that trip? What made you sad? What did you miss?
- There are many reasons to take a trip—what are some of the reasons that people use to explain why they need to travel?

## *Engage*

Use the word JOURNEY to help you imagine different places you'd like to go.

J = jungle or other natural habitat

O = ocean

U = universe

R = roadtrip

N = nation

E = experience

Y = year (past or future)

## *Explore More*

- NPR Code Switch's "They Came, They Saw, They Reckoned?" (January 12, 2022)
- *A Journey* by Nikki Giovanni
- "In Twilight of Life, Civil Rights Activists Feel 'Urgency to Tell Our History'" by Eduardo Medina (New York Times, February 19, 2022)
- "Letting Go of Myths, Embracing Truths" by Shawn Ginwright (Yes! Magazine, February 16, 2022)
- *Harper Bazaar's* "Faith Ringgold Knows She's Ahead of Her Time" (February 17, 2022)