

Positive Identity-Affirming Yearlong Curriculum Overview

For Primary (K–3), Junior (4–6), and Intermediate (7–8)

Part A – Introduction

- **Purpose:** Building classrooms where every student's identity is seen, valued, and affirmed.
 - **Frameworks:** Ontario Curriculum links; Equity & Inclusive Education Strategy; Anti-Oppressive Education.
 - **Structure:** Each division has 4 seasonal units (Sept–Oct, Nov–Dec, Jan–Mar, Apr–Jun). Each unit has 3–4 lessons (≈12–15 per year).
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Part B – Lessons by Division

1. Primary Division (K–3)

Core Books

- *The Olive Tree* (Elsa Marston)
- *The Sandwich Swap* (Queen Rania & Kelly DiPucchio)
- *Golden Domes and Silver Lanterns* (Hena Khan)
- *Welcoming Elijah* (Lesléa Newman)

Units & Lessons

- **Sept–Oct: Community & Belonging**
 - Lesson 1: Storytelling Circle (sample in source).
 - Lesson 2: Friendship Collage (hands-on art).
 - Lesson 3: Empathy Faces (role-play activity).
- **Nov–Dec: Holidays & Joy**
 - Lesson 4: Holiday Chart (compare celebrations).
 - Lesson 5: Joy Jars (gratitude practice).

- Lesson 6: Storybook Exploration (*Golden Domes and Silver Lanterns*).
 - **Jan–Mar: Identity as Strength**
 - Lesson 7: Family Show-and-Tell.
 - Lesson 8: My Special Symbol (identity art).
 - Lesson 9: Shared Stories (community read-aloud).
 - **Apr–Jun: Celebration & Performance**
 - Lesson 10: Class Mural Project.
 - Lesson 11: Taste of Us Day prep.
 - Lesson 12: End-of-Year Celebration Circle.
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2. Junior Division (4–6)

Core Books

- *Yaffa and Fatima: Shalom, Salaam* (Fawzia Gilani-Williams)
- *The Olive Tree* (extended)
- *Other Words for Home* (Jasmine Warga)
- Poetry of Naomi Shihab Nye

Units & Lessons

- **Sept–Oct: Identity & Belonging**
 - Lesson 1: Community Map (sample in source).
 - Lesson 2: Identity Webs.
 - Lesson 3: Poetry Reading & Reflection.
 - **Nov–Dec: Challenging Stereotypes**
 - Lesson 4: What’s a Stereotype? (critical media).
 - Lesson 5: Bias Detectives (analyzing media clips).
 - Lesson 6: Rewriting Headlines.
 - **Jan–Mar: Storytelling & Migration**
 - Lesson 7: Family Migration Interviews.
 - Lesson 8: Character Study from *Other Words for Home*.
 - Lesson 9: Narrative Writing – Migration Stories.
 - **Apr–Jun: Community Building & Action**
 - Lesson 10: Cultural Center Partnerships.
 - Lesson 11: Showcase Prep – Celebrating Belonging.
 - Lesson 12: Student Exhibition & Reflection.
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3. Intermediate Division (7–8)

Core Books

- *Salt Houses* (Hala Alyan, excerpts)
- *Letters to My Palestinian Neighbor* (Yossi Klein Halevi, excerpts)
- *I Was Their American Dream* (Malaka Gharib)
- Poetry: Mahmoud Darwish, Yehuda Amichai

Units & Lessons

- **Sept–Oct: Intersectionality & Identity**
 - Lesson 1: Identity Interviews.
 - Lesson 2: Identity Mapping.
 - Lesson 3: Graphic Memoir Study (*I Was Their American Dream*).
 - **Nov–Dec: Breaking Down Bias**
 - Lesson 4: Media Literacy Investigation (sample in source).
 - Lesson 5: Stereotypes & Microaggressions Toolkit.
 - Lesson 6: Debate: Representation in Media.
 - **Jan–Mar: Literature as Resistance**
 - Lesson 7: Poetry Anthology (Darwish, Amichai, Alyan).
 - Lesson 8: Literature Circles on Resistance Themes.
 - Lesson 9: Writing Original Poems of Resistance.
 - **Apr–Jun: From Equity to Empathy**
 - Lesson 10: Reading *Letters to My Palestinian Neighbor*.
 - Lesson 11: Student “Letters to Our Community.”
 - Lesson 12: Capstone Public Exhibition.
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Part C – Culminating Projects

- **Primary:** *Taste of Us Day* – food, music, storytelling celebration.
 - **Junior:** *Celebrating Belonging Showcase* – student projects shared with families.
 - **Intermediate:** *Letters to Our Community Exhibition* – student letters, poetry, media presentations.
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Part D – Appendices

- **Printable Handouts**
 - Empathy Faces worksheet (Primary).
 - Identity Web template (Junior).
 - Stereotype vs. Reality T-Chart (Junior).
 - Media Annotation Sheet (Intermediate).
 - Poetry Page Templates (Intermediate).
- **Assessment Tools**

- Checklists for participation & collaboration.
 - Rubrics for oral storytelling, written reflections, media projects.
- **Annotated Book List** (with ISBNs and suggested purchase links).
- **Community & Cultural Partnerships Directory** (e.g., libraries, cultural centers).