



Ted Alejandre, County Superintendent

San Bernardino County

Superintendent of Schools

Transforming lives through education

**Tuesday, May 5**

1:00pm

**The Great American Read, Part 3 – 4<sup>th</sup>  
thru 8<sup>th</sup> grade**

THE GREAT AMERICAN READ is an eight-part series that explores and celebrates the power of reading, told through the prism of America’s 100 best-loved novels (as chosen in a national survey). It investigates 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.

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

**Question Box 1**

- What is the most important thing I learned personally?
- What were some of the most interesting discoveries I made while watching this show?
- Reflect on the books discussed in the episode. What genres were they? Is one genre represented more than others? If so, why do you think that is?
- Who was the narrator of the episode? Was he/she objective when describing the books or did he/she seem to have a favorite? What phrases or tone did he/she use that leads you to make that determination?

**Question Box 2**

- What were some of my most powerful learning moments in the program and what made them so?
- How much did you know about the 100 best novels before we started? Explain.
- How do you feel about this program? What parts of it do you particularly like?
- The books in this episode focused on the question “Who am I?” Have you ever read a book that helped you discover something about yourself? If so, what did you learn? How did that help you better understand yourself as an individual?
- Did any of the testimonials in this episode inspire you to read a new book or re-read a book you have already experienced? Why?

**Box 3 (Tasks)**

- Take a look at the books featured in today's episode. Pick a novel that resonated with you and start to read it. (Check with your local library for online access to books) Why would you choose this novel?



- Consider writing a journal for a week. Commit to writing for ten minutes a day about whatever comes to mind. At the end of the week, read back over your entries. Do you notice any patterns or similarities in the topics you wrote about? (Save this journal...someday it will be a primary source for others to learn about you!)
- What is the ratio of books that explore the theme of “Who Am I?” to the total number of books chosen? What is the ratio of male to female authors of these books? Who is more likely to write a book exploring identity, males or females? Justify your reasoning using mathematics.

#### **Box 4 (Enrichment)**

- Who do you want to be in ten years? Research what it takes to be that person? What do you have to do to be that person today? Are you that person? What steps can you take to get you there if you’re not, what’s your next step if you are there?

#### **Box 5 (Extend/Real-Life)**

- **I Am** - On a piece of paper you will create positive statements that represent who you are. Each sentence must start with “I am”. Here are a couple examples:
  - I am a good listener.
  - I am good at math.
- Write as many sentences as possible. Once you have a decent list of *positive I am* statements, decorate the paper with pictures, drawings, etc. Share what you have created with a family member and keep it with you to add to as you learn new things about yourself that you can add.
- **Flip it** - This activity will require you to think about your mistakes and obstacles you have faced. It is important to remember that everyone makes mistakes, and faces obstacles. How these impact you depends on how you deal with and grow from them.
- On a piece of paper make a list of the mistakes, and obstacles you have faced. Beside each statement you will write a sentence to “Flip it”. Here are a couple of examples:
  - I failed my math test. The “Flip it” statement might be: *I will study harder to pass the next test.*
  - I don’t complete my mile run in the required time. The “Flip it” statement might be. *I will each day until I build up to one mile.*
- Remember the Flip it statements are the ideas that you come up with how you can **fix, resolve, or overcome obstacles** will be different than other people. Share what you have learned with a family member and remember when you make a mistake, fail at something, or identify an obstacle you want to “Flip it”!
- Social-Emotional Connection: Deep reading, also known as slow reading, is the mindful way of enjoying reading. Instead of skimming over passages or getting interrupted by social media, take the time to slow down and enjoy your book.
- The next time you have to read something, practice *mindful reading*. Remove distractions like your phone, ipad, or other technology that might pull you away from your book. Read slowly and think about what you are reading.