



15 THINGS TEACHERS CAN DO

- **Cultivate** a learning environment that is rich in print, aural, and visual texts representing a variety of races, ethnicities, genders, abilities, experiences, perspectives, and languages.
- **Affirm** the variety of languages, registers, and styles of expression in your classroom as valuable and legitimate.
- **Develop** cultural literacy (e.g. get versed in etiquette & mores) about the communities with which your students and their families identify.
- **Learn** phrases from other languages and customs from other cultures.
- **Ask** your students and their families to help you learn these things and show them you value their linguistic and cultural knowledge.
- **Tune in** to how cultural factors and language use influence social dynamics and communication in the learning environment—help kids to be aware of it and navigate it successfully.
- **Prompt** and provoke curiosity, critical contemplation, observation and connection of students to their world, themselves, and each other.
- **Explore** concepts from multiple points of view through debates, various versions of the same story, literally looking at things from different angles.
- **Encourage** genuine expression of and consideration of multiple perspectives.
- **Guide** students in developing language and skills to engage in healthy discourse about various points of view.
- **Extend** invitations to explicitly explore concepts of culture, identity, bias, privilege and power in substantive ways in the context of the curriculum.
- **Nurture** hospitable environments, build intentional structures, and provide active guidance for students to have these discussions.
- **Create** a specific space (e.g. in morning meeting, or homeroom advisory) for kids to engage in real conversations about culture and identity, then help them to see connections in other parts of their day.
- **Design** instruction and provide scaffolds based on deep knowledge of students.
- **Invite** students into a curriculum in which they can both see themselves reflected and glimpse the worlds of others.