



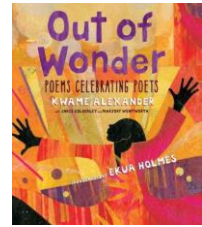
YA Books for Adult Learners:

Some ideas for *Connections* or class book clubs for advanced level students

Fiction and Biography

Amina's Voice by Hena Khan

"A Pakistani-American girl starting middle school learns how to cope with the changes and challenges she faces at home, at school, and within her close-knit Muslim community." (Muslim Imprint of Simon & Schuster, Salaam Reads)



Kirkus Reviews <https://www.kirkusreviews.com/book-reviews/hena-khan/aminas-voice/>

Brown Girl Dreaming by Jacqueline Woodson

A stunning biography in verse of growing up African American with dreams of being a writer.

http://www.nationalbook.org/nba2014_ypl_woodson.html#.Wx7fc9VKiUk

Enchanted Air: Two Cultures, Two Wings by Margarita Engle

In this poetic memoir, Margarita Engle tells of growing up as a child of two cultures during the Cold War. It begins with "Four Years Before I Existed," which could lead to stories and writing with the prompt, "Imagine the day that your parents met."

<https://www.teachthought.com/learning/25-best-poetry-books-teens/>

Flying Lessons and Other Stories edited By Ellen Oh

Short story collection published in collaboration with We Need Diverse Books. Writers include:

[Tim Tingle](#), Choctaw author, [Soman Chainani](#), and [Grace Lin](#)

<https://www.slj.com/2016/11/reviews/books/flying-lessons-other-stories-edited-by-ellen-oh-slj-review/#>

The Good Braider by Terry Farish

“Viola’s strikingly original voice sings out the story of her family’s journey from war-torn Sudan, to Cairo, and finally to Portland, Maine.”

<http://teachimmigration.blogspot.com/2016/05/in-her-words-refugee-story-told-in-verse.html>

The House on Mango Street by Sandra Cisneros

“Sandra Cisneros has made a difference to Latino literature; beginning with House on Mango Street, her works have conveyed the Southwestern Latino experience with verve, charm, and passion.”

Oscar Hijuelos

Laughing Out Loud, I Fly by Juan Felipe Herrera

“Stirring poems that read like music. Herrera writes in both Spanish and English about the joy and laughter and sometimes the confusion of growing up in an upside-down, jumbled-up world—between two cultures, two homes.”

<https://www.teachthought.com/learning/25-best-poetry-books-teens/>

Salt to the Sea by Ruta Sepetys

“In 1945, World War II is drawing to a close in East Prussia and thousands of refugees are on a desperate trek toward freedom...A tribute to the people of Lithuania, Poland, and East Prussia.”

- Publisher’s summary <http://rutasepetys.com/books/salt-to-the-sea/>

Tuck Everlasting by Natalie Babbitt

“A young girl stumbles upon a secret spring and the family that the spring has given eternal life to.”

- NPR

<https://www.npr.org/2015/01/29/382383351/the-gift-of-eternal-shelf-life-tuck-everlasting-turns-40>

The Vanderbeekers of 141st Street by Karina Yan Glaser

A sprawling family story set in a “humble red brownstone” in multicultural New York City

<https://www.publishersweekly.com/978-0-544-87639-2>

The Watch that Ends the Night by Allan Wolf

"A novel that gives voice, through first-person accounts, to a cross section of passengers and crew on the Titanic: how they boarded, why they're there, and how they face the disaster."

The Horn Book

<http://www.katemessner.com/the-watch-that-ends-the-night-by-allan-wolf/>

Wonder by R.J. Palacio

“Augie’s just an ordinary kid, with an extraordinary face. But can he convince his new classmates that he’s just like them, despite appearances.”

– Publisher’s summary <https://wonderthebook.com/books/wonder>

Poetry

The Sun and her Flowers by Rupi Kaur

A young Indian-Canadian woman’s very accessible poems about life and love and identity

<http://www.simonandschuster.ca/books/The-Sun-and-Her-Flowers/Rupi-Kaur/9781501175268>

What the Heart Knows, Charms, Chants, and Blessings by Joyce Sidman

"Poems of bravery, love, heartbreak, justice, and peace unite to offer readers of all ages solace, inspiration, and strength." Publishers Weekly

Here are teaching suggestions and writing activities -

<http://www.joycesidman.com/books/what-the-heart-knows-chants/heart-knows-rg.pdf>

Wild Berries, Pikaci -Minisa by Julie Fleff

An elegant dual-language poem in a picture book. It features a child, a grandmother, and a memory. On each page one key noun is in both English and Cree. Beautiful use of the sound of English and a heritage language. Teachers' resources are here -

<https://www.rif.org/literacy-central/book/wild-berries>

Out of Wonder by Kwame Alexander and others. Poems celebrating poets that “aim to inspire a new generation of poets.” - NPR

<https://www.npr.org/2017/03/17/520421503/out-of-wonder-aims-to-inspire-a-new-generation-of-poets>