



Toolkit For Building a Diverse Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) Library



Social Emotional Learning (SEL)

is a process for developing cognitive, social, and emotional skills and competencies essential to success in school, work, home, and community.

Learn more about SEL from The Ecological Approaches to Social Emotional Learning (EASEL) Laboratory at Harvard University and its Explore SEL tool to discover a range of SEL frameworks available for schools: exploresel.gse.harvard.edu/

Social Emotional Learning (SEL) is a process for developing cognitive, social, and emotional skills and competencies essential to success in school, work, home, and community.

Use the following prompts in evaluating a collection of books with an SEL lens (e.g. unit's mentor texts, a classroom library, themed text set, etc.):

- » Which SEL framework are you using to examine your collection? (see [here](#))
- » Which books are examples that model positive development in a specific SEL skill or competency?
- » Which books are non-examples or show protagonists (or antagonists) struggling with an SEL skill or competency?
- » Do you have examples of the SEL skills and competencies in fiction and nonfiction to show students a range of experiences and real world applications?
- » Do the books align to your state's ELA standards? SEL and character education should complement and support your ELA instruction and curriculum. For example, does this collection of books lend themselves to close reading, determining central ideas and author's message, analyzing word choice, and comparing two or more texts?
- » Do you have a range of protagonists and stories that explore SEL across humanity and within different communities and cultures?
- » Does a book or your collection/text set include any stories that have harmful stereotypes, inaccurate or outdated information, or generalizations about a group of people?

SEL Resources

Book Lists

For more ideas about supporting social emotional learning using diverse books, check out the [Lee and Low Social Emotional Learning Diverse Book List for Grades PreK-8](#) and the accompanying webinar, [Using Diverse Books to Support Social and Emotional Learning](#). Lee and Low's [Classroom Library Questionnaire](#) can also aid your thinking in diversifying your entire classroom library. We also encourage you to work with your local or school librarian in helping to select your titles.

Learn More

The [Explore SEL](#) from Harvard University allows schools and districts to find and compare SEL frameworks, including the [CASEL Framework](#). You can also consult your state's SEL standards for additional information, research studies, and resources. Look to [California's Guiding Principles](#) as an example. The [Center for Responsive Schools](#) is another organization committed to developing high-quality SEL programs for students and educators.

Looking at your selected collections, can you identify at least 2 different titles where the protagonist displays this skill?

UNDERSTANDING YOURSELF

» **Recognizing and Managing Emotions: handling one's feelings**

› Title 1: _____ Title 2: _____

» **Kindness: being friendly and considerate**

› Title 1: _____ Title 2: _____

» **Perseverance: achieving success despite obstacles in the way**

› Title 1: _____ Title 2: _____

» **Coping with Grief: dealing with the death of a friend or a loved one**

› Title 1: _____ Title 2: _____

» **Honesty: being up front and truthful with others**

› Title 1: _____ Title 2: _____

» **Patience: accepting delay without getting angry or upset**

› Title 1: _____ Title 2: _____

» **Determination: setting a goal and going out to achieve it**

› Title 1: _____ Title 2: _____

» **Self-Control: managing one's actions in a respectful way**

› Title 1: _____ Title 2: _____

UNDERSTANDING OTHERS

» **Empathy: understanding the feelings of another person**

› Title 1: _____ Title 2: _____

» **Collaboration: working with others in proactive ways**

› Title 1: _____ Title 2: _____

» **Positive Relationships: interacting with others in respectful & kind ways**

› Title 1: _____ Title 2: _____

» **Conflict Resolution: two or more people finding a peaceful solution to a problem**

› Title 1: _____ Title 2: _____

» **Respect for Others: demonstrating kindness to people around you**

› Title 1: _____ Title 2: _____

Looking at your selected collections, can you identify at least 2 different titles where the protagonist displays this skill?

UNDERSTANDING THE WORLD

» **Perspective-Taking:** seeing a situation from another person's point of view

› Title 1: _____ Title 2: _____

» **Problem Solving:** finding a solution to a complicated issue

› Title 1: _____ Title 2: _____

» **Reflection:** thinking about past actions, thoughts and feelings

› Title 1: _____ Title 2: _____

» **Collaboration:** working with others in proactive ways

› Title 1: _____ Title 2: _____

If your classroom is not as SEL-aligned as you would like, you are not alone. Learn about more about diverse SEL children's literature in our most popular webinar to date:

blog.leeandlow.com/2018/01/19/watch-the-webinar-using-diverse-books-to-support-social-and-emotional-learning/

Contact us at:

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**for more information on building customized
SEL collections for your students.**

