

I WISH YOU KNEW

the Impact of Immigration Enforcement

Immigration enforcement is impacting our students, families, teachers, and broader communities.

The Brookings Institution is monitoring the number of children affected by parent separation or detained alongside their parents in locations like the South Texas Family Residential Center in Dilly. The American Journal of Community Psychology has compiled evidence on the negative impact these separations and detentions have on children and the community as a whole. The United States has been asked to accept the ever-increasing numbers of detentions and deportations as necessary for public safety. Yet, TRAC Immigration's data shows that 70.6% of all detainees (as of 07/26) do not have a criminal record.

So, what do we tell our students when they turn to us for answers? Scan the QR Code for a living document that will offer an ever-evolving set of resources to help build your knowledge and inform those answers.



**IMMIGRATION
ENFORCEMENT
& STUDENT
SUPPORT**

"We need books to break open our hearts, so that we might feel more deeply, so that we might be more human in unkind times." —Author Sandra Cisneros

OJALÁ SUPIERAS

the Power of K-12 Immigrant Literature

I'm Your Neighbor Books, a nonprofit serving the school community, believes that literature can mitigate the harm of immigration enforcement and rebuild crucial immigrant student belonging. For non-immigrant students, literature can build a cross-cultural emotional understanding of the impact "these unkind times" has on their classmates.

The nonprofit will loan you an immigrant picture book collection with conversation starters, offer you booklists celebrating individual immigrant communities, provide booklists on relevant topics like Detention & Deportation and gift books to any of your students impacted by immigration enforcement.



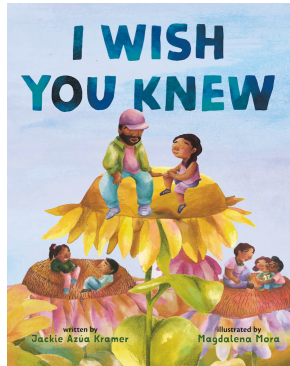
Image © Magdalena Mora
from the picture books I Wish You Knew
& Ojalá Supieras

I WISH YOU KNEW these Acclaimed Books & Tools on Family Separation



OJALÁ SUPIERAS I WISH YOU KNEW

The picture book (available in Spanish & English) is based on the “I Wish My Teacher Knew” project. The story first follows Estrella, a girl whose father helped her and her classmates plant sunflowers in the school garden. After her father is deported, Estrella wishes her teachers and classmates knew how the heartbreak is affecting her life in and out of school. Her classmates chime in to say, “I wish you knew...” Like Estrella and so many of your students, they are dealing with the absence of a parent and food and housing insecurity.



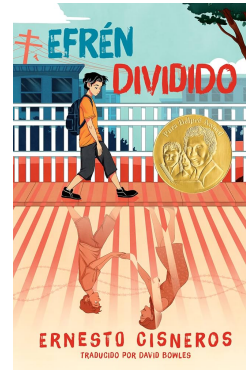
DISCUSS & ENGAGE

with conversation starters that help explain deportation and build social emotional connections to Estrella’s story.



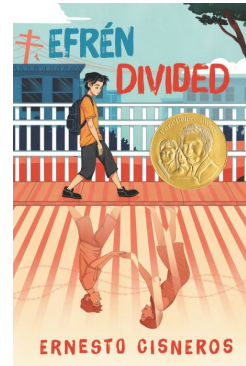
PLANT WISHES & SUNFLOWERS

with your students just like Estrella’s father and teacher did. Our activity includes a downloadable seed packet template.



EFRÉN DIVIDIDO EFRÉN DIVIDED

The award winning novel (available in Spanish & English) follows a middle schooler whose mother is deported by immigration enforcement. Efrén must take on the care of his younger siblings while his father works multiple jobs to bring Ama home. Efrén’s only solace from the combined stressors of family separation, parentification and isolation is reading the Mexican American classic A House on Mango Street in his apartment’s empty bathtub. Efrén dividido / Efrén Divided, like that classic, a solace for many and an eye opener for all.



WATCH & SHARE

a video message from author & fellow educator Ernesto Cisneros. His message on belonging fortifies our students for “these times.” Video-linked bookmark templates are also available.



DISCUSS & ENGAGE

the impact immigration enforcement had on Efrén’s family and how his forced silence turns into a commitment to lift the voice of all students.



PLANTING WISHES

Students perceive & internalize the anxiety present in their communities & families. While they experience the stress, they may not be able to name it or feel like they can affect change. Actively “planting” wishes can give them voice & agency.

1. Read I Wish Your Knew and/or Ojalá Supieras by Jackie Azúa Kramer & illustrated by Magdalena Mora (Roaring Brook Press).
2. With a pencil, write down (as tiny as you can) a wish for your family or community on a small scrap of paper (newsprint is best).
3. Drop your wish in your chosen pot. Fill the pot to about 1/2 inch from the top with soil.
4. Make a hole an inch or two deep with your pencil & drop in your sunflower seed.
5. Whisper your wish to the seed.
6. Cover the seed and water.
7. Set in a sunny place & water every other day.
8. Once the seedling grows to about 4” transplant outdoors or in a large pot.
9. Not all wishes bloom exactly the way you want them to. But, planting wishes allows you & your wishes to be warmed by the sun.

For use with the picture books I Wish Your Knew and/or Ojalá Supieras by Jackie Azúa Kramer & illustrated by Magdalena Mora (Roaring Brook Press).

INSTRUCTIONS

SUNFLOWER WISHES



Image © Magdalena Mora

COMMUNITY PROJECT

Is there a common theme in your students wishes that can be actualized in a community project?

MAKE SEED PACKETS

1. Cut out the seed packet on the outside solid line.
2. Fold tab 1, 2, & 3 on the line toward the blank side.
3. Dab glue where tabs 1 & 2 touch.
4. Run glue along the top of tabs 1 & 2.
5. Press tab 3 on top of the glue on tabs 1 & 2.
6. Once dry, fill your packet with sunflower seeds & seal the top flap with glue.