While other states ban books, California continues to encourage young readers to explore diverse stories and authors. We recognize the essential role books play in introducing kids to a world of imagination, uplifting other perspectives, and helping them cultivate empathy. This year’s First Partner’s Summer Book Club selections were chosen to celebrate the diversity that makes California extraordinary and help educate kids about the complexity of the human experience—from racial identity to mental health struggles.

Check out some of the key themes highlighted in this year’s books:

### PARENT CHILD / INTERGENERATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS
- Beautiful You, Beautiful Me
- Rafá Counts on Papa
- Swim Team

### DIVERSE FAMILIES AND EXPERIENCES
- Barefoot Dreams of Petra Luna
- Beautiful You, Beautiful Me
- Fatima’s Great Outdoors
- In the Beautiful Country
- Love Makes a Family
- Rafá Counts on Papa
- Troublemaker

### CURIOSITY / DISCOVERY / EXPLORATION
- Alice Waters Cooks Up a Food Revolution
- Black: The Many Wonders of My World
- Fatima’s Great Outdoors
- Imagine

### BELONGING / IDENTITY / COMING OF AGE
- Ain’t Burned All the Bright
- Barefoot Dreams of Petra Luna
- Black: The Many Wonders of My World
- Caste (Adapted for Young Adults)
- Imagine
- In the Beautiful Country
- Living Beyond Borders: Growing Up Mexican American
- Swim Team

### MENTAL HEALTH / MINDFULNESS / GRIEF
- The Boy with Flowers in His Hair
- My Thoughts Are Clouds: Poems for Mindfulness
- Iveliz Explains It All
- We Are Okay

### AMERICA’S HISTORY
- Nina: A Story of Nina Simone
- Notable Native People
- Caste (Adapted for Young Adults)