



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	Love Makes a Family
Beautiful You, Beautiful Me	Rafá Counts on Papa
Fatima's Great Outdoors	Troublemaker
In the Beautiful Country	

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	Imagine
Barefoot Dreams of Petra Luna	In the Beautiful Country
Black: The Many Wonders of My World	Living Beyond Borders: Growing Up Mexican American
Caste (Adapted for Young Adults)	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)