

# READING MATTERS



## SIBLING STORY

**Haili and Brooke Smith are TFK's Kids of the Month. They donate culturally diverse books to classrooms.**

**LEXILE:** 1070L (900L alternate reading level)

**SOCIAL STUDIES (NCSS) STANDARD:** Culture

**COMMON CORE (CCSS) STANDARDS:** RI.6-8.1, RI.6-8.6, SL.6-8.1

## ENGAGE THE READER

Begin with a discussion of the term *literacy*. What does it mean to be literate? What are the different components of literacy? (*Reading and writing.*) Why is literacy important to our lives? Explain that literacy helps guide our understanding of the world around us and gives us access to knowledge and perspective. Have students turn and talk to a partner about what these abilities mean. How does literacy help us better understand the world? How can you help others understand the world through literacy?

## QUESTIONS FOR CLOSE READING AND DISCUSSION

- What motivated Haili and Brooke Smith to start reading books for pleasure?
- What does it mean that the books collected by the siblings are culturally diverse?
- Why is it important for students to have access to and to read a variety of books?
- How has Books Like Me affected the students in Anitra Carter's class?

## EXTEND LEARNING

Have students reread the first paragraph of the section "Shared Perspectives." Have them turn and talk about what the author means by "windows" and "mirrors." Then provide some examples of books that were windows and mirrors for you. Next, have students brainstorm some ways in which they identify themselves and write down some titles for both "windows" and "mirrors" on a sheet of paper. Once complete, prompt students to reflect on the back with questions such as: Which books do you tend to favor? Why do you think that is? Which kinds of books are easier for you to find? Why do you think that is? Why is it important to read books that feature diverse characters?

Put students in groups. Have each student share a book from their mirror shelf and their window shelf and tell their group why they chose them. As students hear about books that catch their interest, they can add them to their sheet.

## COVER STORY QUIZ + ANSWER KEY

The cover quiz can be found on page 3 of this guide.  
To create a digital quiz, you can use our template [here](#).

**1. C (RI.3) 2. A (RI.4) 3. D (RI.3) 4. B (RI.1) 5. D (RI.9)**  
**6. B (RI.2) 7. Answers will vary. (W.1)**

## WHAT MAKES SOMETHING NEWSWORTHY?

Below is an excerpt from the fourth lesson in our media-literacy unit. Check out the full lesson at [ti.me/MediaLitLesson4](https://ti.me/MediaLitLesson4).

### ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

- What does it mean for an issue or an event to be newsworthy?
- What factors should be used to determine which issues and events get covered by journalists?

### INTRODUCTION

Have students read the article “TikTok in Trouble.” Explain that this is one of the news stories that the editors chose on the Monday before it appeared online. Have small groups talk about why they think this issue or event was chosen. What made it newsworthy enough to include? Was there an important event in recent weeks that was *not* included? Pull up the “What Is News?” poster from the News Literacy Project at [ti.me/whatsnews](https://ti.me/whatsnews). These are four factors that NLP has identified as elements of newsworthiness. Talk through what each of them means, and have students note down which element they think holds the most weight, and why. They’ll return to this question later.

### INDEPENDENT WORK

Have students log in to their Checkology account and complete the “What Is News?” lesson ([ti.me/NLPnews](https://ti.me/NLPnews)) to practice judging newsworthiness. Then bring them together for a class discussion. How did they do with their judgments? Return to the question from the beginning of the lesson. Is there one newsworthiness factor that they think holds more weight than any of the others? Is there another factor they would add? Close the lesson by having them rate the newsworthiness of “TikTok in Trouble.”



## TFK KID REPORTER CONTEST

Do you dream of being a reporter? Do you want to write, to review books and movies, and do cool interviews? If so, you might have what it takes to be a Kid Reporter for TIME for Kids. We’re looking for up to 10 students from around the nation to be members of the TFK Kid Reporter team for the 2024–2025 school year. This year’s contest is now open.

Here’s what some former Kid Reporters have to say about their experience:

- “Being a Kid Reporter transformed my life. It gave me amazing opportunities and taught me skills I can use for the rest of my life.”  
—Ninis Twumasi, TFK Kid Reporter 2023–2024
- “I met so many different, exciting people, and learned so much about being a reporter!”  
—Sophia Zhang, TFK Kid Reporter 2023–2024



TFK Kid Reporter Audrey Owolo visits the White House in February for an exclusive interview with Doug Emhoff, the Second Gentleman of the United States.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Use this week’s cover story, “Sibling Story,” to answer the questions below. For questions 1–6, circle the letter next to the best answer. If you need more space to write your response to question 7, use the back of this page.

<p>1. What caused Haili and Brooke Smith to want to read more?</p> <p>A. They started a nonprofit called Books Like Me.</p> <p>B. Their teachers encouraged them.</p> <p>C. They found books with characters they could relate to.</p> <p>D. They discovered spine-tinglers.</p>	<p>4. Who is Anitra Carter?</p> <p>A. an author of diverse stories</p> <p>B. a teacher who has received donations from the siblings</p> <p>C. a student who found joy in reading diverse books</p> <p>D. a donor who has supported Haili and Brooke</p>
<p>2. What does the term <i>mirrors</i> mean in the article?</p> <p>A. books in which a reader can see themselves in the characters</p> <p>B. books that offer different perspectives from the reader’s</p> <p>C. books with diverse characters</p> <p>D. books that show readers something new</p>	<p>5. Based on their quotes, what do Anitra Carter and the Smith siblings agree upon?</p> <p>A. Students should have access to more fantasy books.</p> <p>B. It is important to learn about the world.</p> <p>C. Diverse characters help teach empathy.</p> <p>D. Books with relatable characters motivate kids to read.</p>
<p>3. How did Haili and Brooke get started with their mission?</p> <p>A. They gave away their old books.</p> <p>B. They were asked for donations from librarians.</p> <p>C. They asked for recommendations of diverse books on social media.</p> <p>D. They created an Amazon Wish List of books they liked.</p>	<p>6. Which detail would be included in a summary of this article?</p> <p>A. The book <i>Sulwe</i> contains really good art.</p> <p>B. In 2020, Brooke and Haili started Books Like Me.</p> <p>C. Most books have been donated in Florida.</p> <p>D. Next month, TFK will feature kids who are helping the environment.</p>

7. Do you prefer to read books that are mirrors or windows for you? Tell about one that you enjoyed.