

# Global Tales

The Multilingual Storytime



Hornell Public Library



Helping Our Community to  
Learn and Grow

**Celebrating Diversity  
Through Children's  
Multilingual Story-Time**

# Global Tales

The Multilingual Storytime



Eba Klindt & Elizabeth Rosales

# OUR STORY

- The unwelcomed looks and the welcoming people at the Hornell Public Library.
- In search of a community: “*We need a space for us, what if we organize a story-time?*”





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# DEI AND GLOBAL TALES



We believe that every child deserves to see their language and culture valued. Global Tales program reflects the principles of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion by creating a space where linguistic diversity is celebrated and cultural exchange is encouraged.

Why the DEI approach matters:

- **Fosters Belonging:** Multilingual children gain confidence and pride in their heritage by sharing their mother tongues.
- **Builds Bridges:** English-speaking families discover the richness of other languages and cultures.
- **Strengthens Communities:** Celebrating diversity helps build a more inclusive and understanding society.

# GLOBAL TALES GOALS



1. Support a multilingual story-time for children to celebrate cultural and language diversity
2. Diversify the collection of the Hornell Public Library, prioritizing bilingual books
3. Create a Global Hub so multilingual patrons feel recognized and welcomed
4. Disseminate the Global Tales initiative
5. Increase library and volunteer capacity to better support multicultural patrons



# HORNELL, NY



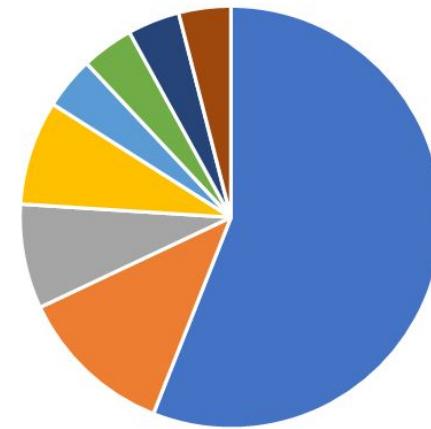
- Hornell is a small rural community (approx. 8,000).
- Constant flux of people from around the world that move to Hornell (4% in 2023).
- In 2023, over 18 different languages were spoken in our school district:
  - Portuguese
  - French

# LANGUAGES SPOKEN IN HORNELL



- Initial survey for Global Tales (N= 17 participants).
- 10 multilingual families and 7 English-only households.
- Multilingual families have settled recently in Hornell or the surrounding area (4.4 years in average).

In our family, we speak fluently the following languages...  
(multiple selections were permitted)

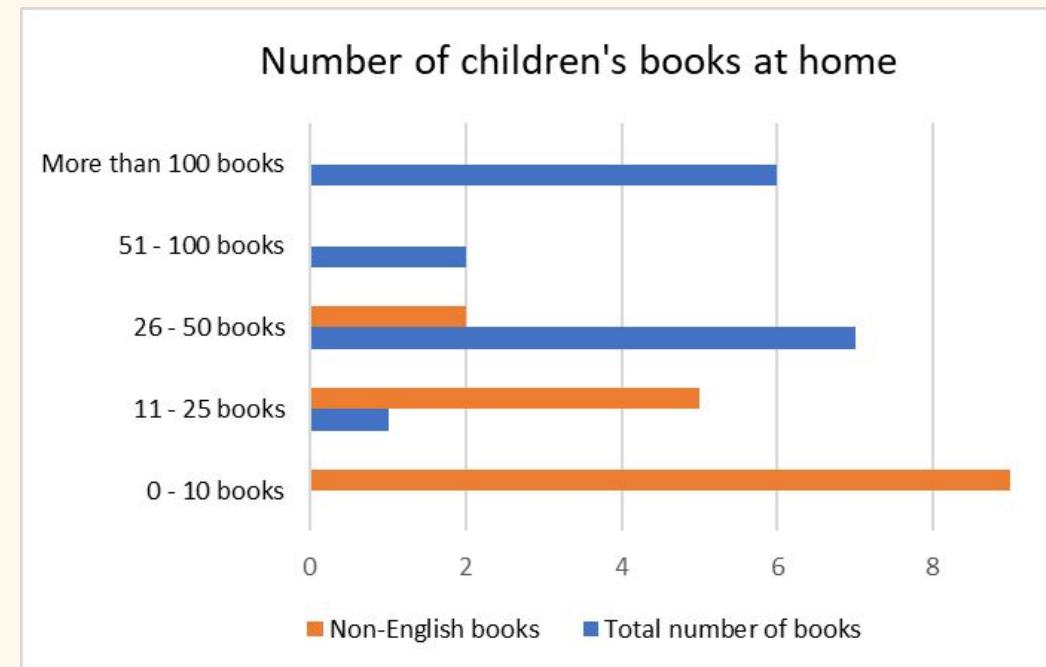


■ English ■ Spanish ■ French ■ Italian ■ Japanese ■ Korean ■ Serbian ■ Portuguese

# CHILDREN'S BOOKS AT HOME



- Families have a significant access of children's books at home.
- There seems to be an interest in acquiring books in other languages, but access at home is still limited.



# LEARNING OBJECTIVES



1

Identify initial steps to implement a DEI approach in your library.

2

Identify successful practices for a children's multilingual story-time.

# LEARNING OBJECTIVES



1

**Identify initial steps  
to implement a DEI  
approach in your  
library.**

2

Identify successful  
practices for a  
children's multilingual  
story-time.

# I. INVENTORY OF RESOURCES

- See your collection through a new lens
- Turn to your library system for bilingual resources
- Seek information with agencies that serve multicultural patrons



# 1. MAKE YOUR SPACE WELCOMING

- In what ways does your library say:  
“Libraries are for everyone?”
- Start with a small commitment
- Create a display
  - Seasonal
  - Permanent



# LEARNING OBJECTIVES



1

Identify initial steps to implement a DEI approach in your library.

2

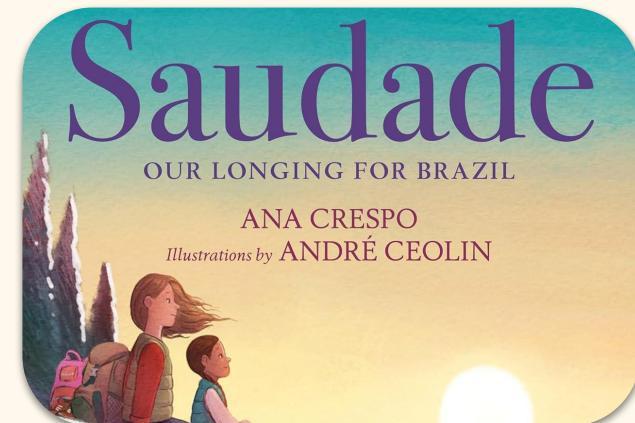
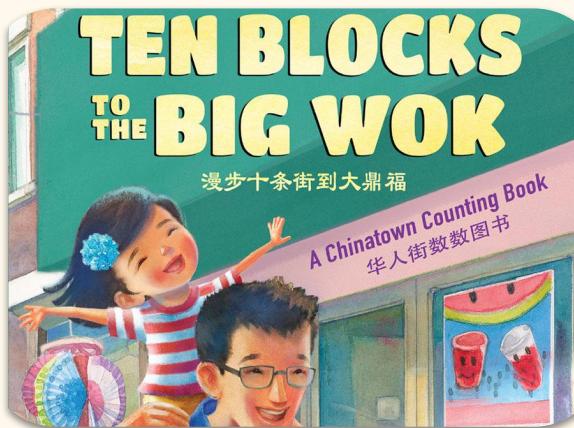
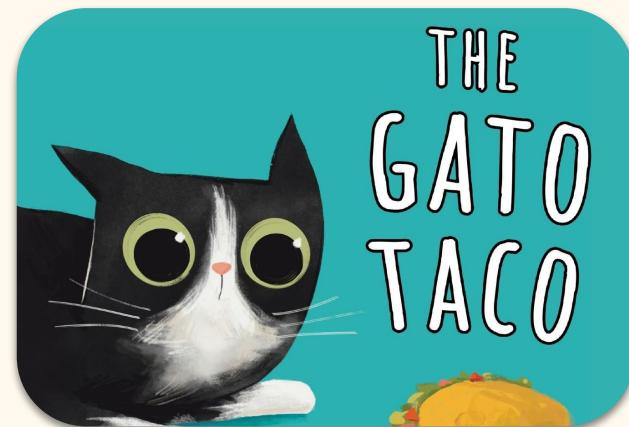
**Identify successful practices for a children's multilingual story-time.**

# 2. A GLOBAL TALES SESSION



- Greet participants and add name tag to map
- Welcome song and learning “Hello” in featured language
- Introduction of participants and learning “My name is...” in featured language
- Movement activity linked to story theme
- Storytelling and snack
- Craft activity
- Post-storytime hangout

## 2. BOOK SELECTION



# 2. STORYTELLING WITH MULTILINGUAL FAMILIES



- Family storytelling differs from a library storytelling
- Strengthen volunteer capacity strategies:
  - Tips and Tricks, 2-page brief guide for volunteers
  - Multilingual Storytelling training videos
  - Children's storytelling strategies training in person

## 2. LESSONS LEARNED



- Allow children to take the stage
- Incorporate Props- Realia
- Repetition of key phrases in featured language: “call back”
- Consider extra time for parent hangout: community building

# CONCLUSION



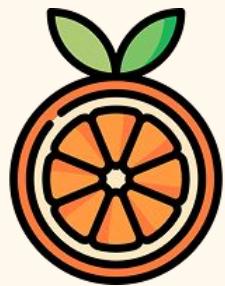
- With attacks on DEI nationally and the vulnerability of immigrants, it is more important than ever for rural libraries to identify ways they can support the diverse families within their communities.
- A small commitment turned into 40 Story-Times, with 12 languages featured
- 683 Participants (adults and children)

# CONCLUSION



- Successfully obtained 2 grants: \$500 The Southern Tier Library System DEI Micro-Grant and \$10,000 ALA Building Library Capacities Grant to serve New Americans.
- Bilingual books for free for volunteers and now all families attending.
- Partnerships: I'm Your Neighbor, Alfred Box of Books, and CUNY Initiative of Immigration and Education
- SCRLC's Prism Award for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Justice, and Accessibility

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I'm Your Neighbor

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ALA Library Programs and New  
Americans- A White Paper

Multilingual Storytelling  
Training Videos

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