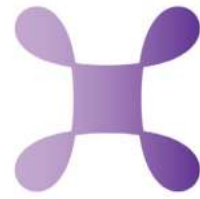


Lexia®



Pedagogy Overview

Supporting Culturally
Responsive and Sustaining
Learning Environments



Supporting Culturally Responsive and Sustaining Learning Environments

Lexia® Learning literacy programs provide explicit, systematic, personalized learning on critical reading and language skills. Lexia® Core5® Reading supports educators in providing differentiated literacy instruction for students in grades pre-K–5. Lexia® PowerUp Literacy® accelerates literacy gains for students in grades 6–12 who are at risk of not meeting College- and Career-Ready Standards. These research-proven, blended-learning programs accelerate the development of reading skills and provide teachers with data-driven action plans to help differentiate instruction for each student.

An important focus and priority in the design of Lexia’s literacy programs is the inclusion of online and offline instructional elements that are culturally responsive and sustaining. Culture, identity, and context play a critical role in learning, and as such, high-quality and evidence-based literacy instruction necessarily applies principles of culturally responsive and sustaining pedagogies (National Academy of Sciences, 2018). In what follows, the key ways in which Lexia’s literacy programs support culturally responsive and sustaining learning environments are described. These best practices are drawn from seminal literature on culturally responsive and sustaining pedagogy as well as recent scholarship that synthesizes that work and expands on it.*

Uphold high expectations paired with strong supports

For all developing readers, access to content that reflects high expectations is crucial. Just as important are the targeted and responsive instructional supports to reach those rigorous goals. Lexia’s literacy programs provide robust instruction in advanced literacy skills with a focus on building academic language, developing skills for deep comprehension and text analysis, cultivating disciplinary knowledge, and sparking higher-order thinking. An essential feature of this instructional experience is the way in which the program creates personalized learning

paths for each student through an adaptive placement and scaffolded, differentiated instruction all along the way. This online scaffolding system is integrated with teacher-mediated support, in the form of targeted Lexia Lessons®, that are provided to students who demonstrate difficulties with a particular skill in the online application, enabling students to increase their ownership and understanding of the target skill or strategy.



PowerUp, Level 15: Reading Comprehension

This poem by Langston Hughes sparks critical thinking through its powerful, symbolic questioning. Hughes was an influential figure in the Harlem Renaissance and his writing authentically and respectfully reflects the cultures represented.

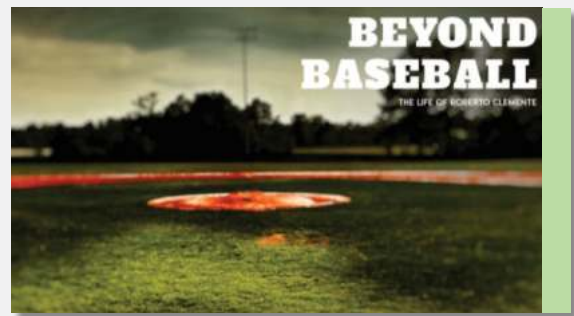
Affirm learners’ diverse identities and build awareness of others

Literacy-learning experiences simultaneously impact learners’ academic development and the ways in which they come to understand and interpret themselves and the world around them. Lexia’s literacy programs seek to convey equitable and multidimensional representations of people across lines of diversity including race, culture, language background, gender, ability, socio-economic status, community, and national origin. The goal is to integrate these representations throughout the program’s illustrations, photographs, and texts in ways that validate diverse experiences, promote positive self-images, and cultivate an inclusive understanding of the world.



Core5, Level 11: Text Connections 1

An excerpt from the award-winning published book “Last Stop on Market Street” by Matt de la Peña features a child and grandmother on a city bus whose experiences highlight the importance of community and inclusivity.



PowerUp, Level 11: Reading Comprehension

This passage describes the life of Roberto Clemente, including his baseball career, activism, and charitable work.

Always Innovating: Continuous, Reflective Curriculum Design

The Lexia Learning Product Development Team engages in an ongoing curriculum design, development, and review process that seeks to equitably and authentically center diverse identities and experiences, and, more broadly, aims to bring principles of culturally responsive and sustaining instruction to life. This process and associated protocols, rooted in research-based and reputable curriculum rubrics, is intended to provide a learner and educator experience that is educationally rigorous, substantive, and engaging; that avoids perpetuating or endorsing negative biases or stereotypes; and that affirms diverse identities while building up an inclusive understanding of the world. The team engages with respected industry partners as part of a sustained commitment to building up our professional expertise related to culturally responsive and sustaining curriculum design. As Lexia moves this fundamental work forward, a commitment to designing literacy curricula that promote equity remains at the center.

Promote a strengths-based and student-centered approach to learning

Students come to each learning opportunity with tremendous potential and valuable cultural, linguistic, and community-based knowledge. Lexia’s literacy programs honor each learner’s potential and excellence in several ways. These blended-learning curricula apply a growth mindset orientation toward learning, providing effort-based feedback, highlighting incremental progress toward goals, and offering concrete opportunities to celebrate achievements. Importantly, offline learning opportunities provide avenues for student-directed learning such as prompts for discussion, research, and writing, in which students can express their own interpretations of texts or choose directions that are relevant to them. Additionally, opportunities for learners to formulate and assert their perspectives are integrated into learning tasks. For

example, students answer poll questions that allow them to express their preferences and points of view on the topics and texts under study.



Core5, Level 5: Sequencing 2

This listening comprehension story is centered on a young girl who grows up to become an environmental scientist, affirming diverse experiences and modeling active community engagement.

Spark critical engagement with real-world issues

Critical thinking is required for deep reading comprehension, and promoting a critical stance toward texts is a crucial element of culturally responsive and sustaining pedagogy. Lexia's literacy programs use texts and text-based activities as a platform for studying real-world and multifaceted issues, as well as learning about individuals who model compassion, inclusion, and active community engagement. For example, in Core5, an excerpt from Francis Harper's poem "Songs for the People"

features this poet's powerful call to use music as a tool for kindness and peace. Likewise, in PowerUp, "Speech to the United Nations" by Malala Yousafzai features a young Muslim woman speaking out against the oppression of girls and women in Pakistan and advocating for their right to be educated. These online learning opportunities are expanded upon offline. Lexia Skill Builders® provide writing and discussion prompts that encourage students to expand their thinking related to these real-world issues, including opportunities to investigate how the topic relates to their own communities.



Core5, Level 21: Vocabulary Strategies 3

This passage describes the work of a pair of entrepreneurs in India who designed biodegradable cutlery, celebrating the accomplishment of innovators focused on real-world issues.



PowerUp, Level 12: Reading Comprehension

Excerpts from "Wonder" by R.J. Palacio, speak to the social challenges faced by a middle-school boy with craniofacial differences. This narrative promotes engagement with relevant issues and, in the end, models the importance of inclusivity and kindness.

*Sources include the following:

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