

NEW YORK CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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September 25, 2026

Dear P596X Families,

What is the book of the month?

We have selected books that relate to our ReThink Social/Emotional curriculum.

Bi-monthly, teachers and coaches will collaborate to unpack each book and design lessons, adaptations and resources to support the book's topics. Our goal is to build on our students' knowledge and understanding of social emotional concepts through literacy, vocabulary, writing, and discussions!

How can you get involved?

We would love for you to help reinforce our classroom learning at home! To get started, tune in for a special read-aloud of our September/October Book of the Month, ***Punky Aloha*** by Shar Tuiasoa, during an upcoming Parent Engagement activity in your child's class. You can find details about this event on our school website at www.p596x.org. Below, you will also find resources to support the book, including target vocabulary words and fun activities you can do with your child at home!

Here's the plan...



September/October

Book of the Month: *Punky Aloha* by Shar Tuiasoa



SEL Domain Area: Self-Care

SEL Focus Area: Self-Advocacy

CRSE Connection:

Students explore Indigenous Hawaiian culture, values, and traditions. They discover how sharing, kindness, and bravery empower individuals to overcome personal fears and contribute positively to their community.

Academic Vocabulary Words	brave, adventure, helpful, community, share, nervous, aloha, butter, grandmother, island, market, alone, banana bread, friends, shy, glasses, giving, courage, lei, magic, mangoes, pig, bee, pollen, honey
Objective	Students will explore Indigenous Hawaiian culture, values, and traditions to understand how sharing, kindness, and bravery empower individuals to overcome personal fears (such as feeling shy or nervous) and advocate for themselves while contributing positively to their community.
Suggested Activities:	● Read <i>Punky Aloha</i> with your child or watch the YouTube Video by clicking on the link below. https://youtu.be/1DATQ5RAGG4?si=t29bEOfBn6LLoZiH ● Vocabulary Word Hunt: Practice the document's academic vocabulary words (such as <i>brave</i>, <i>community</i>, <i>share</i>, <i>aloha</i>, <i>courage</i>, and <i>helpful</i>). Have your child point them out during storytime or use them during everyday conversations. ● Bake or Cook a Special Treat: Make banana bread together or practice spreading butter on bread to recreate Punky's task in the story while reinforcing key vocabulary (<i>banana bread</i>, <i>butter</i>, <i>grandmother</i>). ● Perform "Aloha" Acts of Kindness: Talk about what "Aloha" means (love, compassion, kindness). Challenge your child to complete one brave act of kindness—like sharing a toy, greeting a neighbor, or helping out around the house—to show how being helpful impacts their community. ● Make a "Bravery & Kindness" Lei: Cut out paper flowers, write a word on each flower from the vocabulary list (<i>brave</i>, <i>kind</i>, <i>share</i>, <i>helpful</i>), and string them together onto yarn to make a lei. Wear it as a reminder of how sharing kindness and courage helps everyone around us.
Supplemental Texts: ● <i>Jabari Jumps</i> by Gaia Cornwall ○ https://youtu.be/lKO49tjVo4s?si=Q-DouxYiWHvJ5Fur ● <i>Fry Bread</i> by Kevin Noble Maillard ○ https://youtu.be/o6qE1FdpBho?si=UoFm6RLXaLDgnHyd ● <i>The Dark</i> by Lemony Snicket ○ https://youtu.be/mmlL2KFQyyKw?si=Blprdd120BdlGxhD ● <i>Nana in the City</i> by Lauren Castillo ○ https://youtu.be/jJxICvgSYtg?si=ph0H6hDeflG9AgzT ● <i>When You Are Brave</i> by Pat Zietlow Miller ○ https://youtu.be/Wgg6b5N8cA4?si=AmnltCutgYooULC4	