



BUILDING BRIDGES THROUGH BOOKS

a project of Human Rights Pen Pals

Knowing history/herstory gives us the power to name our life experiences
in the broader context of the world.

January 22, 2018

Joyous greetings to the Building Bridges through Books Club! We are excited to start this journey with you. This is a book club that transcends the prison walls. It's an educational forum that combines critical thought, reading, writing, discussion, self-reflection and action. We educate ourselves and each other to liberate.

In the welcome packet sent inside the prison walls, please find the following:

1 legal pad of paper

10 envelopes

1 book of stamps

Guide to reading, discussions, and answering questions and the discussion questions for chapters 1-3 (1 printed page double-sided)

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) for Building Bridges through Books (1 printed page double-sided)

Please let your outside pen pal or Building Bridges through Books leadership know if you did not receive these items. You will be receiving a separate package with the book *A People's History of the United States* by Howard Zinn, as well as a dictionary and a graphic novel version of *A People's History*. We are aware that there are some inside the prison wall participants that already have the book, and instead of sending you an additional copy of *A People's History*, you will receive the graphic novel version and dictionary instead.

How is Building Bridges through Books actually going to work?

1. Both inside and outside the prison wall participants receive the discussion questions. Please review the bullet points listed at the beginning of the discussion questions for the chapters.
2. Since this is the start of our discussion as a group, we are asking everyone to introduce themselves. Your introduction can include any information you are comfortable sharing with the group, but please keep it to a paragraph (or no more than 5 sentences).
3. Once the inside participants have their introductions and answers to the discussion questions finished, please give them to your outside the prison wall match. Some inside the prison wall members may have access to a computer or tablet and may want to type and email their responses. Other inside participants may not have that access and will write their responses by hand and mail it to their outside the prison wall match. Please figure out the best system with your Building Bridges through Books partner.
4. The outside the prison wall member will also write an introduction and answer the discussion questions.
5. The outside participant will enter their responses as well as their inside match's responses by using this google form: <https://goo.gl/forms/DOrgpQjCjjuO2SY83>. Building Bridges through Books leadership will give more information to outside folks and provide technical assistance as needed.
6. The leadership collective will compile everyone's responses from inside and outside the prison walls into one document for distribution. To ensure everyone's safety and continued participation in the club, we will not be including anyone's name or other identifiable information from inside the prison walls. If outside the prison wall participants also want to be anonymous in their answers, that is an option as well.
7. **Once you receive the discussion questions and the book, please submit your responses to your outside partner within three weeks.** We know inside folks may have other responsibilities like school and jobs, as do our outside folks. We need to keep each other accountable in order for this to work.
8. If any issues arise during the book club between matches, please address them first with your match. If it does not get resolved, please contact the leadership collective of Building Bridges through Books. For outside folks, email buildingbridgesthroughbooks@gmail.com. For inside folks, please write to us c/o Human Rights Pen Pals at 1301 Clay Street; PO Box 71378; Oakland, CA 94612.

We are honored to be on this journey of education and liberation with you, as we build bridges through books to overcome the barriers that divide us.

In solidarity and struggle,
Building Bridges through Books leadership collective