



Be Peace. Choose Peace. Create Peace.

PEACEFUL READERS INFORMATION SHEET

Version 5/25/2022

Book Title	Bridge Builders: Bringing People Together in a Polarized Age
Book Author	Nathan Bomey
Book Publication Date	2021
Book Publisher	Polity, 1 st Edition
Print Length	256 pages

Book Club Event Information

Event Dates	June 20 & July 11 2022, 7:00 pm-8:00 PM EST
Event Registration Link	Event Concluded
Event Webpage	Here

Where to Borrow or Buy Your Copy

Borrow

- Check your public library, or a college library if you have access. If they do not have copies in circulation, they *may* be able to acquire a copy through interlibrary loan.

Buy

- Visit or contact an independent bookseller in your area and check whether they have the book in stock or can procure a copy for you.
- Amazon and Barnes & Noble are two larger booksellers with online and in-store purchasing options.

Book Description

“In these turbulent times, defined by ideological chasms, clashes over social justice, and a pandemic intersecting with misinformation, Americans seem hopelessly divided along fault lines of politics, race, religion, class, and culture. Yet not everyone is accepting the status quo.

In *Bridge Builders: Bringing People Together in a Polarized Age*, journalist Nathan Bomey paints a forensic portrait of Americans who are spanning gaping divides between people of difference. From clergy fighting racism in Charlottesville to a former Republican congressman engaging conservatives on climate change and Appalachian journalists restoring social trust with the public, these countercultural leaders all believe in the power of forging lasting connections to bring about profound change. Though the blueprints for political, social, and cultural bridges vary widely, bridge builders have much in common—and we have much to learn from them. In this book, Bomey dissects the transformational ways in which bridge builders are combatting polarization by pursuing reconciliation, rejecting misinformation, and rethinking the principle of compromise.”

Book reviews available, including from [goodreads](#) and [Amazon](#).

Reflection Questions

- What is my biggest takeaway from “Bridge Builders: Bringing People Together in a Polarized Age?”

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- What do I find appealing or unappealing about being a bridge builder?
- Which bridge builder story impressed me the most? Why?
- What is my own relationship to people of difference? Do I have friends from different backgrounds? Do I have friends that think differently than me?
- Do I respect difference or am I quick to judge others?
- How can I learn more about people from different cultures or life experience?
- How can I act as a bridge in my community?
- How will I feel when I participate in positive change?

Learning Resources

- “#ListenFirst Friday: Nathan Bomey” YouTube [video](#) (1:25)
- “Nathan Bomey- Depolarizing America: Bridge Builders” YouTube [video](#) (27:21)
- “Bridge Builders: Bringing People Together in a Polarized Age by Nathan Bomey” YouTube [video](#) (38:45)
- “Bridge Builders: Bringing People Together in a Polarized Age-Nathan Bomey” YouTube [video](#) (58:48)
- “American Democracy Live Event- Bridge Builders: Bringing People Together in Today’s Polarized Age” YouTube [video](#) (1:02:26)
- “Bringing People Together in a Polarized Age with Nathan Bomey” YouTube [video](#) (57:16)
- “Nathan Bomey and Amanda Ripley Discuss Conflict and Bridge Building” YouTube [video](#) (1:03:18)
- “Bridging America’s Divisions. Can Americans Come Together? #ListenFirst” YouTube [Video](#) (1:39:13)
- “Library Virtual Presentation-Meet the Author: Nathan Bomey” YouTube [video](#) (59:14)
- “Keynote Address: John A. Powell on Identity, Targeted Universalism, and Building Belonging” YouTube [video](#) (1:00:03)

Take Action

- Commit to a daily peaceful practice.
- Learn more about American history and civic education.
- Learn more about bridge builders.
- Join the national bridge building movement! [#ListenFirstProject](#)
- Support organizations that are involved in bringing people together and healing divides.
- Learn how to have difficult conversations with people and then practice.
- Take yourself out of your silos; meet and become friends with people from different backgrounds.
- Be open to the world.
- Watch the videos found in Learning Resources above and continue to engage with this material.
- Commit to taking action in your local community.
- Discuss what you learned from the book with friends and/or family.

Help Promote the Peaceful Readers Book Club

Suggested “Personal” Social Media Messages

I just heard about this Peaceful Readers Book Club by @PeaceActUSA and @CalvertPeaceProject and I’m going to take part. Want to join me? Learn more and sign up at



Peaceful Readers Information Sheet: *Bridgebuilders*

<https://peacethroughaction.org/bookclub>. Let me know if you join it. #CalvertPeaceProject #PeaceBeginsInCalvert #PeaceThroughAction #PeaceBeginsWithWe #PeacefulReaders

I know some of my people like to read books about social issues. Just found out about the Peaceful Readers Book Club by @CalvertPeaceProject. I'm going to join it. Check it out at <https://peacethroughaction.org/bookclub>. #CalvertPeaceProject #PeaceBeginsInCalvert #PeaceThroughAction #PeaceBeginsWithWe #PeacefulReaders.

Some of us have been talking about reading social justice books together. I found a Peaceful Readers Book Club by @CalvertPeaceProject. How cool is that! Check out <https://peacethroughaction.org/bookclub> and then let's talk. #CalvertPeaceProject #PeaceBeginsInCalvert #PeaceThroughAction #PeaceBeginsWithWe #PeacefulReaders