Empowering Students Through Culturally Responsive Pedagogy

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"All instruction is culturally responsive. The question is: to which culture is it currently oriented?" - Gloria Ladson-Billings

About Me

- WSSRA
  - Summer Help Inclusion Aide

- Helping Hand Center, Countryside
  - Teaching Assistant

- Unity Junior High School, Cicero
  - 7th Grade ELA & 8th Grade Humanities

- Cross Country & Track coach
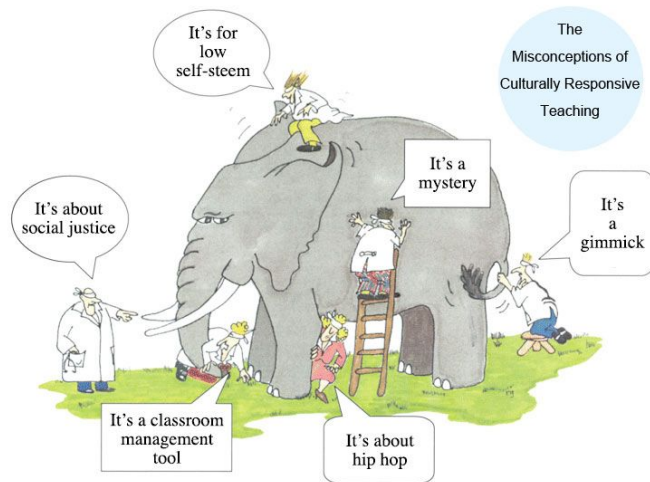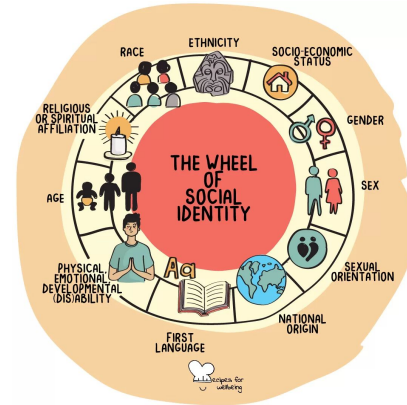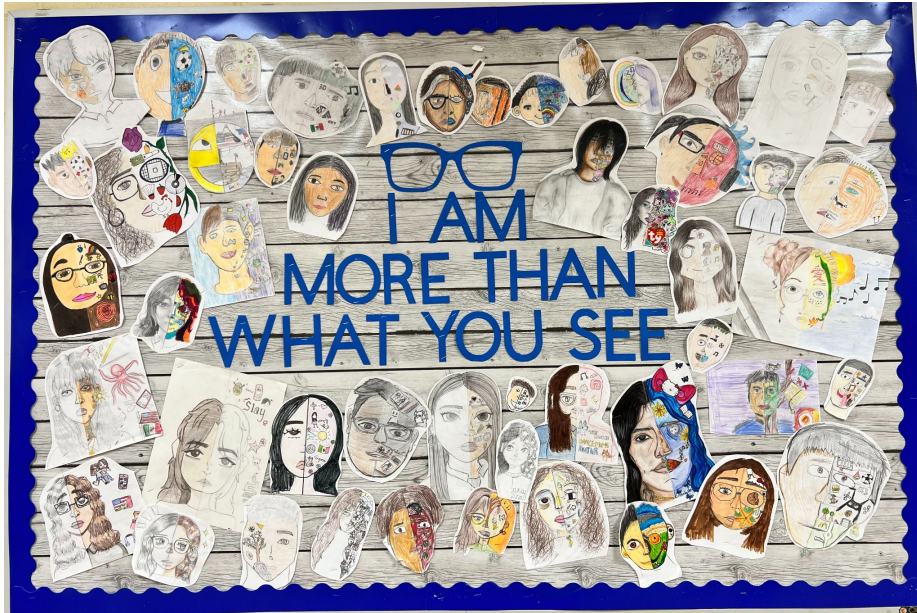
- Cat mom

- Avid reader, hiker, runner

What It Is

→ Student-centered approach to teaching where students' customs, characteristics, experiences, and perspectives are identified and nurtured to promote student achievement.

→ It is about *building the learning capacity* of the individual student
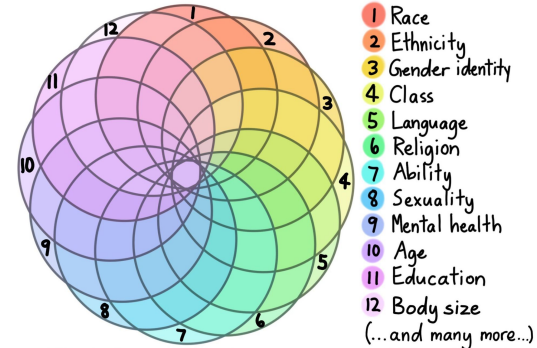
What It Isn't

→ One single "strategy"

→ The same as multicultural or social justice education

→ Mastering the details of every culture

→ All about building relationships and self esteem

The Misconceptions of Culturally Responsive Teaching

It's for low self-steem

It's a mystery

It's a gimmick

It's about social justice

It's a classroom management tool

It's about hip hop

www.ready4rigor.com

Ditch the "About Me" Slides

THE WHEEL OF SOCIAL IDENTITY

RACE · ETHNICITY · SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS · GENDER · SEX · SEXUAL ORIENTATION · NATIONAL ORIGIN · FIRST LANGUAGE · PHYSICAL EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENTAL (DIS)ABILITY · AGE · RELIGIOUS OR SPIRITUAL AFFILIATION

Recipes for Wellbeing

I AM MORE THAN WHAT YOU SEE

INTERSECTIONALITY

1 Race
2 Ethnicity
3 Gender identity
4 Class
5 Language
6 Religion
7 Ability
8 Sexuality
9 Mental health
10 Age
11 Education
12 Body size
(…and many more…)

Intersectionality is a lens through which you can see where power comes and collides, where it locks and intersects. It is the acknowledgement that everyone has their own unique experiences of discrimination and privilege.

– Kimberlé Crenshaw –

@sylviaduckworth

Teacher "Moves"

- ❖ **Gamify It**
  - ➢ Creative Writing - Round Robin, turn memes into stories
  - ➢ Grammar - Label lego blocks with prefixes, suffixes, and root words
  - ➢ Vocabulary - matching game
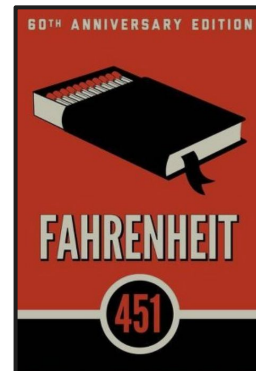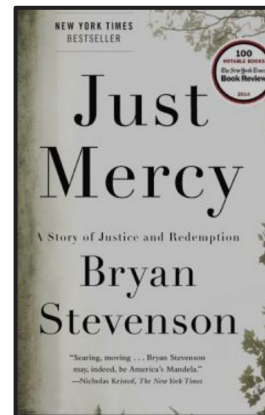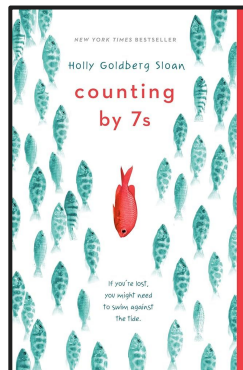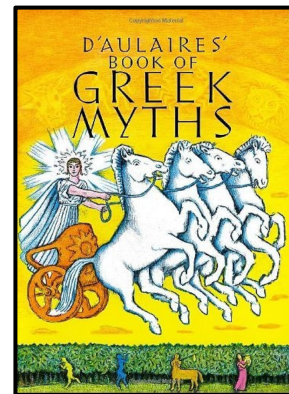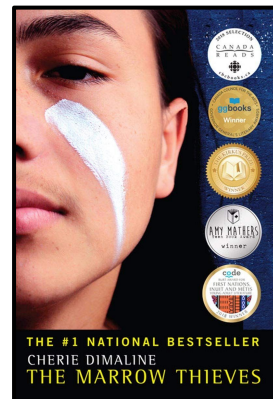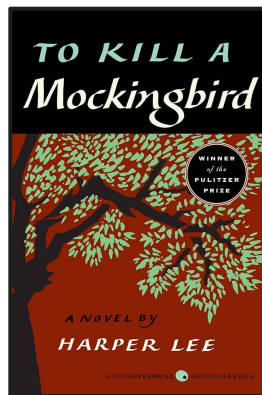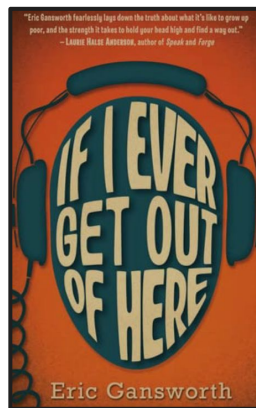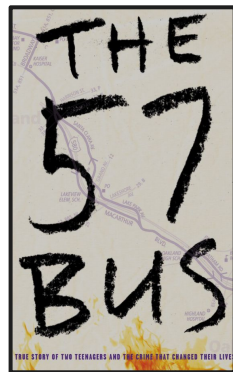
- ❖ **Make learning contextual**
  - ➢ History - find parallels between past and present
  - ➢ ELA (write a proposal to the school board)

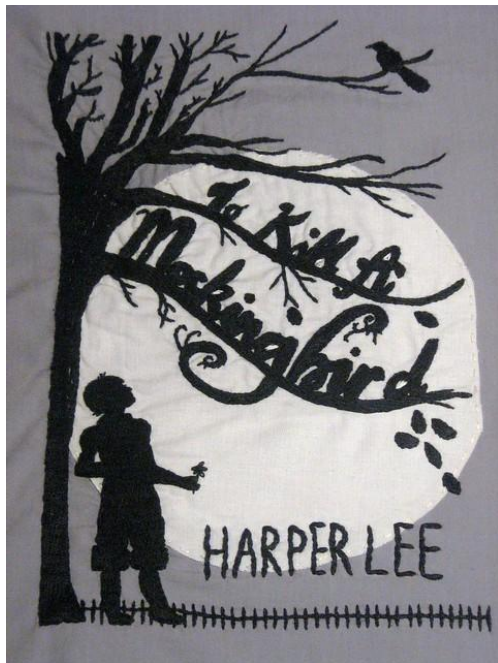- ❖ **Story Time** - Dr. Seuss - *Yertle the Turtle,* WWII propaganda

- ❖ **Use various media** (photographs, videos, poetry, art, songs)

- ❖ Allow **student input** on projects & novels

Choose a variety of texts

THE 57 BUS
True story of two teenagers and the crime that changed their lives

"Eric Gansworth fearlessly lays down the truth about what it's like to grow up poor, and the strength it takes to hold your head high and find a way out."
— Laurie Halse Anderson, author of Speak and Forge
IF I EVER GET OUT OF HERE
Eric Gansworth

TO KILL A Mockingbird
WINNER OF THE PULITZER PRIZE
A NOVEL BY HARPER LEE
HARPERPERENNIAL MODERNCLASSICS

THE #1 NATIONAL BESTSELLER
CHERIE DIMALINE
THE MARROW THIEVES

D'AULAIRES' BOOK OF GREEK MYTHS

NEW YORK TIMES bestselling author of THE FALSE PRINCE
JENNIFER A. NIELSEN
A NIGHT DIVIDED
The wall divided her family. Escaping it might take her life.

CAROLINE TUNG RICHMOND
THE ONLY THING TO FEAR

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER
Holly Goldberg Sloan
counting by 7s
If you're lost, you might need to swim against the tide.

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER
100 NOTABLE BOOKS
The New York Times Book Review
Just Mercy
A Story of Justice and Redemption
Bryan Stevenson
"Searing, moving . . . Bryan Stevenson may, indeed, be America's Mandela."
—Nicholas Kristof, The New York Times

60TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION
FAHRENHEIT 451

Option 1:
Book Trailer

Create a book trailer of To Kill a Mockingbird.

Make sure to include the **author**, **title**, and basic introduction of the **setting** and **characters**, hints of the **conflict(s)/and theme(s)**, but **NO SPOILERS**.

Start with a HOOK, use COMPELLING IMAGES, SET A TONE, and don't forget by ending with a CALL TO ACTION - why should the readers go out and get this book.

Use images you find online, draw your own, or even take pictures or videos to use.

The best trailers may be used to introduce the book to students in the future!
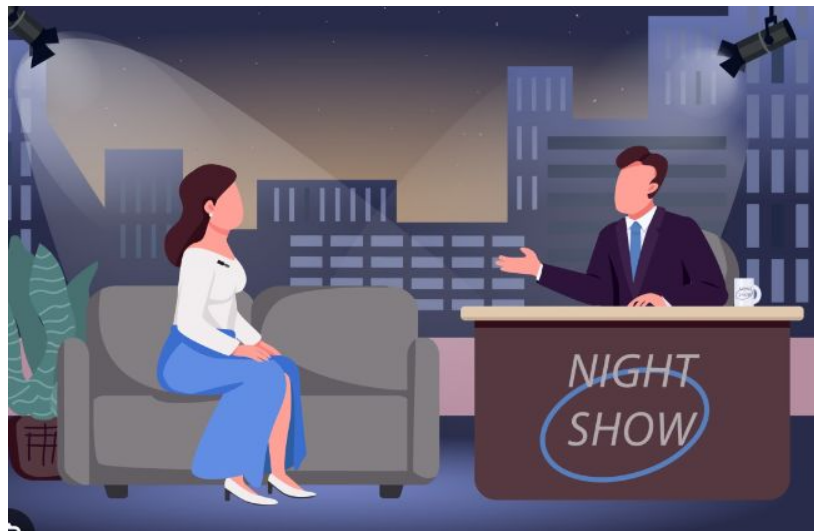
Option 2: Media Campaign

Free Tom Robinson Campaign

Imagine that Tom Robinson is alive and in prison. Create a media campaign to fight for his freedom.

Choose TWO from the list below to convince leaders and/or the public that justice must be served.

Media (at least 2)	❏ Speech ❏ Radio spot ❏ TV spot ❏ Artwork	❏ Article ❏ Flyer ❏ Poster ❏ Protest sign	❏ Website ❏ Social media post ❏ T-shirt or button ❏ Other: _____

Option 3:
Interview with a Character or Characters

Imagine if this story had occurred in modern times.

The Finch family and company would be featured on SO many morning and night shows

Your task: create a script of an interview with one or more characters. Ask them about pivotal moments in the novel. How did they feel? How do they feel now? Make sure to consider when they are being interviewed - right after? As an adult?

Have your group dress up and record the interview as if it were an actual show.

The Impact

- Strengthens students' sense of belonging and identity
- Promotes equity & inclusivity in the classroom
- Increases student engagement
- Learning is more meaningful & memorable
- Empowers students to be critical thinkers

Resources

"Snowball" Fight

Social Identity Wheel

Contact Information:

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Foreword by Yvette Jackson

Culturally Responsive Teaching & THE BRAIN

Promoting Authentic Engagement and Rigor Among Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Students

Zaretta Hammond