

finding your **VOICE**

SPEAKING TRUTH TO POWER



Great Stories Club: “Finding Your Voice”

Theme Facilitation Workshop

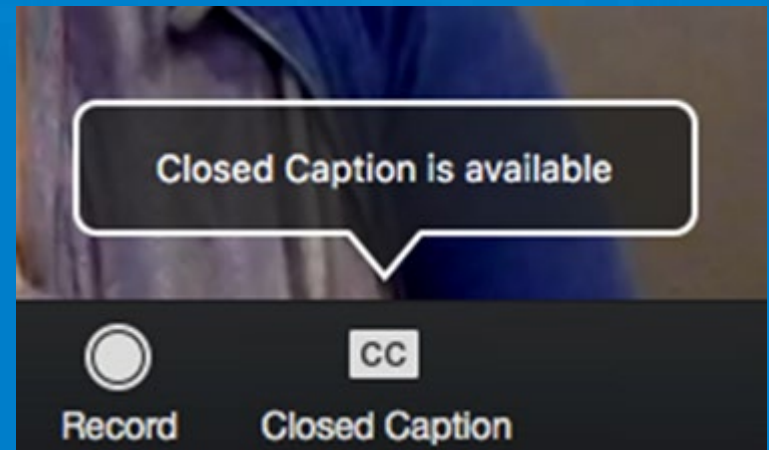
Agenda

- Quick updates and reminders from ALA
- Overview of theme, titles, and modeling discussion questions with Maria
- Best practices from previous GSC facilitators Joslyn and Amelia
- Modeling discussion and facilitation in breakout rooms

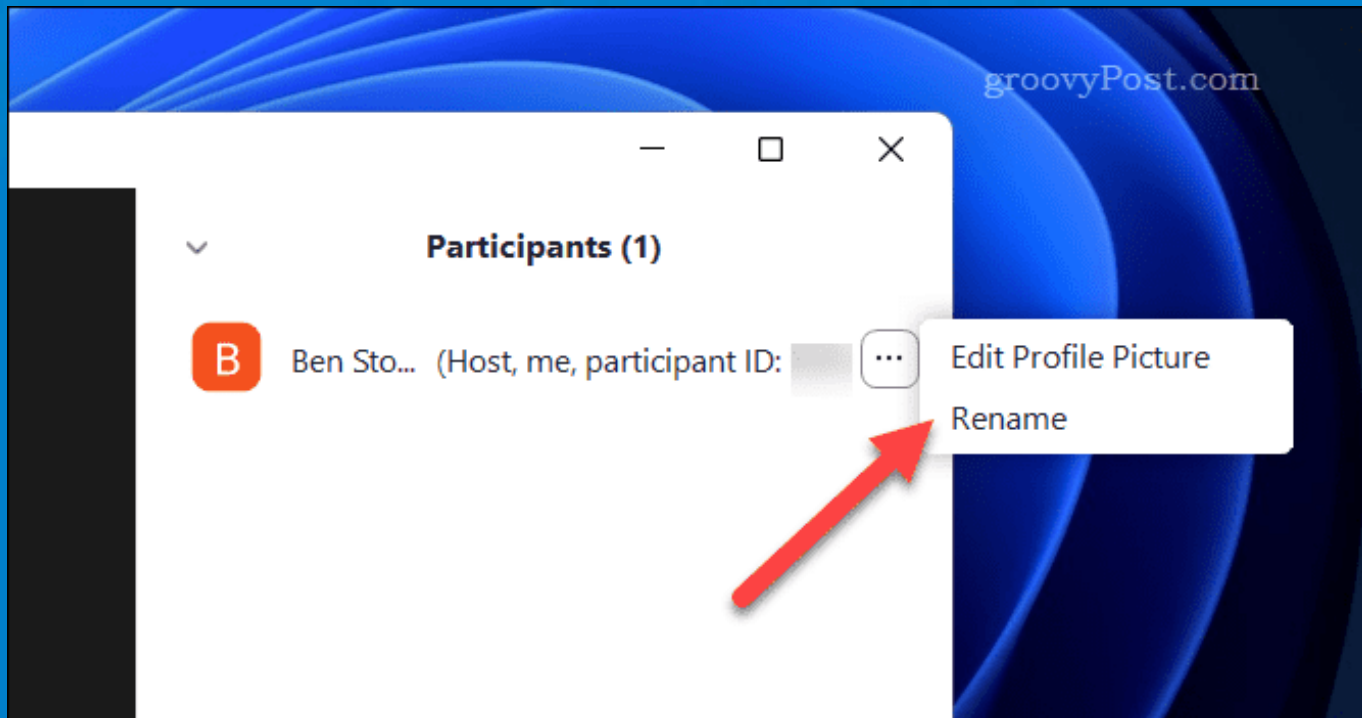
Zoom Etiquette

Please stay muted until Q&A and Breakout room portions of the workshop!

Use the chat to share ideas, links, or questions for each other or the presenters.



How to Rename Yourself in Zoom



More Zoom Notes

- Tech issues or questions?
Let us know in the chat and Brian Russell or Em Gallagher will assist you
- Breakout Rooms - 1:20 -1:50 PM Central
 - Type name in breakout room chat to indicate that you'd like to speak
- First half of the webinar will be recorded, breakout rooms will not be recorded

Some Updates + Reminders

- Some book orders are still in process, please allow additional time
 - Reach out to Em Gallagher (egallaugh@ala.org) if you have not received all of your requested titles by July 28
- Reporting and Evaluation
 - PIE staff is available as needed
 - Watch 20 minute asynchronous webinar beforehand

Introductions



Amelia Jenkins

Assistant Library
Technician 2, Youth
Services, Juneau
Public Library (AK)

Introductions



Joslyn Bowling Dixon

Executive Director, Oak
Park Public Library (IL)

Librarian Advisor of
Truth, Racial Healing &
Transformation Great
Stories Club
Implementation Team

Introductions

Susana M. Morris

Great Stories Club National
Scholar

Associate Professor,
School of Literature, Media
and Communication,
Georgia Institute of
Technology



Finding Your Voice



Finding Your Voice includes texts that highlight the necessity and power of young people speaking up despite challenges, social pressure, and even the threat of bigger dangers. Whether it is finding righteous anger as a superpower or speaking up through poetry and art, Finding Your Voice features young people speaking out against racism and other injustices in order to make the world better.

Joan of Arc



Ruby Bridges



Gloria Anzaldua



- “Wild tongues can’t be tamed, they can only be cut out.”

bell hooks

- “Sometimes people try to destroy you, precisely because they recognize your power — not because they don’t see it, but because they see it and they don’t want it to exist.”



The Civil Rights Movement in Birmingham



Police Brutality and Young People

Rekia Boyd



Tamir Rice



Black Lives Matter Movement



Immigration Fight



Street Harassment



Youth Activists

Mari Copeny



Greta Thunberg

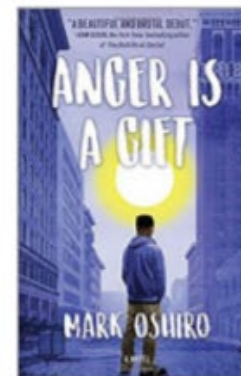
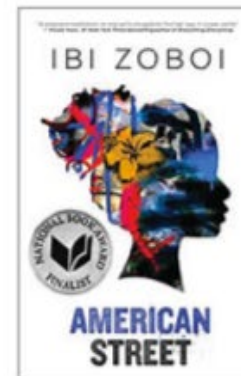


GreatStories  Club

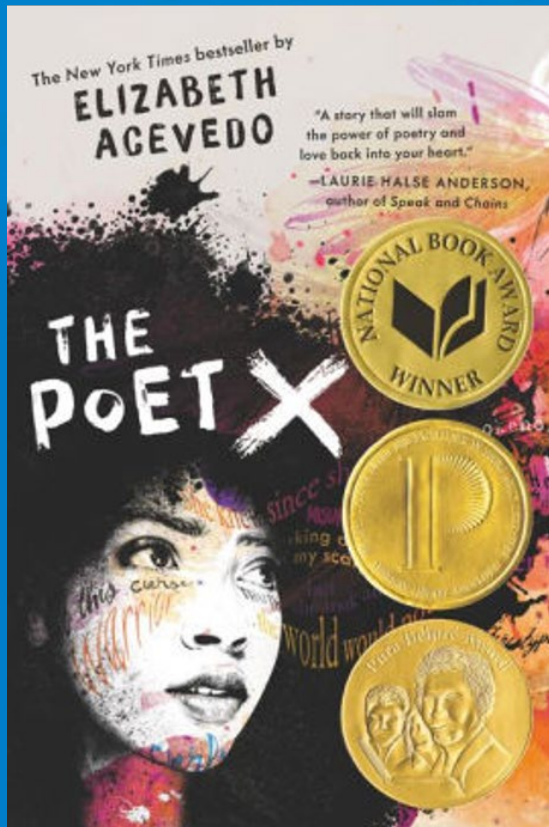
ALA American Library Association

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The Poet X



•“The first poem I wrote for this novel was the one about ants, which I think is one of the most climactic points in the story. It was about this conflict with [Xiomara’s mother] and religion and what it means to want to make yourself so small that you could fit between the floorboards. This is a story about taking up space and being a young woman who takes up space with both her body and her voice. The weight of the story is in that moment.”

Combating Street Harassment Through Art



Finding Your Voice



- Books in this theme:

- Underscore the significance of one's individual voice, no matter how seemingly small or powerless that voice is.
- Emphasize standing up for oneself; this could mean standing up to a sexist bully, calling out an adult who misjudges you, or speaking out against racial profiling.
- Illustrate young people empowering others to use their voices through writing, art, and community organizing to advocate for institutional change and social justice.

Discussing *The Poet X*

Find a moment when a character in this book looks to the past in order to find a way to move forward.

How does understanding the history of one's family, community, or racial/ethnic group help this character make powerful choices about how to shape the future?

Are there ever times when knowledge about the past can hold people back?

What is the benefit of learning about the histories of racial/ethnic groups other than your own?

Discussing *The Poet X*

Xiomara is a working-class Afro-Latina living in Harlem.

How does her race, ethnicity, class, and gender affect her life as a young person coming of age?

How does she combat the assumptions those around her make based on these identities?

Discussion Questions/Activities

Create a movie poster for the book-identify scenes, characters, items, and designs to include. Showcase your favorite scene or the overarching theme of the story. Include the author's name and the title, and a few catchy sentences to hook potential readers and draw them to read the book.

What do you think of the author's decision to write the novel in verse? What effect do you think it has on the telling of the story?

"As I got older/i began to really see the way that church treats a girl like me differently"-As a teen, have you ever questioned the things that you were taught about expected behaviors or societal "norms" ?

Discussion Questions/Activities

How does the author use of setting and language create a vivid snapshot of Xiomara's home and culture?

How does Xiomara change after performing spoken word?

Do you sympathize or have empathy for Mami or Papi, despite the pain they often caused?

Elements of a “Typical” session

- Icebreakers
- Introduction/reminder of the book
- Discussion questions
- Activity
- Introduction of next book



First Alaskans Institute

Our Agreements:

In Every Chair, a Leader

Speak to be Understood; Listen to Understand

Be Present; Be Engaged

Value Our Time Together

Safe Space for Meaningful Conversation

Challenges → Solutions

Takest Thou Hats Off

Our Value of Humor Helps Us

We are Responsible for Our Experience

Take Care of Yourself; Take Care of Each Other

Questions?

Please see a host

Icebreakers

Questions to get them talking:

What is something people assume about you that is not true?

What does your name mean? Who gave it to you? Does it fit you?

Icebreakers

Questions to get them moving:

Stand on the right if you like made up stories. Stand on the left if you prefer true stories or information books. Stand anywhere in between.

Stand if you like pizza. Sit if you don't.

Stand so your height matches how much you liked this book.

Introduce the book

Plan for participants to have read all, some, or none of the book. Let a participant summarize it.

Depending on technology access, seeing an author or hearing their voice is impactful. You can play a few moments of CD if technology is limited.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YH4gIM6TZkQ>

Discussion Questions

I've had good luck letting the students select their own questions from a printout.

Reading a question aloud allows reserved students to participate.

Activity

Art

Poetry

Cooking

Further book discussion

Dear Librarians

I would like to thank you for coming over for Book club & for the snacks. I think that was the best Book club I had. I appreciate you making time to come over to Johnson youth center to have fun & talk about Books. Thanks for the snacks again.

Introduce next book

Even though they have seen the poster, they get surprised.

Strategies for “Crowd Control” with a Teen Audience

- Set ground rules and expectations for respectful discussion at the beginning before discussion starts
- Invite teens to establish some of the ground rules
- This is not school or an academic course-don't take yourselves too seriously, allow time for fun
- It's OK if the conversation occasionally veers off track
- Refer back to ground rules as needed as a tool to circle back around to book discussion

Transition to Breakout Rooms

- 1:20 - 1:50 PM Central
- You will be automatically assigned to a breakout room with either Amelia or Joslyn
 - Susana will float between rooms to answer questions
- Please turn your cameras on and type your name in chat to be called on to speak

Thank you!

Continue the discussion in the
ALA Connect Group

Questions? Get in touch!

Em Gallagher

egallagher@ala.org, 312-280-5057

Brian Russell

brussell@ala.org, 312-280-5298