

Building Self and Social Awareness and Acceptance in Your Library

...

Alicia Blowers
Middle School Librarian & Library Department Chair
St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School
Alexandria, VA

About Me



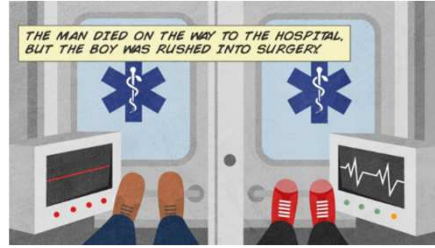
**St. Stephen's +
St. Agnes School**

A MAN AND HIS SON WERE IN A CAR ACCIDENT



Start with a story...

THE MAN DIED ON THE WAY TO THE HOSPITAL, BUT THE BOY WAS RUSHED INTO SURGERY



THE SURGEON SAID:

I CAN'T OPERATE FOR THAT'S MY SON!



How is this possible?

Reflection



Turn and Talk:

- Greet one another
- How did bias impact your understanding of the story?
- Why does bias exist? Where does it come from?

The "B" Word

Microaggressions and Implicit Bias

- Impact v. Intent
- Curiosity & Personal Boundaries
- #toomaharvard

It's not your fault

But that doesn't mean you shouldn't take responsibility and do better.


The Role of the Librarian and Library

- YOU are the messenger.
- The library (space, collection, programs) is the message.
- What you say and do matters. What you don't say and don't do matters.
- Your collection. Your programs. Your signage. It matters!

- Step 1: Start with yourself. Recognize your own bias.
- Step 2: As Justice Sotomayor [wrote](#): "The way to stop discrimination on the basis of race is to speak openly and candidly on the subject of race...."

Self to Social Awareness

- Looking Inward
- Golden Opportunity
- Ikigai
- Popular Media



Kudo, Amanda. *My Little Ikigai Journal*. New York: Castle Point Books, 2018.

Visual Cues



Verbal Cues

Ladies, gentlemen, and gender non-conforming individuals!

Witches, wizards, and other magical creatures!

Friends!

Scholars!

Readers!

Teens!/Twens!



ALL GENDER RESTROOM
Anyone can use this restroom, regardless of gender identity or expression

Developing & Promoting Your Collection

- Mirrors and Windows
- #ownvoices
- Representation Beyond Cliches
- Audiobooks and eBooks
- Booktalks & Reading Challenges



Filling the Space: Programs



Should You? Or Shouldn't You?

- Labeling of LGBT books
- Black History Month display
- Controversial Speaker

Resources



- Teaching Tolerance: Best Practices for Serving LGBTQ Students
- Teen Librarian Toolbox: Diversity Audit
- MTV's Decoded

Share Out & Questions

Contact me!

Alicia Blowers

ablowers@sssas.org

@aliciablowers

librariAn.blogspot.com (not currently being updated)