Great Stories Club: “Deeper Than Our Skins”

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 Ann and Pamela
- 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

![Zoom interface showing how to rename yourself.](groovyPost.com)
More Zoom Notes

- Tech issues or questions? Message Em Gallaugher (they/them) in chat for assistance

- 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 an additional 1-2 weeks
  - Reach out to Em Gallaugher (egallaugher@ala.org) if you have not received all of your requested titles by July 28

- Reporting and Evaluation Open Hour(s)
  - July 20, 1-2 PM Central on Zoom, and as requested
  - Watch 30 minute asynchronous webinar beforehand

- Finding Your Voice Workshop - July 25, 12-2 PM Central
  - Read “The Poet X” beforehand
Introductions

Pamela McCarter
Outreach Specialist and Equity Leader, Charlotte Mecklenburg Library (NC)
Introductions

Ann Shilling
Library Media Specialist,
Washington County Public Schools (MD)
Introductions

Maria Sachiko Cecire

Great Stories Club
National Scholar

Program Officer for
Higher Learning, Mellon
Foundation

Associate Professor of
Literature, Bard College
The great force of history comes from the fact that we carry it within us, are unconsciously controlled by it... History is literally present in all that we do.

James Baldwin
“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness.”
Origins: settler-colonialism & slavery

Engraving of colonist attack on a Pequot village, 1637

Stowage of a British slave ship, 1788
Origins: settler-colonialism & slavery

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Origins: settler-colonialism & slavery

Engraving of colonist attack on a Pequot village, 1637

Stowage of a British slave ship, 1788
It is a peculiar sensation, this double-consciousness, this sense of always looking at one’s self through the eyes of others, of measuring one’s soul by the tape of a world that looks on in amused contempt and pity. One ever feels his two-ness, — an American, a Negro; two souls, two thoughts, two un-reconciled strivings; two warring ideals in one dark body, whose dogged strength alone keeps it from being torn asunder.
Black government representation during Reconstruction (1865-1877)

• 16 Black men served in the U.S. Congress
• Over 600 were elected to state legislatures
• Hundreds more held local offices across the South
• Other elected officials included Black U.S. Senators, state governors, and more.
New legal racism: Jim Crow laws from the late 19th and early 20th c.

“Jump Jim Crow” sheet music, 1832, with Thomas D. Rice in blackface.

Lonestar Restaurant Association sign, Dallas, TX.
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Lonestar Restaurant Association sign, Dallas, TX.
Targeted exclusion & internment

THE "CHINESE WALL" AROUND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

WHITE IMMIGRATION
ORYIENTAL EXCLUSION

THE SAME ACT WHICH EXCLUDES ORIENTALS SHOULD OPEN WIDE THE PORTALS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA TO WHITE IMMIGRATION.
Targeted exclusion & internment

Japanese-American internment, 1942-45

Shop in Oakland, CA; formerly owned by an interned Japanese-American man
Targeted exclusion & internment
Targeted exclusion & internment
A banner at Fenway Park, Boston, 2017
“For so long I have wanted to escape into the Dream, to fold my country over my head like a blanket. But this has never been an option because the Dream rests on our backs, the bedding made from our bodies.”
What can we do to take steps towards healing and meaningful change?

HISTORY, DESPITE ITS WRENCHING PAIN, CANNOT BE UNLIVED, BUT IF FACED WITH COURAGE, NEED NOT BE LIVED AGAIN.

Maya Angelou
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Maya Angelou
Deeper Than Our Skins: The Present is a Conversation with the Past
The books in this theme:

- uncover the often-**hidden histories** of the United States’ Native, Black, and immigrant communities
- reach across time and cultures to affirm our **shared humanity**
- recognize the importance of remembering and passing down **unique origins and narratives**
They encourage readers to:

• use knowledge of the past to **understand the present**
• explore their own **intersectional identities**, **empathize** with others, and
• identify how to be agents of **racial healing and change**.
Deeper Than Our Skins: The Present is a Conversation with the Past

As you work together:

• **focus on specific words, phrases, images, and scenes**

• **use these examples to explore bigger concepts** like systemic racism and inequality

• **listen and learn** from your participants, and

• **affirm them as the vibrant intellects** that they are.

ALA American Library Association
If the problem of the twentieth century was, in W. E. B. Du Bois’s famous words, “the problem of the color line,” then the problem of the twenty-first century is the problem of colorblindness, the refusal to acknowledge the causes and consequences of enduring racial stratification.

NAOMI MURAKAWA
O, let America be America again—
The land that never has been yet—
And yet must be—the land where every man is free.
The land that’s mine—the poor man’s, Indian’s, Negro’s, ME—
Who made America,
Whose sweat and blood, whose faith and pain,
Whose hand at the foundry, whose plow in the rain,
Must bring back our mighty dream again.

-- Langston Hughes, from “Let America Be America Again,” 1936
<BA!>

<i>I came here looking to kill you, boy, but instead I'm going to teach you a lesson.</i>

<i>I want you to call the police and tell them all about this.</i>

<i>Tell them how big, bad Mock Beak came to your home in the middle of the night and shot your poor father in the head.</i>

<i>Then, when you've finally picked out how things work here in Chinatown, I want you to deliver that double payment your family owes me.</i>

<i>Bring it to my headquarters -- you already know where it is, and before you hand it to me, get on your knees.</i>

<i>At least you still have one living parent.</i>

<i>Good night, Mr. Superhero. Ha ha!</i>
HE AND I WERE VERY MUCH ALIKE. WHEN HE MET ME, WE WERE BOTH NO TIPPY OF FIGHTING.> 

"OH YES, BACK IN CHINA, HE WAS A FISTFIGHTING CHAMPION! HE WENT FROM VILLAGE TO VILLAGE CHALLENGING LOCAL STRONGHOLD, AND HE BEAT EVERY ONE OF THEM!" 

"FIGHTING? MY FATHER?" 

"YOU KNOW WHAT HIS SECRET WAS?" 

"NO." 

"SOMETHING PUT A FIEE IN HIS BRAIN AND A FIRE IN HIS HEART! WITH ONE HE WAS UNBEATABLE!"

"EVENTUALLY, THOUGH, THE FIRE GOT THE BETTER OF HIM. HE COULDN'T BLACK OUT FOR DAYS AT A TIME."

"HE WANTED TO MAKE A NEW LIFE FOR HIMSELF, AND WITH IT HE COULDN'T LEAVE! HE WANTED TO HAVE A FAMILY AND RUN A STORE."
FACE IT, HERO! THOSE SNEAKY SLANT-EYED BASTARDS MADE A RIDE OUT A WILD OUT AUS! SOMETIMES I WISH—

I DON'T NEED YOU TO MAKE ANY CHARGES STICK. I DON'T NEED YOU TO DO ANYTHING. I'LL... TAKE CARE OF HIM MYSELF.

WAIT! WAIT! WHAT'RE YA GONNA DO WHEN YOU FIND HIM? I TOLD YA I CAN'T MAKE THOSE CHARGES STICK WHILE TEN GRAND'S STILL OUT THERE.

AT LEAST TAKE THESE, WILL YA?

WHAT FOR?

I KNOW HOW GOOD IT'D FEEL TO TAKE OUT ONE OF THOSE LOWLIES. BELIEVE ME, I THINK ABOUT IT MORE THAN I LIKE TO ADMIT, BUT WE GOT THESE LAWS, YOU KNOW? AND THESE LAWS...

LOOK, AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, YOU'RE NOW THE MOST POWERFUL GOOD GUY WE GOT IN CHINATOWN. NO ONE'S EVER GOTTEN AS FAR AS YOU.

SO YOU DECIDE THEN: DO OUR LAWS APPLY IN CHINATOWN OR NOT?

I JUST ASSUMED... WHERE YOU GOIN', I'M GOING TO DO THE JOB YOU WON'T. I'M GOING TO FIND MOC BEAK.

AW, JEEZ. YOU'RE ONE OF...

STEADY HERE.

EEP!
I DON'T THINK TEN GRAND WILL INTERFERE THIS TIME. DETECTIVE LAWFUL. EVEN IF HE DOES, I'LL BRING ROCK SEAL BACK IN AS MANY TIMES AS IT TAKES.

I'LL TRY MY BEST FOR YA, BUT WITHOUT TEN GRAND.

ALL RIGHT. I PROMISE YOU, I'LL TRY MY BEST.

HEY... ABOUT WHAT I SAID THE OTHER NIGHT. I DESERVE A PUNCH IN THE FACE, I WAS JUST REAL WORKED UP, YOU KNOW?

HONEST TO GOD, THOSE WORDS...

---THEY'RE NOT WHO YOU ARE.

NAH, THAT'S NOT TRUE. BUT THEY'RE NOT WHO I WANT TO BE.

I GOTTA TELL YA, GREEN TURTLE, IT MEANS THE WORLD TO ME THAT YA GOT THIS DONE. IT MEANS I'LL KEEP MY WORD WITH THIS ONE KD WHOSE OLD MAN GOT...
NOT ALL MY VISITORS BROUGHT SUCH TRIVIAL REQUESTS.

RED CENTER!
WHAT'S THAT IN YOUR HAND?

MY UNCLE CARVED THEM FROM A PIECE OF JADE MY FATHER USED TO WEAR AROUND HIS NECK.

HANK, MY FATHER DIED A COUPLE OF WEEKS AGO.

OH MY GOSH! I'M SORRY.

THEY'RE BEAUTIFUL.

NO, RED, I CAN'T.

SO YOU'RE STILL PLAYING SUPERHERO, THEN? HANK, BE HONEST. DO YOU REALLY THINK DRESSING UP IN THAT SILLY COSTUME WILL MAKE THEM ACCEPT YOU? DO YOU REALLY THINK IT WILL MAKE YOU A PART OF THEM?
I didn't know how to answer Red Center back then.

Green Turtle!

My goodness, am I honored to shake your hand! I've been hoping to meet you for quite some time now.

Anchor of Justice!

Have you been following the news out of Europe and Asia sooner rather than later, America will be called upon to defend our allies. The President's already spoken with me about it. They'll need people like you and me to bolster our troops.

If your country needs you, would you be willing to lend a hand?

Thank you, Green Turtle! I'll be in touch.

Yes, of course!

Oh yes! One more thing.

I've never told anyone this.

But my parents aren't from around here, either.

Either way it didn't matter, because the Green Turtle had already become a part of me.
UNDERSTAND YOUR PURPOSE

- Instill a love for reading
- Improve reading skills
- Nurture critical thinking and communication skills
- Fostering a sense of community and belonging.
CREATE A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT

- Create a safe and respectful space.
- Encourage communication & active listening
- Foster a sense of ownership
- Set guidelines and expectations
REMEMBER ALL READERS ARE NOT THE SAME

- Plan for different reading levels
- Be open to diverse perspectives
- Apply sensitivity and awareness
- Leverage technology
INCORPORATE INTERACTIVE ACTIVITIES

- Utilize online formats and Multi-media platforms
- Explore other forms of technology
- Create exposure to story concepts in engaging ways
TRY OPPORTUNITIES FOR SELF-EXPRESSION
REMINDEERS...

1. Build relationships
2. Empower Leadership
3. Collaborate with others
4. Flexibility and adaptability
Considerations for Teamwork

- Read in advance, Meet in advance, Map out your sessions in advance.
- Partners: Directive and Reflective
- Plan with evaluations in mind

Create Community
“Listen to Silence - It has so much to say” Rumi

Respect Silence:
- Silence promotes self-awareness
- Silence helps process information
- Silence aids in concentration

Listening - Speaking - Learning

EXPAND YOUR HUMANITY
Write Where You Are…

Explore Characters and Themes

Sticky Notes

Maps

Dot Journal

Reflections:
- I liked
- I didn’t like
- Next time…
Expanding the Theme

- Be not afraid of VOCABULARY!
- Use Current Events
- Books, Books, Books
- Consider remaining available after the session for a few minutes…

Become Intellectual Thinkers!
Transition to Breakout Rooms

• 1:20 - 1:50 PM Central

• You will be automatically assigned to a breakout room with either Ann or Pamela
  • Maria 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!
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