

Being the Change & Black History Month



Agenda

- ◆ **Being the Change: Finishing Listening with Love**
- ◆ **Black History Month**
 - ◆ Why is it important?
 - ◆ What are important things to consider when planning?
 - ◆ Resources available
- ◆ **Exit Slips**



The Why

There is no magic formula for making the world a better place. It happens in the moments we embrace discomfort and have candid conversations.

-Sara K. Ahmed

Goals for these experiences:

- Engage in self reflection
- Honor our families, cultures, and languages
- Connect and wonder about the identities of others
- Affirm students
- Allow students to speak their truths
- LISTEN and co-construct what it means to share the planet with other human beings

1. Listening with Love

The Danger of a Single Story



“Stories matter. Many stories matter. Stories have been used to dispossess and to malign, but stories can also be used to empower and to humanize. Stories can break the dignity of a people, but stories can also repair that broken dignity.

-Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie



Eleven by Sandra Cisneros

Student View Point

What can we determine about the speaker's feelings and emotions?

Teacher View Point

What can we infer this teacher is saying?



Resources for Further Learning

Resources for Expanding Your Social Comprehension Skills

Readings

A Young People's History of the United States: Columbus to the War on Terror, by Howard Zinn, abridged by Rebecca Stefoff

First person viewpoints from slaves, immigrants, women and those whose history is often told for them—the people who lived the histories of the United States. A great companion to Zinn's *A People's History of the United States*.

"Eleven" by Sandra Cisneros

A poignant short story about eleven-year old Rachel and the teacher who refused to see her humanity.

TED Talk

We Need to Talk about Injustice

https://www.ted.com/talks/bryan_stevenson_we_need_to_talk_about_an_injustice

Bryan Stevenson, human rights lawyer and founder of the Equal Justice Initiative, discusses America's justice system with candor and insight.

2. Black History Month



Important Things to Consider

Student Experience

Find out what's on their minds and how they are making sense of our society's growing diversity. Then use their words and points of view to anchor lessons. Student voice roots lessons in relevance.

Complete History

Explore more than the struggles and traumas Black people faced in our country's history. Teach beyond slavery. Celebrate Black civil engagement, moments of liberation, and use Black literature. Reiterate that Black History is American History and is worthy of learning all year long.

Dig Deeper

As students learn and discuss important Black History figures, teach them more than one perspective. For example, Dr. King was committed to the Civil Rights movement, but he fought hard for other social initiatives, too.



Good People to Follow with Great Resources

Instagram

Laneshia Tabb - @apron_education

Naomi O'Brien - @readlikearockstar

Vera Ahiyya - @thetututeacher

Monique Waters - @itsmoniquesworld

Johora - @thatssojohorrible

Alfred Shivy Brooks - @callmeshivy



Great Books and Resources for Lessons

- ◆ Teaching Tolerance (Now Learning for Justice) [Student Texts](#)
- ◆ A Short List of [Books by Black Authors](#)
- ◆ A List of 17 Books from [Scholastic](#)
- ◆ The Every Mom Blog List of [33 Kids Books](#)
- ◆ From [Today's Parent](#)
- ◆ JMB Magic 20-21: Curriculum Resources - [Black History Month](#)
- ◆ Black History Month [Daily Celebrations](#)



Takeaways

- Listen with love and be open to more than a single story.
- Listening is an act of love that opens our hearts for compassion and empathy
- Black History Month is a necessary opportunity to teach students about essential American History, honor the importance of diverse historical figures, inspire students to think critically, and empower students to see their own potential.



**TEACHING
BLACK HISTORY
THROUGHOUT
THE SCHOOL
YEAR AND
ESPECIALLY IN
FEBRUARY.**

@callmeshivy



“



Reflection



- ◆ What resonated with me?
- ◆ What do I want to explore further?
- ◆ What can I do tomorrow to demonstrate Being the Change?

