

Rethinking THE CLASSICS

By Dr. Sheila Frye ar

Mockingbird, it is notable that these titles continue to be narrow in scope since they, too, serve to amplify white voices. Given the dynamic plurality of the citizens of our country, a large portion of our students' stories are being ignored or muted, all for the sake of past practice. **The good news is that** amplify white voices. Given the dynamic plurality of the citizens of our country, a large portion of our students' stories are being ignored or muted, all for the sake of past practice. The good news is that we all have access to tools to expand the canon and move it toward inclusivity and intersectionality. students' stories are being ignored or muted, all for the sake of past practice. The good news is that we all have access to fools to expand the canon and move it toward inclusivity and intersectionality.

According to projected numbers from the 2020 Census Bureau, the majority of children living in the United States are students of Color. In order to best meet the needs of all learners, it is critical that According to projected numbers from the 2020 Census Bureau, the majority of children living in United States are students of color. In order to best meet the needs of all learners, it is critical students see themselves reflected in the works presented to them. <u>Research shows that</u> United states are students of color. In order to best meet the needs of all learner students see themselves reflected in the works presented to them. <u>Research showledge when encoding with texts that they are and build knowledge when encoding with texts that they are an and build knowledge when encoding with texts that they are an area and build knowledge when encoding with texts that they area and build knowledge when encoding with texts that they area and build knowledge when encoding with texts that they area area and build knowledge when encoding with texts that they area area and build knowledge when encoding with texts that they area area area area area and build knowledge when encoding with texts that they area area area area area area.</u> make meaning and build knowledge when engaging with texts that the students have their very evistance offirmed when they read students have their very existence affirmed when they from their own culture, religion, orientation secure an important place wi as windows,

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How can societal rules help or hurt us?

Article: "10 Local Laws that May Be Doing More Harm than Good"

This article gives a brief overview of ten local laws that most cities and towns have that are well-intentioned. For example, many communities have laws against jaywalking or building codes that require a certain number of parking spaces for new housing or commercial properties. You can use this article in a number of ways.

To engage students in prediction, an important executive function, write "jaywalking" on the board and ask students to consider why the laws were put into place. Whom were they made to protect? Whom do they (perhaps unintentionally) disenfranchise or harm?

Have students read the article and choose one law to research further. The article provides several links to sources for each item. Students can return to those key questions (Who is protected? Who is harmed?) and discuss the value of each law. You can also ask students to re-envision the law -- what would be a better way to accomplish the same goal for the community?

This activity practices the Social Justice Standard JU.6-8.12 from Teaching Tolerance. Check out the full

Student-Centered Discussion:

In groups, students identify one law that has been designed to help the community. They identify what behavior the law is meant to encourage and whom it's meant to protect. Then, they identify an unintended consequence of the law or someone the law hurts. Students find one text (article, speech, poem, etc.) to show the "flip side" of the law. For example, consider a law stating that voting must happen in-person. Students may uncover that this is meant to curtail voting fraud, but that it actually disenfranchises citizens. Because Election Day is not a holiday or on a weekend, many people who work struggle to find time to vote.

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TED Talk: <u>"What a World without Prisons Could Look Like"</u> by Deanna Van Buren (15:11)

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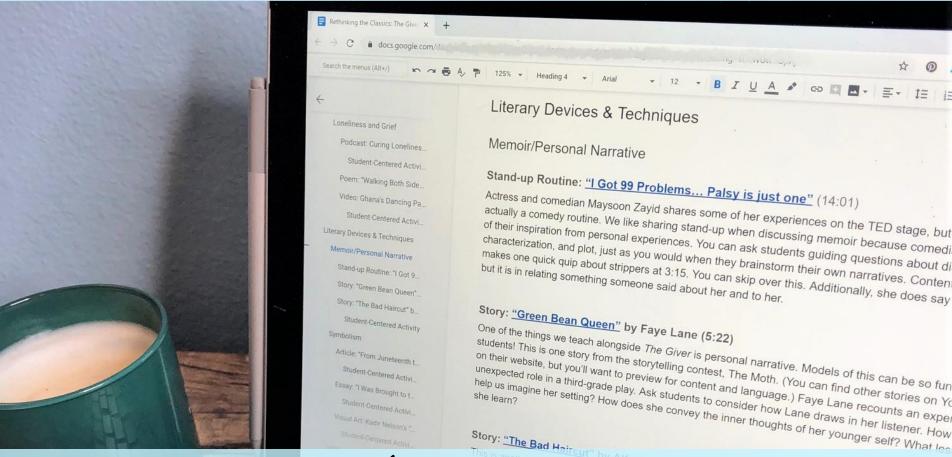


INCLUSIVE TEXT SUGGESTIONS

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This is a curated list of inclusive text suggestions to help you supplement your unit on *The Giver* or advocate for curriculum updates.



All of the text ideas (articles, poems, songs, folklore, artwork, etc.) have been organized by Theme, Essential Question, or Literary Device. We've spent 15+ hours researching so you don't have to!

> Rethinking THE CLASSICS

This resource includes expert our tips on rethinking the classics. We're here to support you in your endeavors.

students' stories can be that these titles avessed it - white, middle class, cisgender males who the majority (if not all

Auditing FOR INCLUSIVITY IN YOUR TEXTS