

RETHINKING THE CLASSICS: *The Great Gatsby*

The American Dream

Book Excerpt: [The House on Lemon Street: Japanese Pioneers and the American Dream](#)

This biographical excerpt calls attention to the story of a Japanese man, Jukichi Harad, who immigrated to the United States in the early 1900s and fought to be seen as an American. Jukichi Harad and his wife did everything they thought they needed to do in order to achieve the American Dream: they worked tirelessly, saved their hard-earned money, and tried to give their children a better life. Although Jukichi Harad pledged his allegiance to his new country, he and his family were met with resistance, as whites in the 1900s sowed deep resentment and hostility toward Asians. "The offer of American citizenship, extended to tens of thousands of European immigrants, was denied those of Asian descent. Asian Americans couldn't vote, testify in court or practice certain professions. And in almost a dozen Western states, immigrants from Asia didn't even have the right to buy a house or own a farm." This text outlines the legal battles that the Harads endured. Their house - which has since been designated a National Historic Landmark - represents the struggles that many Asian immigrants faced in their pursuit of the American Dream. It would be interesting for students to compare/contrast the Harad family's experience with the American Dream to that of Gatsby's, given that they both take place around the same time.

Student-Centered Activity:

After reading this excerpt, ask students to reflect on questions such as these:

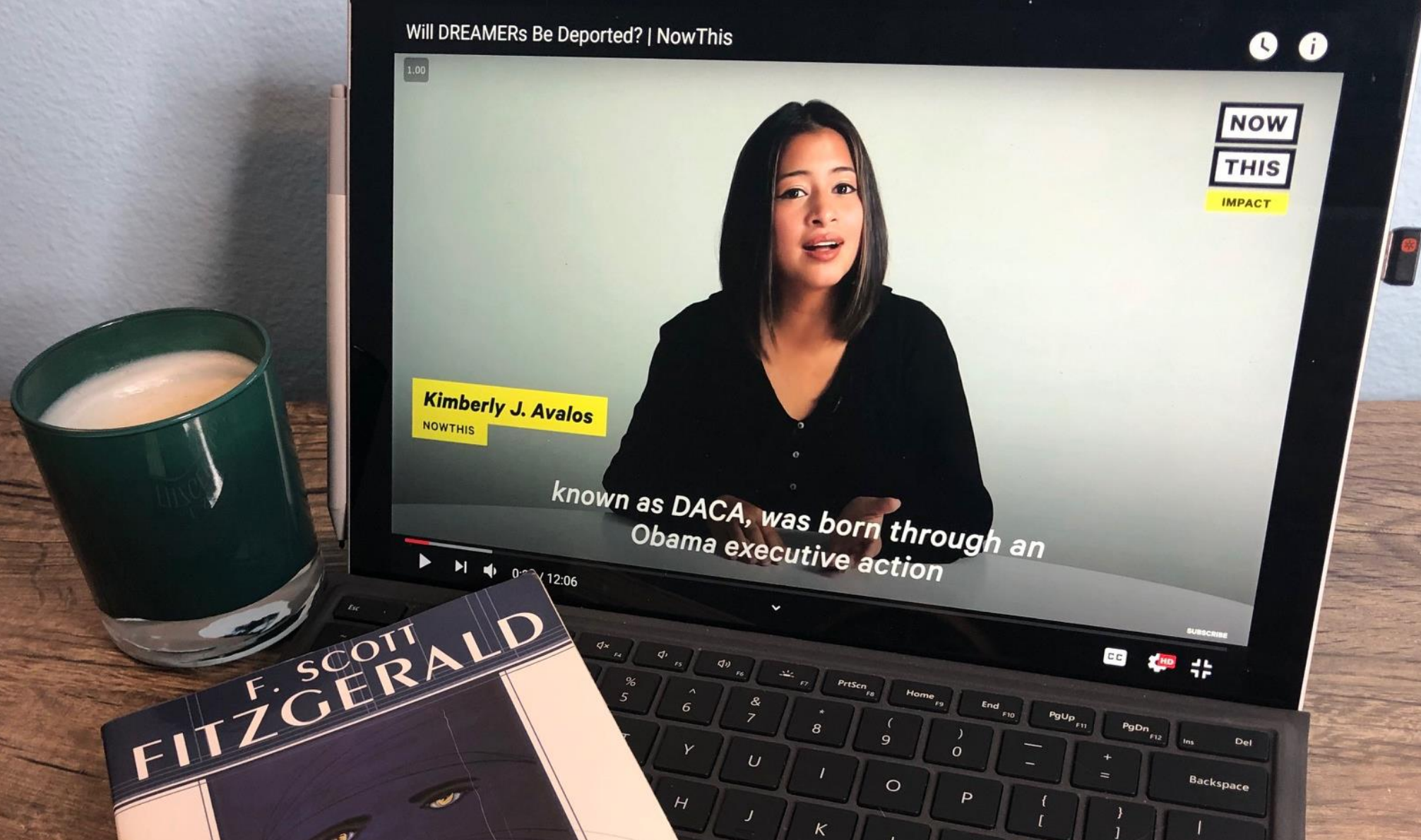
- What is the American Dream and how do people...
- To what extent is the American D...
- In what ways mi...

Text Suggestions:

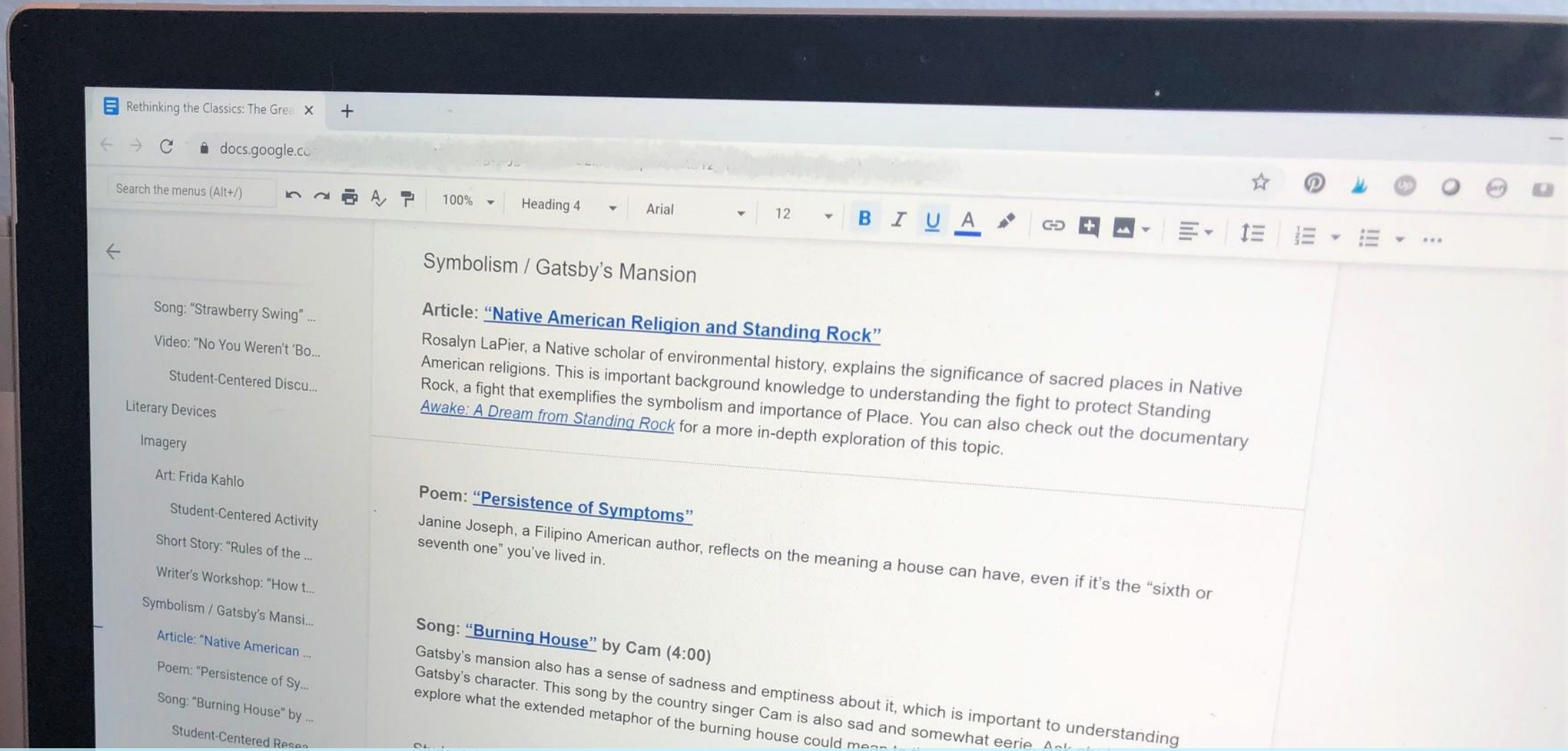
- Article: "Snapshot of the 1..."
- Magazine: The CRISIS, edit...
- Oral Histories: Goin' North
- Poetry: "The Weary Blues" ...
- Student-Centered Activi...
- Visual Art: "In Motion: The ...
- Student-Centered Activi...
- The American Dream**
- Book Excerpt: The House...
- Student-Centered Activi...
- Video: Explained: Race We...
- Vlog: Is the American Drea...
- Student-Centered Resea...
- Video: Schools & Social In...
- The Continued Relevance of t...
- Audio: Supreme Court Dec...



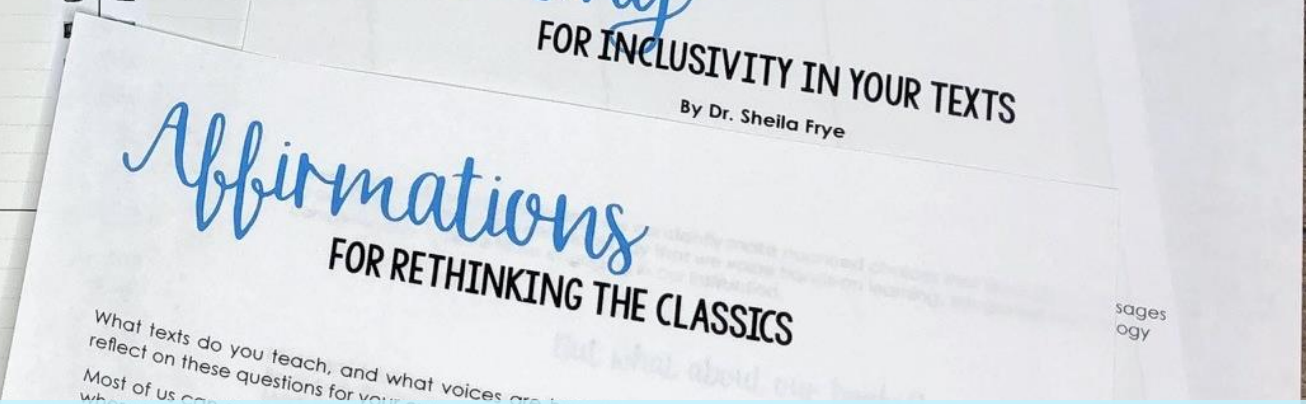
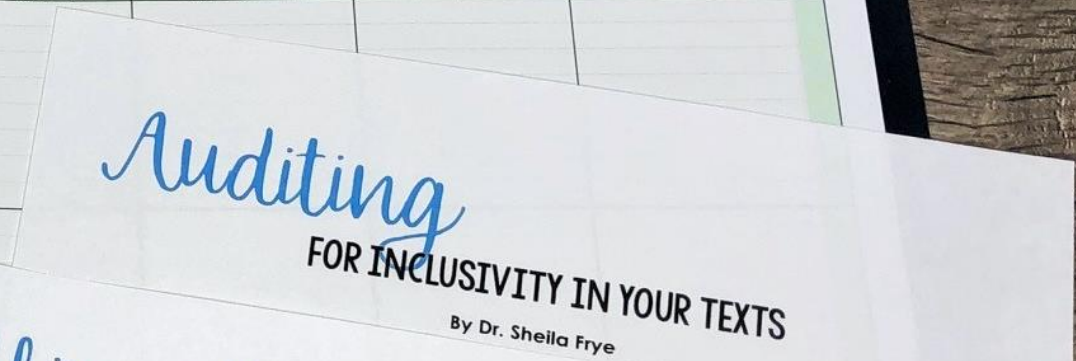
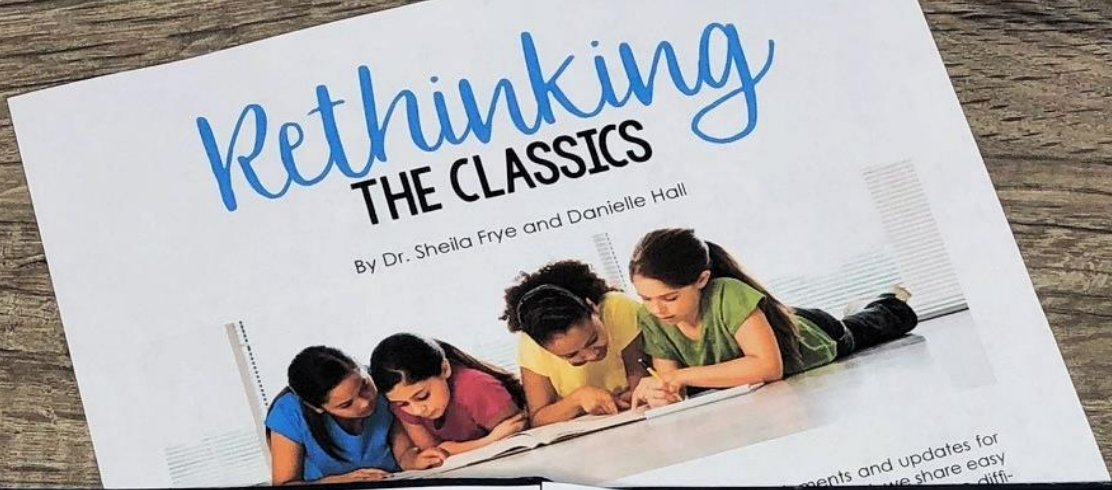
INCLUSIVE TEXT SUGGESTIONS



This is a curated list of inclusive text suggestions to help you supplement your unit on *The Great Gatsby* 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!

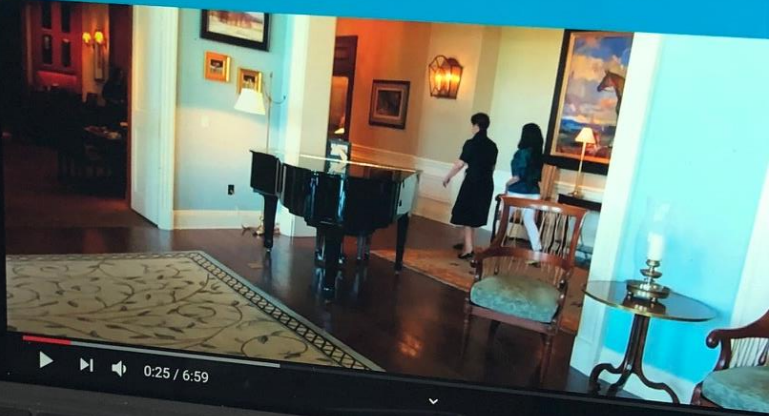


This resource includes our expert tips on rethinking the classics. We're here to support you in your endeavors.

I'm black and I'm a member of the 1%

UNSTEREOTYPED

Black 1%



Thinking THE CLASSICS

Dr. Sheila Frye and Danielle Hall

series to help teachers find supplements and updates for inclusivity to their curriculum. For each text, we share easy to incorporate on a budget. We also share more difficult texts you could request in the future. We are not saying that you should not continue a dialogue on how

GOIN' NORTH

Biographies Oral History Interviews Stories Archive About Credits

STORIES FROM THE FIRST GREAT MIGRATION TO PHILADELPHIA

OLD MEETS NEW How "Old Philadelphians" and southern newcomers learned to live together.

Between 1910 and 1930, the African-American population of Philadelphia skyrocketed, from around 85,000 to nearly 225,000 in the early years of the Great Depression. This massive influx of southern newcomers had a deep and enduring impact on the city. The stories of their adventures—those who left lives behind in the South and ventured north

F. SCOTT FITZGERALD

THE GREAT GATSBY

AWAKE

A DREAM FROM STANDING ROCK

W E R T Y U I O P

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