Integrating Culturally Responsive Literature into the Common Core Standards

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The Changing Classroom

The face of America is dramatically different than it was 50 years ago and will likely be more different 50 years from now.

Kindergarteners in 2013 will be 49.9% Minority

What does this all mean?

Four States: Hawaii, New Mexico, California, and Texas are not places where minorities are the majority.

1 in 3 Americans are a Racial Minority.

The minority population in America is larger than the total population of all but 11 countries.

This change has tremendous implications in Education.
U.S. Public School Students Enrolled in PreK-12th Fall 2000-2021

U.S. Public School Teachers are...

Female: 84%
Caucasian: 84%

Under Age 30: 21%
Ages 30-39: 27%
Ages 40-49: 22%
Ages 50 and over: 31%
Gender

| Year | Male | Female
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1986</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>84</td>
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</table>

Need to Increase Diversity in Teacher Population

• Teachers of color provide real-life examples to minority students of future career paths.
• Increasing the number of current teachers of color may be instrumental to increasing the number of future teachers of color.
• While there are effective teachers of many races, teachers of color have demonstrated success in increasing academic achievement for engaging students of similar backgrounds. (Bireda, S. and Chait, R., 2011)
Route to Teaching by Race

- **White**: 66% Traditional - Undergraduate, 16% Traditional - Graduate, 18% Alternative
- **Black**: 46% Traditional - Undergraduate, 15% Traditional - Graduate, 39% Alternative
- **Hispanic**: 37% Traditional - Undergraduate, 11% Traditional - Graduate, 53% Alternative
- **Other**: 48% Traditional - Undergraduate, 27% Traditional - Graduate, 24% Alternative

**Source**: National Center for Education Information (2011): *Profile of Teachers in the U.S. 2011*. Washington, DC.
“Every child needs – and deserves – dedicated, outstanding teachers who know their subject matter, are effectively trained, and know how to teach to high standards and to make learning come alive for students.”

-President Bill Clinton, 1998
Critical Theory: An Overview

“Critical Literacy is the ability to read texts in an active, reflective manner in order to better understand power, inequality, and justice in human relationships” (Coffey, 2013).

Historical Roots
Critical Theory & the Frankfurt Scholars

“Education either functions as an instrument which is used to facilitate integration of the younger generation into the logic of the present system and bring about conformity or it becomes the practice of freedom, the means by which men and women deal critically and creatively with reality and discover how to participate in the transformation of their world.”
— Paulo Freire, Pedagogy of the Oppressed
Essential Questions

An Essential Question:
1. Can be used to frame an instructional unit;
2. Cannot be answered simply, but instead requires sustained thought and study;
3. Is open-ended and typically begin with *what, how, or why*;
4. Is timeless, it is a question that can be asked again and again;
5. Does not have a right or wrong answer, only justifiable and unjustifiable responses;
6. Promotes project-based learning.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject Area</th>
<th>Math</th>
<th>Science</th>
<th>History</th>
<th>English</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Traditional Unit</td>
<td>Measurement Unit</td>
<td>Food Chain Unit</td>
<td>American Culture Unit</td>
<td><em>Examining the Classics</em> Unit</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essential Question</td>
<td>How does what we</td>
<td>What makes a</td>
<td>What is the difference</td>
<td>Why are “the classics” typically authored by</td>
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<tr>
<td>Example</td>
<td>measure influence</td>
<td>certain species</td>
<td>between cultural generalizations and stereotypes?</td>
<td>White males who are dead?</td>
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<td>how we measure it?</td>
<td>thrive while</td>
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<td>another one</td>
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<td>barely avoids</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>extinction?</td>
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Text Excerpts: Civil Rights

American History: A Survey

The Watsons Go to Birmingham - 1963


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