Expanding Understanding:
Engaging dialogically with multiple
texts and multiple perspectives

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#BuildingBiggerIdeas

In diversity there is beauty and there is strength.
~ Maya Angelou

Our time together…
- Thinking and talking together
- How do we teach this kind of talk inside single texts?
- How do we engage children in talk across texts?

THINKING AND TALKING TOGETHER
...you get to a place you just can’t get to in one mind.
~ David Kelley

HOW DO WE TEACH THIS KIND OF TALK INSIDE SINGLE TEXTS?

Dialogic classrooms are …

...places where teachers engage students in processes for learning about talk and through talk simultaneously.
~ Ruppert Wegerif

What kind of talk?
- Constructive
- Values varied perspectives
- Takes place over extended space and time

Range of voices and perspectives
Bigger ideas
### Purposeful talk behaviors

- Telling → communicating → constructing
  - Hearing all voices
  - Growing ideas
    - Say something meaningful
    - Listen with intent
    - Keep lines of thinking alive
  - Negotiating meaning

### Predictable teaching for unpredictable talk

- Gently focus
- Authentically facilitate
- Offer feedback

### Range of voices, perspectives → Bigger ideas → Constructive process

### When we focus...

- We create mindfulness about talk
- We remind children of the power of talk
- We nudge for strategic talk behavior

~ Nichols 2019
When we facilitate…

…we take an inquiry stance, listening to the flow of children’s talk, alert for constructive possibilities.

Authentic facilitation is:
- invitational
- responsive
- agentive
- meaning driven

Nichols, 2019

Negotiating meaning

Through negotiation, students come to understand how someone else interprets an event, text, or situation; thereby, the basis for their own understanding is broadened.

~ Ralph Peterson

When we offer feedback…

- We describe children’s talk behavior
- We link their talk behavior to meaning making
- We remind them to draw on these strategies and behaviors to think and talk together this way without us

~ Nichols, 2019

HOW DO WE ENGAGE CHILDREN IN TALK ACROSS TEXTS?
We have become overly concerned with whether students can comprehend a particular text and not concerned enough about whether students can use multiple texts to grapple with big ideas.

Gay Ivey
Educational Leadership
March 2010

Text sets:
- are collections of sources of information that serve as a foundation for a journey of thought.
- offer multiple perspectives on ideas in a variety of genres, text types, media, and levels.
- develop the habits of mind necessary to engage with issues and big ideas outside of the classroom.

Expandng Comprehension with Multigenre Text Sets
Maria Nichols

Teaching with Text Sets

Possible ways of thinking and talking among multiple sources of information

- Comparing and contrasting information, ideas and perspectives
- Synthesizing and constructing ideas bigger than those in any one source
- Considering how developing understandings help us to live in the world

Generating theories
Revisiting sources through the lens of newly constructed ideas
Considering the contexts behind varied perspectives
Searching for missing perspectives
WHAT BECOMES POSSIBLE?

The way human beings learn has nothing to do with being kept quiet.

~Ralph Peterson