Integrating Social Studies & Literacy: The Importance of Talk and Building Collective Ideas Together (Grades 2–5)

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Today’s Agenda

I. Introductions
II. Importance of Talk
III. Book Clubs + Research Clubs
IV. Make the Learning Stick!
V. Conclusion
“Give the pupils something to do, not something to learn; and the doing is of such a nature as to demand thinking; learning naturally results.”

— John Dewey, education reformer, 1859-1952
Transactional Theory of Reading

“A particular reader (with...past experience and present preoccupations) enters into a transaction with a particular text. A two-way or circular process must be postulated. The text offers guidance and constraint, yet it is also open, requiring the reader’s contribution.”

- Louise Rosenblatt, professor and researcher, 1904-2005
Importance of Talk

- Talk in literacy and throughout the curriculum
- How talk supports learning
- Types of talk
Accountable Talk Phrases

- That reminds me of...
- Maybe
- Can you say more about that?
- Reading Partners Use Accountable Talk Phrases!
- How do you know?
- I agree, and...
- What makes you think that?
Read Aloud in Social Studies
Whole Class Conversation: 
*When the Shadbush Blooms*
Talk Beyond the Classroom: *Lenape Plaque*
Book Clubs + Research Clubs

● Similarities + differences
● Importance of choice
● Make it authentic
Book Clubs vs. Research Clubs
Book Club Meeting: Chinese Immigration to America
Book Clubs + Research Clubs

- Similarities + differences
- Importance of choice
- Make it authentic
Try it! Find a triad. Each pick 1 article to read.

The New Colossus

BY EMMA LAZARUS

Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame,
With conquering limbs astride from land to land;
Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand
A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame
Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name
Mother of Exiles. From her beacon-hand
Glowed world-wide welcome; her mild eyes command
The air-bridged harbor that twin cities frame.
"Keep, ancient lands, your storied pomp!" cries she
With silent lips, "Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refusals of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

What does Lady Liberty stand for? A look at changing attitudes

When Emily Webster and her colleagues were designing the new museum for the Statue of Liberty, the logistics of ferrying 4.5 million visitors a year over to an environmentally sensitive islet in New York Harbor was only part of the challenge they faced.

"With such an epically historic concept that the museum needed to represent, we couldn't just be reverent and historical about the artifacts," says Webster, head of media architecture at ESRI Design in Manhattan. "In fact, we kind of also needed to really think about what the meaning of liberty is – that it's a contested idea," she says during a tour of the museum.

We came to America,
Every color, race, and religion,
From every country in the world.
Some of us were already here
Before the others came.
And some of us were brought in chains,
Losing our freedom and our names.
We came to America,
Every color, race, and religion,
From every country in the world.
We traveled from our birthplace
By boat and by plane.
Some of us came running
From injustice, fear, and pain.
We came to America,
Every color, race, and religion,
From every country in the world.
We brought along our joyful songs,
Our stories wise and true.
Our music colored the air,
Beautiful sounds and patterns everywhere.
Our joyful dance now freed our pain,
Gently, like soothing rain.
Our food, our fashion, and our art
Made America great.
We came to America,
Every color, race, and religion,
From every country in the world.
In spite of where we came from,
Or how or why we came,
We are all Americans.
Just the same.
Stop and Jot Prompts:
BURST WITH CURIOSITY!
Why did…?
Where is…?
I wonder…?
How come…?
Research Club Conversation:
DISCOVER NEW FINDINGS TOGETHER!

- I just learned.... This makes me think....
- I didn’t know...... This makes me realize....
Our Favorite Texts & Authors for Grades 2-5

*Picture the Past* (Heinemann)

*Cobblestone* magazine

*Dig Into History* magazine

*National Geographic*

*You Wouldn’t Want to …*

*Who Was? What Was?*

Elizabeth Mann

Marissa Moss
Make the Learning Stick!

“If you [pay] careful attention to the structure and format of your material, you [can] dramatically enhance the stickiness.”

Malcolm Gladwell, The Tipping Point: How Little Things Can Make a Big Difference
In the Classroom

● Learning and talking in centers
  (photo center, write around center, etc.)
● Seminars and debates
● Social studies notebooks
  (They can mirror RW and WW notebooks!)
● Field trip reflections
● Pre- and post-trip lessons
● Bring in families
  (Who has a connection? Interview them!)
● Make it personal!
In the Classroom: Centers
In the Classroom: Centers
Seminars: 
Irish Immigration
Curricular Extensions

- Museums
- Field trips
- Neighborhood walks
- National parks
- Activism
Digital Teaching Tools

- Padlet
- Flipgrid
- Newsela
- HUB History (Boston history)
- The Bowery Boys (NYC History)
- Brains On (science podcast)
- Forever Ago (history podcast)
Example of Padlet

Immigration (1880s - 1920s)
Ellis Island history, etc.

Ellis Island
Scholastic.com
Welcome to Immigration
This content resource is an int...
scholastic

Newseola.com
"The New Colossus": Emma La...
Emma Lazarus was a writer w...
newseola

Newseola.com
The History of European Immi...
In 1951, historian Oscar Handli...
newseola

Newseola.com
Issue Overview: Immigration r...
People who move from other c...
newseola

Marshall Mabey
NYC MTA Sandhog
A Sandhog Scare: The Story of...
Walking through the city street...
hushed up history

Newseola.com
Text Set
Newseola | Immigration In Ame...
Newseola is an Instructional Co...
newseola
Work with Specialist Teachers

- Studio art teacher
- Performing arts teacher (dance / music)
- Science teacher
- Learning support teacher (differentiation)
- Librarians
Turn and Talk:

What are other subjects that you might integrate literacy this way?
THANK YOU!

Q + A

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