

***LET'S TALK
ABOUT RACE IN
STORYTIMES***

wild
WISCONSIN
- WINTER WEB CONFERENCE - JANUARY 23-24, 2019 -

HELLO!



I am Jessica Anne Bratt

All families should be celebrated and affirmed at storytimes.

You can find me #modelinginclusion @whimsylibrarian

WHO AM I?



- ❑ Descendents of Slaves
- ❑ Great Migration & first generation educators
- ❑ Southside Chicago

“School is only going to teach you a part of your history. We spend the summer learning about the rest of your history, because I want you to be able to know who you are. They are not going to teach you that.”

-Thadis Liddell

WHY IS TALKING ABOUT RACE SO IMPORTANT?



LET'S TALK ABOUT RACE DISCLAIMERS

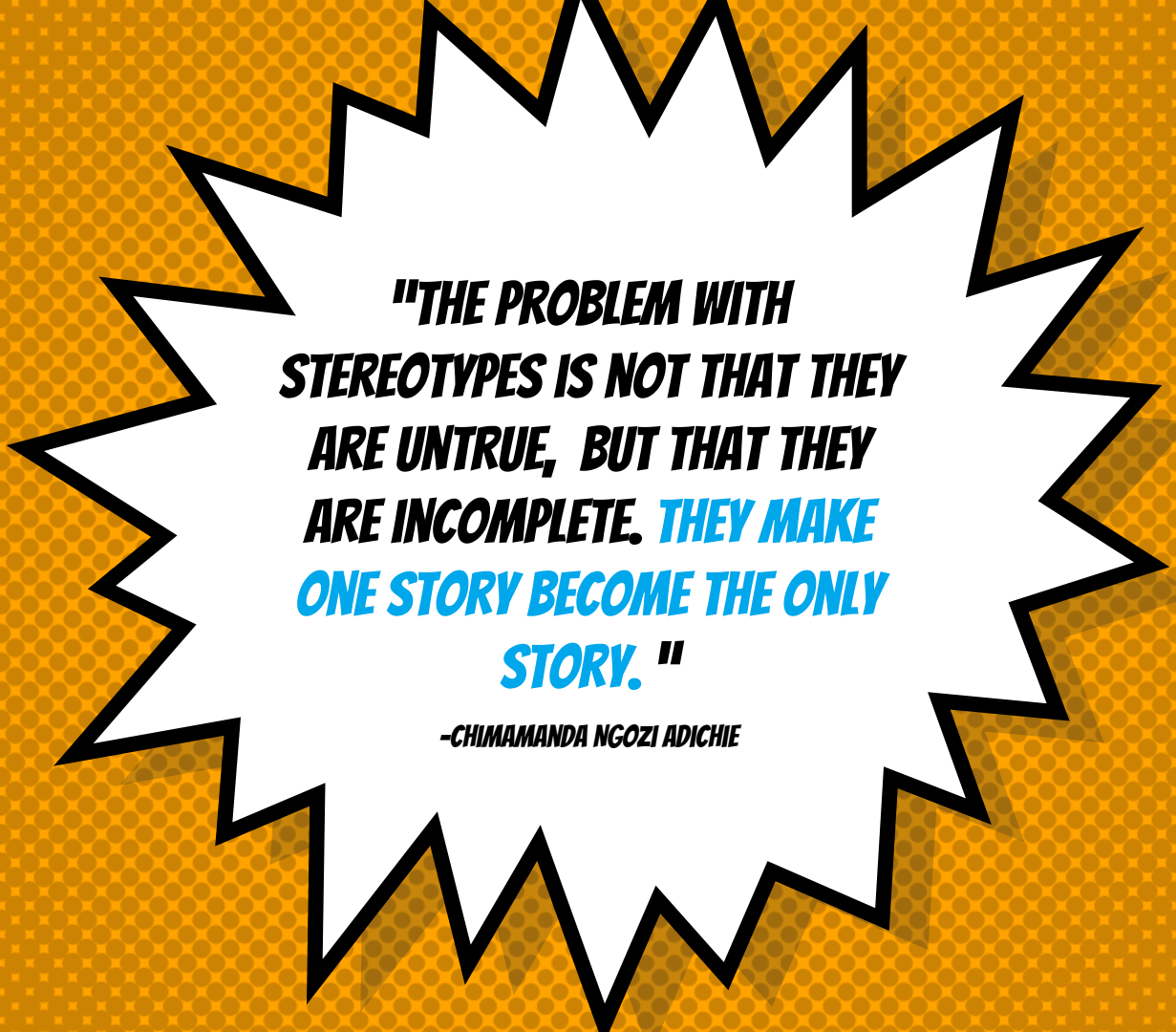
1. Caretaking vs Caregiving
2. Lean into the discomfort
3. Oppression is real
4. Support each other



1.

CULTURAL IDENTITY

Knowing that ethnic & racial identity are important aspects to individuals.



**"THE PROBLEM WITH
STEREOTYPES IS NOT THAT THEY
ARE UNTRUE, BUT THAT THEY
ARE INCOMPLETE. **THEY MAKE
ONE STORY BECOME THE ONLY
STORY.**"**

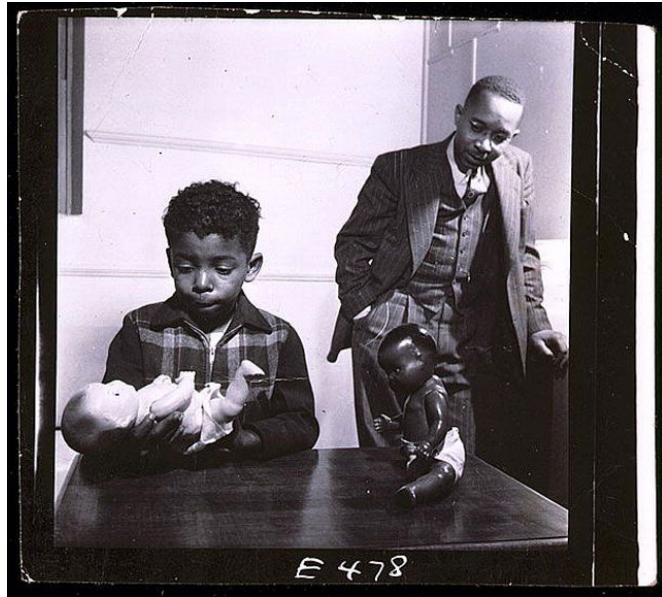
-CHIMAMANDA NGOZI ADICHIE

2.

HISTORY

Understanding the psychological
effects of segregation

DOLL TEST: UNCONSCIOUS BIAS



"PARENTS TRY TO SPARE THEIR CHILDREN THIS BITTER KNOWLEDGE AS LONG AS POSSIBLE. LESS SENSITIVE PARENTS (THOSE MAIMED BY THEIR OWN BITTERNESS) DRIVE IT INTO THEIR CHILD FROM INFANCY ON.

-JAMES WELDON JOHNSON



3.

INCLUSIVITY

Foster a storytime environment
that models inclusion.

WHY IT'S IMPORTANT TO MODEL RACE TALKS IN STORYTIME

Power of Librarianship

Give credible information backed up by evidence. #science

Social Emotional Literacy

Build empathy and understanding of cultural differences.

Challenge Stereotypes

We are more than civil rights activists. Entertainers. Musicians.

NATURAL FLOW

This should not be treated as a checklist or good deed of the day. This should be like any ECRR tip.



SELF-ASSESSMENT TIME

- ★ List your top ten storytime books.
- ★ What are your go-to storytime resources?
- ★ If you do picture walks, do you include race-related observations? (i.e. Look at her curly hair?)

EXAMPLE PARENT TIPS

While reading to your child, it is okay to point out racial differences.

“Is that skin darker or lighter than your own?”

Did you know that we can be born with different skin colors? Well, this skin tone is called _____.”

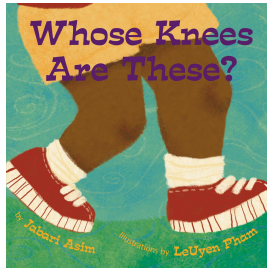


Respect your child’s curiosity of the world around them by answering their hard and sometimes embarrassing observations.

“Let me think about that for a while,” or try “That is a good question---and I do not know.” are great starting responses.

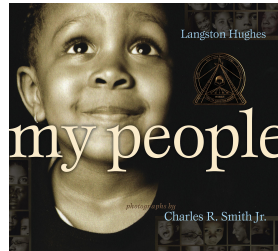


GREAT BOOKS FOR MODELING RACE TALKS



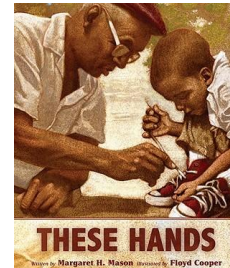
Baby & Me

You can use this book to point out the similarities that make us human. The important part is to not ignore the skin tone.



Toddler Time

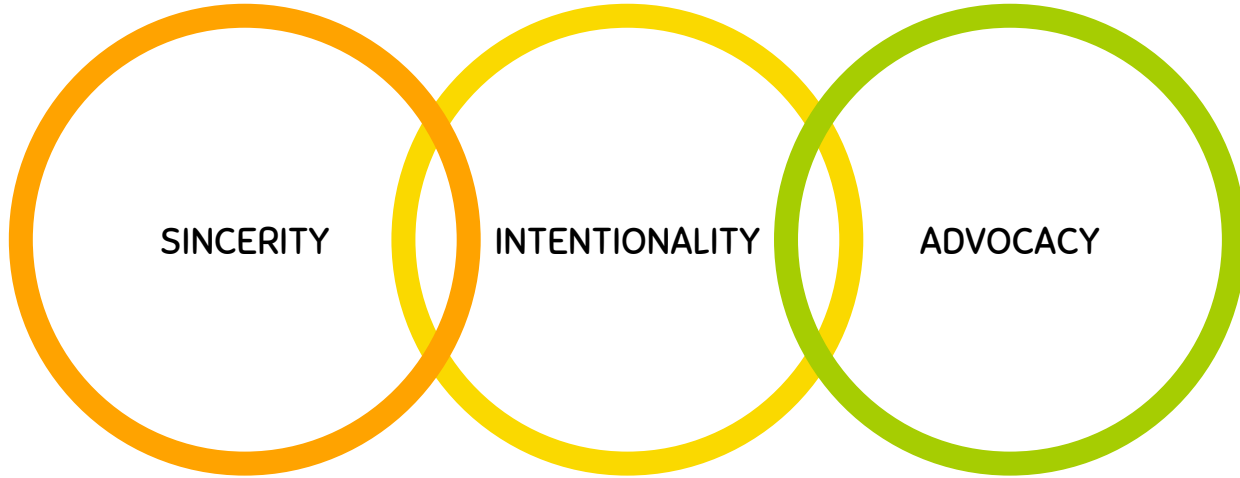
Inside are stunning photographs that you can use to highlight the African-American experience whether in age or skin tone.



Pre-School Time

Use to discuss the shameful “unfair” laws, which limited the African-American workers to low wage and lower skilled jobs at certain bread factories.

STEPS TO SUCCESS IN TALKING ABOUT RACE



THE KEY TO TRAINING STAFF IS REPETITION



A close-up photograph of a window covered in numerous water droplets of varying sizes. A vibrant rainbow is reflected on the glass, appearing as a horizontal band of colors (red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple) across the middle of the frame. The background behind the glass is dark and blurry, suggesting an outdoor scene with trees or foliage.

HAVING TOUGH CONVERSATIONS WITH CARETAKERS

GREAT VIDEOS & TALKS ON RACE

CNN - Doll Test



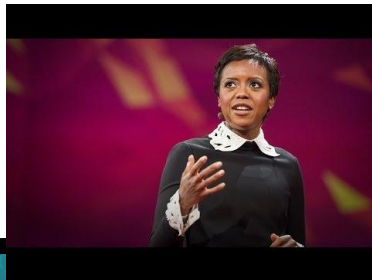
3 Ways to Speak



Danger of Single Story



Color Blind or Color Brave?




How to Raise A Black Son



How to Overcome Bias



SIMPLIFIED SOURCES



Special thanks to all the people who definitely took the time to provide research & resources for further digging on talking about race to kids.

- [Talking to Kids About Race](#)
- [NutureShock](#)
- [Everyday Diversity](#)
- [Talking w/Kids About Race](#)
- [Race Conscious Kids](#)



THANKS!



Any questions?

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