

## DEEPENING STUDENT COMPREHENSION INSIDE AND ACROSS TEXTS

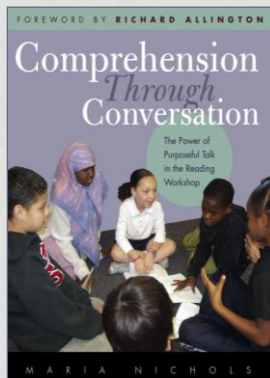
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## WHAT ABILITIES AND SHIFTS WILL OUR STUDENTS NEED?

TELLING → COMMUNICATING → CONSTRUCTING



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

## UNIT: *PUSHING UP THE SKY*

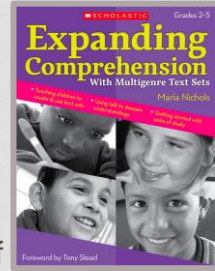
- Unit Focus
  - Storytelling is a performance art that also transmits knowledge about cultures and life
  - Students compare and contrast stories with similar themes, topics, and patterns of events.
  - Students learn that despite different cultures and backgrounds, people share common stories.
  - These universal messages help build character and community and preserve cultures.

## UNIT: *PUSHING UP THE SKY*

- Potential reading work  
(as revealed in the cold-read task)
  - Reading and understanding complex text
  - Summarizing story events
  - Understanding characters' relationships, decisions, and motivations

## WHAT IS A TEXT SET?

- Collections of sources of information
- Serve as a foundation for a journey of thought
- Offer related big ideas, topics, or issues
- Offer multiple perspectives on those ideas
- Offer 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



*Expanding Comprehension with Multigenre Text Sets,*  
Maria Nichols

## ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS FOR THE UNIT, DEVELOPED THROUGH TEACHER COLLABORATION

- How do universal values shape, as well as reflect, a society or culture?
- How do these values develop in a person?
- How do people and events in our lives shape and influence the people we become?

## ESSENTIAL READING AND TALK WORK FOR THE UNIT, DEVELOPED THROUGH TEACHER COLLABORATION

- Reading work
  - Inferring about characters from what they say and their actions
  - Understanding characters deeply by understanding the relationships they have with other characters in the story
- Talk work
  - Hearing all voices
    - Not all voices are being heard
    - recognizing whose voices we haven't heard
    - considering your role in bringing in other voices

## *CHICKEN SUNDAY*

BY PATRICIA POLACCO

- Big ideas this story nudges us toward...
  - The way we treat others reflects what we value.
  - When we do things for others, they see how much we value them.
  - Special people in our lives affect the people we become.

## LESSON DESIGN

- Introduction
- Reading and discussing
- Closure
  - Reflection on the reading work students did (*Ideas*)
  - Reflection on how talk supported the thinking work the students did (*Talk as a tool*)

***Thinking well together leads to  
thinking well alone.***

~Peter Johnston