

Workshop 1

Engagement and Dialogue: Julia Alvarez, James McBride, Lensey Namioka, and more

Video Program Overview

In New York City, Carol O'Donnell and her seventh-grade students explore themes of multiple worlds and dual identities. They read poetry by Diana Chang and Naomi Shihab Nye; James McBride's memoir *The Color of Water*; and essays and short stories by Gish Jen, Khoi T. Luu, Lensey Namioka, and Julia Alvarez; and watch Tina Lee perform a monologue. O'Donnell uses historical documents and a documentary video about the U.S. Census to provide context for the works. Through a series of innovative drama, role play, and writing activities, the students examine the social and cultural experiences of the characters and reflect on their own definitions and experiences of identity.

Workshop 1 Reading List

(Works marked with an * are sources for materials available online at www.learner.org/channel/workshops/tml; see *Support Materials, Workshop 1 Readings*.)

Alvarez, Julia. "I Want To Be Miss América." In *Something To Declare*. New York: Plume, 1999. ISBN 0452280672

*Jen, Gish. "What Means Switch." *Atlantic Monthly* 265, no. 5 (May 1990): 76. ISSN 10727825. Also in *Growing Up Ethnic in America*, ed. Maria Mazziotti Gillan and Jennifer Gillan, 175–196. New York: Penguin, 1999. ISBN 0140280634

*Luu, Khoi Truong. "Family Ties: Exposing the Lighter Side of the Vietnamese American Experience." In *Once Upon a Dream...: The Vietnamese–American Experience*, ed. De Tran, Andrew Lam, and Hai Dai Nguyen, 93–100. Kansas City, Mo.: Andrews McMeel, 1995. ISBN 0836205847

McBride, James. *The Color of Water: A Black Man's Tribute to His White Mother*. New York: Riverhead, 1996. ISBN 1573225789

Namioka, Lensey. "The All-American Slurp." In *Visions: Nineteen Short Stories by Outstanding Writers for Young Adults*, ed. Donald Gallo, 32–40. New York: Delacorte, 1987. ISBN 0812467299

*Nye, Naomi Shihab. "Half-and-Half." In *Fuel*. Rochester, N.Y.: BOA Editions, 1998. ISBN 1880238632

Workshop Session (On-Site)

Getting Ready (30 minutes)

- **Share** your quotations from the texts and discuss your reasons for selecting them.
- **Share** your questions about the texts.
- **Share** your thoughts about the following questions:
 - How do the authors explore identity?
 - What similarities and differences did you notice across the texts you read?
 - How might your students respond to these texts?

Watch the Workshop Video (approximately 60 minutes)

Going Further (30 minutes)

- **Discuss** as many questions as time permits.
 - How did the combination of strategies and activities help the students understand the literature?
 - Which activities/strategies are you most interested in trying in your own class? What modifications would you make?
 - How did the teacher create a learning environment that promotes collaboration and respect for others' ideas?
 - How did the strategies help build students' language arts skills?
 - If you were to teach any of the featured literature, what resources, authors, and/or experts from your community might you use to help build students' background knowledge and contextualize the works?
- You may want to continue to explore these questions further in your journal and to share your ideas on Channel-Talk.

Between Sessions (On Your Own)

Homework Assignment

- **Go to the Web site** at www.learner.org/channel/workshops/tml and:
- **Review Workshop 1** (overview, information about the authors and literature, teaching strategies, video summaries, commentary, student work, and resources).
- **Prepare for Workshop 2** (preview the overview and information about the authors and literature).
 - **Read** three short stories from Judith Ortiz Cofer's *An Island Like You* and poems from Nikki Grimes's *Bronx Masquerade* (available online; see Support Materials, Workshop 2 Readings).
 - **As you read**, consider how Ortiz Cofer and Grimes reveal character, setting, and theme. Choose a character from one of the texts. Draw or find a picture of a symbol that represents the character and/or the theme.
- **Bring your notes and drawings/pictures** to the next workshop session.

Workshop 2 Reading List

(Works marked with an * are sources for materials available online at www.learner.org/channel/workshops/tml; see Support Materials, Workshop 2 Readings.)

*Grimes, Nikki. *Bronx Masquerade*. New York: Dial, 2002. ISBN 0803725698

*Ortiz Cofer, Judith. *An Island Like You*. New York: Puffin, 1995. ISBN 014038068X

Ongoing Activities

- **In your journal**, include thoughts, ideas, or questions you have as you review the online materials and reflect on the workshop. Note how your participation in the workshop session influenced you as a learner and as a teacher.
- **Online**, click on the Interactive Strategy Workbook. In this activity, you can read two poems and reflect on the teaching strategies featured in this workshop.
- **Share ideas** on Channel-Talk.

Notes
