

freedom writers discussion questions

freedom writers discussion questions serve as a powerful tool for educators, students, and discussion leaders to explore the themes, characters, and social issues presented in the film and book "Freedom Writers." This narrative, based on the true story of Erin Gruwell and her students, offers rich material for analysis, reflection, and conversation. Engaging with these questions helps deepen understanding of topics such as racial tension, educational challenges, resilience, and the transformative power of writing. This article provides a comprehensive collection of freedom writers discussion questions designed to provoke thoughtful dialogue and critical thinking. Additionally, it outlines strategies for facilitating meaningful discussions and explores thematic categories to guide educators in selecting the most relevant questions. Readers will find structured approaches to using these questions in classrooms or book clubs, enhancing the overall learning experience.

- Importance of Freedom Writers Discussion Questions
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Importance of Freedom Writers Discussion Questions

Freedom writers discussion questions are essential for unpacking the complex social and emotional dynamics portrayed in the story. They encourage participants to reflect on individual experiences, societal influences, and the power of education. These questions also foster empathy by inviting readers or viewers to consider perspectives different from their own. Furthermore, well-crafted discussion prompts can motivate students to connect the film's messages to current issues in their communities. By stimulating critical thinking, these questions enable a deeper appreciation for the narrative's impact and relevance.

Enhancing Comprehension and Engagement

Discussion questions related to Freedom Writers help improve comprehension by prompting analysis of plot, character motivations, and thematic elements.

They keep participants actively engaged, encouraging them to delve beyond surface-level understanding. This active engagement is crucial for developing analytical skills and promoting meaningful discourse.

Encouraging Personal Connection and Reflection

Many freedom writers discussion questions are designed to elicit personal reflections, allowing individuals to relate their own experiences to those depicted in the story. This personal connection enhances emotional investment and helps participants explore their values and biases in a safe environment.

Key Themes Explored Through Discussion

The story of Freedom Writers touches upon multiple significant themes, making it a fertile ground for thematic discussions. Understanding these themes allows participants to grasp the broader messages the narrative conveys about society, education, and human resilience.

Racial and Cultural Diversity

One predominant theme is the exploration of racial and cultural tensions among students from diverse backgrounds. Discussion questions focusing on this theme examine how prejudice and stereotypes affect relationships and learning environments.

Education as a Tool for Change

The transformative power of education is central to the story. Questions addressing this theme highlight how knowledge, writing, and teacher-student relationships can empower individuals to overcome adversity.

Resilience and Overcoming Adversity

Freedom Writers showcases the resilience of young people facing violence, poverty, and discrimination. Discussion questions in this area invite reflection on personal strength, perseverance, and hope.

Character Analysis Questions

Exploring the characters in Freedom Writers through targeted questions enriches understanding of their development, motivations, and relationships. Analyzing characters helps reveal the story's emotional depth and social commentary.

Erin Gruwell's Role and Impact

Questions about Erin Gruwell focus on her teaching style, dedication, and methods used to connect with her students. Examining her character provides

insight into effective educational leadership and mentorship.

Student Perspectives and Growth

Each student in the story has a unique background and journey. Discussion prompts encourage analysis of how their experiences shape their attitudes and how they evolve throughout the narrative.

Interpersonal Relationships

Questions addressing relationships among students and between students and teachers highlight themes of trust, conflict resolution, and community-building.

Social Issues and Cultural Impact

Freedom Writers presents a realistic portrayal of social challenges affecting urban youth. Discussion questions exploring these issues foster awareness and critical dialogue about systemic problems.

Violence and Gang Influence

This subtopic includes questions about the impact of gang violence on the students' lives and how it shapes their identities and choices.

Poverty and Educational Inequality

Questions explore how economic hardship influences access to education and opportunities, emphasizing the need for systemic change.

Empowerment Through Storytelling

The narrative demonstrates how writing and sharing personal stories can empower marginalized voices. Discussion questions here focus on the role of storytelling in healing and social justice.

Facilitating Effective Discussions

Using freedom writers discussion questions effectively requires strategic facilitation to ensure productive and respectful conversations. Facilitators should create an inclusive environment that encourages honest sharing and critical analysis.

Setting Ground Rules

Establishing guidelines for respectful listening and open-mindedness helps maintain a safe space for dialogue. Clear ground rules prevent misunderstandings and foster trust among participants.

Encouraging Diverse Perspectives

Facilitators should invite differing viewpoints and challenge assumptions, promoting deeper understanding and empathy. Encouraging participants to support their opinions with examples from the text enhances critical thinking.

Using Open-Ended Questions

Open-ended questions stimulate discussion by allowing multiple interpretations and personal reflections. This approach prevents yes/no answers and encourages elaboration.

Sample Freedom Writers Discussion Questions

Below is a curated list of freedom writers discussion questions categorized by theme to aid educators and discussion leaders in planning sessions:

1. On Racial and Cultural Diversity:

- How do the students' diverse backgrounds influence their interactions and initial perceptions of one another?
- What role does cultural understanding play in breaking down stereotypes within the classroom?

2. On Education and Change:

- In what ways does Erin Gruwell's teaching approach differ from traditional methods, and how does this affect student engagement?
- How does writing serve as a tool for the students to process their experiences and express themselves?

3. On Resilience and Personal Growth:

- Which moments in the story best illustrate the students' resilience against adversity?
- How do the characters' transformations challenge common assumptions about at-risk youth?

4. On Social Issues:

- What social factors contribute to the challenges faced by the students, and how are these addressed in the story?
- How does the story of Freedom Writers inspire conversations about social justice and reform?

5. On Character Analysis:

- How does Erin Gruwell's character development reflect the impact of her students on her personal and professional life?
- Which student's story resonated most with you, and why?

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the main themes explored in Freedom Writers?

Freedom Writers explores themes such as racial tension, overcoming adversity, the power of education, empathy, and the importance of understanding different perspectives.

How does Erin Gruwell impact her students in Freedom Writers?

Erin Gruwell inspires her students by encouraging them to share their personal stories, promoting self-expression through writing, and fostering a supportive classroom environment that challenges stereotypes and discrimination.

What role does writing play in the transformation of the students?

Writing serves as a therapeutic tool for the students, allowing them to process their experiences, express emotions, and find a voice, which ultimately helps them build confidence and a sense of identity.

How does Freedom Writers address issues of race and

social division?

The film highlights the racial and social divisions within the students' community and shows how education and open dialogue can break down barriers and promote mutual respect and understanding.

What challenges does Erin Gruwell face as a teacher in Freedom Writers?

Erin Gruwell faces skepticism from colleagues, resistance from students, limited resources, and the difficult realities of her students' lives, but she remains committed to making a positive difference.

In what ways do the students change throughout the story?

The students grow from being distrustful and segregated by gang affiliations and racial lines to becoming more open-minded, supportive of one another, and motivated to pursue education and personal growth.

Why is the diary format important in Freedom Writers?

The diary format allows the students to share their innermost thoughts and experiences honestly, creating a powerful record of their struggles and triumphs that fosters empathy and connection.

How does Freedom Writers illustrate the importance of empathy in education?

The film shows that when teachers understand and empathize with their students' backgrounds and challenges, they can create a trusting environment that encourages learning and personal development.

What lessons can viewers learn from Freedom Writers about addressing conflict?

Viewers learn that conflict can be addressed through communication, understanding, and education, and that giving people a voice and platform to share their stories can lead to reconciliation and growth.

Additional Resources

1. *The Freedom Writers Diary*

This book is a compelling collection of diary entries written by the students of Erin Gruwell, a dedicated teacher in a racially divided school. It offers

raw and honest insights into the struggles and triumphs of young people confronting issues such as violence, racism, and poverty. The diary format makes it an intimate and powerful read that sparks meaningful discussions about education, empathy, and social justice.

2. Teaching with the Freedom Writers: A Guide to Using the Freedom Writers Diary in the Classroom

This guide offers educators strategies and discussion questions to effectively use *The Freedom Writers Diary* in their curriculum. It emphasizes fostering critical thinking, empathy, and dialogue among students. The book also includes lesson plans that connect the themes of the diary to broader social issues, making it a valuable resource for classroom discussions.

3. Freedom Writers: How a Teacher and 150 Teens Used Writing to Change Themselves and the World Around Them

Written by Erin Gruwell, this book details her journey as a teacher and the transformative power of writing for her students. It explores the challenges of engaging at-risk youth and the impact of storytelling as a tool for personal and social change. Readers gain insight into the methods that helped foster resilience and hope in a difficult educational environment.

4. Teaching with Poverty in Mind: What Being Poor Does to Kids' Brains and What Schools Can Do About It

This book by Eric Jensen examines the cognitive effects of poverty on students and offers strategies for educators to support them effectively. It complements discussions around *The Freedom Writers Diary* by providing a deeper understanding of the socioeconomic challenges faced by many students. The book encourages compassionate teaching practices that promote equity and opportunity.

5. The Hate U Give

Angie Thomas's novel tells the story of Starr Carter, a young girl who witnesses the police shooting of her unarmed friend. The book explores themes of racial injustice, activism, and identity, resonating with the social issues highlighted in *The Freedom Writers Diary*. It serves as a powerful starting point for discussions about systemic racism and empowerment.

6. Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You

Co-authored by Jason Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi, this book presents a history of racist ideas in America and encourages readers to think critically about racism today. Its accessible format makes it suitable for young readers and classrooms, providing context that enriches conversations sparked by *The Freedom Writers Diary*. The book promotes awareness and action against racial injustice.

7. Educated: A Memoir

Tara Westover's memoir recounts her journey from a strict, survivalist upbringing to earning a PhD from Cambridge University. The book addresses themes of education, self-discovery, and overcoming adversity, paralleling the transformative experiences found in *The Freedom Writers Diary*. It invites reflection on the power of education to change lives.

8. *We Beat the Street: How a Friendship Pact Led to Success*

This memoir by Sampson Davis, George Jenkins, and Rameck Hunt tells the story of three friends from Newark who made a pact to escape the cycle of poverty through education and become doctors. The book highlights the importance of friendship, perseverance, and mentorship, echoing many of the themes in *The Freedom Writers Diary*. It offers inspiration and discussion points about overcoming obstacles.

9. *Mindset: The New Psychology of Success*

Carol S. Dweck's influential book explores the concept of fixed and growth mindsets and how belief in the ability to improve can lead to success. This book complements discussions related to *The Freedom Writers Diary* by emphasizing resilience and the role of attitude in overcoming challenges. It provides practical insights for both educators and students aiming for personal growth.

Freedom Writers Discussion Questions

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Freedom Writers Discussion Questions: Unlocking Deeper Understanding and Meaningful Conversations

Ever felt lost trying to facilitate a truly engaging discussion about *Freedom Writers*? Struggling to delve beyond the surface-level plot points and spark meaningful conversations that resonate with your students or book club? You're not alone. Many find it challenging to tap into the film's profound themes of prejudice, resilience, and hope, leaving discussions feeling flat and unfulfilling. This ebook provides the tools you need to transform your *Freedom Writers* experience from a simple viewing to a deeply insightful and impactful journey of understanding.

Freedom Writers: A Guide to Deeper Discussions by Erin Miller

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relevant today?

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Freedom Writers Discussion Questions: A Comprehensive Guide

Introduction: Understanding the Power of Freedom Writers

The film *Freedom Writers* transcends the typical coming-of-age narrative. It's a powerful story about the transformative power of education, empathy, and the written word in the face of overwhelming adversity. While the film's narrative is compelling, the true power lies in the ability to engage with its multifaceted themes and explore their relevance to contemporary society. This guide provides a structured approach to facilitating discussions that delve deeper than surface-level interpretations, encouraging critical thinking, empathy, and meaningful engagement with the film's enduring messages. We will examine the sociopolitical context, explore character development, analyze key themes, and ultimately, develop strategies for leading productive and engaging discussions. The goal is to move beyond summarizing the plot and instead unlock the film's capacity to inspire meaningful conversations about prejudice, resilience, and the pursuit of hope.

Chapter 1: Exploring the Sociopolitical Context: Racism, Inequality, and Gang Violence

Freedom Writers isn't just a story about a teacher; it's a reflection of a deeply fractured society grappling with issues of race, class, and violence. The film depicts Long Beach, California, in the early 1990s, a city grappling with stark socioeconomic inequalities and escalating gang violence, particularly between African American and Latino communities. To understand the film fully, we must analyze the historical and social context that shaped the lives of the students. Discussion questions focusing on this chapter should include:

H1: Historical Context of the Film: How did the socio-political climate of the early 1990s shape the lives of the students depicted in the film? Research and discuss the real-life events and social issues that mirror those portrayed.

H2: Systemic Racism and Inequality: Explore the ways systemic racism and inequality manifest themselves in the film. How do these systems perpetuate the cycle of violence and poverty depicted among the students?

H3: The Role of Gang Violence: What role does gang violence play in the lives of the students? How does it impact their relationships, their futures, and their sense of safety? Analyze the complexities of gang involvement and the factors that contribute to it.

H4: Impact of Social Divisions: How do racial and ethnic tensions portrayed in the movie contribute to the divisions and conflicts between the student groups? Analyze the role of stereotypes and prejudice in fueling these conflicts.

By addressing these questions, students will gain a deeper understanding of the challenges faced by the students and the broader societal factors that contribute to their struggles.

Chapter 2: Analyzing the Characters: Their Journeys, Motivations, and Transformations

The characters in *Freedom Writers* are not simply archetypes; they are complex individuals with unique backstories and motivations. The transformative power of Erin Gruwell's teaching is most evident in the journeys of her students. This chapter encourages in-depth analysis of individual characters, focusing on their personal growth, challenges, and eventual transformations.

H1: Character Development: Discuss the character arc of one or more students. Identify their key turning points, their struggles, and their ultimate transformations. How does their writing reveal their internal struggles and evolving perspectives?

H2: Erin Gruwell's Role: Analyze Erin Gruwell's teaching methods and her commitment to her students. How does her approach differ from traditional teaching? What are the key factors that contribute to her success? Discuss her challenges and sacrifices.

H3: The Power of Empathy: How does the film showcase the importance of empathy and understanding in overcoming prejudice? Discuss specific examples where empathy fosters connection and positive change.

H4: The Role of Relationships: Explore the relationships between students, both positive and negative. How do these relationships influence individual growth and the overall dynamics within the classroom?

Examining the characters individually and collectively allows for a richer understanding of the film's message.

Chapter 3: Examining Key Themes: Prejudice, Hope, Education, and the Power of Writing

Freedom Writers tackles several powerful themes that resonate long after the credits roll. This chapter guides discussions around these central themes, encouraging critical analysis and reflection.

H1: Prejudice and Discrimination: How is prejudice portrayed in the film? What are the different forms of prejudice experienced by the students? How do these forms of prejudice impact their lives and opportunities?

H2: The Power of Hope: Despite facing overwhelming adversity, the students maintain a sense of hope. Analyze how this hope is nurtured and sustained throughout the film. How does the film portray the importance of hope in the face of despair?

H3: The Transformative Power of Education: Explore the role of education as a transformative force in the lives of the students. How does the classroom become a space for healing, growth, and empowerment?

H4: The Power of Writing as a Tool for Change: Discuss how journaling and creative writing serves as a vital tool for self-expression, healing, and social change. Analyze specific examples where writing empowers the students.

Chapter 4: Debating the Film's Impact and Legacy: Is it an accurate portrayal? What lessons remain relevant today?

This chapter encourages critical engagement with the film itself. Is *Freedom Writers* an accurate

representation of the challenges faced by students in similar situations? What are the film's limitations? What lessons remain relevant today, and how can we apply these lessons to contemporary issues of social justice and education?

Chapter 5: Developing Engaging Discussion Strategies: Tips for leading productive and thought-provoking conversations.

This chapter will provide practical tips and strategies for facilitating effective and engaging discussions about *Freedom Writers*, including creating a safe and inclusive environment, guiding discussions towards deeper analysis, and encouraging active participation from all participants.

Conclusion: Continuing the Conversation and Applying the Lessons of *Freedom Writers*

Freedom Writers is more than a film; it's a call to action. The concluding chapter emphasizes the importance of continuing the conversation beyond the discussion itself, encouraging readers to explore related resources, engage in social action, and apply the film's lessons to their own lives and communities.

FAQs

1. What is the historical context of *Freedom Writers*? The film is based on the true story of Erin Gruwell and her students at Woodrow Wilson High School in Long Beach, California in the early 1990s.
2. What are the main themes of *Freedom Writers*? Prejudice, hope, education, the power of writing, and overcoming adversity.
3. How can I use this ebook to lead a discussion? The ebook provides chapter-by-chapter discussion questions and strategies for leading productive and thought-provoking conversations.
4. Is *Freedom Writers* an accurate portrayal of reality? While based on a true story, the film takes creative liberties. Discussions should consider its strengths and limitations.
5. What makes *Freedom Writers* such a powerful film? Its emotional impact, relatable characters, and exploration of universal themes.
6. How can *Freedom Writers* be used in an educational setting? It serves as a powerful tool for teaching about social justice, prejudice, and the transformative power of education.
7. What are some alternative discussion strategies for *Freedom Writers*? Role-playing, writing exercises, and debates.
8. What are some related films or books to explore after discussing *Freedom Writers*? *The Hate U Give*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *The Help*.
9. What is the legacy of *Freedom Writers*? The film has inspired educators and students worldwide

to promote social justice and create more inclusive learning environments.

Related Articles:

1. The Real Story Behind Freedom Writers: A deep dive into the true events that inspired the film.
2. Erin Gruwell's Teaching Methods: An examination of her innovative and impactful teaching strategies.
3. The Sociopolitical Context of Gang Violence in the 1990s: A historical analysis of the social factors that fueled gang activity.
4. The Power of Writing as Therapy and Social Change: Exploring the therapeutic benefits of journaling and creative writing.
5. Analyzing Character Development in Freedom Writers: In-depth explorations of individual student and teacher character arcs.
6. Debunking Stereotypes in Freedom Writers: A discussion of how the film challenges harmful stereotypes.
7. The Impact of Systemic Racism on Education: A look at the ways systemic racism affects educational opportunities and outcomes.
8. Teaching Tolerance and Empathy Through Freedom Writers: Practical strategies for using the film in educational settings.
9. Freedom Writers and its Relevance to Contemporary Issues: Examining how the themes of the film remain relevant today.

freedom writers discussion questions: The Freedom Writers Diary (20th Anniversary Edition)

The Freedom Writers, Erin Gruwell, 2007-04-24 #1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • The twentieth anniversary edition of the classic story of an incredible group of students and the teacher who inspired them, featuring updates on the students' lives, new journal entries, and an introduction by Erin Gruwell. Now a public television documentary, *Freedom Writers: Stories from the Heart*. In 1994, an idealistic first-year teacher in Long Beach, California, named Erin Gruwell confronted a room of "unteachable, at-risk" students. She had intercepted a note with an ugly racial caricature and angrily declared that this was precisely the sort of thing that led to the Holocaust. She was met by uncomprehending looks—none of her students had heard of one of the defining moments of the twentieth century. So she rebooted her entire curriculum, using treasured books such as Anne Frank's diary as her guide to combat intolerance and misunderstanding. Her students began recording their thoughts and feelings in their own diaries, eventually dubbing themselves the "Freedom Writers." Consisting of powerful entries from the students' diaries and narrative text by Erin Gruwell, *The Freedom Writers Diary* is an unforgettable story of how hard work, courage, and determination changed the lives of a teacher and her students. In the two decades since its original publication, the book has sold more than one million copies and inspired a major motion picture *Freedom Writers*. And now, with this twentieth-anniversary edition, readers are brought up to date on the lives of the Freedom Writers, as they blend indispensable takes on social issues with uplifting stories of attending college—and watch their own children follow in their footsteps. *The Freedom Writers Diary* remains a vital read for anyone who believes in second chances.

freedom writers discussion questions: The Freedom Writers Diary Teacher's Guide Erin Gruwell, *The Freedom Writers*, 2008-09-16 A standards-based teacher's guide from the educator behind the #1 New York Times bestseller *The Freedom Writers Diary*, with innovative teaching techniques that will engage, empower, and enlighten. Don't miss the public television documentary *Freedom Writers: Stories from the Heart*. In response to thousands of letters and e-mails from

teachers across the country who learned about Erin Gruwell and her amazing students in *The Freedom Writers Diary* and the hit movie *Freedom Writers*, Gruwell and a team of teacher experts have written *The Freedom Writers Diary Teacher's Guide*, a book that will encourage teachers and students to expand the walls of their classrooms and think outside the box. Here Gruwell goes in depth and shares her unconventional but highly successful educational strategies and techniques (all 150 of her students, who had been deemed "unteachable," graduated from Wilson High School in Long Beach, California): from her very successful "toast for change" (an exercise in which Gruwell exhorted her students to leave the past behind and start fresh) to writing exercises that focus on the importance of journal writing, vocabulary, and more. In an easy-to-use format with black-and-white illustrations, this teacher's guide will become the essential go-to manual for teachers who want to make a difference in their pupils' lives.

freedom writers discussion questions: *Zlata's Diary* Zlata Filipovic, 2006-02-28 The compelling firsthand account of the war in Sarajevo through the eyes of a young Croatian girl.

freedom writers discussion questions: *Bronx Masquerade* Nikki Grimes, 2017-08-08 The beloved and award-winning novel now available in a new format with a great new cover! When Wesley Boone writes a poem for his high school English class, some of his classmates clamor to read their poems aloud too. Soon they're having weekly poetry sessions and, one by one, the eighteen students are opening up and taking on the risky challenge of self-revelation. There's Lupe Alvarin, desperate to have a baby so she will feel loved. Raynard Patterson, hiding a secret behind his silence. Porscha Johnson, needing an outlet for her anger after her mother OD's. Through the poetry they share and narratives in which they reveal their most intimate thoughts about themselves and one another, their words and lives show what lies beneath the skin, behind the eyes, beyond the masquerade.

freedom writers discussion questions: *Look Both Ways* Jason Reynolds, 2020-10-27 A collection of ten short stories that all take place in the same day about kids walking home from school--

freedom writers discussion questions: *The Confessions of Frannie Langton* Sara Collins, 2019-05-21 This breathtaking debut, winner of the Costa First Novel Award, is a murder mystery that travels across the Atlantic and through the darkest channels of history. A brilliant, searing depiction of race, class, and oppression that penetrates the skin and sears the soul, it is the story of a woman of her own making in a world that would see her unmade. All of London is abuzz with the scandalous case of Frannie Langton, accused of the brutal double murder of her employers, renowned scientist George Benham and his eccentric French wife, Marguerite. Crowds pack the courtroom, eagerly following every twist, while the newspapers print lurid theories about the killings and the mysterious woman being tried at the Old Bailey. The testimonies against Frannie are damning. She is a seductress, a witch, a master manipulator, a whore. But Frannie claims she cannot recall what happened that fateful evening, even if remembering could save her life. She doesn't know how she came to be covered in the victims' blood. But she does have a tale to tell: a story of her childhood on a Jamaican plantation, her apprenticeship under a debauched scientist who stretched all bounds of ethics, and the events that brought her into the Benhams' London home—and into a passionate and forbidden relationship. Though her testimony may seal her conviction, the truth will unmask the perpetrators of crimes far beyond murder and indict the whole of English society itself.

freedom writers discussion questions: *The Assignment* Liza Wiemer, 2021-08-31 Inspired by a real-life incident, this riveting novel explores the dangerous impact discrimination and antisemitism have on one community when a school assignment goes terribly wrong. Would you defend the indefensible? That's what seniors Logan March and Cade Crawford are asked to do when a favorite teacher instructs a group of students to argue for the Final Solution--the Nazi plan for the genocide of the Jewish people. Logan and Cade decide they must take a stand, and soon their actions draw the attention of the student body, the administration, and the community at large. But not everyone feels as Logan and Cade do--after all, isn't a school debate just a school debate? It's not

long before the situation explodes, and acrimony and anger result. Based on true events, The Assignment asks: What does it take for tolerance, justice, and love to prevail? An important look at a critical moment in history through a modern lens showcasing the power of student activism. --SLJ

freedom writers discussion questions: Essential Questions Jay McTighe, Grant Wiggins, 2013-03-27 What are essential questions, and how do they differ from other kinds of questions? What's so great about them? Why should you design and use essential questions in your classroom? Essential questions (EQs) help target standards as you organize curriculum content into coherent units that yield focused and thoughtful learning. In the classroom, EQs are used to stimulate students' discussions and promote a deeper understanding of the content. Whether you are an Understanding by Design (UbD) devotee or are searching for ways to address standards—local or Common Core State Standards—in an engaging way, Jay McTighe and Grant Wiggins provide practical guidance on how to design, initiate, and embed inquiry-based teaching and learning in your classroom. Offering dozens of examples, the authors explore the usefulness of EQs in all K-12 content areas, including skill-based areas such as math, PE, language instruction, and arts education. As an important element of their backward design approach to designing curriculum, instruction, and assessment, the authors *Give a comprehensive explanation of why EQs are so important; *Explore seven defining characteristics of EQs; *Distinguish between topical and overarching questions and their uses; *Outline the rationale for using EQs as the focal point in creating units of study; and *Show how to create effective EQs, working from sources including standards, desired understandings, and student misconceptions. Using essential questions can be challenging—for both teachers and students—and this book provides guidance through practical and proven processes, as well as suggested response strategies to encourage student engagement. Finally, you will learn how to create a culture of inquiry so that all members of the educational community—students, teachers, and administrators—benefit from the increased rigor and deepened understanding that emerge when essential questions become a guiding force for learners of all ages.

freedom writers discussion questions: One Two Three Laurie Frankel, 2021-06-08 From Laurie Frankel, the New York Times bestselling author of *This Is How It Always Is*, a Reese's Book Club x Hello Sunshine Book Pick, comes *One Two Three*, a timely, topical novel about love and family that will make you laugh and cry...and laugh again. In a town where nothing ever changes, suddenly everything does... Everyone knows everyone in the tiny town of Bourne, but the Mitchell triplets are especially beloved. Mirabel is the smartest person anyone knows, and no one doubts it just because she can't speak. Monday is the town's purveyor of books now that the library's closed—tell her the book you think you want, and she'll pull the one you actually do from the microwave or her sock drawer. Mab's job is hardest of all: get good grades, get into college, get out of Bourne. For a few weeks seventeen years ago, Bourne was national news when its water turned green. The girls have come of age watching their mother's endless fight for justice. But just when it seems life might go on the same forever, the first moving truck anyone's seen in years pulls up and unloads new residents and old secrets. Soon, the Mitchell sisters are taking on a system stacked against them and uncovering mysteries buried longer than they've been alive. Because it's hard to let go of the past when the past won't let go of you. Three unforgettable narrators join together here to tell a spellbinding story with wit, wonder, and deep affection. As she did in *This Is How It Always Is*, Laurie Frankel has written a laugh-out-loud-on-one-page-grab-a-tissue-the-next novel, as only she can, about how expanding our notions of normal makes the world a better place for everyone and how when days are darkest, it's our daughters who will save us all.

freedom writers discussion questions: Why I Write George Orwell, 2021-01-01 George Orwell set out 'to make political writing into an art', and to a wide extent this aim shaped the future of English literature - his descriptions of authoritarian regimes helped to form a new vocabulary that is fundamental to understanding totalitarianism. While *1984* and *Animal Farm* are amongst the most popular classic novels in the English language, this new series of Orwell's essays seeks to bring a wider selection of his writing on politics and literature to a new readership. In *Why I Write*, the first in the *Orwell's Essays* series, Orwell describes his journey to becoming a writer, and his movement

from writing poems to short stories to the essays, fiction and non-fiction we remember him for. He also discusses what he sees as the 'four great motives for writing' - 'sheer egoism', 'aesthetic enthusiasm', 'historical impulse' and 'political purpose' - and considers the importance of keeping these in balance. *Why I Write* is a unique opportunity to look into Orwell's mind, and it grants the reader an entirely different vantage point from which to consider the rest of the great writer's oeuvre. 'A writer who can - and must - be rediscovered with every age.' — Irish Times

freedom writers discussion questions: *Long Way Down* Jason Reynolds, 2017-10-24 "An intense snapshot of the chain reaction caused by pulling a trigger." —Booklist (starred review) "Astonishing." —Kirkus Reviews (starred review) "A tour de force." —Publishers Weekly (starred review) A Newbery Honor Book A Coretta Scott King Honor Book A Printz Honor Book A Time Best YA Book of All Time (2021) A Los Angeles Times Book Prize Winner for Young Adult Literature Longlisted for the National Book Award for Young People's Literature Winner of the Walter Dean Myers Award An Edgar Award Winner for Best Young Adult Fiction Parents' Choice Gold Award Winner An Entertainment Weekly Best YA Book of 2017 A Vulture Best YA Book of 2017 A Buzzfeed Best YA Book of 2017 An ode to Put the Damn Guns Down, this is New York Times bestselling author Jason Reynolds's electrifying novel that takes place in sixty potent seconds—the time it takes a kid to decide whether or not he's going to murder the guy who killed his brother. A cannon. A strap. A piece. A biscuit. A burner. A heater. A chopper. A gat. A hammer A tool for RULE Or, you can call it a gun. That's what fifteen-year-old Will has shoved in the back waistband of his jeans. See, his brother Shawn was just murdered. And Will knows the rules. No crying. No snitching. Revenge. That's where Will's now heading, with that gun shoved in the back waistband of his jeans, the gun that was his brother's gun. He gets on the elevator, seventh floor, stoked. He knows who he's after. Or does he? As the elevator stops on the sixth floor, on comes Buck. Buck, Will finds out, is who gave Shawn the gun before Will took the gun. Buck tells Will to check that the gun is even loaded. And that's when Will sees that one bullet is missing. And the only one who could have fired Shawn's gun was Shawn. Huh. Will didn't know that Shawn had ever actually USED his gun. Bigger huh. BUCK IS DEAD. But Buck's in the elevator? Just as Will's trying to think this through, the door to the next floor opens. A teenage girl gets on, waves away the smoke from Dead Buck's cigarette. Will doesn't know her, but she knew him. Knew. When they were eight. And stray bullets had cut through the playground, and Will had tried to cover her, but she was hit anyway, and so what she wants to know, on that fifth floor elevator stop, is, what if Will, Will with the gun shoved in the back waistband of his jeans, MISSES. And so it goes, the whole long way down, as the elevator stops on each floor, and at each stop someone connected to his brother gets on to give Will a piece to a bigger story than the one he thinks he knows. A story that might never know an END...if Will gets off that elevator. Told in short, fierce staccato narrative verse, *Long Way Down* is a fast and furious, dazzlingly brilliant look at teenage gun violence, as could only be told by Jason Reynolds.

freedom writers discussion questions: *Nothing But the Truth* Avi, 1991 A ninth-grader's suspension for singing The Star-Spangled Banner during homeroom becomes a national news story.

freedom writers discussion questions: *The House on Mango Street* Sandra Cisneros, 2013-04-30 NATIONAL BESTSELLER • A coming-of-age classic about a young girl growing up in Chicago • Acclaimed by critics, beloved by readers of all ages, taught in schools and universities alike, and translated around the world—from the winner of the 2019 PEN/Nabokov Award for Achievement in International Literature. "Cisneros draws on her rich [Latino] heritage...and seduces with precise, spare prose, creat[ing] unforgettable characters we want to lift off the page. She is not only a gifted writer, but an absolutely essential one." —The New York Times Book Review *The House on Mango Street* is one of the most cherished novels of the last fifty years. Readers from all walks of life have fallen for the voice of Esperanza Cordero, growing up in Chicago and inventing for herself who and what she will become. "In English my name means hope," she says. "In Spanish it means too many letters. It means sadness, it means waiting. Told in a series of vignettes—sometimes heartbreaking, sometimes joyous—Cisneros's masterpiece is a classic story of childhood and self-discovery and one of the greatest neighborhood novels of all time. Like Sinclair Lewis's *Main*

Street or Toni Morrison's *Sula*, it makes a world through people and their voices, and it does so in language that is poetic and direct. This gorgeous coming-of-age novel is a celebration of the power of telling one's story and of being proud of where you're from.

freedom writers discussion questions: *The Truth about Stories* Thomas King, 2003 Winner of the 2003 Trillium Book Award *Stories* are wondrous things, award-winning author and scholar Thomas King declares in his 2003 CBC Massey Lectures. And they are dangerous. Beginning with a traditional Native oral story, King weaves his way through literature and history, religion and politics, popular culture and social protest, gracefully elucidating North America's relationship with its Native peoples. Native culture has deep ties to storytelling, and yet no other North American culture has been the subject of more erroneous stories. The Indian of fact, as King says, bears little resemblance to the literary Indian, the dying Indian, the construct so powerfully and often destructively projected by White North America. With keen perception and wit, King illustrates that stories are the key to, and only hope for, human understanding. He compels us to listen well.

freedom writers discussion questions: *Diary of a Freedom Writer* Darrius Garrett, 2013 *Survivor...* a word continuously thought of when reading this memoir. Upon the release of *The Freedom Writers Diary* and film adaptation starring Hilary Swank in 2007, New York Times bestselling author Darrius Garrett realized that both book and movie tell the Freedom Writer Story as a whole, but not on a personal level. During speaking engagements, the same questions always surface: 'Did Ms. Gruwell change you? How did you make it out of the gang life? What stopped you from killing yourself?' Darrius's answers are inside. *Diary of a Freedom Writer* takes you on a journey beyond the classrooms to the treacherous streets of Long Beach, California. An innocent little boy born in poverty and raised in a violent environment, Darrius became a product of the streets, written off by the school and judicial systems alike, growing up in an environment full of gangs and drugs. He spent his life searching for a father figure until he became a Freedom Writer, motivational speaker, bestselling author, and finally a father himself. His story is that of a man realizing his experiences are what made him the man he has been seeking to be all his life. Upon beating the odds, *Diary of a Freedom Writer* serves as proof that Darrius's story of struggle, life, change, and hope will uplift, educate, encourage, and inspire.

freedom writers discussion questions: *Time After Time* Lisa Grunwald, 2020-06-09 A magical love story, inspired by the legend of a woman who vanished from Grand Central Terminal, sweeps readers from the 1920s to World War II and beyond. "Readers who enjoyed Audrey Niffenegger's *The Time Traveler's Wife* will be enchanted."—Publishers Weekly "I utterly loved this clever, charming, hopeful tale of true love against all odds."—Ariel Lawhon, New York Times bestselling author of *I Was Anastasia* On a clear December morning in 1937, at the famous gold clock in Grand Central Terminal, Joe Reynolds, a hardworking railroad man from Queens, meets a vibrant young woman who seems mysteriously out of place. Nora Lansing is a Manhattan socialite and an aspiring artist whose flapper clothing, pearl earrings, and talk of the Roaring Twenties don't seem to match the bleak mood of Depression-era New York. Captivated by Nora from her first electric touch, Joe despairs when he tries to walk her home and she disappears. Finding her again—and again—will become the focus of his love and his life. As thousands of visitors pass under the famous celestial blue ceiling each day, Joe and Nora create a life of infinite love in a finite space, taking full advantage of the "Terminal City" within a city. But when the construction of another landmark threatens their future, Nora and Joe are forced to test the limits of their freedom—and their love. Praise for *Time After Time* "I'll never again set foot in Grand Central Terminal without looking over my shoulder for Nora and Joe, or marveling at the station itself—a backdrop as intriguing as the love story that unfolds beneath its star-studded ceiling."—Georgia Hunter, New York Times bestselling author of *We Were the Lucky Ones* "In lively prose set against the fascinating history of Grand Central . . . Grunwald asks a compelling question: How long would we stay in one place [for love]?"—Time "The spectacular Lisa Grunwald has written a classic story of fate, true love, art, and chance with truth and beauty. You will want to share it with every reader you know."—Adriana Trigiani, New York Times bestselling author of *Tony's Wife*

freedom writers discussion questions: Motherhood Sheila Heti, 2018-05-01 From the author of *How Should a Person Be?* (“one of the most talked-about books of the year”—Time Magazine) and the New York Times Bestseller *Women in Clothes* comes a daring novel about whether to have children. In *Motherhood*, Sheila Heti asks what is gained and what is lost when a woman becomes a mother, treating the most consequential decision of early adulthood with the candor, originality, and humor that have won Heti international acclaim and made *How Should A Person Be?* required reading for a generation. In her late thirties, when her friends are asking when they will become mothers, the narrator of Heti’s intimate and urgent novel considers whether she will do so at all. In a narrative spanning several years, casting among the influence of her peers, partner, and her duties to her forbearers, she struggles to make a wise and moral choice. After seeking guidance from philosophy, her body, mysticism, and chance, she discovers her answer much closer to home. *Motherhood* is a courageous, keenly felt, and starkly original novel that will surely spark lively conversations about womanhood, parenthood, and about how—and for whom—to live.

freedom writers discussion questions: The Freedom to Read American Library Association, 1953

freedom writers discussion questions: Tears of a Tiger Sharon M. Draper, 2013-07-23 The death of high school basketball star Rob Washington in an automobile accident affects the lives of his close friend Andy, who was driving the car, and many others in the school.

freedom writers discussion questions: *Freedom Walkers* Russell Freedman, 2009-02-28 A riveting account of the civil rights boycott that changed history by the foremost author of history for young people. Now a classic, Freedman’s book tells the dramatic stories of the heroes who stood up against segregation and Jim Crow laws in 1950s Alabama. Full of eyewitness reports, iconic photographs from the era, and crucial primary sources, this work brings history to life for modern readers. This engaging look at one of the best-known events of the American Civil Rights Movement feels immediate and relevant, reminding readers that the Boycott is not distant history, but one step in a fight for equality that continues today. Freedman focuses not only on well-known figures like Claudette Colvin, Rosa Parks, and Martin Luther King Jr., but on the numerous people who contributed by organizing carpools, joining protests, supporting legal defense efforts, and more. He showcases an often-overlooked side of activism and protest-- the importance of cooperation and engagement, and the ways in which ordinary people can stand up for their beliefs and bring about meaningful change in the world around them. *Freedom Walkers* has long been a library and classroom staple, but as interest in the history of protest and the Civil Rights Movement grows, it’s a perfect introduction for anyone looking to learn more about the past-- and an inspiration to take action and shape the future. Recipient of an Orbis Pictus Honor, the Flora Stieglitz Straus Award, and the Jane Addams Peace Association Honor Book Award, *Freedom Walkers* received five starred reviews. A map, source notes, full bibliography, and other backmatter is included.

freedom writers discussion questions: Before We Were Free Julia Alvarez, 2007-12-18 Anita de la Torre never questioned her freedom living in the Dominican Republic. But by her 12th birthday in 1960, most of her relatives have emigrated to the United States, her Tío Toni has disappeared without a trace, and the government’s secret police terrorize her remaining family because of their suspected opposition of el Trujillo’s dictatorship. Using the strength and courage of her family, Anita must overcome her fears and fly to freedom, leaving all that she once knew behind. From renowned author Julia Alvarez comes an unforgettable story about adolescence, perseverance, and one girl’s struggle to be free.

freedom writers discussion questions: Why We Can't Wait Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., 2011-01-11 Dr. King’s best-selling account of the civil rights movement in Birmingham during the spring and summer of 1963 On April 16, 1963, as the violent events of the Birmingham campaign unfolded in the city’s streets, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., composed a letter from his prison cell in response to local religious leaders’ criticism of the campaign. The resulting piece of extraordinary protest writing, “Letter from Birmingham Jail,” was widely circulated and published in numerous periodicals. After the conclusion of the campaign and the March on Washington for Jobs and

Freedom in 1963, King further developed the ideas introduced in the letter in *Why We Can't Wait*, which tells the story of African American activism in the spring and summer of 1963. During this time, Birmingham, Alabama, was perhaps the most racially segregated city in the United States, but the campaign launched by King, Fred Shuttlesworth, and others demonstrated to the world the power of nonviolent direct action. Often applauded as King's most incisive and eloquent book, *Why We Can't Wait* recounts the Birmingham campaign in vivid detail, while underscoring why 1963 was such a crucial year for the civil rights movement. Disappointed by the slow pace of school desegregation and civil rights legislation, King observed that by 1963—during which the country celebrated the one-hundredth anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation—Asia and Africa were “moving with jetlike speed toward gaining political independence but we still creep at a horse-and-buggy pace.” King examines the history of the civil rights struggle, noting tasks that future generations must accomplish to bring about full equality, and asserts that African Americans have already waited over three centuries for civil rights and that it is time to be proactive: “For years now, I have heard the word ‘Wait!’ It rings in the ear of every Negro with piercing familiarity. This ‘Wait’ has almost always meant ‘Never.’ We must come to see, with one of our distinguished jurists, that ‘justice too long delayed is justice denied.’”

freedom writers discussion questions: *Piecing Me Together* Renée Watson, 2018-02-08
2018 Newbery Honor Book and Coretta Scott King Author Award Winner: a beautiful, powerful coming of age story 'Important and deeply moving' JOHN GREEN 'Timely and timeless'
JACQUELINE WOODSON Jade is a girl striving for success in a world that seems like it's trying to break her. She knows she needs to take every opportunity that comes her way. And she has: every day Jade rides the bus away from her friends to a private school where she feels like an outsider, but where she has plenty of opportunities. But some opportunities Jade could do without, like the mentor programme for 'at-risk' girls. Just because her mentor is black doesn't mean she understands where Jade is coming from. Why is Jade always seen as someone to fix? But with a college scholarship promised at the end of it, how can Jade say no? Jade feels like her life is made up of hundreds of conflicting pieces. Will it ever fit together? Will she ever find her place in the world? More than anything, Jade just wants the opportunity to be real, to make a difference. NPR's Best Books of 2017 A 2017 New York Public Library Best Teen Book of the Year Chicago Public Library's Best Books of 2017 A School Library Journal Best Book of 2017 Kirkus Reviews' Best Teen Books of 2017 2018 Josette Frank Award Winner

freedom writers discussion questions: *Freedom Crossing* Margaret Goff Clark, 1991-02-01
After spending four years with relatives in the South, a fifteen-year-old girl accepts the idea that slaves are property and is horrified to learn when she returns to the North that her home is a station on the underground railroad.

freedom writers discussion questions: *Politics and the English Language* George Orwell, 2021-01-01
George Orwell set out ‘to make political writing into an art’, and to a wide extent this aim shaped the future of English literature – his descriptions of authoritarian regimes helped to form a new vocabulary that is fundamental to understanding totalitarianism. While *1984* and *Animal Farm* are amongst the most popular classic novels in the English language, this new series of Orwell's essays seeks to bring a wider selection of his writing on politics and literature to a new readership. In *Politics and the English Language*, the second in the Orwell's Essays series, Orwell takes aim at the language used in politics, which, he says, ‘is designed to make lies sound truthful and murder respectable, and to give an appearance of solidity to pure wind’. In an age where the language used in politics is constantly under the microscope, Orwell's *Politics and the English Language* is just as relevant today, and gives the reader a vital understanding of the tactics at play. 'A writer who can – and must – be rediscovered with every age.' — Irish Times

freedom writers discussion questions: *U.S. History* P. Scott Corbett, Volker Janssen, John M. Lund, Todd Pfannestiel, Sylvie Waskiewicz, Paul Vickery, 2024-09-10
U.S. History is designed to meet the scope and sequence requirements of most introductory courses. The text provides a balanced approach to U.S. history, considering the people, events, and ideas that have shaped the

United States from both the top down (politics, economics, diplomacy) and bottom up (eyewitness accounts, lived experience). U.S. History covers key forces that form the American experience, with particular attention to issues of race, class, and gender.

freedom writers discussion questions: Whole Novels for the Whole Class Ariel Sacks, 2013-10-21 Work with students at all levels to help them read novels Whole Novels is a practical, field-tested guide to implementing a student-centered literature program that promotes critical thinking and literary understanding through the study of novels with middle school students. Rather than using novels simply to teach basic literacy skills and comprehension strategies, Whole Novels approaches literature as art. The book is fully aligned with the Common Core ELA Standards and offers tips for implementing whole novels in various contexts, including suggestions for teachers interested in trying out small steps in their classrooms first. Includes a powerful method for teaching literature, writing, and critical thinking to middle school students Shows how to use the Whole Novels approach in conjunction with other programs Includes video clips of the author using the techniques in her own classroom This resource will help teachers work with students of varying abilities in reading whole novels.

freedom writers discussion questions: Summer Will Show Sylvia Townsend Warner, 2011-06-08 In revolutionary Paris, a disaffected Victorian wife becomes enraptured by her husband's mistress—a "brilliantly entertaining" historical fiction novel that was "far ahead of its time" (Guardian). "One of the great under-read British novelists of the 20th century . . . my favorite of her novels." —Sarah Waters, author of *Fingersmith* Sophia Willoughby, a young Englishwoman from an aristocratic family and a person of strong opinions and even stronger will, has packed her cheating husband off to Paris. He can have his tawdry mistress. She intends to devote herself to the serious business of raising her two children in proper Tory fashion. Then tragedy strikes: the children die, and Sophia, in despair, finds her way to Paris, arriving just in time for the revolution of 1848. Before long she has formed the unlikelyst of close relations with Minna, her husband's sometime mistress, whose dramatic recitations, based on her hair-raising childhood in czarist Russia, electrify audiences in drawing rooms and on the street alike. Minna, "magnanimous and unscrupulous, fickle, ardent, and interfering," leads Sophia on a wild adventure through bohemian and revolutionary Paris, in a story that reaches an unforgettable conclusion amidst the bullets, bloodshed, and hope of the barricades. Sylvia Townsend Warner was one of the most original and inventive of twentieth-century English novelists. At once an adventure story, a love story, and a novel of ideas, *Summer Will Show* is a brilliant reimagining of the possibilities of historical fiction.

freedom writers discussion questions: Washington Black Esi Edugyan, 2018-09-18 MAN BOOKER PRIZE FINALIST • ONE OF THE NEW YORK TIMES BOOK REVIEW'S TEN BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR • "A gripping historical narrative exploring both the bounds of slavery and what it means to be truly free." —Vanity Fair Eleven-year-old George Washington Black—or Wash—a field slave on a Barbados sugar plantation, is initially terrified when he is chosen as the manservant of his master's brother. To his surprise, however, the eccentric Christopher Wilde turns out to be a naturalist, explorer, inventor, and abolitionist. Soon Wash is initiated into a world where a flying machine can carry a man across the sky, where even a boy born in chains may embrace a life of dignity and meaning, and where two people, separated by an impossible divide, can begin to see each other as human. But when a man is killed and a bounty is placed on Wash's head, they must abandon everything and flee together. Over the course of their travels, what brings Wash and Christopher together will tear them apart, propelling Wash ever farther across the globe in search of his true self. Spanning the Caribbean to the frozen Far North, London to Morocco, *Washington Black* is a story of self-invention and betrayal, of love and redemption, and of a world destroyed and made whole again.

freedom writers discussion questions: She Reads Truth Raechel Myers, Amanda Bible Williams, 2016-10-04 Born out of the experiences of hundreds of thousands of women who Raechel and Amanda have walked alongside as they walk with the Lord, *She Reads Truth* is the message that will help you understand the place of God's Word in your life.

freedom writers discussion questions: *Fox* Ron Brooks, Margaret Wild, 2010-06-01 Dog and Magpie are friends, but when Fox comes into the bush, everything changes. This breathtaking story has won acclaim around the world: CBCA Picture Book of the Year; two Premiers' literary awards; honours in Germany, Brazil, Japan; a shortlisting for the prestigious Kate Greenaway Medal in the UK, and more. 'A publishing landmark.' Magpies 'Magnificent.' Reading Time 'a stunning book' Australian Bookseller and Publisher 'The images from this unsettling, provocative story will resonate long after the book has been closed.' Publishers Weekly (Starred Review) 'A strongly atmospheric psycho-fable--visually striking--an open-ended discussion starter.' Kirkus Reviews 'Fox is an archetypal drama about friendship, loyalty, risk and betrayal - a story that is as rich for adults as for older children.' Los Angeles Times

freedom writers discussion questions: *My Sister, the Serial Killer* Oyinkan Braithwaite, 2018-11-20 ONE OF TIME MAGAZINE'S 100 BEST MYSTERY AND THRILLER BOOKS OF ALL TIME • BOOKER PRIZE NOMINEE • "A taut and darkly funny contemporary noir that moves at lightning speed, it's the wittiest and most fun murder party you've ever been invited to." —MARIE CLAIRE Korede's sister Ayoola is many things: the favorite child, the beautiful one, possibly sociopathic. And now Ayoola's third boyfriend in a row is dead, stabbed through the heart with Ayoola's knife. Korede's practicality is the sisters' saving grace. She knows the best solutions for cleaning blood (bleach, bleach, and more bleach), the best way to move a body (wrap it in sheets like a mummy), and she keeps Ayoola from posting pictures to Instagram when she should be mourning her "missing" boyfriend. Not that she gets any credit. Korede has long been in love with a kind, handsome doctor at the hospital where she works. She dreams of the day when he will realize that she's exactly what he needs. But when he asks Korede for Ayoola's phone number, she must reckon with what her sister has become and how far she's willing to go to protect her.

freedom writers discussion questions: *The Invention of Wings* Sue Monk Kidd, 2014-01-07 The newest Oprah's Book Club 2.0 selection: this special eBook edition of *The Invention of Wings* by Sue Monk Kidd features exclusive content, including Oprah's personal notes highlighted within the text, and a reading group guide. Writing at the height of her narrative and imaginative gifts, Sue Monk Kidd presents a masterpiece of hope, daring, the quest for freedom, and the desire to have a voice in the world. Hetty "Handful" Grimke, an urban slave in early nineteenth century Charleston, yearns for life beyond the suffocating walls that enclose her within the wealthy Grimke household. The Grimke's daughter, Sarah, has known from an early age she is meant to do something large in the world, but she is hemmed in by the limits imposed on women. Kidd's sweeping novel is set in motion on Sarah's eleventh birthday, when she is given ownership of ten year old Handful, who is to be her handmaid. We follow their remarkable journeys over the next thirty five years, as both strive for a life of their own, dramatically shaping each other's destinies and forming a complex relationship marked by guilt, defiance, estrangement and the uneasy ways of love. As the stories build to a riveting climax, Handful will endure loss and sorrow, finding courage and a sense of self in the process. Sarah will experience crushed hopes, betrayal, unrequited love, and ostracism before leaving Charleston to find her place alongside her fearless younger sister, Angelina, as one of the early pioneers in the abolition and women's rights movements. Inspired by the historical figure of Sarah Grimke, Kidd goes beyond the record to flesh out the rich interior lives of all of her characters, both real and invented, including Handful's cunning mother, Charlotte, who courts danger in her search for something better. This exquisitely written novel is a triumph of storytelling that looks with unswerving eyes at a devastating wound in American history, through women whose struggles for liberation, empowerment, and expression will leave no reader unmoved. Please note there is another digital edition available without Oprah's notes. Go to Oprah.com/bookclub for more OBC 2.0 content

freedom writers discussion questions: *Kindred* Octavia E. Butler, 2004-02-01 From the New York Times bestselling author of *Parable of the Sower* and MacArthur "Genius" Grant, Nebula, and Hugo award winner *The visionary time-travel classic* whose Black female hero is pulled through time to face the horrors of American slavery and explores the impacts of racism, sexism, and white

supremacy then and now. "I lost an arm on my last trip home. My left arm." Dana's torment begins when she suddenly vanishes on her 26th birthday from California, 1976, and is dragged through time to antebellum Maryland to rescue a boy named Rufus, heir to a slaveowner's plantation. She soon realizes the purpose of her summons to the past: protect Rufus to ensure his assault of her Black ancestor so that she may one day be born. As she endures the traumas of slavery and the soul-crushing normalization of savagery, Dana fights to keep her autonomy and return to the present. Blazing the trail for neo-slavery narratives like Colson Whitehead's *The Underground Railroad* and Ta-Nehisi Coates's *The Water Dancer*, Butler takes one of speculative fiction's oldest tropes and infuses it with lasting depth and power. Dana not only experiences the cruelties of slavery on her skin but also grimly learns to accept it as a condition of her own existence in the present. "Where stories about American slavery are often gratuitous, reducing its horror to explicit violence and brutality, *Kindred* is controlled and precise" (New York Times). "Reading Octavia Butler taught me to dream big, and I think it's absolutely necessary that everybody have that freedom and that willingness to dream." —N. K. Jemisin Developed for television by writer/executive producer Branden Jacobs-Jenkins (*Watchmen*), executive producers also include Joe Weisberg and Joel Fields (*The Americans*, *The Patient*), and Darren Aronofsky (*The Whale*). Janicza Bravo (*Zola*) is director and an executive producer of the pilot. *Kindred* stars Mallori Johnson, Micah Stock, Ryan Kwanten, and Gayle Rankin.

freedom writers discussion questions: *The Anatomy of Dreams* Chloe Benjamin, 2014-09-16 Discover the award-winning debut novel by the New York Times bestselling author of *The Immortalists*, a "majestic collision of sci-fi thriller and love story" (Bustle) about a young woman struggling with questions of love, trust, and ethics as the line between dreams and reality dangerously blurs. When Sylvie Patterson, a bookish student at a Northern California boarding school, falls in love with a spirited, elusive classmate named Gabe, they embark on an experiment that changes their lives. Their headmaster, Dr. Adrian Keller, is a charismatic medical researcher who has staked his career on the therapeutic potential of lucid dreaming: by teaching his patients to become conscious during sleep, he believes he can relieve stress and trauma. Over the next six years, Sylvie and Gabe become consumed by Keller's work, following him across the country. But when an opportunity brings the trio to the Midwest, Sylvie and Gabe stumble into a tangled relationship with their mysterious neighbors—and Sylvie begins to doubt the ethics of Keller's research. As she navigates the hazy, permeable boundaries between what is real and what isn't, who can be trusted and who cannot, Sylvie also faces surprising developments in herself—an unexpected infatuation, growing paranoia, and a new sense of rebellion. With stirring, elegant prose, "Chloe Benjamin has crafted an eerie, compelling first novel which, like the lingering effects of a vivid dream, resonates long past its finish" (Karen Brown, *The Longings of Wayward Girls*).

freedom writers discussion questions: *Driving Over Lemons* Chris Stewart, 2020-07-09 Meet Chris Stewart, the eternal optimist. A man who flies to Spain, sees a peasant farm on the wrong side of the river and, with scarcely a second thought, hands over a cash deposit. And then finds he has acquired not just the farm, but the farmer, too, who has no intention of leaving. Not to mention the lack of running water, electricity or even a bridge. It would be enough to send most people straight back home. But Chris and his wife Ana are made of stronger stuff - and besides, they have sunk all their savings into their farm, El Valero, and buying a flock of sheep. So there is no turning back. Life gets tough, but it also gets good. *Driving Over Lemons* is that rare thing - a funny, insightful book that charms you from the first sun-lit page to the last. And one that makes running an Andalucian mountain farm seem like a half-decent career move. It has been a major bestseller both in Britain and Spain.

freedom writers discussion questions: *People Could Fly: American Black Folktales* Virginia Hamilton, 1985 Retold Afro-American folktales of animals, fantasy, the supernatural, and desire for freedom, born of the sorrow of the slaves, but passed on in hope.

freedom writers discussion questions: *The Sweetness of Water* (Oprah's Book Club) Nathan Harris, 2022-05-03 AN INSTANT NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER / AN OPRAH'S BOOK CLUB PICK

ONE OF PRESIDENT OBAMA'S FAVORITE BOOKS OF 2021 Winner of the Ernest J. Gaines Award for Literary Excellence Longlisted for the Man Booker Prize Longlisted for the 2022 Carnegie Medal for Excellence Longlisted for the Center for Fiction First Novel Prize In the spirit of *The Known World* and *The Underground Railroad*, a miraculous debut (Washington Post) and a towering achievement of imagination (CBS This Morning) about the unlikely bond between two freedmen who are brothers and the Georgia farmer whose alliance will alter their lives, and his, forever--from a storyteller with bountiful insight and assurance (Kirkus) A Best Book of the Year: Oprah Daily, NPR, Washington Post, Time, Boston Globe, Smithsonian, Chicago Public Library, BookBrowse, and the Oregonian A New York Times Book Review Editors' Choice A July Indie Next Pick In the waning days of the Civil War, brothers Prentiss and Landry--freed by the Emancipation Proclamation--seek refuge on the homestead of George Walker and his wife, Isabelle. The Walkers, wracked by the loss of their only son to the war, hire the brothers to work their farm, hoping through an unexpected friendship to stanch their grief. Prentiss and Landry, meanwhile, plan to save money for the journey north and a chance to reunite with their mother, who was sold away when they were boys. Parallel to their story runs a forbidden romance between two Confederate soldiers. The young men, recently returned from the war to the town of Old Ox, hold their trysts in the woods. But when their secret is discovered, the resulting chaos, including a murder, unleashes convulsive repercussions on the entire community. In the aftermath of so much turmoil, it is Isabelle who emerges as an unlikely leader, proffering a healing vision for the land and for the newly free citizens of Old Ox. With candor and sympathy, debut novelist Nathan Harris creates an unforgettable cast of characters, depicting Georgia in the violent crucible of Reconstruction. Equal parts beauty and terror, as gripping as it is moving, *The Sweetness of Water* is an epic whose grandeur locates humanity and love amid the most harrowing circumstances.

freedom writers discussion questions: *The Insiders* Mark Oshiro, 2021-09-21 A Publishers Weekly Best Book of the Year * An ALA Rainbow Book List Top 10 Title for Young Readers Three kids who don't belong. A room that shouldn't exist. A year that will change everything. Perfect for fans of Rebecca Stead and Meg Medina, this debut middle grade novel from award-winning author Mark Oshiro is a hopeful and heartfelt coming-of-age story for anyone who's ever felt like they didn't fit in. San Francisco and Orangevale may be in the same state, but for Héctor Muñoz, they might as well be a million miles apart. Back home, being gay didn't mean feeling different. At Héctor's new school, he couldn't feel more alone. Most days, Héctor just wishes he could disappear. And he does. Right into the janitor's closet. (Yes, he sees the irony.) But one day, when the door closes behind him, Héctor discovers he's stumbled into a room that shouldn't be possible. A room that connects him with two new friends from different corners of the country—and opens the door to a life-changing year full of friendship, adventure, and just a little bit of magic. "Sometimes hilarious, sometimes devastating, but always full of heart, *The Insiders* carves out a space for us all to be our true selves." —Kwame Mbalia, New York Times bestselling author of *Tristan Strong Punches a Hole in the Sky*

freedom writers discussion questions: *Burning Bright* Ron Rash, 2010-03-09 "A gorgeous, brutal writer." —Richard Price, New York Times bestselling author of *Lush Life* and *Clockers* In *Burning Bright*, Pen/Faulkner finalist and New York Times bestselling author of *Serena*, Ron Rash, captures the eerie beauty and stark violence of Appalachia through the lives of unforgettable characters. With this masterful collection of stories that span the Civil War to the present day, Rash, a supremely talented writer who "recalls both John Steinbeck and Cormac McCarthy" (The New Yorker), solidifies his reputation as a major contemporary American literary artist.

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