

Power, Agency, and Voice: Coming of Age in a Complex World

Essential Question: How do I empower myself to speak up and take action on my behalf and on behalf of others?		
Lesson Overview	Guiding Questions	Texts and Materials
Lesson 1: What Is Power? Students construct a working definition of power. Then they analyze quotations about power and draw connections between these ideas and their own understanding.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is power? What are the different ways that an individual or group can have or experience power? 	Plan on a Page: What Is Power? Handout: What is Power? Anticipation Guide
Lesson 2: Introducing Agency Students read and discuss an informational text about the concept of agency and then reflect on moments in their lives when they have and have not felt like they have agency.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is agency? What is the relationship between power and agency? What factors might impact an individual or group's agency in a given moment? 	Plan on a Page: Introducing Agency Reading: Introducing Agency Handout: How Many Bars? Exit Card
Lesson 3: Agency, Choice, and Action Students apply their new understandings of agency to personal narrative essays in order to analyze the relationship between an individual's agency and their choice whether or not to speak up or take action.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What factors might impact an individual or group's agency in a given situation? How can analyzing an individual's choices and decision-making process help us to understand the relationship between someone's agency and their choice of action or inaction? 	Plan on a Page: Agency, Choice, and Action Reading: The Man Box Reading: T.S.A. and Cinnamon Buns Reading: Safia's Story Reading: José's Story Handout: Analyzing Actions and Outcomes
Lesson 4: The Power of Belonging Students create empathy-building character maps that help them to analyze characterization and explore the relationship between belonging and agency.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is the relationship between agency and belonging? How is your identity, sense of belonging, and agency shaped by the people and circumstances you encounter in your life? 	Plan on a Page: The Power of Belonging Reading: As You Were (Part 1) Handout: Map the Internal World if a Character

<p>Lesson 5: Finding One's Voice</p> <p>Students process their ideas and feelings about the story in different ways as they consider the factors that can impact decision-making, the importance of perspective-taking, and the possibilities and limitations of justice and reconciliation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What factors can influence an individual or group's agency in moments of decision-making?• Why do people so often do nothing even when they know something happening around them is wrong?	<p>Plan on a Page: Finding One's Voice</p> <p>Reading: As You Were</p> <p>Handout: Analyzing Actions and Outcomes</p>
<p>Lesson 6: Reflecting on the Danger of Silence</p> <p>Students watch a video in which Clint Smith warns about the danger of silence and use the transcript to create blackout poems that respond to guiding questions. The activities in this lesson help prepare students for the summative assessment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What does it mean to have a voice? What is the relationship between agency and voice?• How can your voice empower you to take action on your own behalf and on behalf of others?	<p>Plan on a Page: Reflecting on the Danger of Silence</p> <p>Video: The Danger of Silence (4:18)</p> <p>Reading: The Danger of Silence Transcript</p>
<p>Assessment: Agency and Action in the World Today</p> <p>Students draw connections between the main concepts in this text set and the world around them as they identify and explain an example of individual or collective agency in the world today that inspires them.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• How does this person or group inspire <i>you</i> to use your own power, agency, and voice to take action?	<p>Handout: Agency and Action in the World Today</p>