

HANDOUT

Reading for Empathy Sketch to Stretch

Directions: Read the four quotations about reading and empathy. Then choose one and draw a **sketch** in the space provided that reflects your ideas about what the quotation means. You can add words, symbols, and color if you wish. **Stretch** by writing a short explanation that helps to explain your ideas about the quotation.

1. "I think young people especially need to read text that affirms what they feel is valid, and that also pushes them towards an understanding of how others live and think." (Elizabeth Acevedo, "Elizabeth Acevedo Writes to Understand the World Better")
2. "A story invites you to live someone else's life for a spell. And I'm biased as an author and an English teacher, but I believe books are (currently) the best medium for developing empathy. The act of reading, of swimming in someone else's language, puts you inside their head for a few hours/days/weeks in a way that watching someone's story play out on a screen cannot." (Randy Ribay, "On Stories and Empathy")
3. "You think your pain and your heartbreak are unprecedented in the history of the world, but then you read. It was books that taught me that the things that tormented me most were the very things that connected me with all the people who were alive, who had ever been alive." (James Baldwin, "The Doom and Glory of Knowing Who You Are")
4. "When you read about the lives of other people, people of different circumstances or similar circumstances, you are part of their lives for that moment. You inhabit their lives and you feel what they're feeling and that is compassion. . . . That compassion is not anything we are going to learn through psychology or sociology or cultural courses." (Amy Tan, "A Conversation with Amy Tan")

Student Reflection

Quotation # _____

Sketch

Stretch