

Middle School Student Feedback

Do you feel like you can relate to the books in your English Classes?

Post It Response	Discussion
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>No. All of the books we read are very very stereotypical</i> ● <i>No because most books are non-fiction</i> ● <i>I can relate to some of the characters but for other reasons. I feel like POC are not represented enough in the books we read so I usually tune out parts.</i> ● <i>Sometimes, some books we read that include African Americans I can relate to because some books take place in recent times. Sometimes I don't.</i> ● <i>Sometimes b/c in books there is always a person that is different from the rest. And sometimes there aren't</i> ● <i>Sometimes - some relate to my life/heritage</i> ● <i>Some books I relate to more than others</i> ● <i>Sometimes because some books are about things that happen to me but for sometimes the books are about animals or other living things that are not people</i> ● <i>Sometimes because the books can be fiction or nonfiction</i> ● <i>Sometimes because sometime it is about a strong white or black and sometimes it is about a white boy or man</i> ● <i>Sometimes. Most of the books we read don't talk about race or the race of the character is not told a lot and alot of the stuff we read is older so we can guess that it is all non-minority</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sometimes they are about other things ● Sometimes I relate to some more than others ● Most of the time I can but due to my heritage sometimes I don't ● Depends on the book and what its about ● Seems like we only read about slavery or are the same so some things I can relate to sometimes I can't ● Some books are about people or nature not always about people ● The books that are about black people are about slavery, the books that aren't I can sometimes relate depends on the character ● A lot of our stories are from the 50s and there aren't a lot of minorities and it's never brought up so it's hard to relate to ● Mostly in the past which makes it hard to relate to ● All of our assigned readings are from 30 years ago

Do you feel a sense of belonging in your English classes?

Post It Response	Discussion
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Yes, I don't really have a reason not to...I feel that it would make me feel a little uncomfortable reading a lot of books about POC just because we tell them to, like talking about it in class</i> ○ <i>Yes because everyone treats me the same</i> ○ <i>Yes because its English class and it's just a class</i> ○ <i>Yes I have never had any problems I am friends with most of them</i> ○ <i>Sometimes b/c we do talk about in groups but sometimes some people are having the same thoughts</i> ○ <i>Sometimes. If we are talking about the curriculum no, but inside the classroom I do</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No. It's always the same thing since kindergarten, feels like they're doing this just so they don't appear racist especially during black history month ● No, it's only done around black history month, should talk more often to show that it really matters ● I always feel very uncomfortable during race discussions because they [the teachers] are uncomfortable [all the students in the working group nod in agreement]

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>As much as I would in any other class</i> ○ <i>Sometimes - Read more diverse books! Of different cultures</i> 	
Do you feel like the texts and activities positively highlight minority and/or non-dominant populations?	
Post It Response	Discussion
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Yes b/c the text & activities do show and recognize the different population and race</i> ● <i>Yes. Especially the books we've been reading this year</i> ● <i>Yes - because we talk about Asian American hate</i> ● <i>No -I would not say that the books and activities highlight minority groups at all.</i> ● <i>No, we only read books about white and African Americans, no other minority groups</i> ● <i>A Lot of books are from the past or are all about race</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Discussion ● No. African american characters are always represented as the kid that's messed up or troubled ● No. Very stereotypical, haven't read any books with black people as the main characters about them living their everyday lives ● No. It's like the character's whole life is about racism versus the character and their story
What could/should teachers do to increase students' sense of belonging and relatability to the curriculum?	
Post It Response	Discussion
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Probably talk more on the issues of different race and culture</i> ● <i>I feel great in my English class and think it is working</i> ● <i>To show more diversity in ELA we could read more books focusing on minority groups and read more books written by non-majority groups</i> ● <i>Read more books that have some underlying race problems in the story</i> ● <i>Nothing</i> ● <i>Sometimes - Read more diverse books! Of different cultures</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Read more books that are by people of color and newer ● Feels like the books they pick out are specifically about race and they should pick books that are about general topics and bring in race where appropriate ● Don't just focus on it during the month of February and bring it into other curriculum ● Almost all race conversations are around African Americans not other cultures ● Feels like they ar ● Not to just talk about Dr. King and Rosa Parks, talk about the untold stories and people we don't know