

Stories that Bring Change: Compassion and Resistance to Meet Challenges

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Learning Objectives

By the end of the workshop, participants will

- differentiate between various types of stories (status quo, secret, resistance, and counter stories)
- identify two strategies to create environments for owning our stories
- actively engage in two different types of storytelling, maintaining awareness of self and others.
- identify and describe how to implement storytelling activities in the school setting



Storytelling

<p>Builds Community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connections • Personal stories • Group dynamics • Maintains Values • Learning about self and others • Vehicle of change 	<p>Solidifies Learning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perspectives • History • Share reactions • Stimulating • "dig deeper" • Generational • Questioning presumptions 	<p>Transformational Learning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make meaning • Family cultural groups • Conversations with other • Relate with one another
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Storytelling Framework: Types of Stories


- **Stock Stories**
 - Status Quo, Dominant Culture
- **Concealed Stories**
 - Secret, street stories
- **Resistance Stories**
 - Interruption happens here
- **Emerging Transforming Stories**



(Bell, 2010)

Stock Stories


- Most public
- Presumption of universality
- Told by the dominant group
- Passed on by means of historical & literary documents
- Celebrated in society



(Bell, 2010)


Stock Stories

- Standard, typical or familiar
- Collectively held but individually told
- Strategic
 - Operate in advance of goals & interest of those in power
 - Provides a way of explaining facts of life
 - Neutralize non-conforming views
- Where do you go for other perspectives?




(Bell, 2010)

Concealed Stories



- Shared in church basements, bars, & Porches
- Found in art, music, and drama
- "Tell on" oppression
- Seen as full of dangerous, subversive ideas & revelation that undermine the very real fabric of inequality (Bell, 2010)
- Hidden in plain view
 - #Me, too
 - Howard Zinn The People's History of America




Concealed Stories

- Hidden from mainstream
- Provide different perspective to window to a different lived-experience
- Discovered through critical analysis of history & social science data

(Bell, 2010)

Resistance Stories

- Stories that show how people have resisted inequality
 - Occurs throughout history
 - Seldom taught in our schools
- Serve as guides & inspirations
- Confrontive & oppositional
- Conflictual
- Show struggle



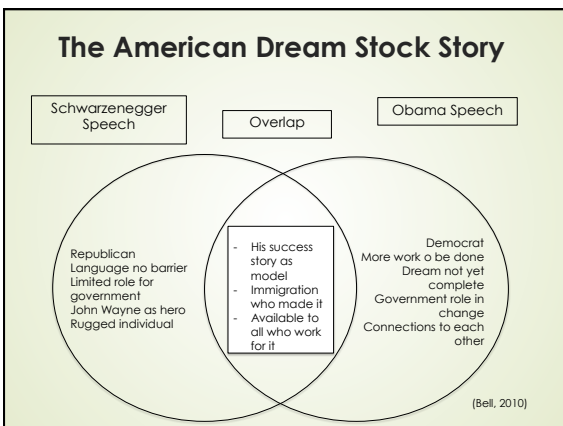
(Bell, 2010)

Emerging Stories

- New stories we create to:
 - Challenge & interrupt stock stories
 - Discover concealed stories
 - Amplify resistance stories
 - Take up the cause of social justice work
 - To do real social work as we do real story work



(Bell, 2010)



Strategies

- Identify**
 - Identify barriers that prevent honest discussions
- Invite**
 - Invite kitchen table conversations
 - Who carries the conversation?
- Speak**
 - Speak to be understood
- Listen**
 - Listen to understand (not to correct)

- Find a partner
- Tell a story (your own story)
 - What are the stock stories in your school, neighborhood, world?
 - What are the secret concealed stories? How can you discover them?
 - Who are the resistance champions in your world? How have you been one?
 - How can you formally create new emerging stories of equity?



Activity

What? When? Where? Why? How?

Takeaways

References

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