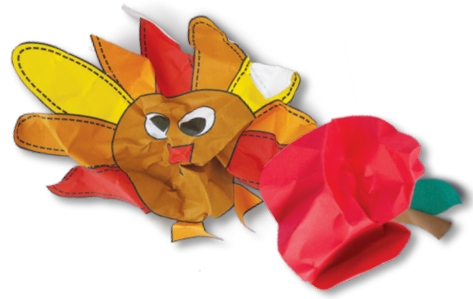


UNPACK YOUR IMPACT *study guide*



LANESHA TABB & NAOMI O'BRIEN

Hello Reader!



We are so thankful that you have decided to read our book. Centering culture in the classroom and making social studies a priority changed our students and us in ways we would have never imagined. It is our hope that you are able to use this book as a starting point and guide to start this work in your own classroom. If you are willing to have honest conversations, do some reflecting, and possibly make a few shifts to practices you already have in place, we believe you can make a difference in your students lives. We get excited when we think about the impact we all hold collectively. Thank you for choosing your book to guide your work.



LaNesha and Naomi

#UNPACKYOURIMPACT

Getting Started



This book study guide was created for groups who are reading Unpack Your Impact. This will provide some questions and reflection prompts to help facilitate discussion around creating a culture centered curriculum in the primary grades.

Don't get caught up in the fact that "you don't teach social studies." We all teach social studies. Social studies literally encompasses every part of our life. It's culture. It's civics. Economics, geography, and history. It informs so much of what we do as we live our lives on a daily basis.

Some of these topics might cause discomfort. Hold space for that by setting norms for how you will engage in discussions with your colleagues or friends. You will be asked to unpack the impact of what you could have been teaching for years- decades, even. It might These types of conversations might be emotional and sometimes difficult for individuals. It's hard...but it's worth it.

We wish you all the best on your journey.



Debates




After you unpack each chapter and plan actionable steps that will impact your students, we encourage you all to engage in a debate about the chapter.

A statement has been provided for you to decide if you agree, disagree, or are unsure about it. Then you will jot down a few notes about why others might agree or disagree with the statement.

Set group norms for how the debate will run and how long it will last.

Debate



Use Chapter 1, your personal beliefs, and professional opinions to guide this debate.

Statement: Considering the culture of our students and adjusting our lessons to accommodate them should be a school focus.

Circle one

I agree I disagree I am unsure

People might agree because	People might disagree because

#UNPACKYOURIMPACT

Introduction



As you read the introduction, think about your own journey with social studies. What did it look like when you were little? Middle school? High school?

Did social studies get much attention in college as you studies to become a teacher?

As you transitioned into your teaching career, what role did social studies play? Past curriculums? Current?

Process below.

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Chapter 1: Recognizing and *Celebrating* *Culture* in the Classroom

Unpack

Question 1: What are your thoughts around “culture months?”

Question 2: How can you include authentic cultural experiences for your students? (Thinking beyond “culture nights” at school.)

Question 3: How will you prime your students for having authentic and meaningful conversations?

Impact

Actionable Steps:



#UNPACKYOURIMPACT

Debate



Use Chapter 1, your personal beliefs, and professional opinions to guide this debate.

Statement: Considering the culture of our students and adjusting our lessons to accommodate them should be a school focus.

Circle one

I agree

I disagree

I am unsure

People might agree because

People might disagree because

Chapter 2: Problematic *History* Lessons

Unpack

Question 1: What historical narratives do you need to unlearn?

Question 2: Discuss the impact of teaching children single historical narratives that feature mostly white males. How does this affect white children? BIPOC children?

Question 3: Many educators are uncomfortable teaching honest and inclusive history. Why do you think that is? What changes can your school or district make to move towards teaching real history?

Impact

Actionable Steps:



Debate



Use Chapter 2, your personal beliefs, and professional opinions to guide this debate.

Statement: Teaching accurate history lessons to younger students is inappropriate. They are too young.

Circle one

I agree

I disagree

I am unsure

People might agree because

People might disagree because

Chapter 3:

Sociology: Exposing to *More*

Unpack

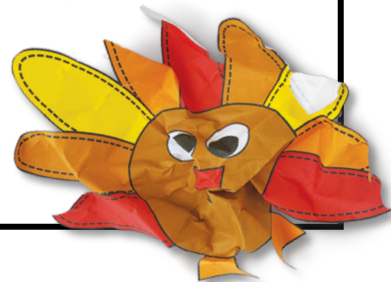
Question 1: Why is it important to expose students to ways of life from all over the world?

Question 2: Discuss how sociology could be used as a vehicle to clear up misconceptions that people have (HBCUs, holidays, and stereotypes)

Question 3: How can you begin to train your eye to catch interesting topics that could be turned into lessons?

Impact

Actionable Steps:



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Debate



Use Chapter 3, your personal beliefs, and professional opinions to guide this debate.

Statement: Incorporating sociology into lessons can help students build empathy. It can also help them overcome biases.

Circle one

I agree

I disagree

I am unsure

People might agree because

People might disagree because

Chapter 4: Economics, Geography, and Civics in the *Primary* Classroom

Unpack

Question 1: What are some ways to include economic concepts in your curriculum.

Question 2: Discuss your thoughts on the map. How can we draw students to the globe? How can we add humanity to geography?

Question 3: How can we include civics in our content?

Impact

Actionable Steps:



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Debate



Use Chapter 4, your personal beliefs, and professional opinions to guide this debate.

Statement: Economics, geography, and civics are important, but here isn't enough time to teach lessons like this.

Circle one

I agree

I disagree

I am unsure

People might agree because

People might disagree because

Chapter 5:

Rethinking Thematic Units

Unpack

Question 1: How is the vertical alignment for thematic units at your school?

Question 2: Discuss some strategies for getting global with thematic studies. How can we expose our students to bigger concepts through thematic studies?

Question 3: Could we engage in new units around new, interesting themes? What could that look like?

Impact

Actionable Steps:



Debate



Use Chapter 5, your personal beliefs, and professional opinions to guide this debate.

Statement: The main focus of thematic units is for students to have fun. A deep social studies connection isn't needed.

Circle one

I agree

I disagree

I am unsure

People might agree because

People might disagree because

Chapter 6:

Social Studies and STEM

Unpack

Question 1: What does S.T.E.M. currently look like in my class?
School?

Question 2: What are some real and authentic things that happen in the world that can be connected to our S.T.E.M. challenges?

Question 3: How does S.T.E.M. look at our school? Can we make our S.T.E.M. projects connected to a bigger/global theme?

Impact

Actionable Steps:



Debate



Use Chapter 6, your personal beliefs, and professional opinions to guide this debate.

Statement: STEM projects can and should connect to the real world in a meaningful way.

Circle one

I agree

I disagree

I am unsure

People might agree because

People might disagree because

Chapter 7:

Global *Perspective* Through Picture Books

Unpack

Question 1: Discuss the importance of representation in picture books. Explore the concept of windows, mirrors, and sliding glass doors from the work of Dr. Rudine Sims Bishop.

Question 2: How do the books in your library look? Do they represent ALL children and not just the children in your school?

Question 3: Discuss the importance of selecting high quality texts that feature humans or cultures that can be studied.

Impact

Actionable Steps:



Debate



Use Chapter 7, your personal beliefs, and professional opinions to guide this debate.

Statement: Educators should use texts to teaching reading skills AND widen their students' perspectives about the world.

Circle one

I agree

I disagree

I am unsure

People might agree because

People might disagree because

Chapter 8:

Final Thoughts, Tips, and Strategies

Unpack

Question 1: How can you and your coworkers become a united front for teaching real, authentic, and culture-centered lessons?

Question 2: How can standards that might seem constricting actually be helpful in teaching social studies?

Question 3: Imagine a future where children have been taught to appreciate culture, value different perspectives, and had honest history lessons imparted. What would that mean for society? Dream, then execute.

Impact

Actionable Steps:



Debate



Use Chapter 8, your personal beliefs, and professional opinions to guide this debate.

Statement: This work is important for all of the students in our building.

Circle one

I agree

I disagree

I am unsure

People might agree because

People might disagree because

UNPACK YOUR IMPACT

thank you!

We hope you enjoyed this book study.

Please visit our websites:

www.readlikearockstarteaching.com

www.laneshatabb.com

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