



HANDOUT

juststories storytelling concert
Friday April 16, 2010

These discussion questions are a guide for teacher use following the JustStories Concert at Maria High School on April 16, 2010. See information on this site about the JustStories High School Concert and the two performances in Chinatown and in Evanston, IL on Saturday April 17. www.racebridges.net/juststories/schools

These events are produced by Angels Studio/Chicago and O'Halloran Communications/Evanston. Go www.susanohalloran.com for further information about storyteller performances for schools.

Go to www.RaceBridgesForSchools.com for over 20 diversity lesson plans for high schools.

THE MAN WHO PLANTED ONIONS

A traditional fable told by

Eth-Noh-Tech, Robert Kikuchi-Yngojo and Nancy Wang
www.ethnohtec.org

1. This story performance uses the style of metaphor. What is metaphor?
2. Have you heard the expression: 'Being treated like a piece of meat?' What does it mean to you?
3. Have you ever felt judged by someone based on what you looked like?

4. How should we treat each other?

5. How has bullying touched your life? What did you do about it?

6. How is bullying not just an individual problem? Where else do you see it happening in the world?

Nancy Wang and Robert Kikuchi-Yngojo founded Eth-Noh-Tec in 1982, Eth-Noh-Tec is a kinetic story theater company based in San Francisco, weaving [tec] together distinctive cultural elements of the East and West [eth] to create new possibilities [noh]. Eth-Noh-Tec produces and performs contemporary presentations of traditional folktales from the many countries and cultures of Asia through storytelling, theater, dance, and music. Eth-Noh-Tec has performed at venues including at the Smithsonian, Kennedy Center, and the National Storytelling Festival and at President Obama's Inaugural Celebration. Eth-Noh-Tec has received grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, California Arts Council, and San Francisco Grants for the Arts, San Francisco Arts Commission, Zellerbach Family Fund, Walter & Elise Haas Fund, and William and Flora Hewlett Foundation among others. Eth-Noh-Tec's awards include the 2008 Circle of Excellence Award from the National Storytelling Network. www.ethnohtec.org

ROOTS TO RAP
By Robert Jones
www.revrobortjones.com

1. What was the original American style of music that led to the birth of all of the others that Robert and Bernice talked about?
2. What were the three major instruments of early American Roots music?
3. Why is the "folk process" important to music that isn't written down?
4. What city is considered the birthplace of Gospel?
5. Would American popular music exist as we know it without cultural diversity? Why or why not?

For over 20 years **Robert Jones** of Detroit has been a champion of American Roots music, with a special emphasis on traditional African American music. Spirituals, blues, work songs, field hollers, country music, folk songs, gospel and original songs are all a part of fabric of American Roots Music. This is the music that gave the world jazz, R&B, bluegrass, rock and even Hip Hop. This music also communicates history and tradition that goes far beyond mere music. Robert shows us the blending of American styles that can serve as a model for what is possible – celebrating both our unique gifts and our universal triumphs.
www.revrobortjones.com

BITTERSWEET: A CHINESE AMERICAN DAUGHTER'S LEGACY
by Nancy Wang
www.ethnohtec.org

1. What made Nancy's ancestors decide to immigrate to the United States? What were the factors in China, their home country? What were the factors in their adopted country, the United States? How might their experience relate to your own immigrant past? To the experience of immigrants today?

2. Nancy says that Chinese immigrants were called "celestials." Why were they called that? What image(s) does that evoke for you? How does that term compare with words for immigrants today?

3. List all the examples of anti-Chinese immigrant behavior that Nancy outlines in this story. What surprised you in this list? What reminds you of other acts of discrimination in our past or happening today?

4. How did Nancy's family respond to these acts of discrimination? What evidence does Nancy provide that her family was able to survive despite all of the obstacles?

THE OTHER 9/11 STORY
by Susan O'Halloran
www.susanohalloran.com

Here's some research for you to do before hearing this story:

Investigate the burning of the Springfield, IL mosque in 1995 six weeks after the Oklahoma City bombing.

After the Oklahoma City bombing in 1995, the Islamic Society of Greater Springfield's masjid or mosque was burnt to the ground in a suspicious fire. The perpetrator still has not been caught. Was the fire set in retribution for the attack in Oklahoma City?

Later it was discovered that Timothy McVeigh, a man who called himself Christian, was responsible for the bombing. Why did some people assume Muslims were responsible? What might someone think they were accomplishing by burning down a mosque in Springfield, IL? Why weren't people in this country prejudiced against all Christians when they discovered that the Oklahoma City bomber was Christian?

Here are some questions for reflection and discussion after hearing this story:

1. Why were the crowds marching on the 92nd Street mosque after September 11th? What kind of beliefs and thinking cause mob violence?

2. Why were the demonstrators marching with "White Power" signs when some Muslims are white as well?

3. Where do stereotypes come from? What stereotypes do some people have about Muslims? What would you say to disprove their ideas? What do you know about Islam and the people who practice this faith?

4. What are the benefits in community groups such as SWOP (Southwest Organizing Project) coming together?

5. Why didn't some of the people in SWOP even know that there were mosques on 63rd Street? Why is there so much separation from and ignorance about different religions?

6. What religions might be being practiced in your neighborhood that you know little about? How could you respectfully learn more?

7. Do you think making Circles of Peace around the mosques were effective actions to show their solidarity with their Muslim neighbors and deter violence?

8. Why were the people so moved by the Maria High School students' letters?

9. What Muslim and non-Muslim dialogues do you know about? Would you go to or organize such an event?

10. In what small or large ways can you take a stand against hate and for your classmates and neighbors?

Susan O'Halloran is a Chicago writer, story artist, corporate workshop leader and keynote speaker whose work explores the complex issues of social justice. She is author of four books and producer of performances, videos and films including *Black, White and Brown: Tribes & Bridges at the Steppenwolf Theatre* and *More Alike Than Not: Stories of Three Americans – Catholic, Jewish and Muslim*. *The Chicago Reader* says O'Halloran "has mastered the Irish art of telling stories that are funny and heart-wrenching at the same time." Susan was a National Storytelling Network keynote speaker and several times a featured teller at the National Storytelling Festival in Jonesborough. www.susanohalloran.com