

Overcoming Adversity, Accepting Diversity

By: Claudia Reyes Rios

Objective: to facilitate discussion about the Common Reading Program book with a main focus on overcoming adversity and accepting diversity

Materials: pencils, copies of puzzle, prepared index cards, envelopes with paper money inside

Attendance (1 to 2 minutes)

Introduction

Two short video clips about *The Dressmaker of Khair Khana* (approximately 3 minutes)

“The Dressmaker of Khair Khana”: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-XDamToTqFQ>

“Book Trailer” : http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RZfgNgpZq_w

Discussion about the book and recurring themes (5 minutes)

Quick synopsis as a refresher

“The life Kamila Sidiqi had known changed overnight when the Taliban seized control of the city of Kabul. After receiving a teaching degree during the civil war—a rare achievement for any Afghan woman—Kamila was subsequently banned from school and confined to her home. When her father and brother were forced to flee the city, Kamila became the sole breadwinner for her five siblings. Armed only with grit and determination, she picked up a needle and thread and created a thriving business of her own.”

Extracted from the HarperCollins website: <http://www.harpercollins.com/books/Dressmaker-Khair-Khana-Gayle-Tzemach-Lemmon/?isbn=9780061732379>

Reactions about how the women responded to the Taliban’s restrictions

End on a note about overcoming hardship to lead into activity

Overcoming Adversity: Connect the Dots Activity

Instructions and completion of puzzle (6 minutes)

Pass out copies of the activity and pencils to everyone in the class. Ask students to complete the puzzle following the instructions on the handout. Students that already know the answer to the puzzle or figure out the answer before time is called are to turn their papers over and allow the other students to work on it. Draw the same diagram on the board, and ask a student to come demonstrate the answer, assuming someone in the class figured it out.

Discussion about activity (8 minutes)

Why do most of us not think about going outside the lines?

To solve this problem, we have to out of our usual way of thinking – “outside the box.”

How does this idea relate to how the Sidiqi sisters faced the restrictions of the Taliban?

How does this puzzle relate to the way we should face our own hardships?

How does this relate to the way we interact with diversity?

Embracing Diversity: Values Auction Activity

Introduction to diversity (3 minutes)

What is diversity?

How do values and beliefs contribute to diversity?

Instructions and completion of auction (approximately 10 to 12 minutes)

Pass out envelopes with varying predetermined amounts of "money." Each auction item should be written on an individual index card. The instructors will read off one auction item at a time and begin the bidding at \$20. Bidding will continue until the greatest offer has been made, and the student that made the offer keeps the index card with the auction item. This continues until all of the auction items have been bought.

Discussion (8 minutes)

Why did we not give everyone the same amount of money?

Why did you want certain items more than others?

How does this activity relate to diversity?

How did the values and beliefs of the Sidiqi sisters drive their decisions?

How do values and beliefs drive our decisions?

Wrap Up: Final Announcements (approximately 2 minutes)

Auction Items

Good health for the rest of your life

Good health for your family for the rest of their lives

All expense paid trip to a dream destination

A dream job

A dream car

A dream house

A long and happy marriage

Dinner with someone you admire (celebrity, political figure, etc)

No-budget shopping spree

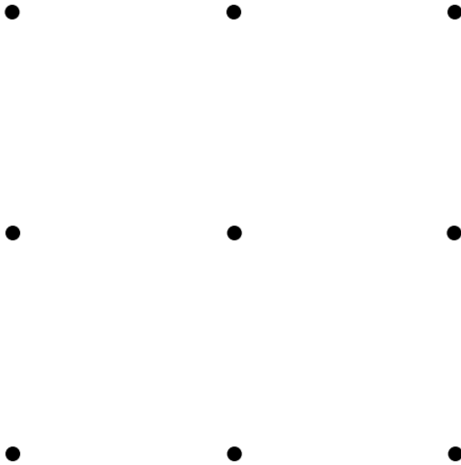
Graduate with a 4.0 college GPA

Graduate debt-free

A great donation in your name to your favorite charity

Connect the Dots

Directions: Connect all of the dots with four straight lines. Do not lift your pencil off the paper. Do no retrace any line. Lines may cross if necessary.



Connect the Dots Answer Key

Directions: Connect all of the dots with four straight lines. Do not lift your pencil off the paper. Do no retrace any line. Lines may cross if necessary.

