AAGT INFORMS: Answering the “But Why” Questions of Gifted and Talented Children

ANGELA M. NOVAK, PH.D.
Before we can help our children, we need to help ourselves.
Why are these questions so hard?

- Kids might not want to talk about it.
- Parents might not want to talk about it.
- Kids and parents might have different views.
- Kids: “parents just don’t understand”
- Parents: “kids aren’t ready for these topics”

Plus... racism is hard...

For gifted kids, consider:
- Sense of social justice
- Critical reasoning and thinking skills
- A foot in two cultural worlds
- Insightfulness/Empathy
- Adaptability between intellectual aspirations and community or cultural expectations
- Questions, questions, questions!
George Floyd's death was murder and the cops responsible should be in jail.

The police system is structurally corrupt and regularly refuses to prosecute cops.

Mass protests and civic disturbances are legitimate and warranted actions.

Looting and burning businesses is immoral and counterproductive. People who do this should go to jail.

You can be here.
Create a Culture of Conversation

Listening is:
  Active
  Patient
Create a Space for Conversation

∙ Safe
∙ Brave
∙ House/Table Talk
TEACHING TOLERANCE
E is now Learning for Justice

LET'S TALK!
DISCUSSING RACE, RACISM AND OTHER DIFFICULT TOPICS WITH STUDENTS

TEACHING TOLERANCE
A PROJECT OF THE SOUTHERN POPULACE CENTER
As a discussion leader, assess your comfort level and make a commitment.

PLAN FOR HOW YOU WILL STAY ENGAGED:
- LEARN MORE
- IDENTIFY A PARTNER
- PLAN TO “RIDE OUT” THE DISCUSSION
For Students:

**Step 1: Repeat**
Say it again.

**Step 2: Think**
Count 1, 2, 3, 4, 5.

**Step 3: Breathe**
In through the nose; out through the mouth.

**Step 4: Feel**
Put yourself in their shoes.

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**Green** = I am ready to go on.

**Yellow** = I can go on, but I feel hesitant about moving forward.

**Red** = I do not want to go on right now.

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**Thumbs Down** = Whoa! That doesn’t feel good.

**Thumbs to the Side** = Huh? I need some help.

**Thumbs Up** = I am ready! Let’s go!
Reacting to Questions

RESPONSES TEACH FEAR, ANGER, DISGUST, EMBARRASSMENT, SHAME...
Miss Amy’s skin is so dark
Skin Again

By Jeff Kinney

Illustrated by Davi Pujolho
Check Your Sources

INSTA & TIKTOK & DISCORD, OH MY
A Text Exchange with my Child at 14 Election Evening, 2020

mom please take the flags down
i read that there's gonna be a mass murder of POC and the LGBT community if Biden wins tomorrow

No, hon

why not?
My beliefs and support didn't change based on your statement.

what does that have to do with anything??
I would take the flags down if I no longer supported the message that they represented.

Delivered

mom please i'm so scared
just for a couple days
i don't want anyone to get hurt
IF YOU ARE NEUTRAL IN SITUATIONS OF INJUSTICE YOU HAVE CHOSEN THE SIDE OF THE OPPRESSOR

- DESMOND TUTU

Desmond Gets Free
by Matt Meyer
illustrated by Khuu Fam
I wanted to touch base about an incident on the bus last week. At the elementary level it is Turquoise, but I don’t know if you use a different system for the middle school level (but it is the same bus, both of my children ride it, 2nd grade and 7th grade). My son is Thomas Lycan (to help with bus look up). On Thursday, he told me about an incident in which a White male student near him was not only bullying but using racial slurs against a Black female student (the ‘n’ word). He said that the bus driver separated them and that an AP (I believe a male AP) addressed the situation with the students before the bus left the middle school- but honestly, I’m curious if the AP knew the entire situation, regarding the racist language. I pose this question because I asked Thomas if the White male student was on the bus on Friday, and he said yes, but he had to sit up by the bus driver.

I obviously wasn’t there, and I am hearing this all secondhand from my son, but I am concerned that racist actions are not taken more seriously than a moved seat- I honestly would have expected removal from the bus for a period of time. Thomas says that the sibling of the Black female student recorded the incident on (I believe her?) cell phone.

As a concerned parent and community member, I respectfully ask that you look into this matter.