

Discussing Identity and Culture

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Although we discuss several topics in EDUC 623: Models and Strategies for Teaching in IB Schools, identity and culture is often a powerful one for my students as they teach in both the US and in various parts of the world. This topic often also feeds into relationship-building with students as well as the human rights and social justice issues I cover in this course.

We use the following as our initial starting points:

- Thandie Newton, TEDGlobal 2011: “Embracing Otherness, Embracing Myself”
- Chapter 5 of *Teaching and Learning for Intercultural Understanding: Engaging Young Hearts and Minds* by Debra Rader

From there, students are asked these two questions on the discussion board:

- What are your classroom practices and rituals to help children learn about and value their personal and cultural identity? **How do you share your personal and cultural identity with your students?** How do your students share their identities with their classmates?
- Although the TED talk by Thandie Newton and the resources and ideas in the Rader chapters can be used to introduce students to concepts of identity and culture, there are still many others out there. Please find at least one additional resource that can be used to discuss identity and/or culture in your grade level and provide the link/reference. In a detailed explanation, please explain how it would be useful to this discussion.

Here are some that have been posted over the years. I have noted the grade level:

- *People* by Peter Spier (PK–2)
- *The Name Jar* by Yangsook Choi (PK–2)
- *Call Me Maria* by Judith Ortiz Cofer (3–7)
- *Inside Out and Back Again* by Thanhha Lai (3–7)
- *The House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros (9–12)
- *The Woman Warrior: Memoirs of a Girlhood Among Ghosts* by Maxine Hong Kingston (10–12)
- *Identity* short film by Kalhil KJ Adames (9–12)



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