

Childhood Trauma: Teaching Against the Gender Binary

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In this culminating unit, students will apply their understanding of their own identity to understand others and gender identity. This unit exposes students to literature that includes transgender, gender non-conforming, and cisgender characters. To allow students on non-binary genders to be more visible, educators can start by educating students in primary school on the different gender identities and stereotypes. Gender itself is a socially constructed identity that evolved from the behavior and roles men and women have historically taken on. Interactive read aloud lessons allow students to connect new concepts to real life through fiction texts that are engaging and informative. The lessons are designed for whole and small group instruction and break down the gender binary as well as stereotypes that occur within households, in school, and culturally. The goal is to provide students with a clear background on gender and teaching through literature how gender is a part of identity and the importance of respecting others' identities. By the conclusion of the unit, students will be able to express their ideas about the texts and how they view gender and expression through their own lens.