

## **“Clashing Cultures Novel Project” - Curriculum Commission MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**Project goals (Why?):** What happens when different cultures “crash into” each other? This is a question being asked in a variety of situations and locations all over the world. From the refugee camp to the dinner table, from the White House to the high school hallway, questions of “culture clash” is highly present in current events and everyday life. Understanding “culture clash” is a important in today’s world. And understanding your own opinion of it is even more important. This project matters because it will educate you about one of the major social issues of our time, help you reflect on that issue, and teach you to notice that issue in literature and in life.

**Project components (How?):** In this project, students will study the impact of “culture clash” on individuals, communities, and societies. They will do so using by reading, discussing, and presenting on a novel that deals with culture clash as a central theme. They will then conclude the project by going “beyond the book” and completing a blog post that connects what they’ve learned in the novel to current events and their own life experiences.

### **The Novels:**

*Brown Girl Dreaming* by Jacqueline Woodson  
*Persepolis* by Marjane Satrapi  
*American Born Chinese* by Gene Luen Yang  
*House On Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros  
*Esperanza Rising* by Pam Munoz Ryan

Choose one of the books listed above to read.

1. **Form a group and read the book.** After you have picked a book, you will form a group with others who have chosen to read the same book. At the beginning of each class period, you will check in with each other’s progress and make sure you’re on track to finish the book by the deadline. You will also work together to answer guiding questions about the book.
2. **Create a product.** Once you’ve finished the book, your group will create a product that answers the questions: “What are some examples of culture clash in your novel?” Find both positive and negative effects.  
Here are some ideas to get you started thinking about your product: ([link to product ideas](#)):
  - i. [Reading theater](#)
  - ii. [Interview skit](#)
  - iii. [Cartoon or infographic](#)

You will present your final product in class, and post a digital version to our class blog.

3. **Blog post: Beyond the book.** Write about a culture YOU belong to and a time that you felt that culture clash with another culture. How did that you feel? **Bonus:** On the blog post, post a picture of an object that represents the culture you wrote about.

Blog Examples: <http://www.offassignment.com/>, <https://www.lostwithpurpose.com/>