



MORGRIDGE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
GRADUATE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK
JOSEF KORBEL SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

Introduction from the ABC Curriculum Committee

As our curriculum team reflected on our reading experience, our dialogue included what we perceived to be the strengths and limitations of the book. Our group reflected on our assessment that the book is a memoir, a personal reflection of one person's path, and that we saw this as a strength and limitation. We acknowledge that each of us will relate to the book and the journey differently, and we encourage participants to utilize the reading and book clubs as guides for personal reflection and growth, and for establishing support and knowledge sharing in each of your communities.

Members of the curriculum development team aimed to be consistent in applying critical and inclusive lens to our dialogue and to the development of the weekly prompts and content, and to meld our voices and perspectives during the development of this series. However, we acknowledge that we are diverse individuals on our own journeys of learning aimed at improving our selves and the world around us – we are imperfect and we are still growing and developing. As this is a pilot activity and program, we welcome your questions, feedback and additions to our developed questions and activities. To share questions, suggestions and feedback, please reference the ABC Weekly Feedback & Suggestion Google form in our weekly distributions - we welcome your collaboration and perspective! Not signed up to receive our weekly e-mails? Please e-mail Joi Lin, Joi.Lin@du.edu, to sign up today!

Some guidance as you launch into your group's journey:

- It is imperative for everyone to be supported, recognized and respected as his, her or their authentic selves in each book club community. At the same time, it is important for members to be accountable to each other. We encourage you to consistently check in with one another to establish group norms and guidelines to establish and maintain a supportive, inclusive and respectful space (example of book club schedule: personal check-ins, norms check-in from last week, dialogue, closing)
- While this is a space for learning and sharing, you are encouraged to take responsibility for your personal growth.
 - Acknowledge that when you ask peers, colleagues and friends to share their knowledge, stories and perspectives, they are sharing a valuable piece of themselves with you.

- If you wish to explore a perspective, identity, or culture outside of your own, please take steps to develop your own knowledge first before entering an exploratory dialogue. Please reference the ABC website hosted by the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusivity for additional resources and means of connecting with available supports on your journey. It is not expected or acceptable to rely on a peer, colleague, friend or book club member to fill the gaps of your knowledge that stem from your own positionality. For example, it is unacceptable to depend on your own Latinx colleague to educate you about Latinx community and culture, and it is unacceptable to depend on LGBTQ peers to educate you about non-binary identities
- We are all going to make mistakes along the way. We are all going to have to 'step back' at a point to care for ourselves and for our loved ones. We are all going to have bad days where we replay how we engaged with others and how we may have misspoken.
- We encourage you to practice grace and forgiveness, with yourself and with each other. We have a long journey and much work ahead of us. It will require our collective strength, wisdom, and mistakes to learn from and to build upon.

For support, please contact Joi Lin
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