1. Why should teachers instruct cultural literacy activities?

- Common Knowledge
- Motivation
- Melting Pot (seen in the 21C as an archaic concept)
- Comments by participants:
  - Human situation despite differences
  - Shared experiences
  - Tossed salad (not losing beauty of culture)
  - Schema-more involvement/increased learning
  - Builds empathy and understanding
  - Teach tolerance/acceptance for other cultures
  - Pride in one’s own culture
  - Building a society with less conflict
  - Less bullying and hatred

2. What is your own definition of cultural literacy?

- Definitions by participants:
  - Learning an awareness of cultural differences and similarities using a variety of literature to expand an ever-evolving society
  - Reflective reading of one’s own culture
  - Experience other cultures in whatever way possible (foods, sharing customs, etc.)

3. What lessons have you taught that specifically meet the cultural literacy needs of your students?

- Responses by participants:
  - Use of stories that reflect the specific diverse cultural backgrounds of the students.
  - Food, traditions, origin, geographic location of availability
  - Folklore and/or history of past generations
○ Using literature and materials from different cultures and comparing and contrasting them
○ Weekly “class meetings” in which stories are used to discuss various issues, topics, concerns, etc.
○ Special speakers and presentations that bring authentic experiences and objects (money, food, clothing)
○ Celebrating heritage
○ Round Robin-class experts share specific topics that they have researched with the whole school
○ Analyze propaganda connected to the Holocaust
○ Introducing other cultures in pre-school
○ Sharing across gender and age

4. What children’s literature titles have you found that successfully meet the cultural literacy needs of your students?

- Titles that deal with Immigration:
  ○ *How Many Days to America?* (Cuban Immigration) by Eve Bunting and Beth Peck
  ○ *Everyone Cooks Rice* by Norah Dooley and Peter J. Thornton
  ○ *How my Parents Learned to Eat* by Ina R. Freidman

- Titles that support authentic literature of cultures:
  ○ *Folktales Around the World*
  ○ *Buford Series*
  ○ *Ruby Bridges* by Robert Coles and George Ford
  ○ *Gold Cadillac* by Mildred D. Taylor and Max Ginsberg
  ○ *The Other Side* by Jacqueline Woodson and E. B. Lewis
  ○ *Tar Beach* by Faith Reingold
  ○ Variants of the Cinderella story:
    - *The Golden Sandal: A Middle Eastern Cinderella Story* by Rebecca Hickox and Will Hillenbrand
    - Persian Cinderella
    - Korean Cinderella
    - Yeh-Shen by Ai-Ling Louie
    - Rough Faced Girl

- Titles for Young Adults:
  - *Rules of Survival* (Werlin)
  - *Chanda’s Secrets* (Stratton)
  - *Monster* (W. Dean Myers)
  - *Milkweed* (J. Spinnelli)
  - *Outsiders* by S. E. Hinton