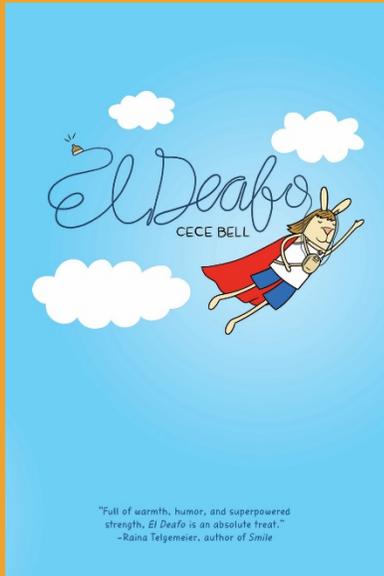
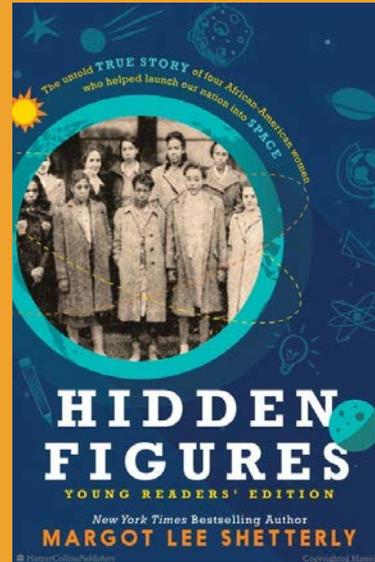


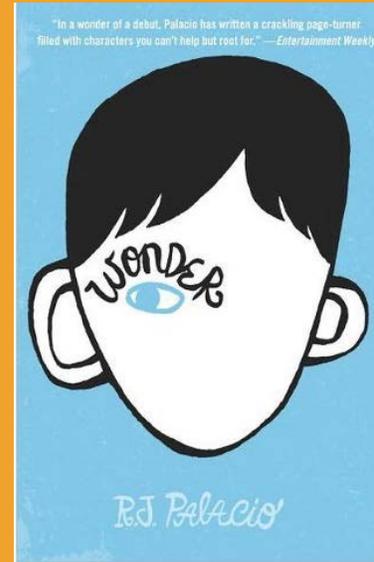
# Peggy Semingson, Ph.D. Online Literature Circles



- Graphic Novel
- Narrative/Memoir



- Non-fiction
- Historical



- Realistic Fiction

Undergraduate literacy course with ~80 preservice teachers (future elementary teachers).

Course: **LITERACY LEARNING FOR EC-6 STUDENTS: READING AND WRITING**

Teamwork Focus:

Students collaborating online to discuss three different genres of children's literature.

Teamwork via  
structured  
tasks/ roles  
around a  
shared text  
and threaded  
online  
discussion

- The literature circle tasks we will be doing include:
  - Discussion director (find discussion questions; highlight 2-3 main ones to focus on)
  - Lesson Plan Leader- Locate lesson plans online that relate to the children's book (elementary-focused) and explain how they are useful.
  - -Connectors: Find text-to-world connections (real life connections) and text-to-text connections (similar books or authors)
  - -Gist Generators: Describe the key ideas of the book (main ideas) in your own words.
  - Illuminating the author: Location additional resources and info about the author. Explain how it gives insight into the book.
  - Genre explorer: tell us more about the genre of the book

-Connectors:  
Find text-to-world connections (real life connections) and text-to-text connections (similar books or authors)

- Make connections from the book to:
  - Text-to-world connections: What issues in the “Real world” connect to the book? (e.g., what it is like to be deaf as a child). Include links.
  - Text-to-text connections. Are there other books/texts/articles/multimedia that connect to the book? Also consider other types of texts such as online articles, news sources, YouTube videos, etc. (multimedia beyond print-based text).
  - *If* you have seen the movie, you might add commentary about it as it compares to the book.

Explain your post in detail and in your own words!

Discussion  
director (find  
discussion  
questions;  
highlight 2-3  
main ones to  
focus on)

- If this is your task, look online for discussion questions. Be sure to link to the source where you found them. Also, highlight and/or bold (or star) the top three questions that you want people to discuss! **Put the top three questions (that you choose) at the top of your list of questions.** You are strongly encouraged to think of your own open-ended discussion questions. Google around to see how to ask “open ended discussion questions”. Always cite your source (link) to where you found the discussion questions. I suggest Googling “*Hidden Figures* discussion questions” and “*Hidden Figures* comprehension questions”. Do not ask overly basic or literal questions! You must link to where you found the discussion questions! **For your post, tell us WHY you like these discussion questions and why you chose them (this should be the bulk of your post).** Also, respond to your own questions!

# Supports and Resources for Students

Tutorials on each literary role/task

Screencast video on how to hyperlink and embed multimedia resources

Direct teaching of literary terms for richer dialogue



Spin-off into summer:  
Summer book club (online w/asynchronous discussion threads and online “Zoom” synchronous sessions.

## **Successes**

- Rich dialogue and sharing
- Distributed learning with tasks around a unified discussion.
- Immersive experience in literature circles
- Variety of roles so students can try at least 2-3 different tasks.
- New experience for many

## **Challenges**

- Groups were too large.
- Duplicate roles in the same group meant redundant information shared.
- Next time will create smaller groups (6-10 students)
- Need to further document student growth as teams (pre and post)-will do in future semesters