

## Junior Great Books® and Culturally Responsive-Sustaining Education

The Great Books Foundation creates inquiry-focused reading and discussion programs for grades K–8 that are proven to increase students’ academic achievement. In our Shared Inquiry™ method of learning, students and teachers participate in civil discourse by collaboratively exploring questions of enduring value in grade-appropriate works. By combining thought-provoking texts with open-ended questioning, we build and strengthen student competencies that directly align with The Four Principles of Culturally Responsive-Sustaining Education.

The chart below shows how each of the activities used in our Junior Great Books® materials and the Shared Inquiry method of learning connect to the The Four Principles of Culturally Responsive-Sustaining Education as outlined and adopted in multiple states.

The Four Principles of Culturally Responsive-Sustaining Education	Great Books Foundation’s Methodology, Training, and Curriculum
Welcoming and Affirming Environment	<p>Great Books method and materials support a welcoming and affirming environment by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Including rich texts that represent a variety of races, cultures, backgrounds, and time periods</li> <li>• Providing multiple ways to participate and share responses in activities (e.g., text-to-self connections, or interpretive activities)</li> <li>• Emphasizing listening to other’s ideas and responding with civility</li> <li>• Encouraging students to come to well-reasoned and personally satisfying conclusions that combine ideas and evidence</li> </ul>
High Expectations and Rigorous Instruction	<p>Great Books method and materials support high expectations and rigor by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Offering multiple opportunities and ways for students to express and develop their ideas</li> <li>• Including activity options that make critical thinking about challenging texts accessible to all students</li> <li>• Offering space for students to reflect, expand, and change answers</li> <li>• Including explicit instruction in how to respond constructively to other students’ ideas</li> </ul>

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Shared Inquiry™ is a trademark of the Great Books Foundation.

<p>Inclusive Curriculum and Assessment</p>	<p>Great Books method and materials support inclusivity by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inviting students to assess themselves and participate in metacognitive reflection, which allows flexibility for differentiation</li> <li>• Including rich texts that represent a variety of races, cultures, backgrounds, and time periods</li> <li>• Encouraging participants to come to their own well-reasoned and personally satisfying conclusions through Shared Inquiry activities</li> </ul>
<p>Ongoing Professional Learning</p>	<p>Great Books method and materials support ongoing professional learning by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Offering access to consultation sessions (both in person and online) that provide teachers with individualized opportunities for coaching and problem solving</li> <li>• Holding advanced courses that address specific instructional needs, giving teachers the flexibility to differentiate their professional development based on students' needs.</li> </ul>

If you'd like more information about the Shared Inquiry method and its relationship to Culturally Responsive-Sustaining Education, please reach out to our team at 800.222.5870 or email [danielle.martin@greatbooks.org](mailto:danielle.martin@greatbooks.org).