

8 signs that you are becoming more culturally responsive:

1. You feel disequilibrium of a cultural nature as you read a book:

- You are wondering what certain words in the text you're reading mean.
- You wonder what certain foods described are.
- You are noticing the predictable pattern of problems/solutions is not so clear.
- You wonder about the author's intentions.
- You don't feel you have all the answers (but certainly MANY questions).



2. You notice that students who usually cruise through comprehension questions are experiencing more disequilibrium:

- You see your usual participants feeling challenged via their questioning, wondering, and noticing.

3. You notice that students who struggle to engage suddenly come alive:

- Reluctant sharers raise their hands in excitement.
- Students from the cultural context being taught have many connections and comments they are anxious to share.
- Students mention that a parent or family member told them about "that" or have a story that connects directly to the text.

4. Students who you usually struggle to engage suddenly have little personal stories they really want to share with you:

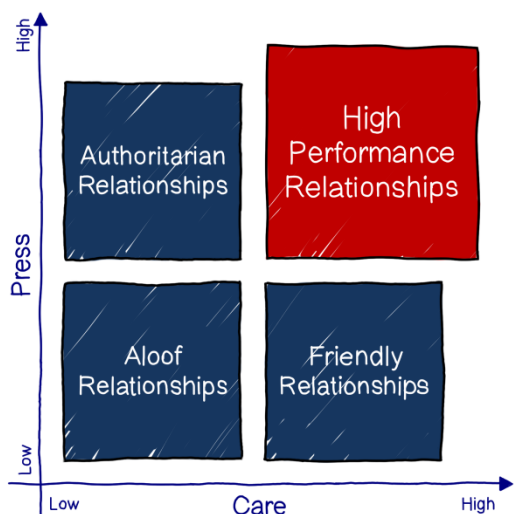
- You start to get to know students more intimately as they give you bits and pieces of their personal stories.

5. You start to see pieces of writing with some character names and situations that are definitely a part of a subculture, rather than mainstream culture:

- You feel the need to ask your little authors for clarifying questions about names, foods, words, or story line that doesn't feel familiar.
- You notice students experimenting with words and cultural contexts that are unfamiliar to you, but when you ask about them, students are comfortable explaining their thoughts, rather than wanting to delete them from their piece.

6. Students are excited and wanting to know more about your personal story:

- Students want to know what happened "after that" and how you felt and what you learned (especially if you only do part of the story in your demonstration).
- Students feel more connected with you and ask about the authentic pieces you shared in your story and their current status.



7. Attendance for students of color improves:

- You notice that little people are SO excited about their story (or yours) that they don't want to miss school.
- You notice that fire drills are really sad if they interrupt writing time.

8. Students want more time to finish their stories:

- You notice children revising to make their story better when given feedback.
- You notice that students have a certain pride in their piece, wanting everything to be ready for publishing.