Supporting All Students Through Differentiated Instruction

Amy Tomblinson, M.Ed. SAIS Summer Conference 2023

When a flower doesn't bloom, you change the environment. You don't blame the flower. Alexander Den Heijer



What is the difference between brightand gifted learners?



Bright Students

- Scholarship
- Meets expectations

- Works hard to achieve
- Wants to please

Gifted Students

- Scholarliness
- Above average ability
- Questions expectations
- Understands ambiguity

How do we meet the needs of all learners?



In Our Classrooms We Must...

Meet students where they are academically.

Accommodate students with appropriate challenges.

Recognize the humanity of our students beyond their individual academic success or lack thereof.

Supporting All Students Through Differentiated Instruction



Reinforce

What in the curriculum is important to reinforce?
What do all students NEED to know?



Refine

For more advanced students focus on one thing from the core of the curriculum in order to refine students' understanding



Redefine

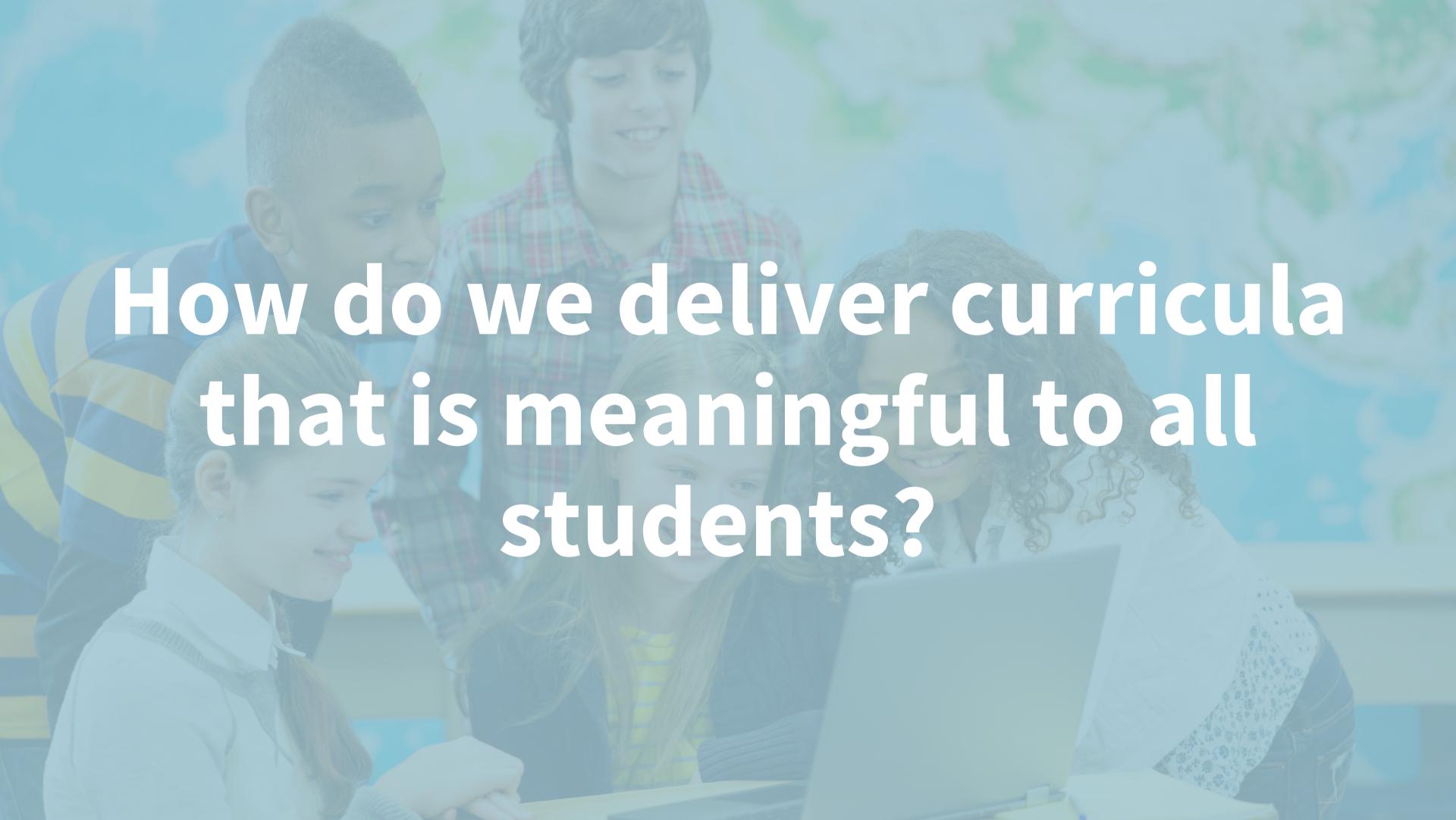
For gifted learners-perhaps a comparative analysis of the topic in contrast to other topics /eras.



When thinking about differentiation, think about a painting.

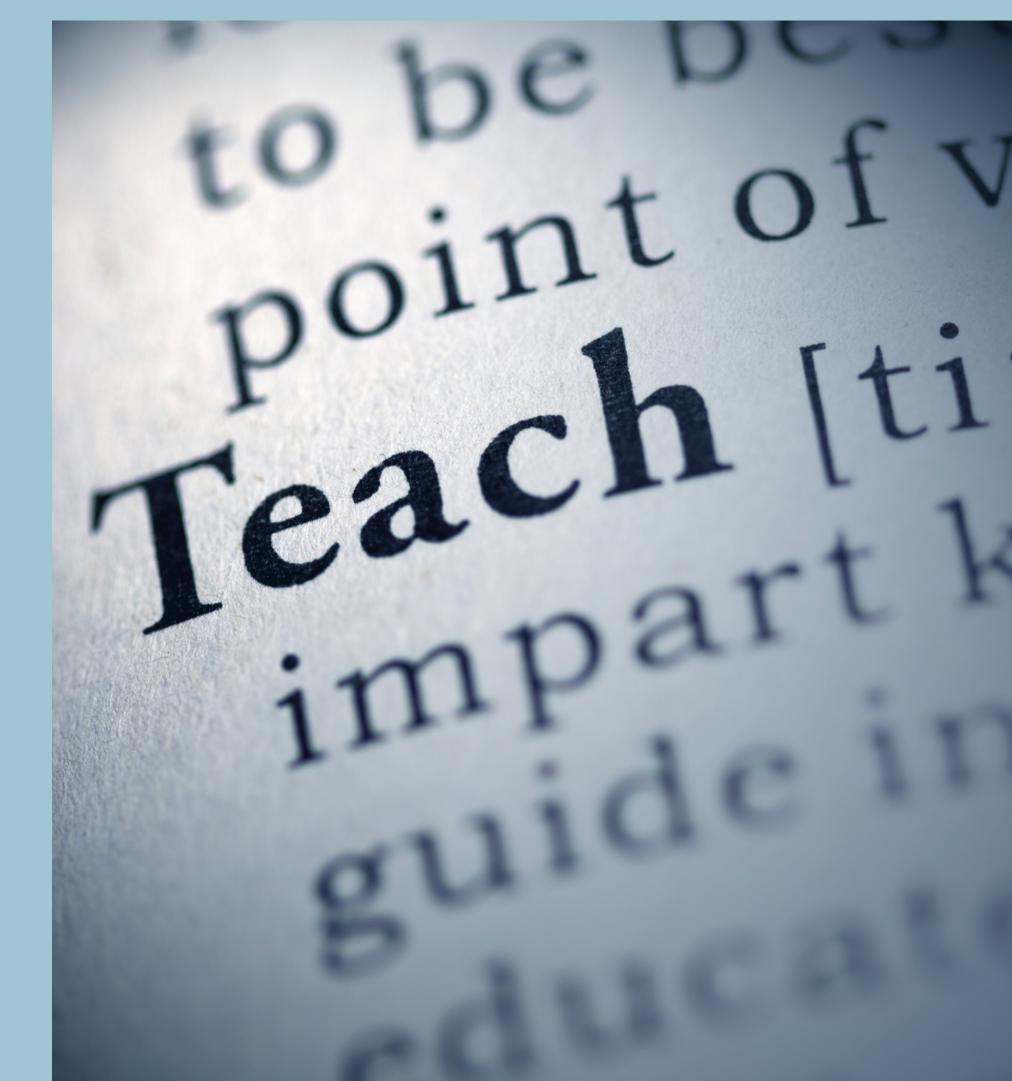
Differentiation is widely accepted in sports.





Curricula:
What we teach

Pedagogy:
How we teach



Differentiation is more than an answer to the question: "What activity can be used to keep early finishers engaged?"

ACTIVITY



Cinderella



Analyze the story of Cinderella.







They lived happily ever after.

Perspective and vantage point change depending upon the lens.



Different Intellectual Demands



Basic Thinking

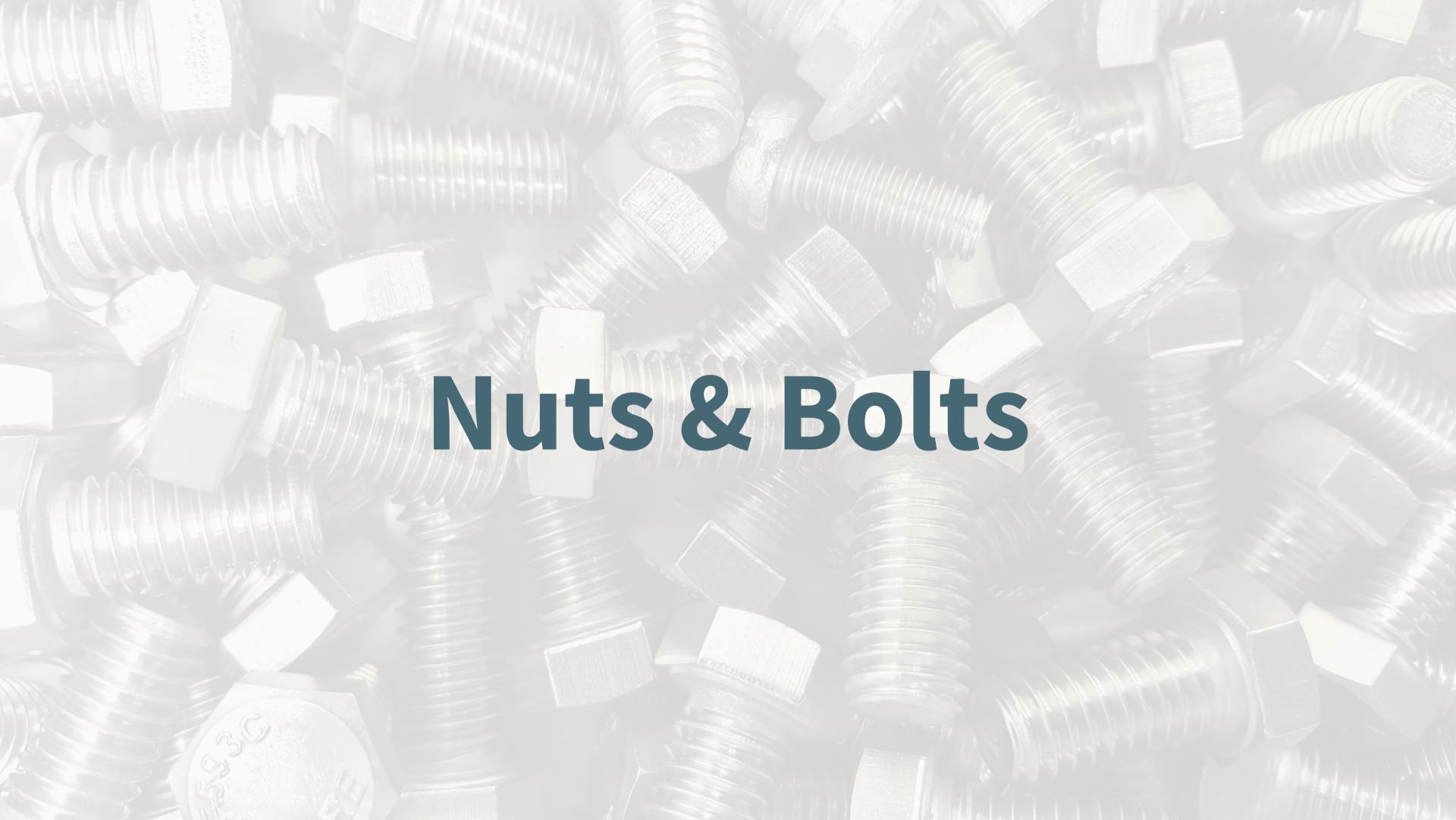




Creative Thinking

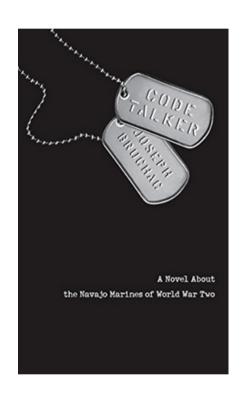


Facilitate Connections



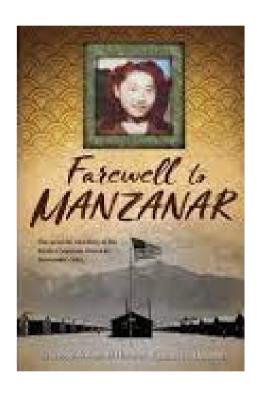
Over-Arching Themes & Essential Questions

Novel Study: Courage/WWII



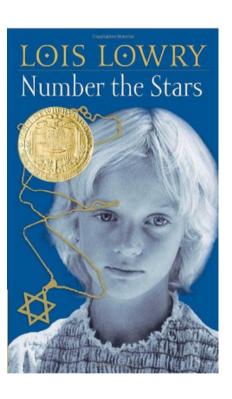
Code Talker

Joseph Bruchac



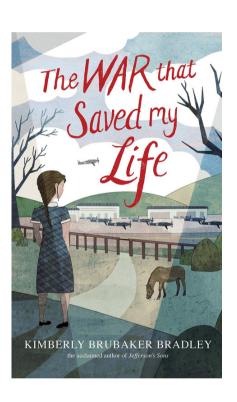
Farewell to Manzanar

James D. Houston &
Jeanne Wakatsuki
Houston



Number the Stars

Lois Lowry



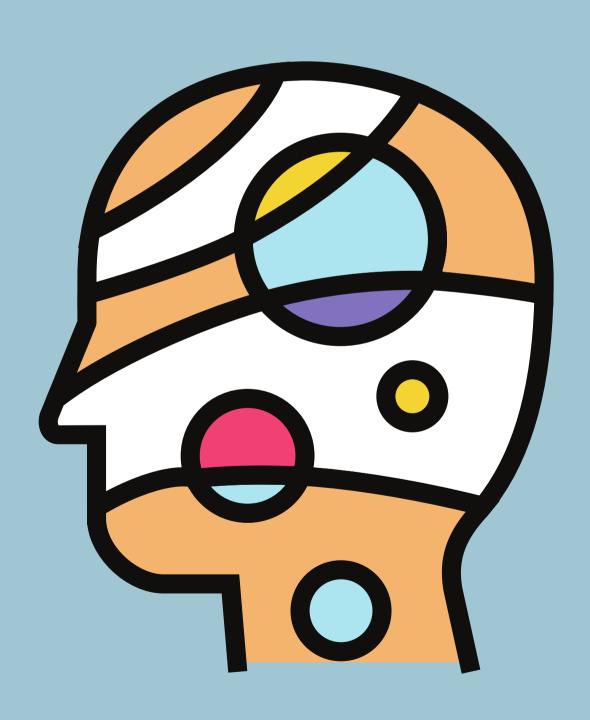
The War That Saved My Life

Kimberly Brubaker Bradley

Formulate Questions

• Factual

- Analytical
- Evaluative
- Metaphysical



Varied Resources







- Print
- Database
- Webquest

- Zoom
- Email
- Interview

- Visit
- Virtual
- Pictures

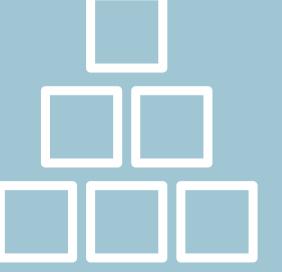




Organize Information











Tech-Based
Learning
Experiences



ACTIVITY



Cross-Curricular Connections

Final Thoughts



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Contact Information

Amy Tomblinson, M.Ed.

- in linkedin.com/in/amytomblinson

