

WOM



# Teaching That Sticks

*adding adhesiveness without  
compromising mathematics*

Elizabeth Statmore  
(@cheesemonkeysf)



# Why stickiness?



What do I **think** I know about this concept?  
Why does this matter?

# Two reasons —



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Every idea in the curriculum does not sparkle with rich tasks and perplexity.

@mgolding posted this slide TO THE WHOLE TWITTERSPHERE. #egad #donttellmynewprincipal

# Two reasons —

# REASON I - YOU



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# Two reasons —

## REASON 1 - YOU

*Sometimes you're f\*\*\*ed*



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# Two reasons —

## REASON 1 - YOU

*Sometimes you're f\*\*\*ed*

## REASON 2 - STUDENTS



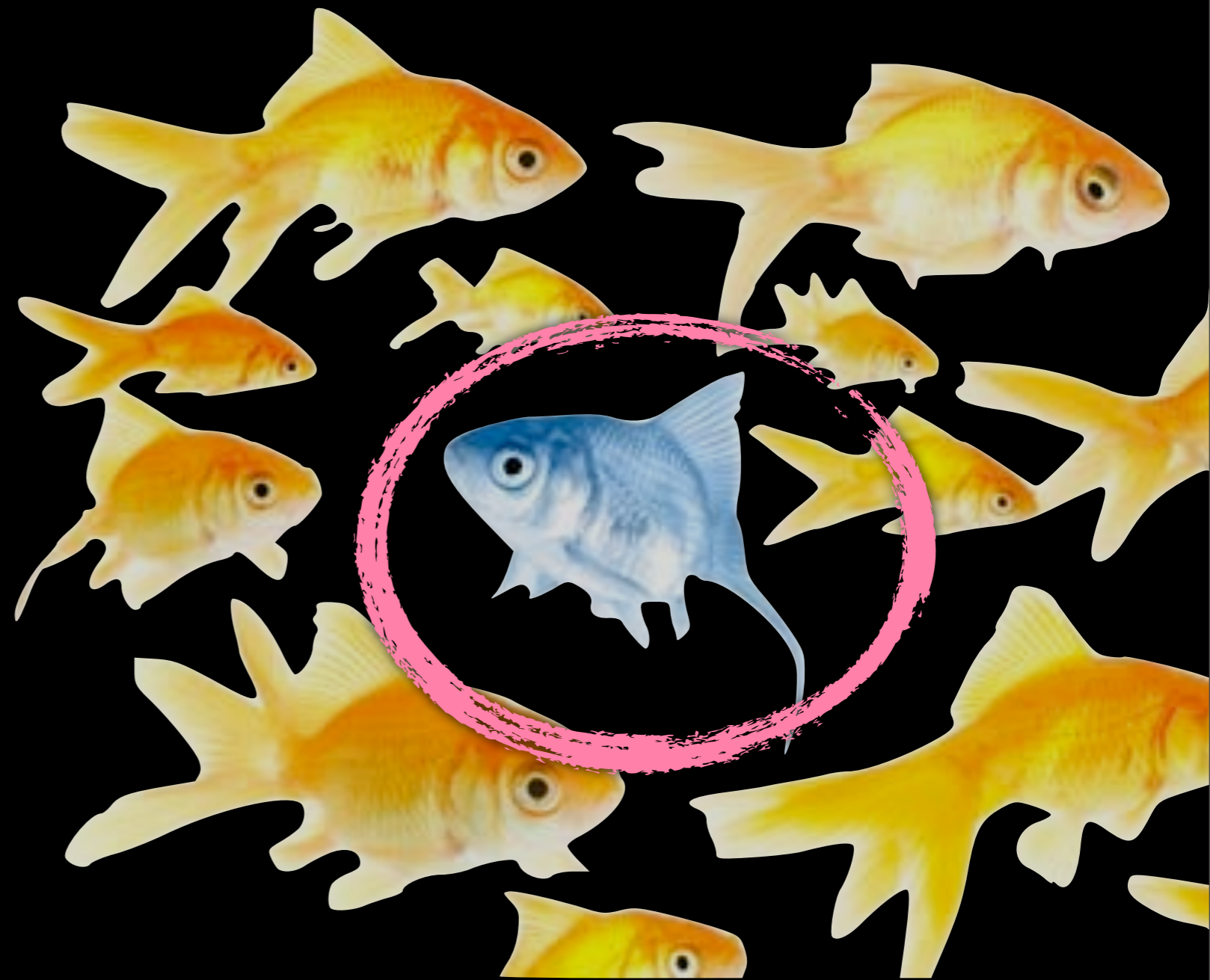
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## DIFFERENTIATION & INCLUSION

re allowing for the likelihood that many Ss experience the topic in ways you are incapable of imagining — even though you can plan for it and build in on-ramps.



# a matter of **INCLUSION**



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## DIFFERENTIATION & INCLUSION

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# NOT gimmicks



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This is not about using gimmicks or tricks. Rather, it is about making wise use of the leverage we get from the fact that the brain naturally makes connections because THAT is its job!



The brain makes connections



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# Bitter truth:



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even great ideas sometimes  
**need help**

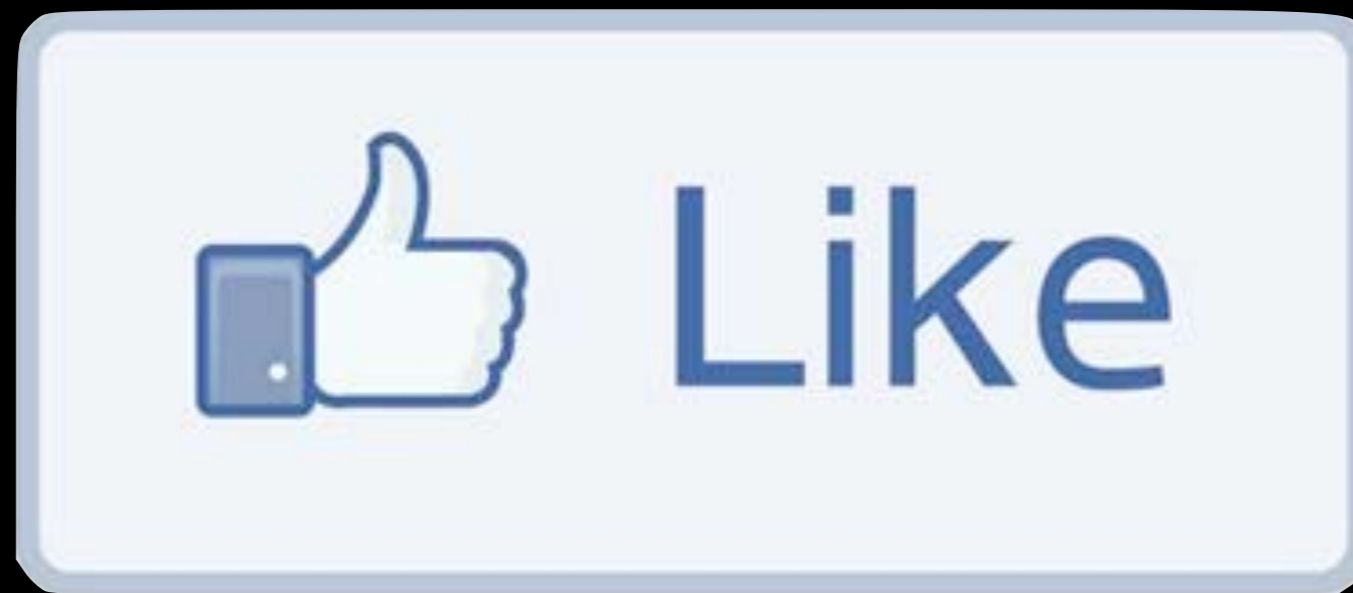


# Good news:





# Good news:



All ideas can be **made stickier**



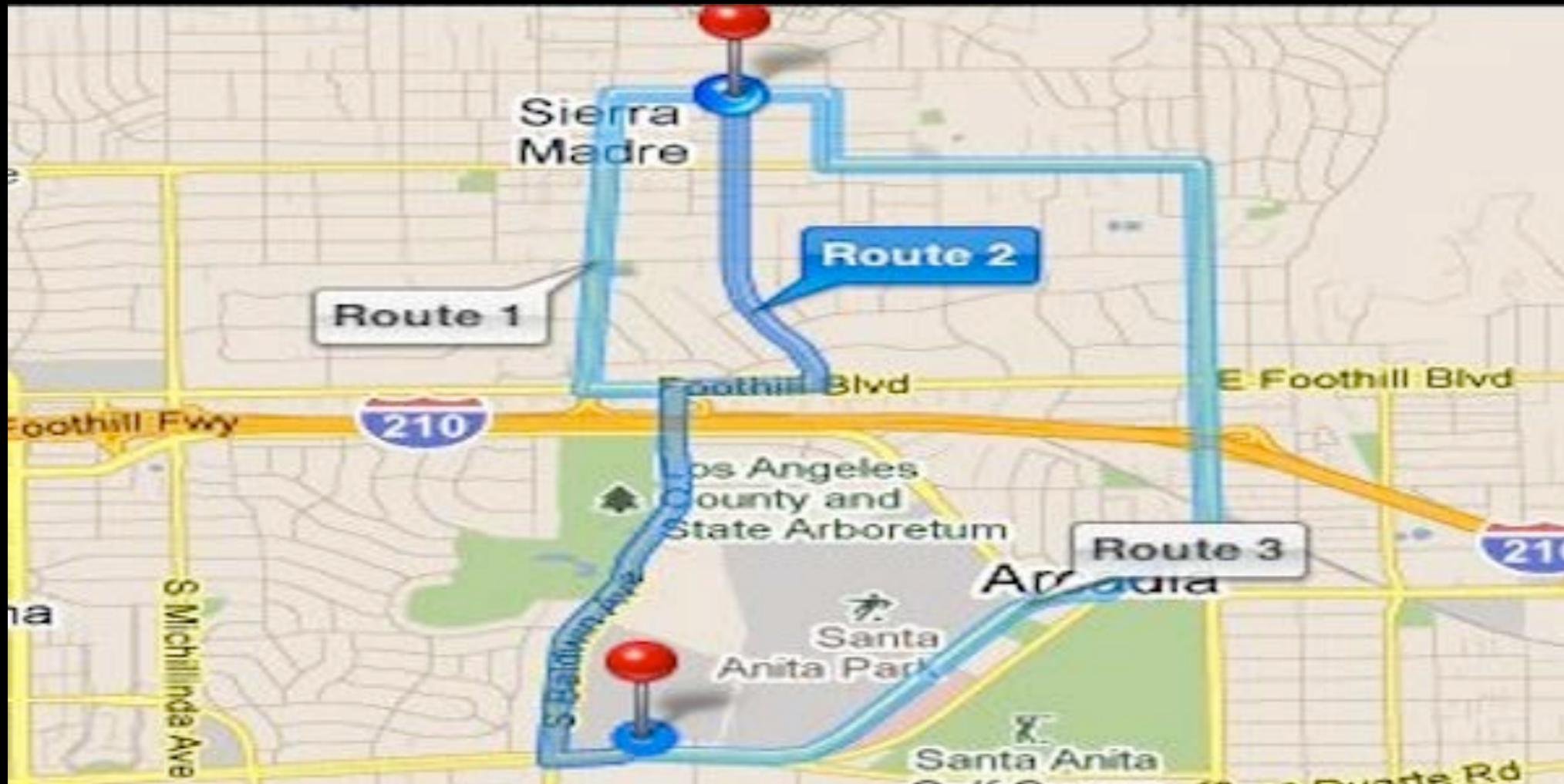
# THE POINT: to reach ALL learners



I want to reach 100% of all the different kinds of learners in my room all the time.

That may not be practical, but it is aspirationally essential.

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by mapping in **multiple on-ramps**



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# Stickiness is a PLAYBOOK





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Overview of this session. I'll give a 30,000-foot view of the six dimensions of stickiness. Then we'll break into groups to do unconventional brainstorming.

# 6 traits of sticky ideas



Overview of this session. I'll give a 30,000-foot view of the six dimensions of stickiness. Then we'll break into groups to do unconventional brainstorming.



6 traits of sticky ideas

slightly wacky  
brainstorming



So let's get sticky...





So let's get sticky...



# SIX TRAITS of Sticky Ideas



# SIX TRAITS of Sticky Ideas

SIMPLE





# SIX TRAITS of Sticky Ideas

SIMPLE

UNEXPECTED



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UNEXPECTED

CONCRETE



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# SIX TRAITS of Sticky Ideas

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STORY

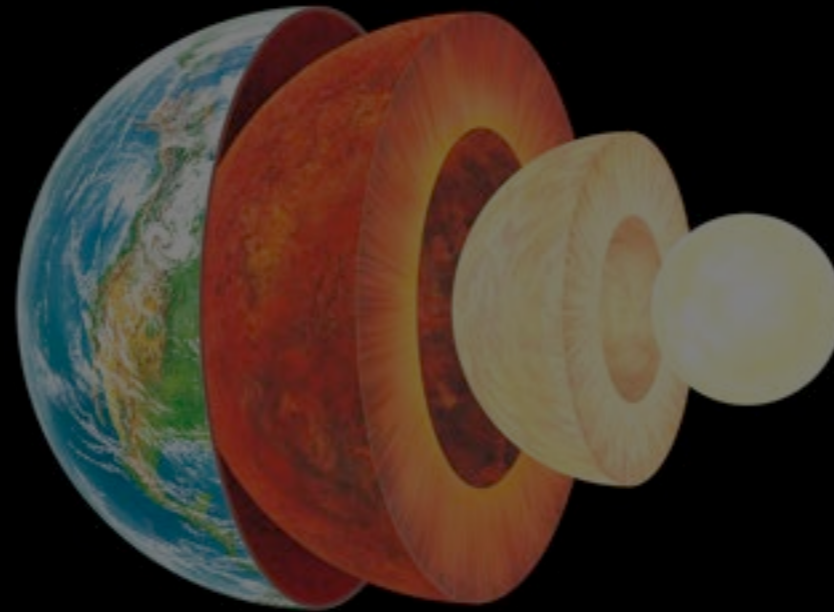


# SIMPLE



Core + Anchor. The “undo” button (or menu command) as the essence of the concept of inverse functions (by a show of hands, how many people in this room have narrowly escaped doom through the miracle of the “undo” command? Well, functions are about “doing,” and

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Find  
the **core**



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**SIMPLE**



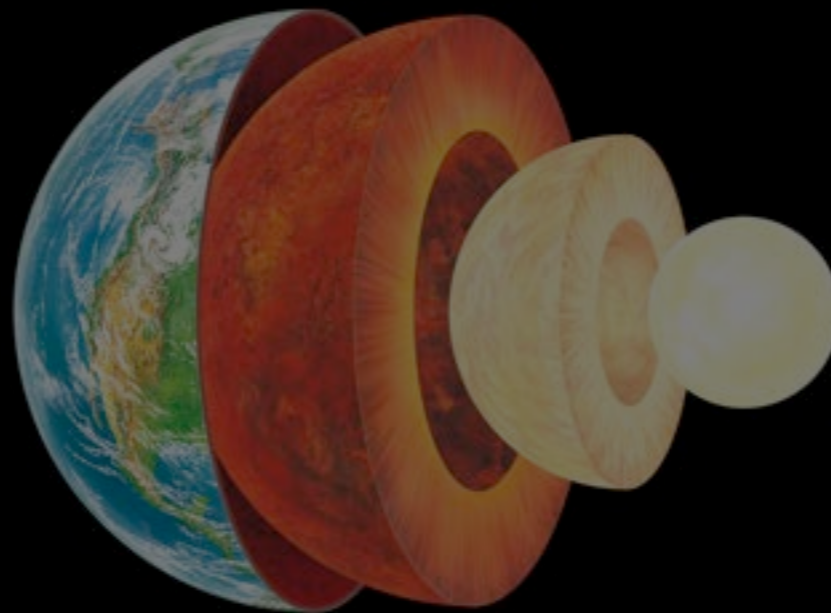
Find  
the **core**

**Anchor** it in students'  
own experience





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# UNEXPECTED



3-Acts and #anyqs work by opening a curiosity gap between what students know right now and what they COULD know with a little more struggle.

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Open a **curiosity gap**



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# UNEXPECTED

Open a **curiosity gap**



Capture attention through  
**surprise**



# CONCRETE



The brain does not distinguish between real-time sensory input/experience and the MEMORY of sensory input/experience. To my brain, this photo of warm, gooey chocolate chip cookies is as real a sensory experience as the memories I reference to process these.



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# CONCRETE

Activate  
**physical senses**



Even a brilliant task can be made stickier by connecting it to students' sense memory: By a show of hands, how many people in this room have ever walked in the forest? Close your eyes and remember what that felt like — how did the air feel on your skin, what was the moisture

# CONCRETE

EXAMPLE –

activating  
**physical senses**



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Memory = **leverage**



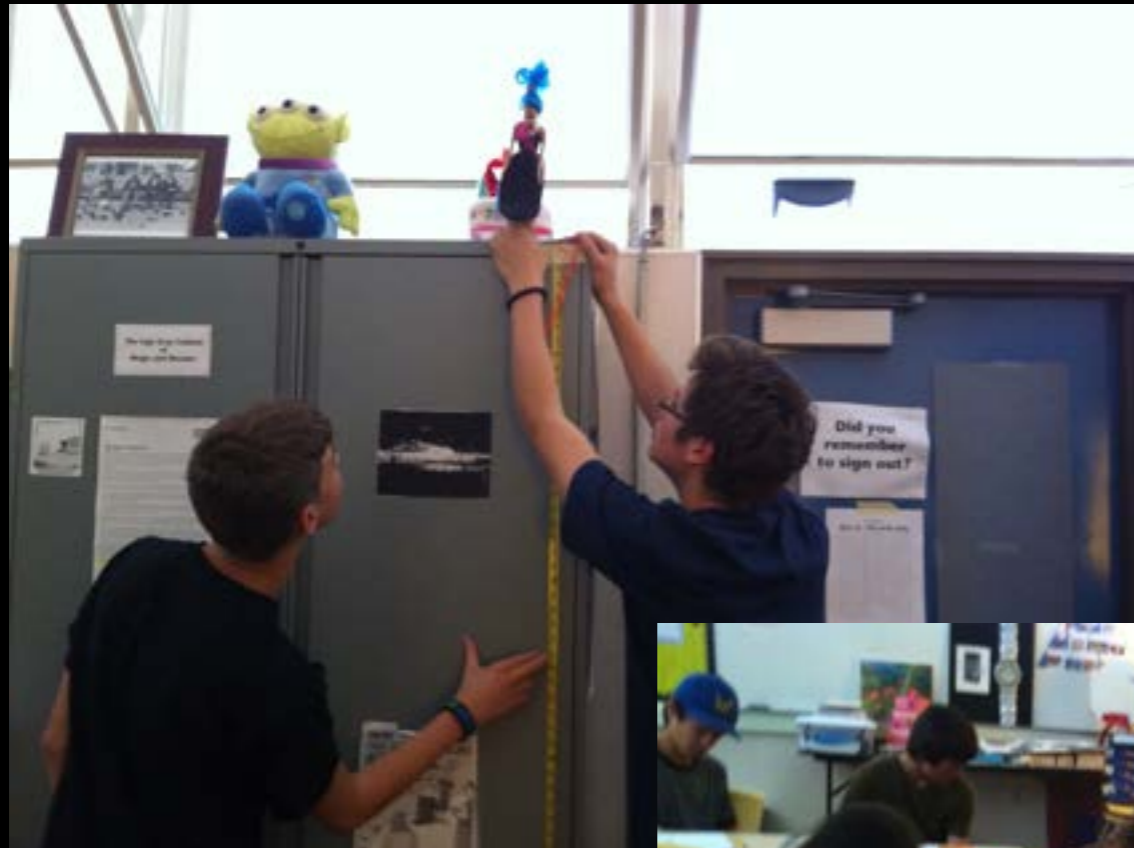
# CREDIBLE



Nothing convinces a skeptic like a “testable credential.” Get students to test things for themselves. Nullia in verbo (don’t take anybody else’s word for it!!).



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# EMOTIONAL

**Emotion** is  
the gatekeeper



Find things that will hit us in the gut. We have a very emotional brain.



# EMOTIONAL

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CAMP  
2013  
PHILADELPHIA  
PENNSYLVANIA

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# STORY



Who are your offstage characters? Stories make ideas sticky. They don't even have to be good stories! Human connection is powerful for adolescents in the classroom. Most adults don't talk to them about their own lives and connections. Show them what it is like to be a genuine



# STORY

Who are your  
**offstage characters?**

There is value in **stories**

**ANY** story!



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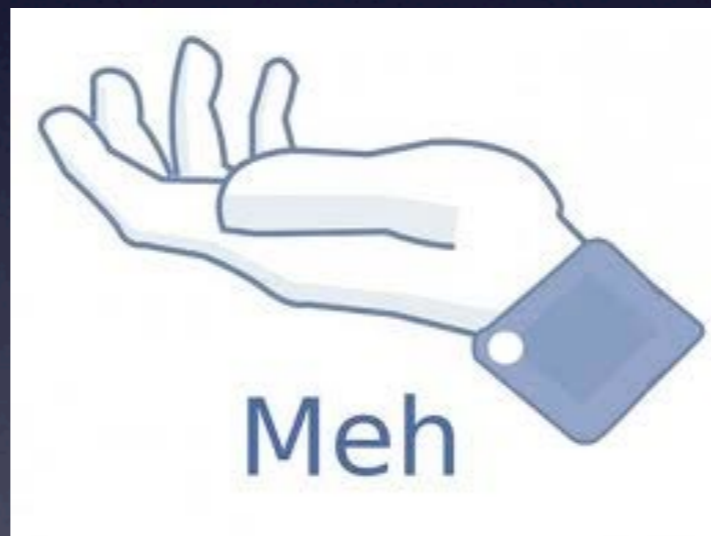
# Now let's get to work



TRANSITION TO BRAINSTORMING ACTIVITY: Now let's see how we can infuse "meh" lessons, activities, and concepts with stickiness.



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