DUESTIONS Planling seeds for the future ONE word at a time.



WORD: **POWERFUL** /POU·ER·FUHL/

Having power is one thing; using it well and for the good of others is an entirely different thing. Knowing when to wield some power could be the most powerful thing that someone can do. To responsibly be powerful, you have to consider the outcomes... Who is at the other end of the power that you wield?

YOUR UNDERSTANDING AND VISION OF THE WORD

l've come to a frightening conclusion that I am the decisive element in the classroom. It's my personal approach that creates the climate. It's my daily mood that makes the weather. As a teacher, I possess a tremendous power to make a child's life miserable or joyous. I can be a tool of torture or an instrument of inspiration. I can humiliate or heal. In all situations, it is my response that decides whether a crisis will be escalated or deescalated and a child humanized or dehumanized. dehumanized.

-DR. HAIM GINOTT

Take a moment to think about your responses to the following questions. This is your opportunity to see if what you believe is taking hold with the young people in which you have interactions.

- What is the last thing that you did that made you feel powerful?
- When you are feeling powerful what does your body feel like? Do you notice anything different?
- What was the last thing you did to encourage a child that they have power and presence?
- What were the visions of power from your childhood? What was deemed to be powerful or weak? Why?
- Who taught you about power dynamic and what was that relationship like? How has your perception of power evolved over the course of your life?
- What do you feel you had to overcome to find and utilize your power?
- What is your favorite way to empower those around you?

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QUESTIONS AND CONVERSATIONS STARTERS THAT PROMPT CONNECTIONS

The most important part of building meaningful relationships is the ability to trust each other through active listening and understanding. When we discuss these questions with those that are younger or not yet familiar with the concepts we must approach it with emotional constancy as the adult that has done the work to be introspective first. We recommend starting up top with the reflection questions and bringing those sentiments with you to the conversation. This is deep but will be an eye-opening experience for all that are committed to growing together. Notice if there is alignment with what you reflected on and what they said.

- What does it mean to be powerful? When was the last time you felt powerful?
- When you are feeling powerful what does your body feel like? Do you notice anything different?
- Do you believe that power has to always be strong and loud? Could it be soft and quiet as well? How?
- What do you think about powerful words versus powerful actions?
- What are you doing when you feel MOST powerful?
- How did you learn how to be powerful in that area? Who taught you?
- What can I do to help you feel empowered to use you unique power?
- How does being courageous help you be powerful?

THOUGHTS TO TAKE AWAY AND SHARE

