



WORD: FREE-SPIRITED /FREE-SPIR-IT-ID/

You students could have been told they are free to be themselves... but having the conditions, spaces, and routines in places that give them the opportunity to FEEL free enough to act on that promise is something different and requires intention and personalization. Its equity in real-life practice.

"A teacher in search of his/her own freedom may be the only kind of teacher who can arouse young people to go in search of their own."

DR. MAXINE GREEN

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 free?
- When you are feeling free what does your body feel like? Do you notice anything different?
- What was the last thing you did to encourage a child think about and utilize their unique abilities and talents in a way that they chose?
- How free did you feel as a child?
- How has your concept of freedom evolved over the course of your life? Why did it evolve?
- What do you feel you had to overcome to feel free in the spaces you occupy?

# Connect

### 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 free? What about being free-spirited?
- When was the last time you felt free?
- When you are feeling free what does your body feel like? Do you notice anything different?
- Why is it important that kids feel free?
- What are you doing when you feel MOST free? Who are you around at that time? Are you by yourself? Who was your favorite teacher? Why? How did that teacher make you feel?
- Was there a teacher that made you feel like you couldn't be yourself? What was it about that teacher or classroom that made you feel that way?
- What advice do you have for teachers and parents that want their students and kids to feel free in their classrooms?

## THOUGHTS TO TAKE AWAY AND SHARE

