



**Teaching Resources: #MeTooCurriculum**  
***a resource for teachers, librarians and parents***

created by Katy Farber and Jeanie Phillips,  
Professional Development Coordinators  
University of Vermont  
Created in October 2017

---

**Introduction:**

In light of the news this week of the allegations of sexual harassment and assault by Harvey Weinstein, and the many women sharing their stories on social media using the hashtag #MeToo, I started this Google Doc so educators can share resources that will fight sexism, misogyny and violence against women.

Our kids are listening. They might have questions upon hearing this week's news and seeing #MeToo in their social media feeds. Educators will have to be careful to share what is age appropriate for students and be respectful of their life experiences, knowing that some of our students may have already experienced abuse. Partnering with the guidance counselor at your school for significant conversations might be helpful as well. Allowing students to ask questions, have a learning dialogue, in a safe space, could be a matter of life and death, giving students a place where they can learn what is okay, what is not, and what to do if they are experiencing sexual harassment or abuse. This resource is geared to students ranging from grade 6-12 (with some resources for younger students too), and explores a teaching moment about issues of consent, setting boundaries, and respecting each other's bodies, spaces and life experiences. We can change the culture one student at a time. Please feel free to make a copy of this doc, and add resources, or tweet/email them to me.

---

**Background:**

Actress Alyssa Milano may have started this iteration of #MeToo, in response to the news of Harvey Weinstein's abuse with this tweet:

Me too.

Suggested by a friend: "If all the women who have been sexually harassed or assaulted wrote 'Me too.' as a status, we might give people a sense of the magnitude of the problem."



**Alyssa Milano** ✓  
@Alyssa\_Milano

Follow

If you've been sexually harassed or assaulted write 'me too' as a reply to this tweet.

4:21 PM - Oct 15, 2017

62,679 22,571 46,918

But the concept of #MeToo, raising an awareness about sexual abuse, assault and harassment of women of color was started by Tarana Burke 10 years ago, according to [CNN](#) and several sources. Burke, a social justice advocate and organizer, has been working to fight sexual violence for decades, and first used the rallying cry of #MeToo to connect with and amplify the voices of survivors. She is now the founder of the [Me Too Movement organization](#) which works to help survivors and communities heal from, and prevent sexual violence.



**Tarana**  
@TaranaBurke

Follow

In 2018, the #MeToo hashtag was used approximately [19 million times](#) and its use continues today, as does the hashtag #MeTooMovement.

Tarana Burke said on March 21, 2019 at the University of Vermont: “A hashtag will not save us. A movement will.”

Guidance counselors and health teachers are NOT the only ones tackling this with students. It should be all of us if we are going to truly change the culture. So, let's dive in. It won't be perfect. It will be messy and uncomfortable, but we have to model courageous conversations for our students as educators.

---

### Sexism

- Lesson plan from Teaching Tolerance: [Sexism from Identification to Activism](#)
  - Article: [Defeating Sexism in Sports Culture](#)
  - Article: [The Sexism of School Dress Codes](#)
  - Article: [How School Dress Codes Shame Girls and Perpetuate Rape Culture](#)
  - [Nearpod Lesson on Gender Stereotypes](#) (elementary)
  - Lesson plan from Teaching Tolerance: [What are Gender Stereotypes](#) (K-5)
  - [Talking to Kids about Gender Stereotyping Tip Sheet](#)
- 

### Consent

- Perfectly simple and [straightforward cartoon video](#) on what consent is for kids with examples (good for younger students).
  - [What is consent video](#)- for middle and high school
  - Ted Talk: [Body Sovereignty and Kids: How we we can cultivate of culture of consent](#) (good for teachers and upper high school, and college students)
  - [Stand-Off by Andrew Smith](#): In this sequel to [Winger](#), Ryan Dean West navigates the meaning of consent, amongst other teenage issues. (YA)
  - [Wrecked by Maria Padian](#): When Jenny accuses Jordan of rape, Haley and Richard are pushed to opposite sides of the school's investigation. Now conflicting versions of the story may make bringing the truth to light nearly impossible—especially when reputations, relationships, and whole futures are riding on the verdict. (YA)
  - Article: [When Talking About Sexual Consent, YA Books Can Be a Parent's Best Friend](#)
- 

### Sexual Harassment

- Article from Harvard Edu: [What Parents Can Do to Stop Sexual Harassment](#) (see 6 ways to prevent sexual harassment in this article-- can share with students)
- Discovery Education lesson on [sexual harassment with activities](#) (grades 9-12)
- Article for kids on [sexual harassment and bullying](#) (upper elementary-grade 12)

- Article [What is sexual harassment and how teens can recognize it](#) from Web MD
  - [Sexual Harassment awareness](#) lesson (grades 4-6)
  - Article from Family Education: [How to Talk to Your Child About Sexual Harassment](#) (all ages)
  - [#MeToo Stories Happen in High Schools Too — This Quiz Shows How Yours Should Help](#) from Youth Radio
  - Article from the Washington Post: Sexual Harassment among teens is pervasive. [6 ways parents can help change that.](#) (for parents)
- 

## Healthy Bodies

- [Amaze.](#) Website for students full of videos about puberty, bullying and, healthy living. Accessible, humorous, quirky.
- [Dumplin' by Julie Murphy](#): Self-proclaimed fat girl Willowdean Dickson (dubbed "Dumplin'" by her former beauty queen mom) has always been at home in her own skin. Her thoughts on having the ultimate bikini body? Put a bikini on your body. With her all-American beauty best friend, Ellen, by her side, things have always worked...until Will takes a job at Harpy's, the local fast-food joint. There she meets Private School Bo, a hot former jock. Will isn't surprised to find herself attracted to Bo. But she is surprised when he seems to like her back. (YA)
- [Gabi, a Girl in Pieces by Isabel Quintero](#): Gabi Hernandez chronicles her last year in high school in her diary: college applications, Cindy's pregnancy, Sebastian's coming out, the cute boys, her father's meth habit, and the food she craves. And best of all, the poetry that helps forge her identity. (YA)
- [Nimona by Noelle Stevenson](#): Noelle Stevenson's graphic novel has essentially nothing to do with losing weight or body image in the actual text — Stevenson's representation of her protagonist is inspiring in itself. Nimona is described as fat, but she's not ridiculed, pressured, or ostracized and she feels no shame; her weight is barely a topic at all. Instead, Nimona gets to be a fully realized three-dimensional character that happens to be fat, but is never defined by it. For those of you who already know all about Lumberjanes, you'd expect nothing less than Stevenson. And this isn't just progress for YA, it's also progress for genres like fantasy and science fiction. (YA)
- [Sticks and Stones by Abby Cooper](#): Elyse has an unusual condition: ever since she was a baby, the words people use to describe her appear on her skin. Words like "cute" and "adorable" are just an oddity, but as she gets older, she starts seeing words like "loining metaphor for self-esteem problems in this book that celebrates the healing ser" and "pathetic" that itch and pull at her skin — and worse, some of them are her own thoughts about herself. Now that's she's twelve, the situation seems dire: the friends who used to accept her are drifting away just as she starts middle school. And then she gets an anonymous message, from someone who says they know what's going on and they want to help. Author Abby Cooper uses Elyse's medical condition as an example of loving yourself as you are. (middle school)
- [Goodbye Stranger by Rebecca Stead](#): Stead handles highly relevant themes masterfully: friendship, betrayal, and public shaming. I appreciated the nuance in this

book, the avoidance of black and white judgements. For example, when Em sends a photo of herself in a bra to her boyfriend, and that photo is shared widely- Stead avoids the cheap and easy scolding. Instead she invites us to think: how is this different than a bikini photo? Should Em be ashamed of how she looks? Loved this fresh take on middle school life. (middle school)

---

### Creating Safe Spaces in Schools

- [Creating a safe space kit from GLSEN](#)
  - [Facing History How do we create safe schools?](#)
  - Article in ASCD: [Creating a safe space](#)
- 

### Sexual Assault

- [What is sexual assault](#): a video for grades 6-12, humorous and helpful
- 

### Trauma informed classrooms

- [resources padlet](#)
  - For educators (academic journal article): [Role-Clarity and Boundaries for Trauma-Informed Teachers](#)
- 

### Shared vocabulary for defining with students:

- [prejudice](#)
  - [sexism](#)
  - [misogyny](#)
  - [patriarchy](#)
  - [sexual harassment](#)
- 

### For Vermont educators:

- Educators can use the [Transferable Skills](#) to tie to the #MeToo movement, especially in the areas of ethical behavior and moral courage performance indicators:

4. Responsible and Involved Citizenship	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>Participate in and contribute to the enhancement of community life.</li><li>Take responsibility for personal decisions and actions.</li><li>Demonstrate ethical behavior and the moral courage to sustain it.</li><li>Respect diversity and differing points of view.</li></ol>
---	---

- |  |   |
|--|---|
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>e. Demonstrate a commitment to personal and community health and wellness.</li><li>f. Practice responsible digital citizenship.</li></ul> |
|--|---|

- [Vermont Health proficiencies also can be linked](#) to healthy behaviors, decisions, and school climates.
- [Vermont Network](#) Consent Campaign has a [resource booklet](#) of lesson plans for grades 7-10 with helpful materials and resources

---

**Other Resources for Educators:**

- [Teaching Consent to Elementary Students](#)
- [Power Up, Speak Out](#). A 5 lesson toolkit for teachers to use with middle school students around healthy relationships, consent, power dynamics and boundaries.

Contact info: [katyfarber.com](http://katyfarber.com), [katyfarber@gmail.com](mailto:katyfarber@gmail.com)