

# ***The Henna Artist*** by Alka Joshi Text Template

## Engaging in Culturally Responsive and Relevant Pedagogy(CRRP)

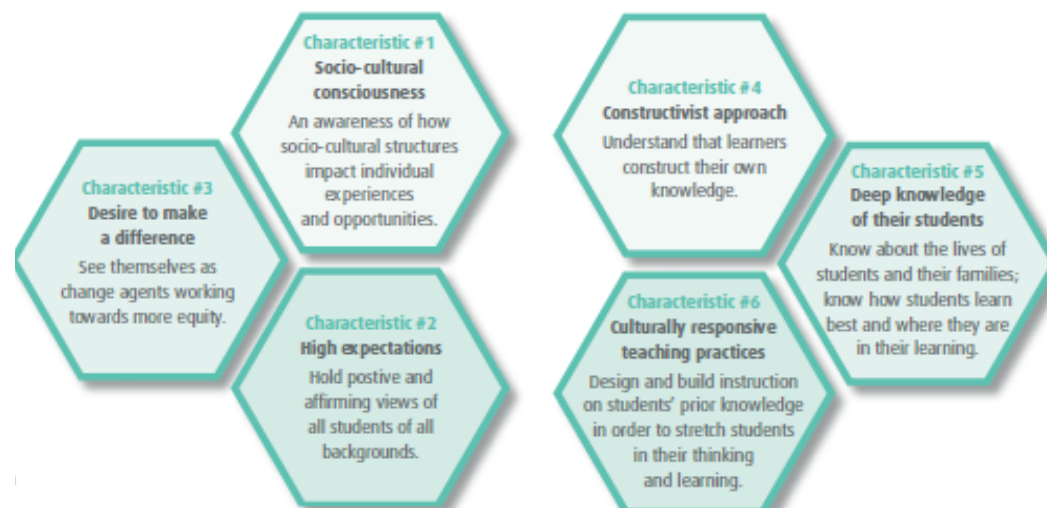
**\*\*Please ensure that you review the TVDSB CRRP Text Selection Criteria before proceeding\*\***

<b>Title of Text:</b> <b>Author:</b> <b>Genre:</b> <b>Date of Publication:</b>	<i><b>The Henna Artist</b></i> Alka Joshi Fiction 2020
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### Culturally Responsive and Relevant Pedagogy Overview

Culturally responsive and relevant educators share a mindset - a particular set of dispositions and skills that enables them to effectively support students in diverse settings (Capacity Building Series K-12). These are identified by Villegas and Lucas (2002): socio-cultural consciousness; high expectations for all students; desire to make a difference; constructivist approach; deep knowledge of students; and culturally responsive teaching practices. Culturally responsive and relevant pedagogy also includes **adopting an ethic of critical care**, using diverse texts, **democratizing learning spaces and activities**, empowering learners to confront and challenge social injustice, and adopting an asset-based, growth mindset about students' abilities. CRRP also **encourages us to centre students' experiences and identities** in our curriculum and instructional design. These texts and the introductory activities **aim to have educators reflect intensively on classroom practices – text selection as well as instructional and assessment practices** - as we seek to be more culturally responsive.

### The Mindset of Culturally Responsive Educators



-Capacity Building Series *Culturally Responsive Pedagogy*, November 2013

<b>Reflections to Consider:</b>	<i>What cultural contexts, interests, capabilities and lived experiences do my students bring to their learning? (Diversity of race, ethnicity, class, gender identity, sexual orientation and ability).</i>
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Suggested Grade and Level (based on maturity and depth of text):	
Author Bio:	<p>Born in Jodhpur, Rajasthan, India, Alka has lived in the U.S. since the age of nine. She has a BA from Stanford University and an MFA from California College of the Arts. She ran her own advertising and PR agency for 30 years. The Henna Artist was her first novel. Currently, she is working on the third book of the trilogy and a screen adaptation of The Henna Artist.</p> <p><a href="https://alkajoshi.com/about-alka">https://alkajoshi.com/about-alka</a></p>
Synopsis:	<p>Vivid and compelling in its portrait of one woman's struggle for fulfillment in a society pivoting between the traditional and the modern, <i>The Henna Artist</i> opens a door into a world that is at once lush and fascinating, stark and cruel.</p> <p>Escaping from an abusive marriage, seventeen-year-old Lakshmi makes her way alone to the vibrant 1950s pink city of Jaipur. There she becomes the most highly requested henna artist—and confidante—to the wealthy women of the upper class. But trusted with the secrets of the wealthy, she can never reveal her own...</p> <p><a href="https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/50607466-the-henna-artist">https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/50607466-the-henna-artist</a></p>
Potential Essential Questions/Topics/ Essential Ideas:	<p>Identity</p> <p>Women's Rights</p>
Commentary about the text:	<p><i>Review: The Henna Artist paints a beautifully evocative tale of independence (The Calgary Herald)</i></p> <p><a href="https://calgaryherald.com/entertainment/books/review-the-henna-artist-paints-a-beautifully-evocative-tale-of-independence">https://calgaryherald.com/entertainment/books/review-the-henna-artist-paints-a-beautifully-evocative-tale-of-independence</a></p>
<p>Trigger Warnings:</p> <p><i>"The purpose of trigger warnings is not to cause students to avoid traumatic content, but to prepare them for it, and in extreme circumstances to provide alternate modes of learning."</i></p> <p>(Lockhart)</p>	<p>Racism</p> <p>Poverty</p> <p>Domestic Abuse</p> <p>Prostitution</p> <p>Addiction</p> <p>Colonialism</p>

Companion Text Sets: (including links to teacher resources, short fiction, poems, video, articles, media texts, visual texts)	Author's website <a href="https://alkajoshi.com/">https://alkajoshi.com/</a> Author's YouTube Channel on writing <a href="https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqNLMlc32Z-y4hzkiE3o6rQ">https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqNLMlc32Z-y4hzkiE3o6rQ</a>  Website for novel <a href="https://thehennaartist.com/">https://thehennaartist.com/</a>
Reflection Questions:	
Ways to value student voice and perspective:	
Potential teaching strategies, lesson ideas etc.:	

Template adapted from PDSB's ReThinking English: Culturally Responsive Classrooms

The above suggestions are not a complete list.

Did you come up with any new ideas or resources while using this text? Please let us know so we can add them to the template.

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