

## Harkness Scenarios:What Would You Do?

From Aida Conroy, Noble Academy

### Harkness Scenarios!

- 1) After three Harkness discussions, one student still hasn't shared any of their thoughts with the group. You can tell through their body language and post discussion independent work that they are listening and gaining insight because of the discussions, how can you best support them to speak up during the next discussion?
- 2) Student A says directly to Student B "No, I think you are wrong and I'm right. Here is why...." Student A continues to explain their thinking which is clear and backed by evidence from the text. Student B avoids eye contact with the group and remains quiet for the rest of the conversation.
- 3) You pose what you think is a strong starting question to the group with enthusiasm. No one responds and the group sits in silence for more than a minute.
- 4) Student C is bright and enthusiastic. During Harkness conversations they consistently direct comments to you (the teacher) by making eye contact and turning their body away from their peers. Sometimes student C cuts other students off before they are done with a comment because they're so excited about the direction of the conversation. This doesn't seem intentional.
- 5) Harkness team D is working incredibly well together thusfar. They are respectful, kind, and engaged but in your opinion their conversations lack depth. For two conversations in a row they don't cite evidence from the text. How might you start the next conversation?
- 6) Student E asks an incredible question that pulls on the themes of the course. Students ignore the comment and continue to talk about the question posed on the preparation sheet.
- 7) Student F says something that is incorrect and is not based on the text. Student G speaks just after Student F and corroborates their comment. What do you do next?
- 8) Design your own scenario!