**Lecture 1: The Empathic Civilization**

1. What are mirror neurons?

2. What are we “soft-wired” for?

3. What is empathy (definition, not example)?

4. Why is there no empathy in heaven? What does empathy have to do with mortality?

5. How can we save our species and our planet?

6. What does it mean that empathy is the invisible hand?

7. Why do we need to extend our identities?

Connection

8. Were there any empathic characters that we learned about this year? What about non-empathic? What made them empathic or non-empathic?

9. How were the empathic and non-empathic characters treated in their stories? Tie that to what the author’s message about empathy potentially was.

10. What is the benefit of extending empathy to others?

**Lecture 2: The Power of Outrospection**

1. What is the difference between introspection and outrospection?

2. How is empathy dangerous?

3. What is the difference between affective empathy and cognitive empathy?

4. Describe George Orwell’s empathy experiment. What did he learn?

5. What is an empathic person like?

6. What is the Parents Circle? How does it create empathy?

7. Why do we need to empathize with people in power as well as people without power?

8. Describe the empathy museum.

Connection

9. What characters this year forced you into outrospection? That is, which character’s situation did you empathize with, and what did this teach you about yourself?

10. Describe someone you know who has empathy for others.

11. How will a college education help you to develop your empathy and your outrospection?

**Lecture 3: The Danger of a Single Story**

1. What does Chimanda mean by a single story?

2. Why is it dangerous to have a single story?

3. How do we move away from a single story?

4. If we get rid of our ‘single story’ idea, what are we left with?

Connection

5. What different stories have you heard about this year?

6. Choose one and explain why learning about this story is important. You can discuss the lessons it teaches or the characters it introduces us to or the culture it represents.

7. As you move into your college education, how can YOU make sure you do not just encounter a single story?

8. How can opening ourselves up to more than one story promote empathy?