



Dr. joy Barnes-Johnson
ACCEA Keynote
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Find Your Spark | Present Your Fire



“On Earth, we’re briefly gorgeous”
—Ocean Vuong

Combating ~~broke[n]ness~~ burnout

Educators on a mission

Yosso (2005/2014) community cultural wealth

Community cultural WEALTH

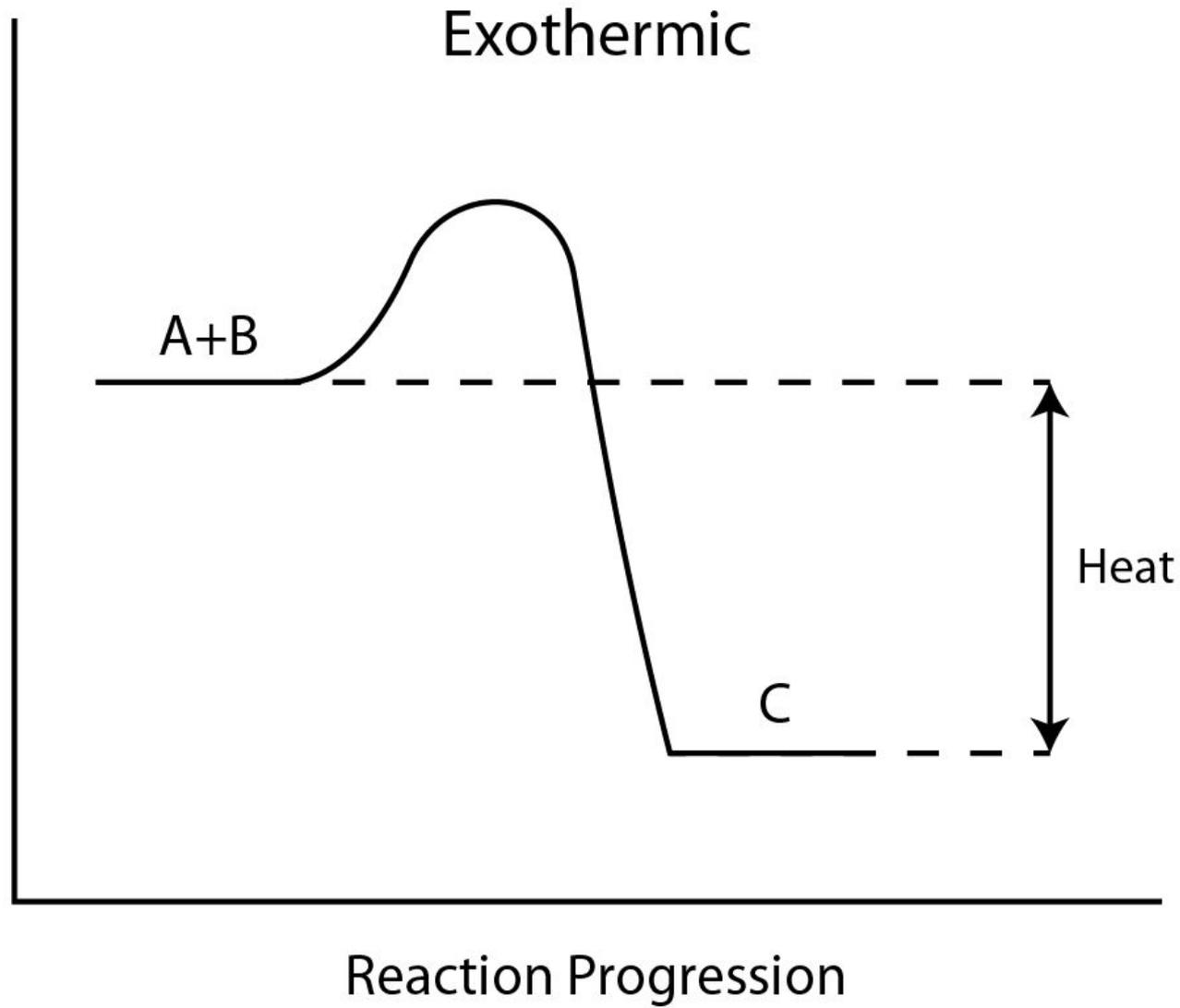
- Cultural
- Familial
- Social
- Aspirational
- Linguistic
- Resistant
- Navigational



Science. Fire. Fear.

What do we need to
SPARK a FLAME or
start a fire?

- Energy
- Catalysts
- Fuel
- Air



What does fire produce?

- Heat
- Light
- Smoke
- Fear



ENERGY

Learn from your favorite things.

A Teacher's Ode to janet

Like a moth to a flame

Burned by the fire

My love is blind...





Being a master: Life lessons from Aang & Zuko

Lessons

- The size of your flame will be different from those with whom you walk and that is ok...don't compare your spark (or flame) to others
- Walking together with others will give you courage to face what is unfamiliar and uncertain: find your Zuko
- You will be tested everyday but there are usually multiple ways to respond to the test
- There are teachable moments in our greatest fears: respect the products of the process

CATALYST

Courage. Kinship. Joy.

History teaches us to Grapple **Together**

CHOOSE interview and
[lessons](#)



German athlete Luz Long and American athlete Jesse Owens (1936 Olympics)

Catalysts

Cultural intimacy and friendship allows for questioning and wondering in healthy ways with **NEW** norms and boundaries while also allowing for **NUANCED** rules of engagement



Conversational Norms | CHOOSE for Educators

Guo & Vulchi (pp. 359 - 363)

- Do your research
- Don't make assumptions
- Challenge yourself to be vulnerable and uncomfortable, but respect others' decision not to engage
- Ask open questions. Practice radical listening
- Speak *your* truth
- Acknowledge your positionality and privilege
- Affirm rather than invalidate experiences
- Place personal experience in systemic context
- Call in rather than call out. Check in rather than check out
- Focus on solutions

FUEL
AIR

Storytelling through snapshots

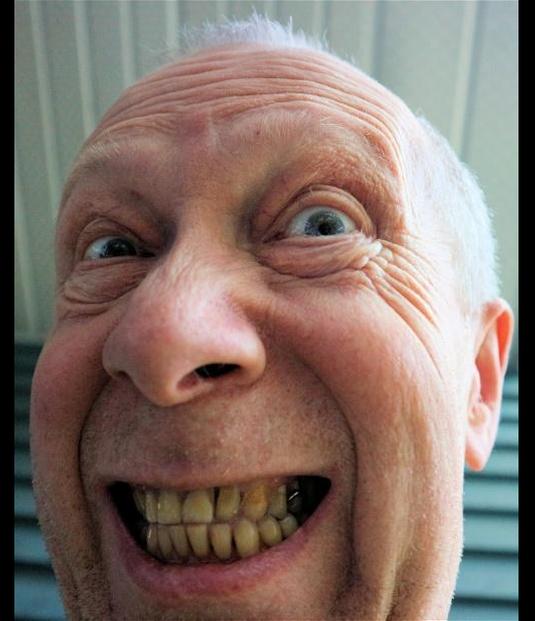
Cell phone photo
scroll...last week



The history of our photos tells a story of **problems** we want to solve, **memories** we want to preserve, **joys** that inspire us and **wonders** we choose to know more about...
As educators, we can use these to shift conversations and **spark** conversations



Imagine the stories of YOU over time...





Takeaway #1

Our stories and lives provide details about problems and solutions, questions and answers...these are the **perfect anchors** in a storm.

When you face scary things, be scared but trust **your** story.



Takeaway #2

Don't assume you know a story because you see a snapshot.

Write. Read. Speak. Listen. Sing.
Play. Capture...something.

Every day.

Keys to Finding Your Spark

- When combating brokenness, broke-ness or other compromised realities, stay true to who you are
 - Honor community
 - Focus on all forms of capital (**strength**) in your life
- Continue to learn from and lean on your favorite things.
 - Music, film, movies and books tell stories
 - A useful story makes sense of the scary

Keys to Presenting your Fire

- Don't ignore natural or physical laws
 - Patterns are made to provide important insights
 - Develop healthy respect for **every thing**
 - Don't be afraid of the multisensory experience of facing scary things
- Take every-day opportunities to snapshot your life everyday:
 - **Problem** solve
 - Preserve **memories**
 - Seek **joy** with laughter and humility
 - **Wonder** often

BIG IDEA

Find your spark...

Kindle your
fire in
community
with others

**Being light in a dark
place is a calling
worth carrying. Hold
up your light as you
find your spark.**