

**Acting Out:  
Gender in *The Color  
Purple* by Alice Walker**

Shayna & Liz

## Goal:

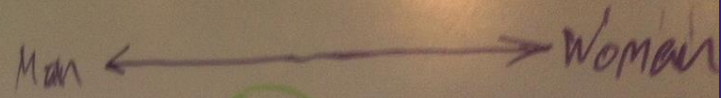
- Help students to understand gender as a continuum rather than as a binary
- To help students interrogate the ways Rigid, socially- constructed gender expectations and gender policing negatively constrain all people .

4.22.16



Sofia \*  
Shug \*  
Celia \*

\*Harpo \*Harpo



1 letters  
2 51-60  
3 61-68 Quiz  
4 69-76 Quiz  
5 77-83 Quiz  
6 84-90 (Finishback) Quiz

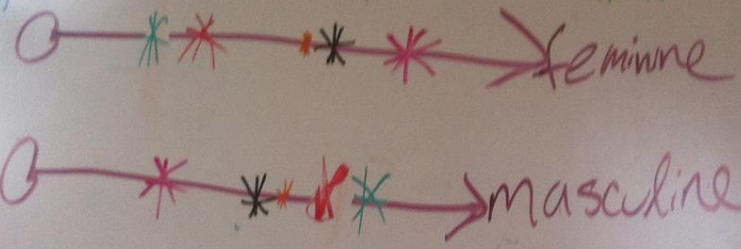
Agenda



Quiz

- Gender Roles in  
TCP

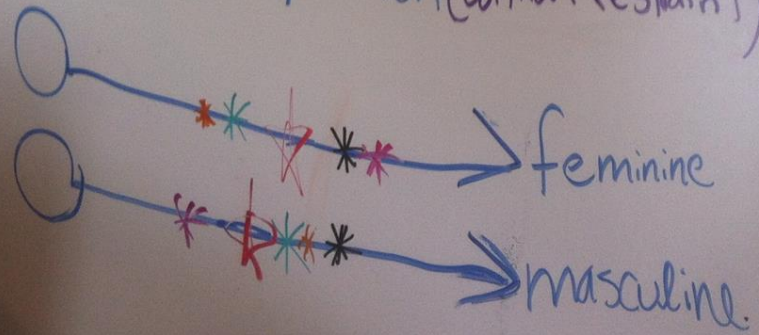
### Gender Expression (Now)



Traditional  
Pop  
behaviors,  
Society

- Shug ✓
- Celia ✓
- Sofia ✓
- Harpo ✓
- Mr. ✓

### Gender Expression (without restraint)



- Males -

- can't cry
- penises
- tough
- beebly

**Here are some of their  
responses....**

- alice walker's intentions
- Taking personal  
responsibility

# What do you think Alice Walker is trying to say about gender roles?

“Humans are humans”

“She’s trying to say that gender roles are fucked and need to be recognized.”

“I think she’s saying they are bullshit. I agree. It is this simplistic way that we... think of people.”

“She was trying to break stereotypes.”

“She was trying to challenge gender roles, but also enforce them to help us notice it.”

“I think she’s trying to portray how gender roles impact not only women, but men too and how harmful that it is.”

“Alice Walker is trying to say that people are different, and they’re going to be different, and there’s nothing you can do about it. So you might as well accept it.”

“I think Walker is saying and showing that [gender roles] are ridiculous and that they should be ignored. You should just live your life free of them whether you are a man or woman.”

# Internalization & acting out

- Have you ever witnessed (or experienced) bullying, exclusion, and ostracism based on these kinds of gendered expectations in previous schools?
- Does it happen at School? If yes, what have you witnessed? If no, why do you think your experience in our community different?
- How can we interact with people within and outside of September School in a way that that honors and affirms all gender identities and expressions?

# How can you interact with people within and outside of School in a way that honors and affirms all gender identities and expressions?

“I could use plural pronouns when talking about people that I don’t know the gender identity of and respect all people.”

“I can tell people they can be whoever they want to be.”

“I think keeping an open mind and realising everyone has different problems. It’s very easy to assume things about people but I think getting to know people you have stereotyped can start weakening gender roles.

“Simply respect them as they are. Don’t judge them... Basically, meet them where they’re at and they’re likely to do the same. Show understanding and empathy.”

“Use their preferred pronouns and don’t shame.”

“I accept all humans as long as they are kind themselves.”

“Don’t intentionally maliciously attack someone for being who they are.”

## How can you interact with people within and outside of September School in a way that honors and affirms all gender identities and expressions?

“In order for me to help people and make sure they feel safe, I can comfort them and tell them I’m there for them. And if anyone starts being mean to them, I can talk to the person about it or I can tell an adult. I will literally do anything in my power to make sure someone feels safe... and to help them.”

“Let them know you hold a safe place for them or anyone who needs it.”

“I think politely correcting people on the terms they use is super important.”

“Treat all people like humans with feelings and expectations.”