

Handout 4, Opening and Closing Readings

Opening Responsive Reading: Who Am I?

by Rev. Dr. Monica L. Cummings

Who am I?

I am a descendant of immigrants.

Who am I?

I am the essence of my ancestors' American dream.

Who am I?

I am part of the interconnected web of all life.

Who am I?

I am becoming who I want to be.

Closing Responsive Reading: Why the Past Matters

by Rev. Dr. Monica L. Cummings

It matters that First Peoples were forced from the land we live on.

The past matters.

It matters who was invited to vote when this country was formed.

The past matters.

It matters that it was illegal for people of African descent to learn to read.

The past matters.

It matters that people of Japanese descent were placed in internment camps.

The past matters.

It matters what color skin you have.

The present matters.

...because how we act today determines how people will treat one another tomorrow.