

Plan on a Page | Lesson 2: Why Identity Matters

Guiding Questions:

- What are we talking about when we talk about identity?
- What dilemmas arise when others view us differently from how we view ourselves?

Activities:

1. Consider How Identity Can Be Felt in Certain Situations

Share the image **Untitled: Four Etchings [A]** and lead the class through a quick **See, Think, Wonder** activity. Repeat the process with the image **Untitled: Four Etchings [B]**. Then discuss the following questions:

- What did you notice about how Ligon incorporated Hurston's quotation in the two etchings?
- What circumstances can cause parts of a person's identity to stand out or to be more intensely felt?
- The etchings, which Glenn Ligon created in 1992, use quotations from writer Zora Neale Hurston's famous essay "**How It Feels to Be Colored Me,**" published in 1928. How do you think these works of art are still relevant today?

Have students write their own "I do not always feel . . ." and "I feel most _____ when . . ." reflections in their journals. *These should be private responses.*

2. Explore the Complexity of Identity

Review the concept of "narrative identity." Then choose a **Read Aloud** strategy to read **Exploring the Concept of Identity** or **Exploring the Concept of Identity (Adapted Version)** as a class. Divide students into small groups to discuss the connection questions on the handout. Debrief as a class. Groups can share their Tweets to help get the discussion started.

3. Create Social Identity Wheels

Distribute the **Social Identity Wheel** handout and clarify terms as needed. Model the activity with a **Think Aloud** if you feel comfortable doing so. Have students complete their graphic organizers and then respond to the reflection questions on the handout in their journals. *These should be private responses.*

4. Complete an Exit Card

Have students reflect on the lesson using the **Complexity of Identity Exit Card** handout.