

Handout

Windows, Mirrors, and Sliding Glass Doors

Directions: Read the quotation by Dr. Rudine Sims Bishop. Then reflect on three texts—which could include books, films, songs, plays, poems, works of art, podcasts, or blogs—that have shown you something about yourself, others, and/or the world.

“Books are sometimes windows, offering views of worlds that may be real or imagined, familiar or strange. These windows are also sliding glass doors, and readers have only to walk through in imagination to become part of whatever world has been created or recreated by the author. When lighting conditions are just right, however, a window can also be a mirror.”¹



When has a text been like a **mirror**, reflecting one or more aspects of your identity or experience? How did it feel to see yourself in the story?



When has a text been like a **window**, offering you insight into someone else’s experience or world? What did you learn?



When has a text been like a **sliding glass door**, allowing you to enter and engage with another world for a moment in time? What did you experience?

¹ From Rudine Sims Bishop, “Mirrors, Windows, and Sliding Glass Doors,” *Perspectives: Choosing and Using Books from the Classroom* 6, no. 3 (Summer 1990), available at Reading Is Fundamental (January 2015).