



Dismantling the Birdcage

Relational Problem-Based Learning: Adolescent Girls' Experiences with an Inclusive Pedagogy for Mathematics

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If you look very closely at just one wire in the cage, you cannot see the other wires...You could look one wire up and down the length of it, and be unable to see why a bird would not just fly around the wire any time it wanted go somewhere...There is no physical property of any one wire...that will reveal how a bird could be inhibited or harmed by it except in the most accidental way. It is only when you step back, stop looking at the wires one by one and take a macroscopic view of the whole cage, that you can see why the bird does not go anywhere; and then you will see it in a moment. It is perfectly obvious that the bird is surrounded by a network of systematically related barriers, no one of which would be the least hindrance to its flight but which by their relations to each other, are as confining as the solid walls of a dungeon. (p.5)

-Marilyn Frye, Oppression, in *The Politics of Reality* (1983)

I	You	We
		we'd fill in notes we'd do homework we still go over the homework
	you can really If you don't understand you can definitely ask	
I think in my old class I was so afraid to ask		
	all be judging you	

Sarah – Passivity to Agency

I	You	We
	As you grow When you turn 18 You have the power You get to express yourself No matter what side you're on	
I feel like I could be on I like to solve it this way		
		We both get to express One of us is wrong If one of us is right Or even if both of us is right
Changed my identity Given me a voice I didn't really have one before		

Leona – Finding Your Voice

<p>I</p> <hr/> <p>I didn't understand I would go up I could understand I expected everybody I have a question I ask it I know</p>	<p>You</p> <hr/> <p>You're more in control You can You have to participate You don't have to You choose to participate You want to help You want to understand</p> <p>You should not do it You find out the reason why Then you're like "OK"</p>
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Isabelle – Transparency

<p>Alanna</p> <p>C V O O N I T C R E A S P U N T A L</p>	<p><i>Self-Confidence</i></p> <p>I can get it</p> <p>I probably would</p> <p>I could really do</p> <p>I can draw</p> <p>I have those</p> <p>I just combine I think I know the way I just had to plug I've had practice I was taught that I got it I know the formula I just put it together I try not to get confused</p>	<p><i>Self-Doubt</i></p> <p>I wouldn't comprehend it</p> <p>I want algebra to die I don't... I don't know I don't remember I would have to do</p> <p>I can't do those</p> <p>I wouldn't know</p> <p>I wouldn't know</p> <p>I wouldn't really know</p>
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I	You	We
I feel like once	you understand the connection	
	you actually become smarter	
	you can make connections	
I think that's the beauty		we learned
I love the problems		we do
	you can have one problem	we learned

Kacey - Empowerment

