



School: Cavallini

Teacher: Kathy Teehan

Grade/Subject: Grade 8 ELA

Ms. Teehan, eighth grade ELA and Social Studies teacher, helped students frame a purpose for reading the class read aloud, excerpts from Terry Trueman's *Stuck in Neutral*. During a September lesson, students were set up to recognize lenses of perception, empathy and sympathy. To launch this, students engaged in a Jamboard activity focused on perceptions of who people were, based on images shared. A second Jamboard was shared to include images of people that the students might know. Given this new information they were asked to revisit their perceptions. Ms. Teehan celebrated the classroom community of her students by providing opportunities for students to brainstorm, write and share who they are in contrast to perceptions others may have about them. "When we get to know somebody, we understand them, we see more of their story." These activities launched students into discussion about examples and the difference between sympathy and empathy. These experiences allowed students to make connections between themselves and their classroom learning.

