Story Bridge

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Story Bridge is an experience—one that will crack you up, open your heart, and broaden your mind.

At Story Bridge, we know that people are living in increasingly divided worlds, and seeing eye-to-eye with someone different from ourselves feels harder than ever. We may want to get past clashing viewpoints and identities—but we may not know how.

Story Bridge can help your company, school, or organization

- Cultivates communities of belonging in your school, workplace, or company.
- Serves as a key lever to foster connection and community in classroom and teams.
- Creates a culture of empathy and listening, where all participants feel comfortable bringing their full selves.
- Forges new bonds within your community.

THE PROCESS

With lively energy and sensitivity, Jennifer De Leon and Adam Stumacher guide each Story Bridge participant through a step-by-step process to explore compelling stories from their own lives. After identifying a particularly meaningful story, Jenn and Adam help participants shape, refine, and share them. They then support participants in developing a plan to leverage the transformative power of story in their role – and their lives.

THE FORMAT

Story Bridge programs are available in-person or virtually, in flexible formats to suit your needs.

Examples include:

- One-time 2.5 hour session (e.g. teacher professional development, workshop for a student group or staff team)
- Half-day or full day programs (e.g. company or organizational retreat, professional development institute)
- Multi-week sessions (e.g. educational seminar)
- 2-month program (e.g. schoolwide/city/community event)

SAMPLE PROGRAM

Storytelling in the Classroom

Grades 6-12, all content areas

Goals:

- Participants will engage in a storytelling workshop that they can implement in their teaching practice to foster an inclusive classroom community.
- Participants will develop their storytelling skills as a strategy to support engagement and learning for all students.

Description:

Storytelling is an essential communications skill and a powerful tool in our toolbox as educators. In this workshop, you will plan and practice an oral narrative, which you will share with colleagues. You will walk away with a powerful community building activity to use in your classroom, and you will strengthen an essential skill to support teaching and learning across all content areas.

YOUR FACILITATORS

Jennifer De Leon is the award-winning author of the YA novels, *Borderless,* featured on the TODAY show, and *Don't Ask Me Where I'm From*, as well as *White Space: Essays on Culture, Race, & Writing*. She is an Associate Professor of Creative Writing at Framingham State University and faculty member in the Creative Writing & Literature Master Program at Harvard University. Jenn is a speaker, presenter, and educator who loves to connect with readers of all ages.

Adam Stumacher is an author and educator whose work has appeared in *The New York Times*, *Granta*, *Narrative*, and others. He is a lecturer in public policy at the Harvard Kennedy School, he has taught at MIT and in prisons, and he has presented at conferences around the country. An award-winning educator and leader in urban schools, his storytelling has been televised on *Stories from the Stage*, and his commentaries on education appear on NPR.