

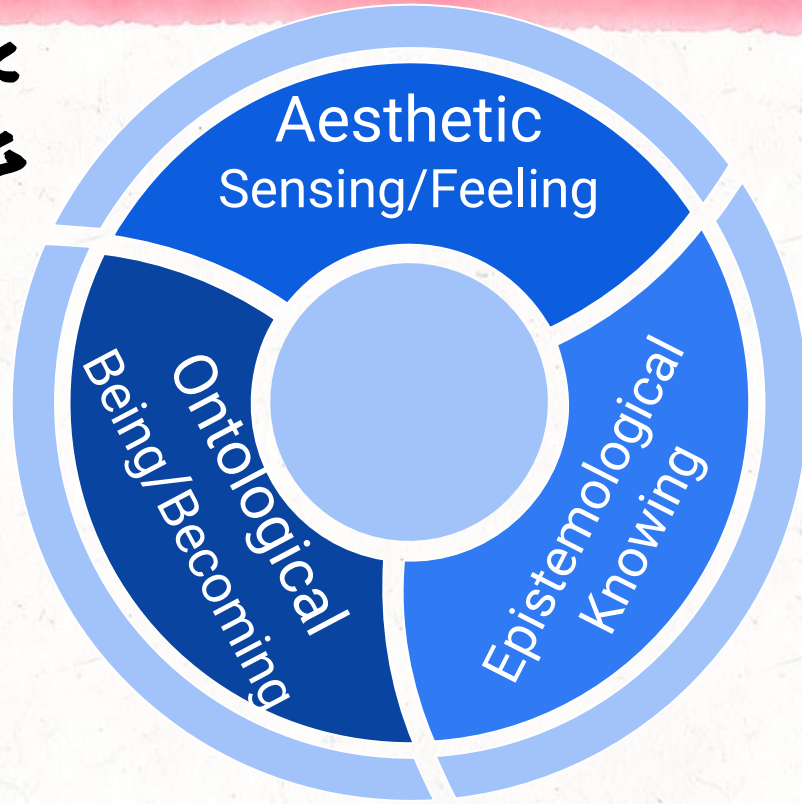
HARNESSING LITERATURE'S POTENTIAL TO ENGAGE STUDENTS IN LIFE BEYOND OUR BORDERS

NANCY KRAR
MATTHEW SAUER
KEVIN McBEAN
KAREN JACOBSEN
BILL HOWE

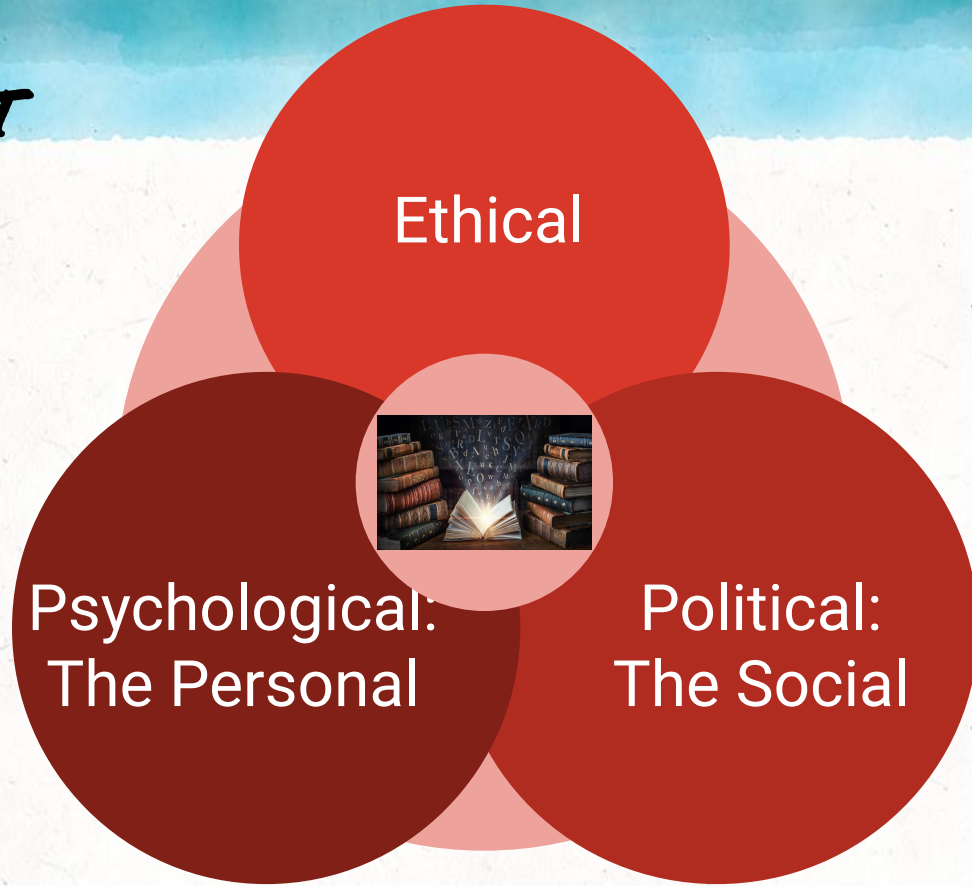
A PROPOSED AGENDA

- ❖ INTRO - WHY THIS TOPIC?
- ❖ FRAMING CONSIDERATIONS
- ❖ NANCY KRAR: NON-FICTION, SHORT FICTION + FINE ARTS
- ❖ MATT SAUER: PROJECT BASED LEARNING:
 - VOICES FROM THE MARGINS
- ❖ KEVIN McBEAN: PURPLE HIBISCUS
- ❖ KAREN JACOBSEN: THE GOD OF SMALL THINGS AND
 - EXPERIENCES OF FELT SENSE
- ❖ QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION

**WAYS TO THINK
ABOUT READING
AND GLOBAL
CITIZENSHIP**



**WAYS TO
THINK ABOUT
HOW
LITERATURE
IMPACTS
READERS**



"YOU WILL NEVER MAKE COLONIALISM BLUSH FOR SHAME BY SPREADING OUT LITTLE-KNOWN CULTURAL TREASURES UNDER ITS EYES."

(FRANTZ FANON, 1963, 223)

A POPULAR FRAMEWORK



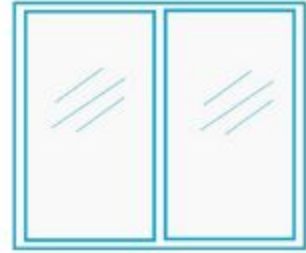
Mirrors

Children can see themselves and their own experiences reflected in the book.



Windows

Children can learn through the book about other people, places, things, and experiences.



Sliding glass doors

Children can enter into the “book world” through their imagination.

A BIT MORE NUANCED

BOOKS ARE LIKE MIRRORS, WINDOWS & DOORS

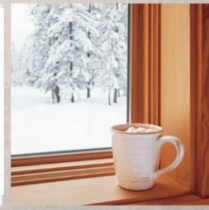


MIRRORS

Picture books should reflect a child's reality, or else they may feel left out

WINDOWS

The more ignorant people are about each other, the more the mistrust



DOORS

A book is a great doorway to understand other cultures

Chitra Soundar:
<https://www.tokabox.com/blog/books-are-like-mirrors-windows-and-doors>

REFLECTION

How might a book benefit and/or harm

- **A specific reader of the book?**
- **The society in which this reader will live and contribute**
- **The planet in which this reader will live and contribute**

FOUR CASES TO CONSIDER: HOW MIGHT THE BOOK WORK AS MIRROR, WINDOW AND DOOR FOR EACH READER

- 1. A white, middle-class, heterosexual male reading a book written by and about a white, urban, middle-class male experience**
- 2. A white, middle-class, heterosexual male reading a book written by and largely about a black, female or non-binary experience living in rural Somaliland .**
- 3. A black, Somalian, female refugee in Canada, reading a book written by and about a white, middle-class male experience**
- 4. A black, Somalian, female refugee in Canada reading a book written by and largely about a black, Somalian, female or non-binary experience living in rural Somaliland**

COMPLEXIFYING MIRRORS

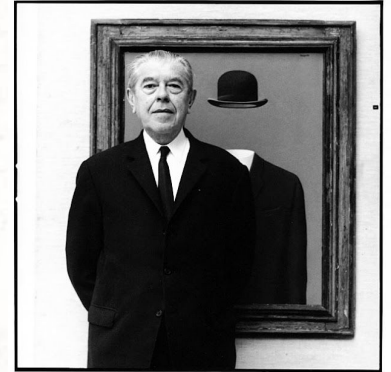
THE GOOD, THE BAD
AND THE UGLY OF
REFLECTION



THE FALSE MIRROR (1928)



REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED (1937)



RENÉ
MAGRITTE

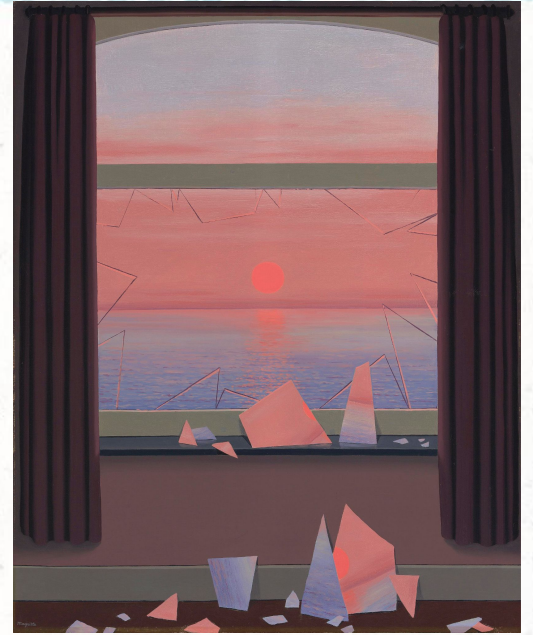
WINDOWS?



THE HUMAN CONDITION (1933)

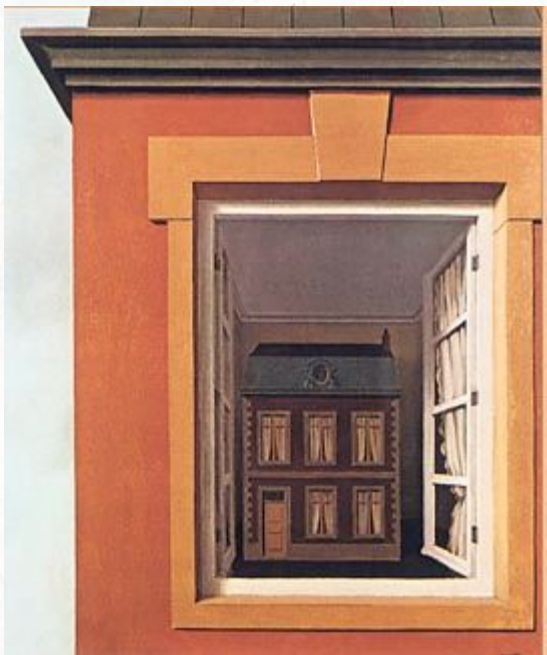


THE LOOKING GLASS (1963)



THE WORLD OF IMAGES (1950)

AND MORE WINDOWS?



IN PRAISE OF DIALECTICS (1936)



**THE TIME OF THE HARVEST (1959)
MONTH OF THE GRAPE HARVEST?**

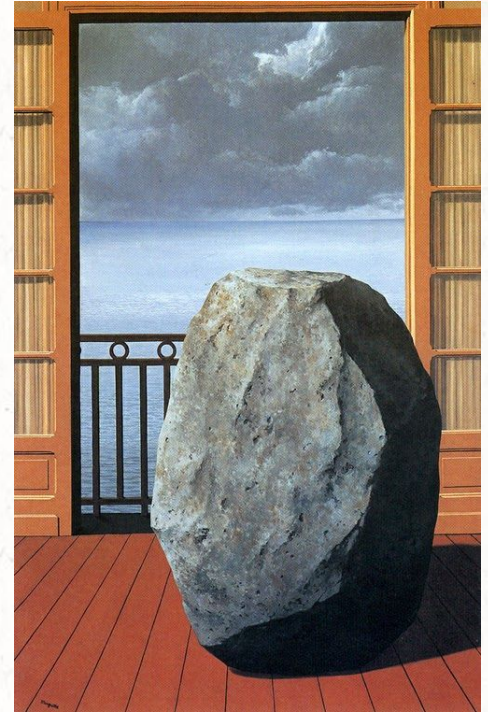
DOORS



UNEXPECTED ANSWER (1933)



THE POISON (1939)
OR... FORTUNE TELLING



THE INVISIBLE WORLD (1954)

BOOKS DO NOT REFLECT REALITY

- THEY ARE WORKS OF ART



THE TREACHERY OF IMAGES (1929)

SELECTION AS A BALANCING ACT

Comfort with the familiar



Willingness to allow unfamiliar to open text

Local Perspectives/Issues



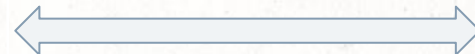
Global Perspectives / Issues

Issues of social justice



Appreciation of Strengths and Differences

Literary Merit



Depth and Value of Questions raised

Comfort zone of readers



Affective value of difference/disturbance

Necessary Contextual Knowledge



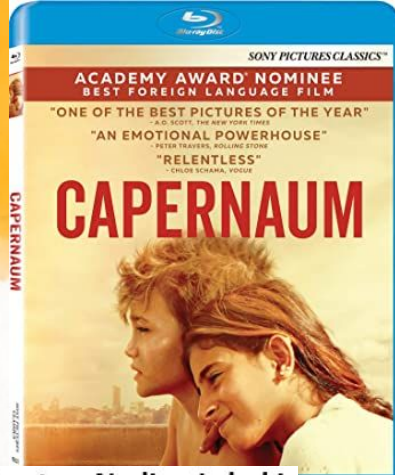
Enough to Provoke questions vs. Indoctrinate

Invitation to differences

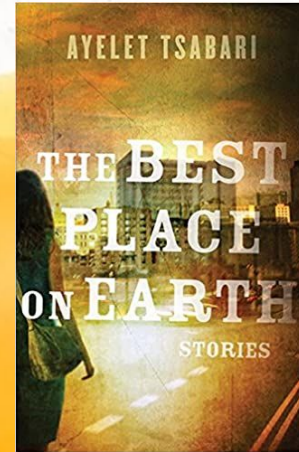
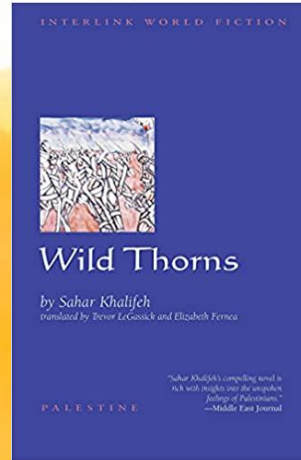


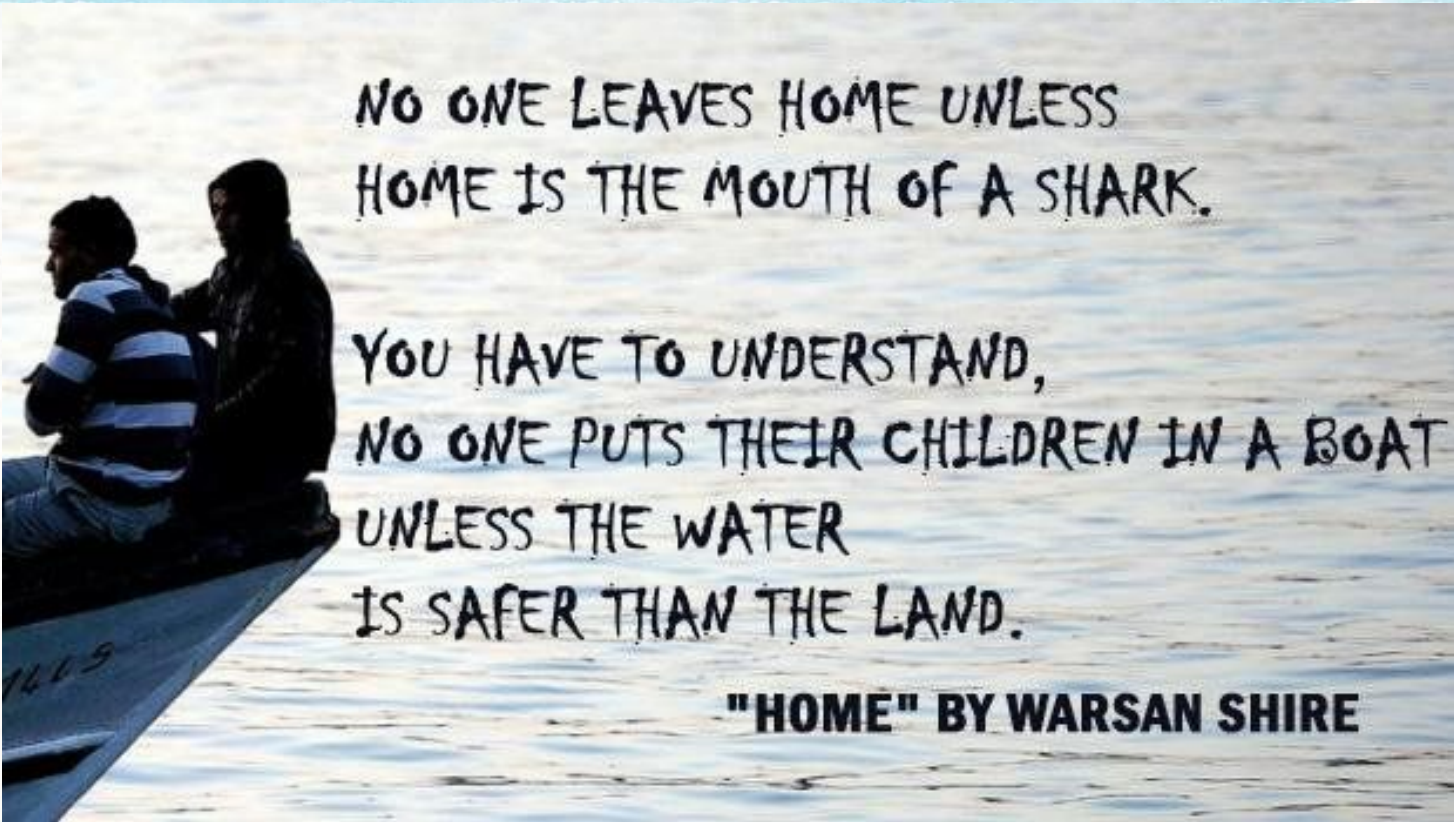
Orientalism / Exoticization / Romanticism

WHAT LITERATURE?



Director: Nadine Labaki





NO ONE LEAVES HOME UNLESS
HOME IS THE MOUTH OF A SHARK.

YOU HAVE TO UNDERSTAND,
NO ONE PUTS THEIR CHILDREN IN A BOAT
UNLESS THE WATER
IS SAFER THAN THE LAND.

"HOME" BY WARSAN SHIRE