

Practical Classroom Applications and Engagement for Common Reading

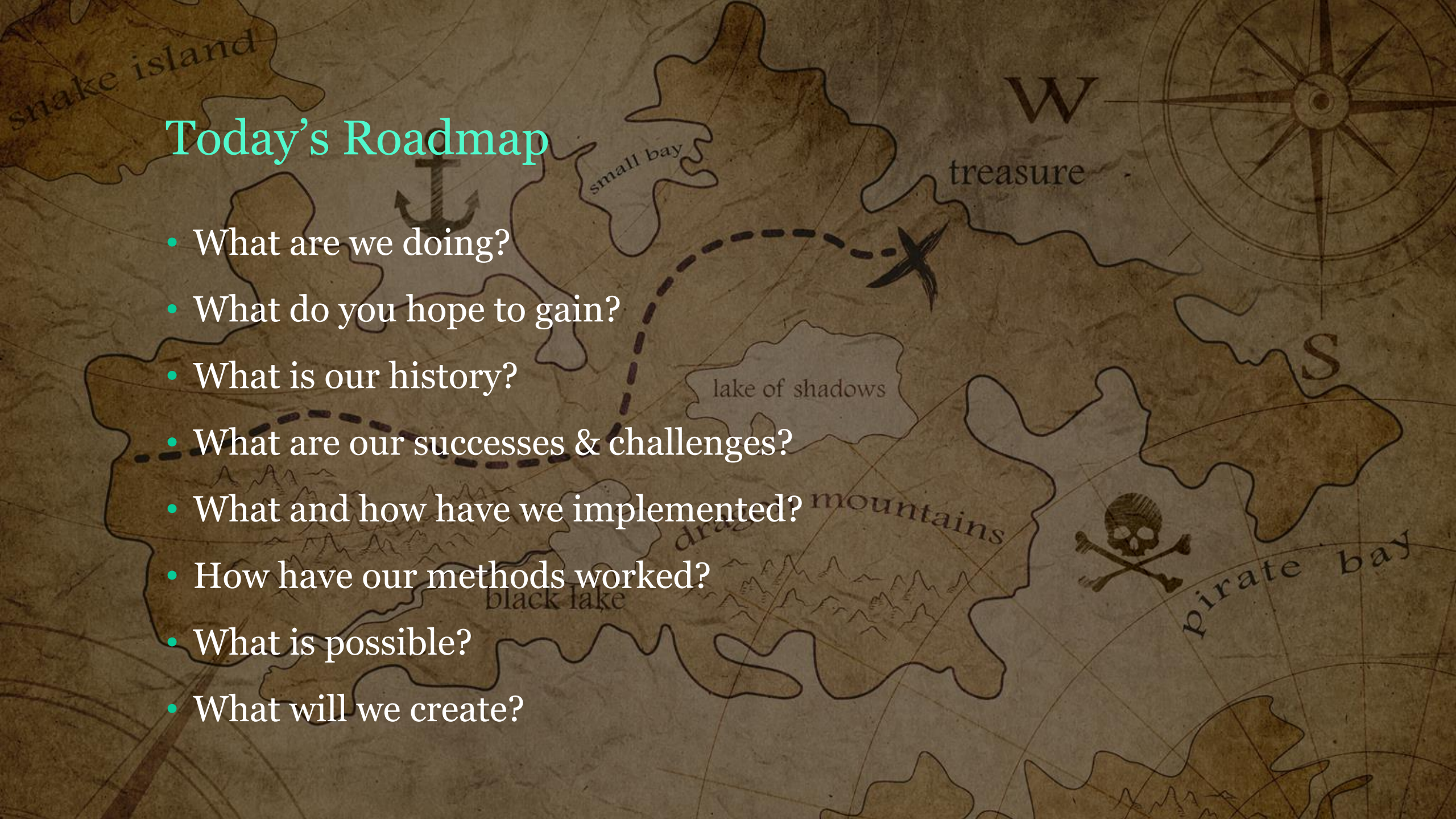
Erika K. Nielson, Ph.D.

Assistant Director of the Common Experience
Common Reading Coordinator



Today's Roadmap

- What are we doing?
- What do you hope to gain?
- What is our history?
- What are our successes & challenges?
- What and how have we implemented?
- How have our methods worked?
- What is possible?
- What will we create?



What Are We Going to Do Today?



An institution's common reading choice can create challenges when developing...

- Meaningful lesson plans
- Engaging discussions
- Valuable engagements

We will explore ways to create and implement CR activities, such as...

- Faculty guides
- Book clubs
- Social media involvement
- Professional development for faculty who teach first-years

I will share strategies for common reading engagement with...

- Faculty
- Staff
- Students
- Community



What Do You Hope to Gain?

- What do you want to learn?
- What do you want to share?
- What do you hope to gain from this session?
- What do you hope to bring back to your institution?



What Is Your History?

- Do you have a common reading program?
- What do you call your common reading program?
- What is the history of your common reading program?
- Who makes decisions?
 - Faculty
 - Staff
 - Students
 - Community



What Are Our Successes & Challenges?

- CR links to students' academic skills development, multicultural understanding, & appreciation (Soria, Snyder, & Reinhard, 2015)
 - CR helps students become stronger learners, create community, fully participate, & increase chances of persistence & graduation (Soria, Snyder, & Reinhard, 2015)
 - Creates conversations with faculty & staff (Ferguson, Brown, & Piper, 2018)
 - Is everyone reading the book?
 - How much does this cost exactly?
 - Do you have data to support common reading success?
 - And...what are your additional successes & challenges?
- CHALLENGE** **SUCCESS**

What & How Have We Implemented?

A hand holding a blue box with arrows pointing up and out, symbolizing implementation or growth.

- Theme(s) used?
- Book only?
- Author talk/presentation?
- Common reading faculty guide?
- Faculty professional development?
- Book clubs/discussions?
- Community events?
- What do you do?

What Are Best Ways to Incorporate?

- CR incorporation must...
 - Use students' prior knowledge
 - Give students autonomy in learning
 - Foster metacognitive abilities (National Research Council, 2000)
- Choose a CR that supports students' growth with deliberate and meaningful choice (Nadelson & Nadelson, 2012)
- Reflection, clear goals, and patience are necessary for CR involvement (Nadelson & Nadelson, 2012)
- Social media use
 - Movement from Twitter to Instagram & other platforms
- And...what about you?

How Have Texas State's Methods Worked?

- An average of **81.1%** of University Seminar students reported reading part or all of the Common Reading book over the past five fall semesters
- **259 events** during 2019-20 academic year...so far
- **86.6% of first-year students** reported participating in a Common Experience activity over the past five fall semesters
- **64 partners** on campus (colleges, departments, et al.)
- Twitter engagement rate **1,759%** higher than industry average for higher education accounts for summer and fall 2019
- Instagram stats
 - Best reach: **8,813** impressions
 - Highest # of reactions: 716
 - Lowest # of reactions: 106
- **2,247** users visited the Common Experience website **37,242** times since mid-June 2019

What Is Possible?

- Create connections and relationships through conversation, assignments, and projects based on the common reading (Soria, 2015)
- “Student development can occur when readings (and the associated curriculum) prompt students to question their beliefs, explore their feelings, build a sense of community, and relate their emotions to others” (Nadelson & Nadelson, 2012, p. 62)
- Use of social media & knowledge of trends in social media
- What do you think is possible?



What Will We Create?

Think – Pair – Share

CREATE

Please Complete the Session Evaluation

- Please visit the Guidebook for the 39th Annual Conference on the *First Year Experience*
 - *Practical Classroom Applications and Engagement for Common Reading*, Erika K. Nielson, Ph.D.
 - <https://guidebook.com/guide/147249/event/25090723/>
 - <https://bit.ly/3bKcpSP>

References

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