

## Chapter Six – Pressure & Persecution - Transcript

If you are teaching students in high school they will be under an immense amount of pressure from a number of sources. What we've done so far is really encourage the students to engage in their stories and their beliefs and their experiences but a lot of those will have come from experience that have happened in the past. When talking about pressure it's good to try and let the students know that poetry is something that they can use to try and figure out things that are ongoing, it doesn't have to be just a way to sum up something that happened and tell a story about something that happened in the past, they can be figuring things out and questioning their surroundings and engaging with their surroundings in this way as it's happening. Most of the pressure that these kids are under comes from a routine that is so familiar and so entrenched in society that they will not even be aware that that is what is causing them to feel that pressure. Teaching them to be aware of, to engage with, and try to write about this pressure and also trying to use their writing as a means of figuring things out or explaining things that they haven't quite figured out yet, is going to be great for them to know that they have a means of communicating when that pressure becomes too much. They're going to be able to articulate the pressure that they are under and then that is going to be a good way for them reaching out when they need to. And that's not just in an academic sense, this can help with peer pressure, with societal pressure, with conforming pressure, with pressure from home. 'Arrival' was me talking about the pressures of motherhood but not only that - I'm not a mother myself and I don't know much about it, I don't have many friends with kids at the moment but - I'm aware that I'm a certain age now, I'm aware of the pressure to become a mother and that's something that I didn't know how I felt about it apart from uncomfortable, so I wanted to engage with it and use different stories about the same theme that kind of helped me articulate what my point was or what I was trying to figure out. There is something that your kids are going to be learning about anyway so, being able to have a kind of umbrella theme that they can talk about, use stories that are important to them or that stick out in their memory that do not join but they can use to braid together a more cognitive engagement with something that they want to figure out. It might actually help them figure something out, it might not, it might just give them the tools to know that they can use Spoken Word and writing poetry to help them figure out the things that they need to in the future.