



## BOOK CHARACTER RAP BATTLE

**Rationale:** According to Christopher Emdin, Hip-hop is a “cultural phenomena that is steeped in tradition, has distinct practices unique to those who are embedded in the culture, are guided by complex rules of engagement, and require unique ways of looking at the world (*Urban science education for the hip-hop generation*, 2010).” It is vital to integrate culturally relevant pedagogy into a classroom to make learning more enticing and engaging. Rapping about a book that a student has already read will engage reading comprehension skills, public speaking skills, and writing skills. This is also an opportunity for students to use their native language, ebonics, to translate a formal story.

### Standards:

- **MU: Cr3.2.4:** Refine and complete artistic work.
- **MU: Pr6.1.4:** Convey meaning through the presentation of artistic work
- **W.4.4:** Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development and organization are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.
- **SL.4.4:** Report on a topic or text, tell a story, or recount an experience in an organized manner, using appropriate facts and relevant, descriptive details to support main ideas or themes; speak clearly at an understandable pace.

### Process:

**Step 1:** “What makes your book character special?” “What are their qualities?” “What have they done to make their book more interesting?” These are the questions I ask my students to consider before delving into the project.

**Step 2:** Confess that the activity is a rap battle and that I think I have the best character. Ms. Hernandez and I go head to head with our chosen book characters, Chrysanthemum and Despereaux. We battle in front of the kids, first introducing our characters and then roasting each other using specific facts and details about our characters. Now that they’ve seen us in action, we pair up the students, give them a beat and a rhyme generator, and ignite their freestyling minds.

Checklist for rap:

INTRO:

- introduce yourself as the character
- describe character’s attributes
- describe character’s actions from book

RETORT:

- using the information your partner used to describe their character, roast away
- mention why your character is better and how you could help their character
- DROP THE MIC

**Step 3:** BATTLE!