(Re) Making A Story

This exercise is meant to help you and your students create a two – five page short story in approximately 30 – 45 minutes.

*The Book of Enoch* weaves a tale inspired by a character mentioned only in passing in the *Book of Genesis*. How might a work inspire you to make a new creation that speaks to the current moment?

1.) What is a work of fiction or non-fiction that you find particularly interesting, moving, or provocative? This could be a short story, novel, or historical narrative.

2.) Once you have chosen that work, identify a character or figure that you know little about and/or wish you could explore more fully.

3.) Write down a list of ten facts or attributes about the character that you know.

4.) Write down a list of five questions you have about the character and their history or experience.

5.) Write down a theme you want to explore such as loneliness, community, or uncertainty.

6.) Now, given all that you know about the character and the questions you have, imagine the character in a new situation. This could be:

a.) a scene/moment we hear about in the source text, but don’t actually experience

b.) a scene/moment from the character's childhood that might reveal something about their perspective

c.) a scene/moment that takes place after the events of the book in which you think your character might play a major role

7.) Visualize the story by going through the following questions:

a.) Where does the story primarily take place (a kitchen, an open field, a schoolhouse, etc.)?
b.) Who else is in the story with the main character and what is their relationship to the primary figure?
c.) How old is the main character?
d.) What does the main character want at this moment, and what is getting in the way?
e.) What tactics does the main character use to overcome any obstacles?
f.) Where does the story end, and what might that tell us about where the character is headed?

8.) Write down the climax of your story, the spot where any conflict hits its peak.

Example: “And since he wouldn’t listen, even after all my attempts, I ran from the building, taking the suitcase with me. I didn’t know where I was headed.”

9.) Now, skip half a page and write down the last line of your story.

Example: “That is how this became my home.”

10.) Take 30 minutes and write your story from the beginning, following its path from the climax through to the ending.

11.) Read your story.

12.) Share your story.