

LegendizeU in Writing

SAPOTEE SOIL - A CALL TO MEMORY

Come with me

On a Journey of POSSIBILITY

As we travel the Sapotee Soil

Sapotee Soil is a collection of ten stories and essays that takes the reader on a journey across Trinidad, from Waterloo, Chaguanas to meet Siewdass Sadhu who built the Temple in the Sea, all the way to Moruga to meet its famous Obeah man, Papa Neeza.

Sapotee Soil was inspired by my teaching experience at Moruga Composite, where I recognized the *power of story telling and drama to engage and reach students*.

Sapotee Soil is more than a collection of writings.

It is a *CALL TO MEMORY*.

Before Social Media told us what to pay attention to, we had our stories.

Our ancestors staved off the erosion of colonization by reminding themselves and each other of who they were through their legends and stories and passed these on through the oral tradition.

Sapotee Soil is my learning from my ancestors.

It is a celebration of legends, stories, memory.

It is a lesson in history, identity, pride, belonging, yet it never feels like a lesson because Sapotee Soil rests on the principles of *Imagination, Curiosity and Creativity*.

FINDING CONNECTION IN SAPOTEE SOIL

STORY	GENERAL THEME	IMAGINATION	CURIOSITY	CREATIVITY
Beyond the Horizon	Dream Big	<p>Have you ever imagined something so big it seems impossible to accomplish?</p> <p>What did Siewdass imagine and accomplish?</p> <p>What belief did Siewdass have that inspired him to believe in the seemingly impossible?</p>	<p>Siewdass asked himself 'What if...' What is your 'What if...'</p> <p>What stories do you have of people daring to do something big and achieving it?</p> <p>Do you know of any other buildings in the world allegedly built by one man?</p>	<p>How might you stay inspired to believe in your own 'What if'</p> <p>How might you help another to stay inspired to believe in their own 'What if'</p> <p>Create something that reminds you everyday to believe in your dreams</p>
She Never Walks Alone	Lost Love	<p>Practically speaking, what emotion drove Maria when alive to cross the road? Imaginatively speaking, what emotion drives the ghost to haunt the highway?</p> <p>What emotions might a person have when alive, that may cause them to remain as ghosts in a place?</p>	<p>Ask around within your community for ghost stories</p> <p>Have you ever had an encounter with a ghost?</p> <p>Share a ghost story with your classmates.</p>	<p>Have you lost a loved one? Is there anything you wish you had said or could tell this person? How about writing a private letter to this person now?</p>

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The Mislaid Lady	Lost History	What artifact do you know of in your school/ community? If this artifact could talk, what would it say?	If you could bring a Trinidad and Tobago artifact to prominence what would it be and why? Ask the elders in your family to share a piece of family history.	Create your own family heirloom, something that can pass down for generations to come and the story that goes with it.

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Cracking Up	History as Fiction	<p>What emotion would the men who died in the fire have felt?</p> <p>What emotion does Mrs. Martin experience?</p>	<p>What industrial accidents do you know of in recent times in Trinidad and Tobago?</p> <p>Why do you think, that of all the people in the house, it is Mrs. Martin who is haunted by the men?</p> <p>Do you know of other haunted spaces in Trinidad and Tobago or elsewhere?</p>	Take a piece of history and turn into an exciting fiction that you can share with your class in an oral presentation
Close Encounters of the Caribbean Kind	Folk Lore	What abilities does Agatha, the soucouyant, have, according to the story?	<p>What folklore characters do you have stories to share about?</p> <p>Agatha is what is globally called a 'shape shifter', what shape shifter stories exist around the Caribbean and the world?</p>	Make up your own folk lore character and share with your class through a drawing or an oral story.
A Tale From Sobo Village	Then and Now	<p>How about re-enacting the scene of the boys playing cricket in the road as they witness the showdown between Pastor Sonny and Miss Enid?</p> <p>Do you know anyone who claims to have seen obeah in action? Can you share the story?</p>	<p>Do you know where the word 'obeah' comes from and its meaning?</p> <p>Ask your granny or an elder in your community to tell you a story about the old time days. Share with this elder how times are different now to then.</p>	<p>If you were one of those boys playing cricket in the road, what would you have done?</p> <p>If you could bring back one thing from the old days, what would it be and why?</p>

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The Fallen People of the Black Land	Failure & Choice	<p>Kayana's ancestors failed to make the right choice. How did their failure help Kayana chose differently.</p> <p>What would a modern day punishment for Kayana look like?</p>	<p>Contrary to what the world says, Failure is an inevitable part of growth. What have you failed at? What did you learn?</p>	<p>Think about a bad choice you have made and what you may do differently next time.</p> <p>What is your something that guides you to make good choices?</p> <p>How do you let go of your failures?</p>
The Black Hope	Hope	<p>How could something so small, like the statue of La Divina Pastora, bring so many people of different faiths and beliefs, together?</p> <p>What are some of the things that bring us together on this small island, as one people?</p>	<p>What gifts and talents do you have that may make you a person that brings people together in harmony?</p>	<p>What ideas do you have that could bring your school or community together in harmony?</p>

STORY	GENERAL THEME	IMAGINATION	CURIOSITY	CREATIVITY
The Mystery of Moruga	Strength & Peace	How did Papa Neeza defy the labels put on him by society?	<p>Why did Papa Neeza reject the idea of himself as an 'obeah man'</p> <p>Papa Neeza was immortalized in song in the mighty Sparrow's calypso, 'Obeah Wedding', pull it up on Youtube nah.</p>	<p>How do you defy other's prejudice of you?</p> <p>Come up peaceful ways of standing up for yourself</p> <p>Can you come up with one idea to promote peace at your school?</p>
Superhero, Trini Style	Prejudice	Imagine you are Mahal, how far can you walk on bare-feet?	Approach someone you have never spoken to in your class and see if you can learn something about them and share something about yourself with them.	<p>Mahal is a memory only in the old people's minds, can you find out about him from the elders around you?</p> <p>Is there anyone in your community that is known as a 'character'? Why?</p>

