**N4 Story Exchange Prompt, REPAIR**

| **Story Exchange Prompt: Repair.** Tell a story about when you or someone you know repaired something: a broken tool, a bicycle wheel, a relationship with a person or activity. |
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Before you run this Story Exchange with students, you might want to use this poem to help inform how students receive each other’s stories.

| Image result for poet ellen bass | **Ellen Bass** is an American poet and co-author of The Courage to Heal. |
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**If You Knew**

what if you knew you'd be the last   
to touch someone?  
if you were taking tickets, for example,  
at the theater, tearing them,  
giving back the ragged stubs,  
you might take care to touch that palm,  
brush your fingertips  
along the life line's crease.  
  
when a man pulls his wheeled suitcase  
too slowly through the airport, when  
the car in front of me doesn't signal,   
when the clerk at the pharmacy   
won't say, Thank you. i don't remember  
they're going to die.  
  
a friend told me she'd been with her aunt.  
they'd just had lunch and the waiter,  
a young gay man with plum black eyes,  
joked as he served the coffee, kissed  
her aunt's powdered cheek, when they left.  
then they walked half a block and her aunt  
dropped dead on the sidewalk.  
  
how close does the dragon's spume

have to come? how wide does the crack

in heaven have to split?

what would people look like

if we could see them as they are,

soaked in honey, stung and swollen,

reckless, pinned against time?

Students’ stories are a doorway into their engagement with the world: they teach us what they know and want to know.

After the story exchange, recognize the collective wisdom of the group by asking*,***“What important questions and understandings emerged from our stories?”**

Record the understandings and questions that students identify. This list can become a class resource for deciding next steps by asking, **“Based on what we know and wonder, what might we do next?”**