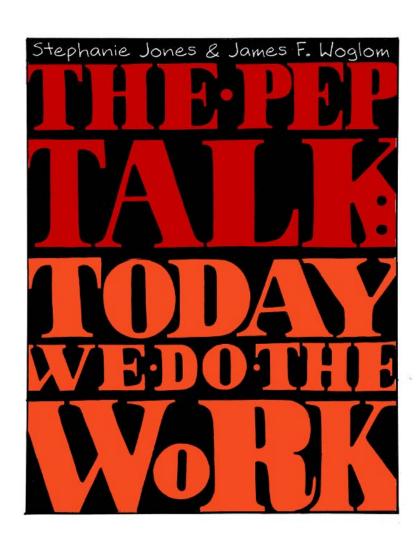
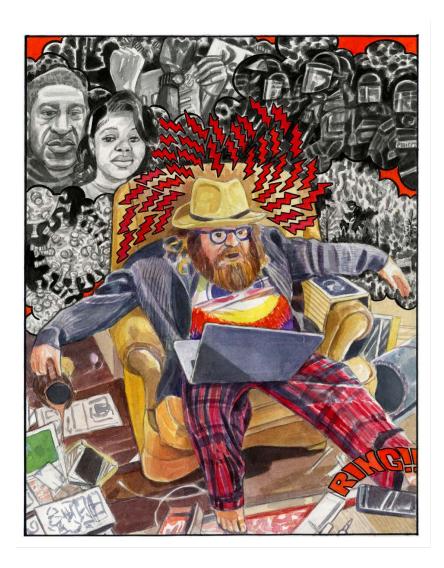
The Pep Talk: Today We Do the Work

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Hey Stephanie!

ter Jim! How're rou holding up?

> Barely. I feel a little overwhelmed by, well, everything...

don't know. But it seems like people keep trying to re-establish things that appeared to maintain order in a pre-pandemic and pre-insurrection society.

The old things just aren't going to work anymore, including teacher education.



It's like the uncer-tainty of these times has opened up infinite creative and even joyful possibilities. But we're not in unique times, unfortunately. Other crises in history, including movements toward authoritarianism and fascism, have inspired everyday people and educators to create ew ways of being and doing.



A lot of those things didn't work for a lot of people to begin with But some of them kept up a facade of institutions carrying out their business like grading and testing in schools.

lot many people opposed these pre-pandemic, and even though their fault lines are more visible iow, a lot of people seem to be doubling-down on requiring grades and testing,





You're right, and their persistence in not giving up and not giving in, especially to tascism, can offer some hope to us all as we improvise our way through this day, time, and opening for possibility. Let's high-light a few that we can be inspired by in this tumultuous sea of unpredictability.

It's all so overwhelming. Every-thing feels so un-stable and out of order doesn't it?

How can we know anything for sure, much less how to prepare teachers then everything is uncertain?



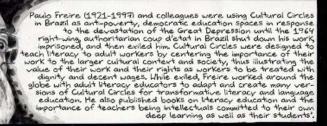
Isn't it ironic though, that we've also witnessed people learning 50 much by pursuing their interests? Baking bread, studying racism and white suprem acy, creating Tik-Toks, painting, exploring nature, learning about voting rights and election processes, studying the U.S. Constitution, cooking, and so many ther things!



Some folk who generated newness out of crisis:

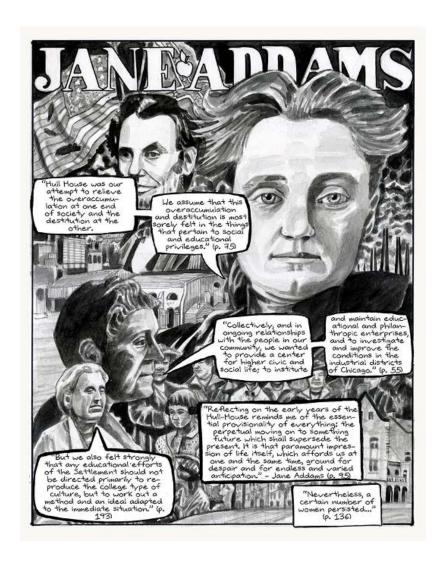
Jane Addams (1860-1935) and her colleagues, for example, were creating new ways of working for justice on the heels of the U.S. yil War. They lived with and listened to the most vulnerable people during Reconstruction, ongoing racialized violence, and an intensifi-cation of industrialized capitalism in Chicago. What they learned cation of industrialized capitalism in Chicago. What they learned shaped the educational offerings for young children, adolescents, and adults. Organizing workers, buying communal property to provide security for women to live together and protect them trom victions, supporting immigrant youth to honor their home languages and femilies, providing childcare and meals, advocating for the end of child labor, setting up a labor museum, and bringing in influential intellectuals to give public lectures are some of the free and public education Addams and her collaborators provided.

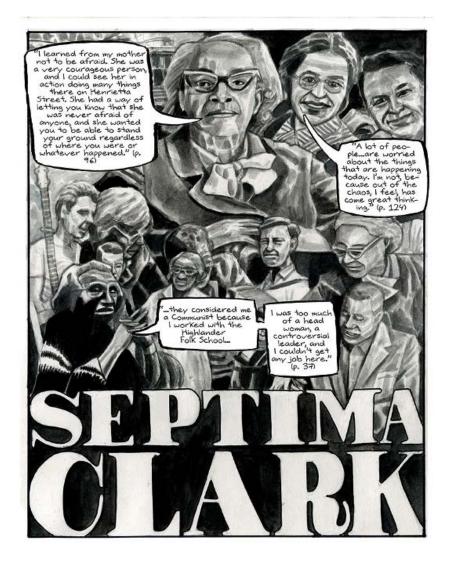
Septima Clark (1898-1987) created community-based literacy Deptima Clark (1878-1784) created community-bused into any schools throughout the Civil Rights era to expand Black voter participation and political engagement. Unile much of her and her colleagues' work was focused in the U.S. South, Clark worked all arround the country, including her influential work at the High-lander Center in Tennessee with Myles Horton. She faced dis-crimination and mistreatment by many men in the Civil Rights Movement, but her eventual recognition as one of the matriarchs of the Movement indicates the power of her ork as both someone who assembled critical pedagogie for teaching literacy and as someone who organized igainst structural racism

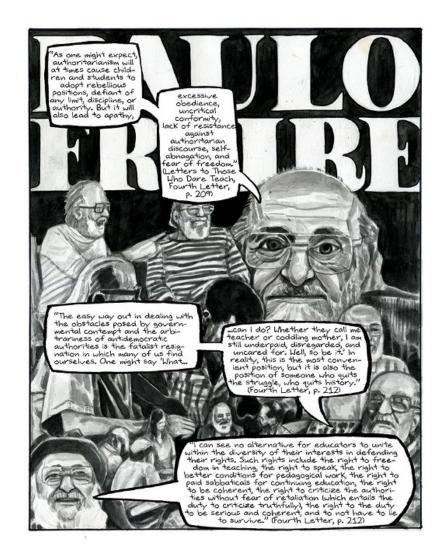


Patrisse Cullors (1984-), Alicia Garea (1981-), and Opal Tometi (1984-) founded Black Lives Matter in 2013, creatng an evolving grassroots, social media, and educational network in response to systemic anti-Black racism and police violence in the U.S. and around the globe Black Lives
Matter provides ongoing multi-platform education in person
and via medial about race and economic inequality, racist policing policies and practices, and interpretations of current events as well as affirmative practices humanizing Black, brown, and indigenous people, LGBTQ folix, people with disabilities, and people across the gender spectrum building an inclusive network of action toward justice.

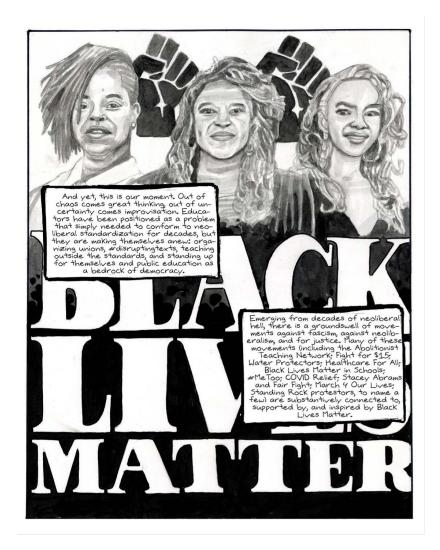


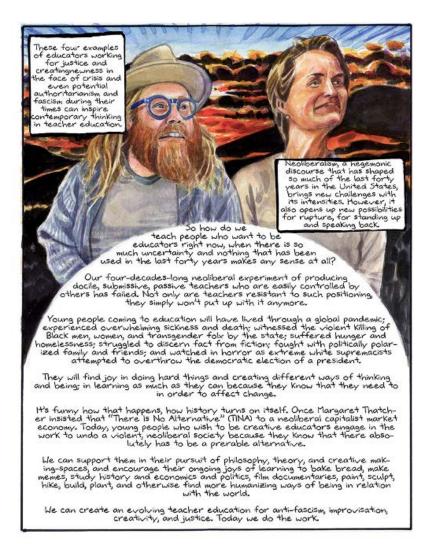












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