

# The Tft Tips Trio

## OPENING AND CLOSING CIRCLES

1

Design Opening Circles with three parts:

- Greeting (often includes a reflection question)
- Initiative (some kind of playful game or activity)
- Reading (something that invites thankfulness and thoughtfulness)

Create a bank of ideas in advance to ease the day-to-day practice of opening circles.

2

Imagine how you might incorporate your Storyline and Deep Hope into the greetings, initiatives, and readings you design!

- Greetings: Turn your Deep Hope into a blessing that students use to greet each other or invite students to reflect and share personal experiences or ideas that connect with Deep Hope or Storyline.
- Initiative: Give teams of students a scrambled word/phrase/verse related to Deep Hope to unscramble or give students a selection of images or items and ask them to select which one most relates to the Deep Hope.
- Reading: Select images, poems, songs, Bible verses, etc. that connect with the specific language or the theme of your Deep Hope or Storyline. Don't be afraid to return to the same texts more than once!

3

Design Closing Circles to provoke reflection, celebration, and gratitude that connect to the Storyline or Deep Hope:

- Return to a reading from an opening circle and ask students to connect it to their learning, Storyline, and/or Deep Hope
- Invite students to share a piece of work that they feel embodies the Storyline and/or Deep Hope
- Craft reflection questions that engage students in Deep Hope and Storyline (i.e., For the Storyline, See the Story, Live the Story, ask, What have you learned this week about Living the Story?)