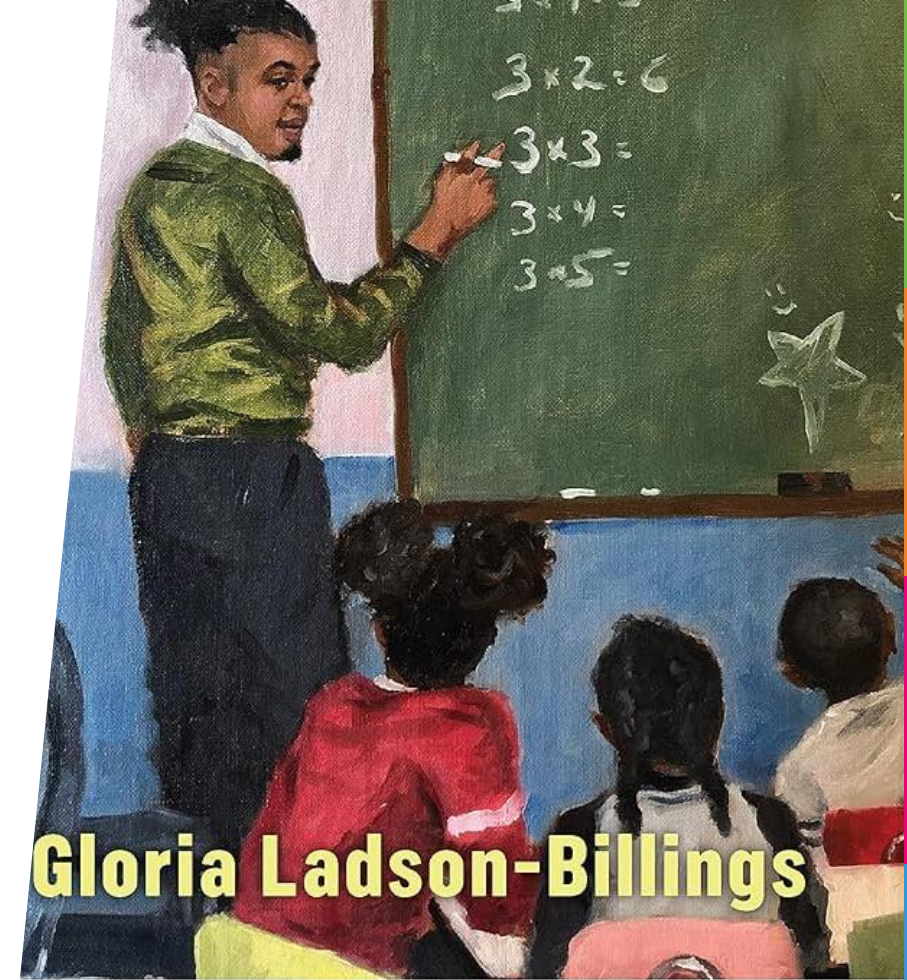


# Pitch a Theorist

Gloria Ladson-Billings



**Gloria Ladson-Billings**

**CULTURALLY  
RELEVANT  
PEDAGOGY**

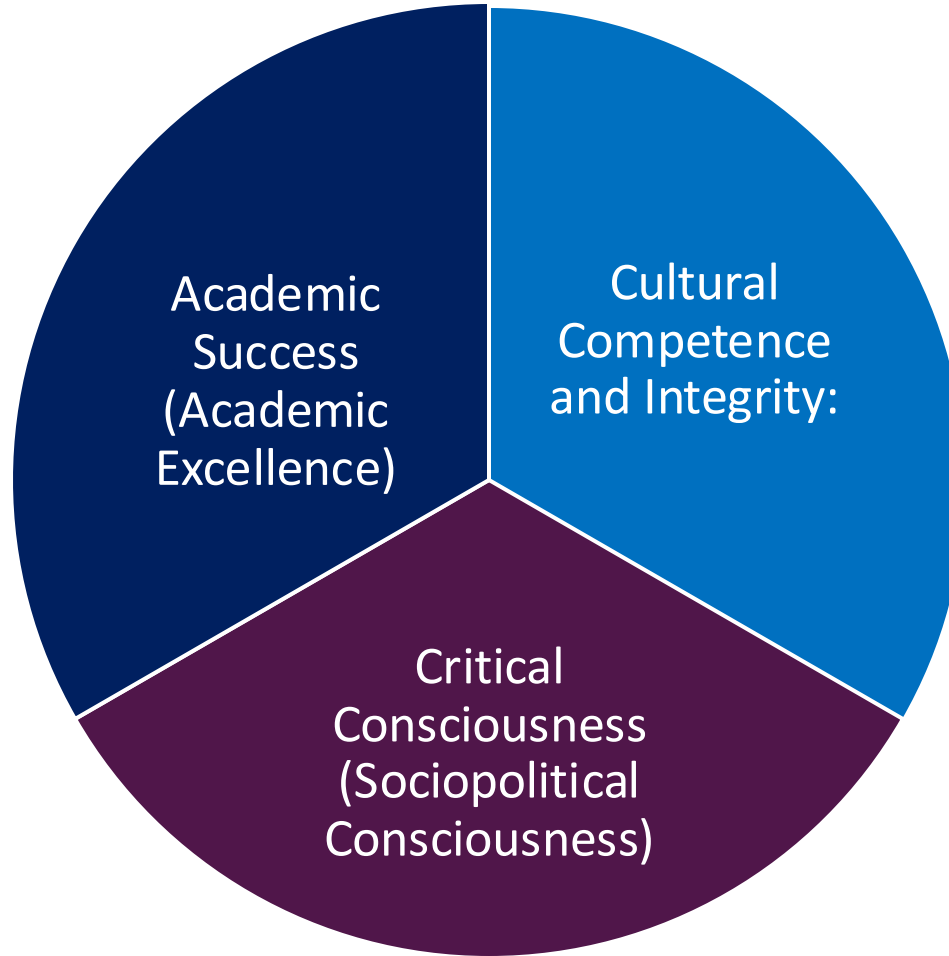
**ASKING A DIFFERENT QUESTION**

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## The Three Pillars of *Culturally Relevant Pedagogy*

Ladson-Billings defines CRP through three core components:

CRP does not lower standards; it focuses on high expectations and empowering students to meet them. It emphasizes fostering academic competence and intellectual growth.



This involves helping students recognise and honour their own cultural beliefs and practices while acquiring access to the wider, mainstream culture. It bridges the gap between home culture and school culture rather than forcing students to abandon their identity.

Students are taught to recognise, understand, and critique social inequities. It encourages students to analyse the world around them and develop a sense of agency to change injustices.

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*'A pedagogy of oppression not unlike critical pedagogy but specifically committed to collective, not merely individual, empowerment. Culturally relevant pedagogy rests on three criteria or propositions:*

- (a) students must experience academic success;*
- (b) students must develop and/or maintain cultural competence; and*
- (c) students must develop a critical consciousness through which they challenge the current status quo of the social order.'*

Ladson Billings (1995) (p. 160)

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## *Educational Debt Theory*

EDT is a concept that she developed that attempts to explain the failure of education policy makers to invest schooling resources into dealing with the raft of social issues caused by what she describes as the racial achievement gap.

According to Ladson-Billings, EDT has historical, economic, socio-political and moral components. These can be summarised as follows:

- **Historical debt** is the belief that inequality based on someone's race, class and gender throughout history has prevented minorities from receiving quality education.
- **Economic debt** has occurred as a result of the disparities in school funding.
- **Socio-political debt** is the degree to which non-white communities of colour are excluded from the civic process.
- **Moral debt** reflects what Ladson-Billings argues is the disparity between what we know is right and what we actually do.

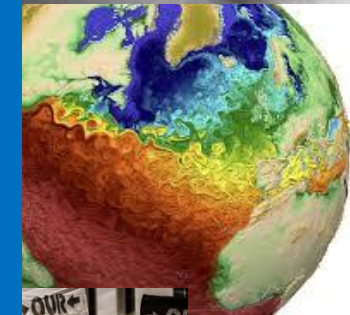


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# How it relates?



Ladson-Billings argues that racism is baked into the country's social structures, policies and institutions, benefiting white people and disadvantaging people of colour. Consider how this statement is likely to affect you and your students. Bates (2023)



# Pitch a Theorist

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