

Gathering for “Are We Grownups Yet?”

There are suggestions for Zoom sessions – speaking in turns, muting, and using Chat for the Words of the Day. Some sections use a timer / clock.

When you join the meeting *Facilitators – do these for yourself first and help others.*

- Check that you are unmuted and have video. Check your volume. Edit your name tag if necessary.
- Make sure you have a copy of the Gathering available.
- **Words of the Day.** In Chat, write “I felt like a REAL grownup when I” and complete the sentence.

Chalice Lighting “We’ll begin by lighting the chalice.” *Ask for a volunteer to read.*

For every time we make a mistake and we decide to start again: We light this chalice.

For every time we are lonely and we let someone be our friend: We light this chalice.

For every time we are disappointed and we choose to hope: We light this chalice.

M. Maureen Killoran, adapted

Words of the Day “Now we’ll read the Words of the Day from the Chat box.” *People can’t see Chat written before they joined the meeting, so you might want to read these yourself or ask people to read their own.*

Sharing of Joys and Concerns “We’ll share joys and concerns.” *Begin, and then either call on people or ask them to “chain” to the next person. Make sure everyone has an opportunity.*

Silence, holding each other in support “Now a few minutes of silence” (2 or 3)

Shared Readings “I’ll start the first Shared Reading.” *Begin, and then either call on people or ask them to “chain” to the next person. Make sure everyone has an opportunity to read.*

When I was ten, I read fairy tales in secret and would have been ashamed if I had been found doing so. Now that I am fifty I read them openly. When I became a man I put away childish things, including the fear of childishness and the desire to be very grown up. *C.S. Lewis*

I did then what I knew how to do. Now that I know better, I do better. *Maya Angelou*

When we are children we seldom think of the future. This innocence leaves us free to enjoy ourselves as few adults can. The day we fret about the future is the day we leave our childhood behind.

Patrick Rothfuss

The value of marriage is not that adults produce children, but that children produce adults.

Peter De Vries

Whenever you take a step forward, you are bound to disturb something. *Indira Gandhi*

It is all too common for caterpillars to become butterflies and then to maintain that in their youth they had been little butterflies. Maturation makes liars of us all. *George E. Vaillant*

People say you're born innocent, but it's not true. You inherit all kinds of things that you can do nothing about. You inherit your identity, your history, like a birthmark that you can't wash off ... You have to earn your own innocence ... You have to grow up and become innocent.

Hugo Hamilton, The Sailor in the Wardrobe

Maturity is a bitter disappointment for which no remedy exists, unless laughter could be said to remedy anything. *Kurt Vonnegut*

Risk it; go for it. Life always gives you another chance, another go at it. It's very important to take enormous risks. *Mary Quant*

I am not afraid of storms, for I am learning how to sail my ship. *Louisa May Alcott*

Deep Listening and Sharing

Round 1. Deep Sharing. "Now we share reflections on being grownups and the preparation." *Note the time available for each person and ask people to mute or remain quiet for each speaker.*

Go first to model. Then ask people to raise their hand if they're ready to go next. Assist with un-muting if needed. Make sure everyone has an opportunity.

Round 2. Responses and Comments. *Note how much time is available for Round 2. People can unmute for freer exchange. Go first to model for the group.*

Closing Circle "We're going to say a word or sentence about what we are taking away from the session." *Begin, and then either call on people or "chain."* *Make sure everyone has an opportunity.*

Chalice "We will extinguish the chalice." *Ask for a volunteer to read.*

We extinguish this flame and we remember the warmth of our community, the light of our wisdom, the generosity of our sharing. We keep these in our heart until we meet again.

Bell or Chime

Announcements

The Covenant

I commit myself:

- to come to meetings when I possibly can, knowing that my presence is important to the group
- to let the facilitator know if I will be absent or need to quit
- to share responsibility for good process by watching how much time I take to speak, noticing what is going on for others, and considering problems if they occur
- to do the reading and thinking about the topic ahead of time
- to not gossip about what is shared in the group, and tell only my own story to others
- to honor the safety of the group by listening to what others share with an open heart
- to refrain from cross-talk, judging, giving advice, or advocating a specific view
- to share as deeply as I can when it is my turn and to stay on the "I-message."