

0:00:00.680,0:00:05.759

So I want to think of literacy as something a little broader than just the

0:00:05.759,0:00:10.380

reading and writing realm. So when we use the word literacy what is kind of

0:00:10.380,0:00:15.000

traditionally meant is how "able" are you in reading or writing, so if you say

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someone is "illiterate" usually means they can't read, sometimes

0:00:18.600,0:00:25.199

that they can't write, kind of depending on that whole spectrum. But it also has a

0:00:25.199,0:00:30.330

larger connotation of "does that person have an understanding of the topic." So

0:00:30.330,0:00:35.340

you can be literate in a type of technology, or you could be literate in

0:00:35.340,0:00:41.399

that country's customs, or you could be literate in the kitchen and how to cook

0:00:41.399,0:00:45.300

well. Those kind-- of we've broadened what the term means and how it's socially

0:00:45.300,0:00:50.520

acceptable to use it. So my personal story right now is very much, I think,

0:00:50.520,0:00:55.980

thinking more about people's own stories and, not in a negative connotation way,

0:00:55.980,0:01:01.020

but "reading" people. So, kind of learning how to look at people and their

0:01:01.020,0:01:05.670

experiences and what's influenced them
and the "style" they bring, like a book has

0:01:05.670,0:01:13.229

a style; the backstory they bring, like a
character has a backstory in a book; the

0:01:13.229,0:01:17.790

time I invest in them, like I would sit
on a couch and read a book. I can sit

0:01:17.790,0:01:21.450

across a table and have a meal with
someone and build that relationship.

0:01:21.450,0:01:26.720

And so that's kind of where I'm at in
literacy and kind of understanding that term.

0:01:26.720,0:01:33.960

So in that process, I think what's really
driven me in that narrative and

0:01:33.960,0:01:39.060

understanding that as a type of literacy
and a narrative is being in new places.

0:01:39.060,0:01:44.040

So after college, I mean college was its
own getting-to-know-new-people thing, but

0:01:44.040,0:01:48.899

then when I left college I went to a
totally new place-- didn't know anyone-- for a

0:01:48.899,0:01:52.619

few years, and then I moved back home
after being away for six years to where

0:01:52.619,0:01:56.070

my family lived but then kind of had to
rebuild community there apart from my

0:01:56.070,0:02:00.750

family, and then now I'm anticipating
another move and looking forward to

0:02:00.750,0:02:05.939
getting to know people there more--
wherever that ends up being-- and in those

0:02:05.939,0:02:11.160
things there's really a way to read
people well. Some of the kind of things

0:02:11.160,0:02:13.530
in what I've been reading and I'm
hearing at

0:02:13.530,0:02:18.600
conferences, not that it's a
one-size-fits-all generic formula, just

0:02:18.600,0:02:24.300
like reading a book you can't approach
every book in the same way and. . . but

0:02:24.300,0:02:27.540
things like listening. So if you're
reading a book and really understand it,

0:02:27.540,0:02:30.540
you have to read it, and you have to be
invested in that reading, maybe your pen

0:02:30.540,0:02:33.870
out taking notes. So you might not
"interview" a person quite that

0:02:33.870,0:02:37.020
strategically but just listening well.
You need to listen to someone to get to

0:02:37.020,0:02:41.370
know them, and then asking questions of
them. So thinking, "Okay, I read this

0:02:41.370,0:02:44.130
chapter in this book, and I don't really
understand why this character is doing

0:02:44.130,0:02:47.610
that, but maybe it's motivated by what
they want." And a person, in the same way:

0:02:47.610,0:02:51.930
asking questions to get to know them
just kind of enables that growing

0:02:51.930,0:02:54.440
literacy.