**GUT:** If we do not respond to the voice of the inward teacher, it will either stop speaking or become violent: I am convinced that some forms of depression, of which I have personal experience, are induced by a long-ignored inner teacher trying desperately to get us to listen by threatening to destroy us. When we honor that voice with simple attention, it responds by speaking more gently and engaging us in a life-giving conversation of the soul.

What does our inner, courageous voice ask us to do? When we are in front of our students and the voice strongly resonates, or quietly asks us to see our students in a new and different way, or to “try” something different, what is our response? This one you may have to discuss with your team/group to some extent. The courage and gut reaction of the teacher is strong – listen and get your thoughts/ideas down.

**Courage/Gut:** This is your courage and your willingness to step out of your comfort zone. It is also an expression of your creativity. Your curriculum, infused and shaped by student interest and talent, opens new doors for all of your students. That framework of curriculum provides opportunities for student investigation, ownership, and presentation of knowledge and creation.