***Post-Modernism (1950s and beyond)***

**Big Idea**

Meaning in life is constructed by ourselves through narrative (stories). Thus, there is no one, definitive truth.

*How we arrive at the big idea:*

* It stems from a recognition that reality is not simply mirrored in human understanding of it, but rather, is constructed as the mind tries to understand its own particular and personal reality.
* Post-Modernism is skeptical of explanations which claim to be valid for all groups, cultures, traditions, or races, and instead focuses on the relative truths of each person.
* In the postmodern understanding, interpretation is everything; reality only comes into being through our interpretations of what the world means to us individually.
* Postmodernism relies on concrete experience over abstract principles, knowing always that the outcome of one's own experience will necessarily be fallible and relative, rather than certain and universal.

Questions to consider:

1. What is an example of how two people’s very different experiences might shape their beliefs?
2. How can something be true for you and not for someone else?
3. How do political beliefs, religious beliefs, inherited values, and experiences shape your personal truths?
4. Can something be true if exaggerated or embellished?
5. What is an emotional truth?