**Significant Episode: Students as Teachers**

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*Finding 1.3: Collaboration*  
*Know that learners may prefer to collaborate rather than compete in their mathematics learning.*

**Background**
We had decided to work together as teachers and as we had found it to be very successful, we decided to see if our students could also gain from working collaboratively.

**What happened?**
The Year 5 and Year 7 classes both had to cover the ‘properties of a circle’ in their mathematics program. Mandy was the teacher of the Year 7 class and so she introduced the topic with her students first. After teaching the students about the properties of a circle through some direct instruction, they then went off and independently researched the properties. Mandy then had the students prepare resources and a lesson so they could teach the Year 5 class (Ian’s class) about the same topic. The Year 7 students then went to the Year 5 class and taught them about the properties of a circle.

**Results**
The results of the pre and post-tests showed a significant improvement for both the Year 5 class and the Year 7 class. It seemed that the Year 7 students gained a great deal by having to explain the concepts to someone else, and the Year 5 students clearly appreciated learning from an older peer. However, the greatest gain was in the enthusiasm shown by all students, especially amongst the students that we had considered disengaged.

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**Some questions to prompt discussion:**

1. *How did the Year 7 students benefit from this experience?*
2. *What might have been significant for the Indigenous students in both Year 5 and Year 7?*
3. *What other interesting or important aspects are in this Significant Episode?*