Pushing the Limits of Transformation
Featured Video and Book – Discussion Questions

Who doesn't love a whole new start? The chance to reimagine and remake our home, our job, our neighborhood, or ourselves. And what about those among us who can pick up any raw material and hammer it into a work of art? Humans stretch themselves all the time to transform what was into what could be. Get ready to discover what humans can accomplish by pushing the limits of transformation.

All The Way Home

David Giffles, Memoir. With his pregnant wife and their 18-month-old son in tow, David Giffels scoured the environs of Akron, OH, in search of the perfect house. But nothing seemed right . . . until he spotted the beautiful, decaying Gilded Age mansion. A former robber baron's domain, the once grand house does need some repair . . . okay it's a dump. So what if, there's "nothing holding this place up but memory," - the assessment of his father, a structural engineer? It wouldn't be perfect if it were easy, and Giffels relishes the challenge. He's a committed do it your-selfer who fears a life without struggle—and Home Depot.

All the Way Home follows the author's funny and sometimes frustrating journey as he and his young family turn a decrepit money pit into the home of their dreams. From outwitting squatters (both four- and two-legged) to rebuilding termite ridden walls, battling wisteria vines and finding a shocking surprise hidden in a wall, Giffels takes readers along on the ultimate fixer-up trip. Throughout he shows them the heart of a young man on the brink of adulthood, happily struggling with his new roles as a husband and a father—a man trying to find his way without losing himself. amazon.com

- Did the book remind you of your own DIY struggles and victories?
- Have you or anyone you know worked in a community "Maker Space" or do you have your own shop? What is it about working on hand made projects that you find satisfying?
- What are some of the most effective transformations you've made in a DIY project? How did you figure out how to do it? Was there a lot of trial and error?
- Do you think of yourself as an engineer when you are working on projects like that? What is an engineer, really?