**Weekly Letter 2**

**August 21-25**

**English I Honors: Intro to Lit and Comp**

**Mrs. Beery**

Loyalty to one’s values is more important than loyalty to one’s family

Hope is not always present in one’s immediate surroundings

People Are not who they seem when recovering from tragedy

Welcome to week two of your high school experience. I want to take the opportunity to thank you again for all of your energy and effort last week. Throughout the journal writing, onion activity and, introductory game, we started cultivating a healthy and safe learning community in our classroom. Moreover, our discussion and reflection on the classroom rules and English expectations also served to strengthen our learning community. I hope everyone comes to class every day with an open mind and a caring heart. We want to take risks in this space and know our peers will respect our differences and listen to the plethora of ideas we want to share. Subsequently, we enter this classroom everyday as equals who share a mutual respect for learning in hopes that we can use our knowledge to empower ourselves and others. As your instructor I want you to know that I want you to be an advocate for yourself this year and use your voice to communicate your needs. If you need to discuss anything, please do not hesitate to speak with me or set up a conference.

In addition, let’s be grateful for the opportunity to see writing outside of the vacuum of a high school experience. By reading the words of Matthew Quick be reminded that writing is meant to be shared, discussed and appreciated as an artful craft. It should not exist solely has an assignment for me to read or for you to pound out the night before a due date. It lives and breathes. It can change lives and perspectives. It can connect and reinforce the authentic rhythms of the world and lead to redemption of the character and the reader. It instills passion and awe!!!!

Using this knowledge, this week we continue focusing on your summer reading text, analysis and synthesis. During the first few days you will be asked to reflect on some themes and lessons from characters and themes in your journal. Thank you in advance for all of your hard work, for taking this first assignment seriously, and for beginning the practice of analysis through the 5 whys.

**Learning Goals:**

**RL.10.1:** I can cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.

**RL.10.2:** I can determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze in detail its development over the course of the text, including how it emerges and is shaped and refined by specific details; provide an objective summary of the text.

**Essential Question:**

When circumstances threaten to undermine your sense of safety, beliefs, and well-being what can you do to overcome the struggle(s) in order to preserve and protect humanity?

**M: Weekly Letter (online & hardcopy)**

Did you order *OMAM* and *The Pen Commandments*? If not, do so **TONIGHT** so they arrive by the end of the week.

Independent reading for the day and reading log

**8th period is going to see the eclipse at the stadium**

**T: What are the themes in *Boy 21*?**

How to synthesize------how do different texts speak to one another?

Read Poem “Eastleigh” and discuss common theme with *Boy 21*

**HMWK: read the short story: “Illusion” by Curtis Smith (handout) and complete the questions that follow—submit to Google Classroom print and turn in.**

**W:** Discuss microfiction piece “Illusion” and answer questions.

Next, read “On the Rainy River” by Tim O’Brien. What theme does this story and *Boy 21* have in common? Synthesize theme with *Boy 21* and essential question.(worksheet)

**HMWK: Finish reading and handout for homework—submit to Google Classroom**

**TH:** Discuss “On the Rainy River”

Create Chart of Information (on google classroom)

Distribute “This I Believe” essays

**HMWK: Read all 5 essays and show each one speaks to Boy 21---add one example to the chart for each.**

**F: Preparing for seminar:** How to be an effective communicator

\*\*\*\*You will need a partner for this activity.

* + Good Communication Skills for Teens - Let's Face It! (5 min) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_UTx6iPLsH>4
  + Good Eye Contact: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WP025m9-orE>
    1. Practice good eye contact
  + Finesse means success:

*Word Sneak*--Jimmy Fallon video and student practice

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9nBBgD0q6rA

------divide stack of cards into a stack of five---turn over and try to incorporate these words into your conversation as naturally as you can.

------this skill helps craft conversation into another layer or topic of discussion.

* + Support your answer
    1. Support happens in many ways---one way is to provide TE from text.
    2. Provide 2 examples of TE from the book that support this idea: “Recovery is a process that can only be achieved with the help of others.”
    3. Anecdote is a short story to support your idea:
    4. Provide an anecdote from your life that provides an example to strengthen your point.
    5. Let’s practice: One important theme from *Boy 21* is “Recovery is a process that can only be achieved with the help of others.” ---Provide an anecdote from your life that supports this idea.