**Reader’s Notebook**

**Quick Write**

Each time we read in class you will need to take five minutes at some point to do a “Quick Write.”  These “Quick Writes” should be done in your reader’s notebook and only need to be a couple of sentences.   Make sure you include the date and the page number you’re responding to.

  There are several purposes for the Quick writes:  One is to hold you accountable for keeping up with the reading and really thinking about what you have read.  Another is to allow me to see what you’re thinking about the book and to assess what deeper understandings you’re getting.

1. Begin by skimming over the assigned section of the book.  You may want to mark passages with sticky notes as you read and then review those.
2. Choose a quote that you think is very important in this section and write it down with the page number.  If you wrote it down on a sticky note already, simply stick the note in your notebook.  (You can tape or glue it if you’re afraid it will fall out.)
3. Then explain briefly why you chose this quote.  Why is it so important?  You might consider some of the following questions when you decide to pick an important quote or when you’re trying to explain why it was important to you:
* Does it somehow relate to our essential questions?
* Does it reveal something about a character?
* Does it help you think of a theme for the book?
* Does it tell you something about the world or human nature?
* Does it help you predict what will happen next or is this quote evidence that a prediction came true?
* Did it surprise you?
* Did it make you feel anger, sadness, frustration, fear or happiness?
* Is it an example of really good writing?
* Did it confuse you or make you wonder something?
* Do you think this quote might help you answer a journal question later on?
1. You may always do more than one entry if you want extra credit.
2. You may need to share your Quick Writes with a partner, small group or whole group.

**Examples of Quick Writes**

On *Touching Spirit Bear*

3/2/16

“Justice should heal, not punish.” (13) I completely agree with this statement because if you only punish someone for a crime, you just create more anger.  The person is angry that he was punished and the person he hurt, is still hurt.  Real justice has to help people learn from their mistakes and fix them.  Going to jail won’t help Cole because it will only punish him.  He needs Circle Justice so that he can deal with his anger.

3/3/16

“When Peter tried to escape, he tripped and fell to the ground.  Cole jumped on him again and started smashing his head against the sidewalk.  It took six other students to finally pull him away.  By then Peter was cowering on the blood-smeared sidewalk, sobbing.  Cole laughed and spit at him…” (8)  Cole is monster.  What is wrong with him?  He almost killed a boy just for telling on him!  Peter didn’t hurt him, and he even tried to run away.   Cole can’t claim that it was self-defense or that Peter had it coming.  If six students had to pull Cole off, then I can’t imagine how brutal he was being.  He wanted to make Peter suffer as much as possible.

On *Hidden Talents*

3/1/16

“Edgeview was the sort of place where people kept broken machines, old tires, and other stuff they didn’t need.  Yeah this was a place for things nobody wanted.”  (4)  If Martin is being sent to Edgeview, does that mean he’s one of the “thing nobody wanted”?  He probably doesn’t like himself very much if that’s what he thinks.  Being sent to this school probably feels like being abandoned.

3/2/16

“He laughed again like a donkey with asthma.”  (4)  I think this simile is really funny.  I can just imagine how awful and braying his laugh must sound.  It’s also pretty clever.  I might have thought to compare someone to a donkey but not a donkey with asthma!  That’s even worse.