ELA 20: Starting Out: Beginning and Becoming: Back to School and Recollections of Childhood

CR20.1/ CC.20.3 Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

As we journey on the road of life, we learn about ourselves, others, and the natural and constructed worlds. Childhood and youth lay the foundation for life, for learning and experiencing, for developing personal volition, for shaping identity and sense of self, and for health and well-being. The paths of childhood and youth are not the same for all, however. For some children and youth, it is a time of wonder, imagination, inquiry, discovery, play, experimentation, and innocence; for others, it is a time of neglect, abandonment, abuse, disillusionment, pain, exploitation, and innocence destroyed. Through relationships with the social, natural, and spiritual worlds, children and youth establish their identities among family members, caregivers, friends, peers, and others. Every culture celebrates or recognizes significant developments or rites of passage in children and adolescents; these milestones may be acknowledged formally or informally. Although the roles of, and attitudes about, children and youth have developed over time and varied across cultures, by examining the complex nature of childhood and youth, we have the opportunity to understand how childhood and youth contribute to who we are and who we would like to be.

BIG Questions to think about:

What ways of knowing, thinking, doing, and being have you developed as a result of your relationships in childhood and adolescence?

How and why have the roles of children and youth changed over the years?

What issues do children and youth face in the twenty-first century?

How are the issues that children face today different from the issues experienced by children in previous generations?

What was it like on your numerous back to school days? Do they play a factor in your life today?

What do you remember the most? (Let’s think about the 5 senses, touch, taste, smell, hear, see- What I find interesting is all that I remember is how I FELT emotionally)

Check out these items I found on BuzzFeed. Do they work for your generation as well? If NOT, I challenge you to find me some images that do so I can make the connection to your childhood.

I will show you some pictures that are popular online right now about the first and last day of school.

Want to see my Kindergarten picture? Ok.

Want me to tell you my First Day Back to School story? Ok.

Now, let’s begin the unit with some POETRY!

**Introduction to Poetry by Billy Collins**

I have not seen this poem before. I have no idea what this poem is about, and I cannot interpret it. I am sure that you can. How? Check the Weebly (The answer will be Shmoop and annotate)

**Introduction to Poetry**  
Billy Collins

I ask them to take a poem  
and hold it up to the light  
like a color slide

or press an ear against its hive.

I say drop a mouse into a poem  
and watch him probe his way out,

or walk inside the poem’s room  
and feel the walls for a light switch.

I want them to waterski  
across the surface of a poem  
waving at the author’s name on the shore.

But all they want to do  
is tie the poem to a chair with rope  
and torture a confession out of it.

They begin beating it with a hose  
to find out what it really means

KEY Questions I may ask are:

What does each stanza mean?

What do you know about the author?

Are the speaker and author the same?

What is the THEME?

**Credo by Robert Fulghum**

**What is a Credo?** A credo (Latin for "I Believe") is a statement of belief, commonly used for religious belief, such as the Apostles' Creed.

**Robert Fulghum’s Inspiration**

Each spring, for many years, I have set myself the task of writing a personal statement of belief: a Credo. When I was younger, the statement far for many pages, trying to cover every base, with no loose ends. It sounded like a Supreme Court brief, as words could resolve all conflicts about the meaning of existence.   
  
The credo has grown shorter in recent years - sometimes cynical, sometimes comical, and sometimes bland - but I keep working at it. Recently I set out to get the statement of personal belief down to one page in simple terms, fully understanding the naive idealism that implied.  
  
The inspiration for brevity came to me at a gasoline station. I managed to fill an old car's tank with supreme deluxe hi-octane go-juice. My old hoopy couldn't handle it and got the willies - kept sputtering out at intersections and belching going downhill. I understood. My mind and my spirit get like that from time to time. Too much high-content information and I get the existential willies- keep sputtering out at intersections where life choice must be made and I either know too much or not enough. The examined life is no picnic.  
  
I realized then that I already know most of what's necessary to live a meaningful life- that isn't all that complicated. I know it. And have known it for a long, long time. Living it- well, that's another matter, yes?

**The Task:**

What would be in your Credo? Start by writing down the things that you feel strongly about that you would like the world to know. Ask me about my Credo, if you want.

“All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten” by Robert Fulghum  
  
All I really need to know about how to live and what to do and how to be I   
learned in kindergarten. Wisdom was not at the top of the graduate school   
mountain, but there in the sand pile at Sunday School. These are the things   
I learned:   
  
Share everything.  
Play fair.  
Don't hit people.  
Put things back where you found them.  
Clean up your own mess.  
Don't take things that aren't yours.  
Say you're sorry when you hurt somebody.  
Wash your hands before you eat.  
Flush.  
Warm cookies and cold milk are good for you.  
Live a balanced life--learn some and think some and draw and paint and sing   
and dance and play and work every day some.  
Take a nap every afternoon.  
When you go out into the world, watch out for traffic, hold hands, and   
stick together.  
Be aware of wonder. Remember the little seed in the Styrofoam cup: The   
roots go down and the plant goes up and nobody really knows how or why, but   
we are all like that.  
Goldfish and hamsters and white mice and even the little seed in the   
Styrofoam cup--they all die. So do we.  
And then remember the Dick-and-Jane books and the first word you   
learned--the biggest word of all--LOOK.  
  
Everything you need to know is in there somewhere. The Golden Rule and love   
and basic sanitation. Ecology and politics and equality and sane living.  
  
Take any one of those items and extrapolate it into sophisticated adult   
terms and apply it to your family life or your work or your government or   
your world and it holds true and clear and firm. Think what a better world   
it would be if we all--the whole world--had cookies and milk about three   
o'clock every afternoon and then lay down with our blankies for a nap. Or   
if all governments had as a basic policy to always put things back where   
they found them and to clean up their own mess.  
  
And it is still true, no matter how old you are-- when you go out into the   
world, it is best to hold hands and stick together.

**The SECOND Task:**

You have thought about your Credo, and you have read another. You will now need to create your own Credo. It may be as long or as short as you like- Do not think about the spelling/grammar/conventions/length etc- Instead you need to think about the context. What is it that you strongly believe in?

Sign up for Adobe Spark- <https://spark.adobe.com/>

Take a portion of your Credo, and create/upload a visual image along with a statement.

Share your statement VIA (I will get back to you on this. I have not yet decided what blogging platform I want to use)

Look on the website for examples, or check out my weebly for my examples.

10 marks.