

# Home-School Connection #19

2/4/16 = 2<sup>4</sup>

Write at least 2 thought provoking questions. Any typos?

**\*Note to 5S:** Please make sure you read over the whole HSC and write your questions **before** sitting down to talk to your family member(s).

## **WALK TWO MOONS: BIG DISCUSSIONS AND SURPRISING PLOT TWISTS AND TURNS:**

The trip that Sal and her grandparents have gone on has had many twists and turns. This has been *literally* true as the car swerved around some thin curvy roads on the way to Idaho, and it has been *metaphorically* true as Sal tells them the story of Phoebe and their search for Mrs. Winterbottom.

This week, all kinds of "truths" were discovered. We discovered what Mrs. Winterbottom had hidden from her family. We discovered who "the lunatic" is and we found out who was dropping off the secret messages. Please share the map you made of all the characters and how they are connected. How was drawing the character map interesting to you? How would you say it uses a different part of your brain?

The latest chapters lead to some discussions about "big" topics. For example, Mary Lou's cousin Ben was visiting his mom in a psychiatric hospital. We discussed what that is and how mental illness is something that can be helped by medicines or a hospital, but finding the best treatment can be complicated. because it is not like fixing a broken arm. The good news is that science knows more about the mind and brain than it used to, so there is more help and understanding.

We also learned Phoebe Winterbottom's mom had a child "out of wedlock. She kept apologizing for not being respectable. We talked about how some people hide things in their lives if *societal norms* make them feel bad. Here is a little definition of "norms".

Norms are expectations for how members of a culture should behave. Norms can change from culture to culture. They are usually expected but not written down.

For example, in some cultures, the norm is to look people in the eye while talking to them. In another culture, this can be a sign of disrespect. When Mrs. Winterbottom had a child out of wedlock, she hid it from Mr. Winterbottom because it broke a societal norm. By the way, I just noticed her name was "Norma". I wonder if that is an accident. Do you remember how Mr. Winterbottom reacted? Talk to your parents about societal norms you have seen changing or ones that you wish would change. Are there examples of norms that you think are good and hope will stay?

**SLAVERY IN THE COLONIES:** This week, we began reading a complicated chapter in our text book about slavery in the colonies. We are reading it together as a class because it is a topic that is often avoided, mis-understood, or delivered in such a way that it doesn't give the full picture. We have had some amazing conversations about why slave owners tried to take away

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music and culture from enslaved people. We talked about why it's important to know that when enslaved people came, they brought skills, knowledge culture and strength with them. We discussed why slave owners would break up families. We discussed the difference between slavery in the north and slavery in the south. You clarified the difference between a servant and an enslaved person. I started to tell you a bit about the woman, named Elizabeth Freeman, also known as Mumbet, who helped to stop slavery in Massachusetts because she walked through the streets showing the terrible scars she got from the slave owner. She got a lawyer to defend her in court. They won their case. Stay tuned for more about Mumbet.

You had many incredible questions about slavery- some of them may take years to understand. For example How could people have slaves? How could they be treated so terribly? Why could it go on so long? You had some other questions about where else in the world there has been slavery. None of these questions can be answered easily. All of these questions can be thought about with a feeling of hope because eventually, people rose up and came together to stop it. There are still people working together to help workers who don't get treated well, or citizens who are discriminated against or animals who are mistreated, etc. Tell your parents about Zelin's morning meeting topic and what people "dreamed".

**OTHER: Please check what you discussed - Please choose at least 4. More is fine.**

- Secret Amigo- Explain it
- The Iowa caucus- what is a caucus- how is it different than a primary? Be able to explain. Here is a good link to review: <http://www.factcheck.org/2008/04/caucus-vs-primary/>
- 3D Geometry - nets to dice, volume, prisms, pyramids and soon... geometry vocabulary
- Getting better at reading- noticing how each word counts and makes a difference
- Fraction Division- Check in
- First kiss- How long have people been playing spin the bottle? (came up during Walk Two Moons)
- TFK- Democracy and Kid citizenship. What was the article about? What else was in the magazine?
- 4th Anniversa-read
- Our environmental protection essays - how strongly do you feel?
- Catch-up /Must read
- Revolutionary Posters
- Exercise/Skill
- Specials: Art, music, C.O.B., P.E. Chinese \_\_\_\_\_
- Other? \_\_\_\_\_

**Due MONDAY : We made a time to do this on:\_\_\_\_\_ Parent Signature & Comments:**

**\*Note to parents,** please make sure your child has read this before sitting down to talk with you.

Was your child prepared? Other comments?

**Student Rating (1-5)** Please say why and which topics lead to the most in-depth discussions.