



# Home-School Connection #2

September 18, 2014

(Please discuss at least 7 topics. Check off the ones you do)



## CLASS CONSTITUTION SOCIAL STUDIES:

- We are starting our focus on U.S. History and government. We are learning that to understand government, ***you have to think about the tension between individual rights and the common good.*** What do you think that means? Can you give examples of when that tension arises?
- You are learning about the three branches of government and how our classroom has branches too. Ms. Rosengren and I are the executive branch – I am the president and Ms. Rosengren is the Vice President. We enforce the laws. You are the legislative branch (you make and amend laws), and Ms. Cook and Mr. Youkilis are our Supreme Court. They are the judicial branch of government. You were introduced to our Classroom Constitution created by Founding Fifth graders. Some of you would like to leave the laws as they are; some of you want to amend them. How about you? The laws are posted on our website: <http://5srclasswebsite.weebly.com/5sr-studying-social-studies-links.html>

- WEB-NES-DAY:** You had your first *Wide-Open Wednesday Web-nesday*. Talk about what you chose to work on and evidence of what you learned. Talk about what other people did and what you might do in the future. Do you like having a Web-nesday? Do you think you learn more or less when you have more choice? Ask your mom or dad what he or she would do if given a Web-nesday.

## POETIC VS SCIENTIFIC:

- You are learning how to look at something with both scientific and poetic eyes. You picked some objects this week to look at and described one of them using both scientific and poetic descriptions. Pick something near you right now and experiment with describing it (together with a parent) with subjective and objective comments. What did you notice about the object that you never noticed before? Why is it important to slow down and really study things?

- FIRST, SECOND, THIRD PERSON:** I read you the book, *Three Stories To Read To Your Dog*. It is written in 2<sup>nd</sup> person. It is written TO THE DOG. Discuss the difference between 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> person. Ask your mom or dad if they tend to have a favorite style of writing. Take a look at some of your favorite books. What person are they written in?



**POETRY and a COMMON OBJECT:** You received a collection of Common Object poems – including two poems by former 5<sup>th</sup> graders. If you are reading this right now, please put a smiley face in the top right hand corner of this page. As we looked at the poems, we discussed poetic techniques such as personification, metaphors, similes and alliteration. Can you describe each of those techniques? You are writing your own common object poem. You will be writing *at least three drafts* of it in order to muck about with the words and how they sound and look. You are memorizing one poem (from the poems I gave you or your own, by next Thursday for our first poetry recital.

- What did you choose to write your poem about? Why did you pick that?
- Is your first draft in 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> person? What will you do for the 2<sup>nd</sup> draft?
- Which of the poems do you like the best? If you have time, share them. Ask your mom or dad about their experiences with poetry. Did they memorize poems growing up? Do they have some favorites?

**TFK and DIGGING INTO READING:** On Tuesday Newsday, you got the first Time For Kids magazine. (TFK.) You are learning to slow down, ask questions and leave tracks of your thinking on post-its. Can you explain the different codes for questions? (huh?) (R.S.) (D/W) (V.W.)?

- How has it been for you so far trying to leave tracks of your questions and ideas?
- How can this strategy help you become a better reader?

**MATH:** We have started our first chapter of Think Math. It's called, *Algebra Machines and Puzzles*. We are noticing that algebra uses known information to figure out what is not yet known. We are also noticing patterns and rules in math that help you solve problems. Please show your families the family letter that will be in your Friday Folder. You and your parent can try the activity. It's optional.

**OTHER TOPICS:** Today is the vote in Scotland! What do you think will happen? Traits you want in your next teammates, the BIG red textbook, Morning Meeting topics, completions time, reading, .... Something else? Write what you chose to talk about below:

\_\_\_\_\_

**SPECIALS:** What's going on in your specials? Music, Art, P.E., C.O.B (chorus, orchestra, band), Chinese and library? What did you talk about? \_\_\_\_\_

Due: Monday. HSC appointment time \_\_\_\_\_ Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Comments:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

