**Journal Prompts Quarter 1**

8/27/13: Think about your last year of school. First reflect on the accomplishments that you made. Then reflect on the challenges or lack of accomplishments in some areas you might have had. Then set some goals or aspirations you have for this year to make it just as good, if not better, than last year. You will write for 15 minutes! Use the ENTIRE 15 minutes!

8/28/13: Write five CREATIVE sentences that include the words there, their, and they’re correctly. Each sentence should have at least one of the homophones and you must use all three at least one. Then write 4 CREATIVE sentences that include the homophones your and you’re. Same rules apply as before.

9/3/2013: Using a first person narrative perspective, pretend you woke up this morning and you were invisible. Write about your day as an invisible person including at least one simple, one compound, and one compound-complex sentence in your story. Please underline those three sentences in your story.

9/5/2013: Most people can’t remember anything from their first 3-4 years of life except what they can piece together with the help of pictures, home videos, and recollections from parents and family. Think back as far as you can in your life. Write about the earliest recollection you have that you remember that no one has had to help you fill in the details of. Make sure you give me background information to understand the memory and even tell me a little bit about the years after you had the memory if you have extra time.

9/18/2013: Finish the sentence, “When I raise children, I’ll never . . .” Explain in depth the things that you wish parents would stop doing. Make sure you include why you think these are bad things to do. Then finish the sentence, “But, I will keep doing \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that my parent(s) do.” Explain why you think the things mentioned there are useful and worthwhile for kids growing up.

9/24/2013: Compare the play with the film version of *Driving Miss Daisy.* Which did you like better? What did you like about it? What did they have in common? How were they different? If you did not see either the play (Or the entire Movie) just reflect generally on the production that you did see. What did you like about it? What themes were present? Etc.

10/3/2013: If you could have any superpower, which one would you want? What would you do with those superpowers? Describe a day in your life with your superpowers.

10/9/2013: Using transition words, write a description of all the things you did this morning from the time you woke up, until you arrived at school at 8 am. Use at least 10 transition words in your writing. Use the words from the worksheet we did yesterday to guide you in selecting your transition words! Please circle the ten transitions words that you use.

11/19/2013: Look back at the journal entry you wrote on 8/27. (If you weren’t here, think about some goals you had at the beginning of this year.) Read the entry and then write for 15 minutes about how you are doing in your goals for this year. We are about a month and a half away from the half way point for this school year. Many of you will be applying to charter schools in the next month. Some of you will be filling out forms for your new school in the next few months. All of you will have a different teacher next year to drive insane with your madness. Think about what goals you had and how you are doing on them. What is holding you back from achieving them? What are you doing well in? What do you need to do to be the best person and student you can be?

11/21/2013: Today we are going to do a pass the journal story writing entry. Put the date on the upper right hand corner of the page. Then start your story out by copying down and finishing this sentence:

While I was walking to school, . . .

You will have five minutes to write your first chunk of the story, and then you will need to pass your ENTIRE journal to the person sitting to your right.

12/2/2013: Draw a plot diagram for your Thanksgiving vacation. Determine what you think was the climax of your vacation and put that at the highest point. Don’t forget to set up the story with an exposition and a resolution at the end. You should have roughly 5 different points for the rising and falling action.

12/10/2013: Write a fantasy or science fiction short story. Include at least 5 of the vocabulary words for the test we have tomorrow. The story with the most vocabulary words will get a dum dum! You will have 15 minutes to write your story. The vocabulary words have to be incorporated into your story and must make sense!

1/6/2014: Practice using third person omniscient point of view (Remember this is when you have an all knowing narrator and your main character is mentioned by their first name). Write a story about an event or series of events that happened during your break. To get full points on this entry, you MUST use third person omniscient! 15 minutes! GO! Also, you need to go back through your journal and count your entries. You should have 13 entries so far. Those 13 will be graded and put on your second quarter language arts grade. Miss Selig’s kids will obviously not have all those entries so you will be excused from this assignment in your engrade.

1/9/2014: Write a creative paragraph that answers the question “What are the ten worst things that could happen to you on your way to school?” Be creative beyond the obvious of “You get in a car crash and die.” A more interesting answer could be “You fall through a vortex in the toilet and get pulled into an alternate universe where food eats humans instead of humans eating food!” For each reason, give a few sentences to explain or expand on the event. You can make it as a list, but you still need to have 2-3 sentences per number. Good luck! May the best reason win a dum dum!