**English Language Arts Resources – Week of April 13th**

Symmes Junior High

**Lesson 1: The Island**

**Daily Writing Prompt:** Tell this story. “There it was, finally. Our island. Our very own island. It looked beautiful above the waves of fog, but there was still one question to be answered: why had they sold it to us for only five dollars?”



**Activity: Islandborn**

* Although there are fewer words than novels, children’s books can have very important lessons. Which makes them a great resource for practicing response skills.
* Listen to the reading of the children’s book *Islandborn* by Junot Díaz <https://youtu.be/_3bVmvA5Pfg> or <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wq_O_1ipmvA&t=1239s>
* Answer the questions below to practice your response skills:
  + While you’re listening write down any words you do not know the meaning of. Afterwards you can look them up and try to use each one in a sentence.
  + What lessons does Lola learn?
  + What do you think is the theme or meaning of the story? Explain your answer using examples.
  + Extension activities: <https://media.bloomsbury.com/rep/files/islandborn-teachersheet.pdf>
* You can listen to an interview with the author here:
  + <https://www.npr.org/2018/03/12/591732716/in-junot-diazs-islandborn-a-curious-child-recreates-her-dominican-roots>

**Lesson 2: History in the Making**

**Daily writing prompt**: Write a story about a character who discovers a time machine. What historical event do they return to? Tell the story.



**Activity: Scrapbook**

* Design a special scrapbook to keep a record of these very unusual days. Someday, you will share stories about living through this time. These days will be recorded in history books, and this scrapbook will be your own personal history.
* Take a duo-tang, journal, notebook or make a homemade booklet with paper and construction paper. Decorate it using any materials you have, for example pencils, markers, pictures from flyers or magazines. Or, create a digital scrapbook. Use your imagination so that your personality shines through. Include things that are important to you. Write your name in an interesting way.
* In the scrapbook, keep a record of things you are doing. Express yourself using words, drawings, diagrams, collage, or anything else that tells your story.
* For today, start by describing what your day looks like. How is it different now? What is the best part of being at home? What do you miss the most?  Do you wear pajamas all day?
* Try to add something every day. You might want to write about something funny that happened, or maybe write about something more serious.  If you are watching movies, write movie reviews. Plan a book talk if you have read something you liked. Write a poem. Draw a cartoon. Use your creativity to make something that represents you!

**Lesson 3: Poetry Practice**

**Daily writing prompt:** A Haiku is a simple, three-line poem. The first line has five syllables, the second has seven syllables and the third line has five syllables. The poem captures a simple image, thought or feeling. Here are some Haikus about the world today.

Examples: Use these examples as inspiration for your own Haiku

Even with distance,

The world feels painfully close.

But hope turns the page. - Colin Dwyer

Hygiene gone global

Six feet distance between us

Always wash your hands - Alan Nakagawa

**Activity: What is Poetry?**

* Below you will find a link to a video and an online lesson about poetry. Watch the video and complete the questions.
  + <https://ed.ted.com/lessons/what-makes-a-poem-a-poem-melissa-kovacs#watch>
* Try out these fun poetry tools to write your own poems.
  + <http://play.magneticpoetry.com/poem/Original/kit/>