Journal entry example (from an actual student)

December 10, 2014

Book: The Hunger Games

Passage: “One time, when I was in a blind in a tree, waiting motionless for game to wander by, I dozed off and fell ten feet to the ground, landing on my back. It was as if the impact had knocked every whisp of air from my lungs, and I lay there struggling to inhale, to exhale, to do anything.”

This passage is when the main character, Katniss Verdeen’s sister Primrose was chosen for the “Hunger Games”. The Hunger Games is when a male and female from each district (city) is chosen to go fight to the death. There can only be one winner so there would be a slim chance that Primrose would win if she was up against an 18 year old male.

Since Katniss’ father had passed on, her mother had been severely depressed and they refer to her as being “frozen.” Katniss had to be the mother and father for Prim. Katniss became very close with her sister and Prim could lighten up anyone’s day. When Prim got chosen, Katniss referred to falling out of the tree and getting the wind knocked out of you. This was also the way she reacted/felt when Prim’s name was announced to be in the Hunger Games. I can definitely relate and connect to the feeling you get when you fall flat on your back and you can’t breathe. One time I thought it would be a good idea to get up on a tree branch and jump to the next one. It was not a good idea at all. The wind was knocked out of me and I started to cry. Although mine was not a ten foot fall like Katniss’ my back still throbbed in pain.

The Hunger Games is an extraordinary book to read. I always have to do before, during and after reading to fully understand what is happening because the details often make reference to things that happened earlier on in the book. I always catch myself re-reading sentences in my book because it is so action packed that I don’t want to miss a thing. I have to read between the lines to see what Suzanne Collins is inferring.

After I read this passage I predicted that Katniss would volunteer as a tribute in the Hunger Games. I predicted that because Katniss loves her sister so much and she knows her sister has absolutely no experience hunting. Therefore, she would never be able to win and Katniss would lose her.

I absolutely love this book. I always catch myself leaning in and finding sparks. It is difficult to put the book down and stop reading once you start. The book leaves you wanting more after each chapter.