Theme of the Month

Each month you will be required to find two artifacts that relates to an identified theme or essential question. In most cases, one will be due on the 2nd Friday of the month and the second on the 4th Friday. Artifacts could include a poem, a cartoon, an article, a drawing, etc. and may be either found or an original creation. Accompanying the artifact should be a piece of writing that explains how this artifact connects to the theme/essential question and how this makes you think about it in a new/interesting way. This piece of writing should be carefully written and long enough to fully explain the artifact and the connection.

Guidelines – What TO DO:

-**Use any resources available** to find an artifact that applies to the assigned theme. You can get this item from anywhere and it can be anything as long as it can fit into your binder. It cannot be digital. You should feel free to create your own.

-**Be creative and thoughtful** -try to think outside the box and choose artifacts that connect to the theme in interesting ways.

-**Reflect on your artifact** -You need to write about your artifact is related to your theme, and more specifically, how this represents your unique perspective. This cannot be done in 2-3 sentences. It will require at least a full, detailed paragraph. It should be about as long as a journal entry. Think about the following questions: Why did you choose this artifact? How does it represent your personal take on the theme? How does it represent you? What specific details do you find interesting about the artifact? How does this artifact help you think about the theme in a different way?

-**Be Timely** – You need to pay attention to due dates. Your artifact and your reflection need to be in your binder by the due date.

What NOT TO DO:

-**Google the theme and choose one of the first things you find** – this is a bad idea – ALWAYS. You must put time, thought and effort into this assignment or you will likely do very poorly.

-**Copy an artifact a friend chose** – you will likely be unable to do any of the accompanying assignments if your work is not your own. Additionally, this would be dishonest.

-**Only half the work**  - if the work is not done completely, you will receive no credit.

Learning Standards

Compare and contrast texts in different forms or genres in terms of their approaches to similar themes and topics.

Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support written analysis, interpretation, reflection, and research, applying one or more grade 8 standards for Reading Literature or Reading Informational Text as needed.