Nothing But the Truth Part 1: p.1-58

Mini-Project Layered Curriculum   
Chris Tsang  
7th and 8th Grade  
Dorchester, MA

**25-30 points = C 30-40 points = B 40-50 points=A**

**C Layer**

* (5 points) Draw a character web where you draw a visualization of each character and describe each character in 2-3 sentences.
* (5 points) 1 page freewrite on the following question: What do you think high school will be like?

Using your imagination and what you’ve heard from your teachers, friends and siblings or relatives who have been to high school, describe both what you are looking forward to and what might be hard, difficult or scary.

* (5 points) Write a 1 paragraph response to:

Mr. Malloy says when Mrs. Malloy says Philip may flunk English:

“Won’t be the end of the world.  What would he have to do, go to summer school?  Maybe that’s the lesson he needs.  Kids only do what they want to do.”

*What do you think of Mr. Malloy’s statement?  Do you think it’s true for yourself or your friends?  Why or*

*why not?*

* (5 points) Write a 1 paragraph response to:

Describe a time when you stuck up for your rights.  What was it like?  What was the response of the people who you came up against?  If they responded negatively, how did you respond?

* (10 points) Create a timeline of the major events in the book
* (10 points) Define the vocabulary words on the attached page and use the word correctly in a sentence of your own.
* (10 points) Write a 1 ½ page letter to one of the characters in the novel
* (15 points) Answer completely the attached comprehension questions

**B Layer**

* (15 points) Create a 1 ½ page quiz on Part 1 of Nothing But the Truth
* (20 points) Write a 3 page script for a play that has a similar theme to Nothing But the Truth
* (10 points) If after you have written the script, you act it out with your friends in front of the class.

**A Layer**

* (25 points) Write a well-organized 5 paragraph persuasive essay on whether you think students should be allowed to play on school sports teams if they do not have passing grades and address it to Ms. Marx and Mr. Cox.  State at least 3 reasons for your opinion and give specific examples to support your position.
* (30 points) Write a well-organized 5 paragraph essay critiquing and analyzing the school’s mission statement addressed to Ms. Marx and Mr. Cox.  Give your opinion on whether the school is walking the walk and living up to its mission.  Support your opinion with three strong reasons and specific examples.

The THS Mission Statement:

The Harbor School’s mission is to inspire in our students an inextinguishable drive toward excellence, craftsmanship, service, and adventure. We view learning as an expedition and work to instill uncompromising academic skills, habits of work and character, and a personal sense of direction and tenacity that will lead to success in high school, and to a life-long love for learning and service to others.

Nothing But the Truth Part 1: p.59-212

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**C Layer**

* (5 points) Write a 1 paragraph response to:

As a teenager, have you ever told the truth about something important and adults didn’t believe you?  How did you feel?  Describe and explain a specific time where you told the truth to adults and weren’t believed.  Why do you think the adults didn’t believe you?

(10 points) Develop a set of questions and interview the adult from the situation above and ask him or her for his or her point of view on the situation.  Summarize the adult’s response in a paragraph.

* (5 points) Write a 1 paragraph response to:

Describe a situation where you told one person (adult or teenager) one thing about something that happened and they blew it out of proportion.  What happened in the end?  Did the truth ever become known?

* (10 points) Create a high quality illustration in color of one important scene from the book.
* (10 points) Define the vocabulary words on the attached page and use the word correctly in a sentence of your own.
* (10 points) Write a 1 page journal entry from either the point of view of Philip or Miss Narwin 10 years later.  What do they think about what happened when they’ve grown older?
* (15 points) “Be a Critic”: Write a 2 page letter to the author of the book, Avi, explaining what you enjoyed about his book and what you think he could have done better.  Be sure to give specific examples.  Your letters will be sent to him.
* (20 points) Design a board game for Nothing But The Truth.  Be sure to cover important characters and events in the book.

**B Layer**

* (15 points) Rewrite a 3 page new ending to the book.
* (10 points) If after you have written the new ending, you act it out with your friends in front of the class.
* (20 points) Collaborate with another student in creating a dance routine that sends a clear message about your thoughts on truth.  Feel free to include music.
* (25 points) Create a high quality 6 block comic strip for 1 of 2 scenarios:
  + A character knows something to be false, but lets someone else take the fall or blame for it.  What happens to that person’s reputation?  What does the character decide to do?

OR

* + Show a situation where 2 people have completely different perspectives.

**A Layer**

* (25 points) As a nearly graduating 8th grader, we’d like your advice.  Write a well-organized 5 paragraph persuasive essay addressed to the school’s Governing Board about what rules you think we should keep and which rules should be changed at the Harbor School.  Be sure to give specific reasons why and plenty of specific examples.
* (10 points) Read your letter in front of the school’s Governing Board at its next meeting.
* (30 points) Read the following quotes and write a well-organized 5 paragraph persuasive essay where you choose one character’s statement about the truth and support it.  Address your essay to this year’s 6th graders and supply specific examples from your own life or in real life.
  + “Just tell people the truth. Put your faith in that.”  --Anita Wigham to her sister Miss Narwin (p.124)

OR

* + “Gert, you know as well as I, it doesn’t matter if it’s true or not true.  It’s what people are saying that’s important.  Will be saying.”  --Superintendent Dr. Seymour to Principal Dr. Doane (p.133)
* (25 points) Find 2 newspaper articles and critique them using the following questions:
  + What is the topic of the article?
  + What perspective(s) or point of view(s) does the author explain?
  + Do you feel that the author has presented both points of view adequately?  If so, explain how s/he does this?  If not, which side is not represented well and what information should be included?