*Nothing But the Truth* Journal Topics

As you read this book, you are to keep a journal. You must pretend that you are a student in Harrison High, in 11th or 12th grade, and also an ace reporter for the school newspaper. Some of your journal entries will be diary entries and some will be news articles. I will collect and read your journals every 3 days. After we have finished the novel, 4 of your entries will be rewritten and posted on the board for all to admire.

Pages 4-9: Respond in your diary: What type of school administrator would organize the beginning of the day this way? How would you organize it? Comment on a memory you have about Dr. Palleni (you have to make this up).Write about Philip Malloy - what would you put it a news story about this new freshman? Comment on your old teacher, Miss Narwin - looking back on her, what was she really like (draw your information from her letter, do not make it up). What do you think of when you say her name? Comment on what is important to **you - what are your goals for this year? For your life? Be truthful.**

Chapters 2-4: An editorial for the school newspaper: **Respectful Silence?** Write about respect as it is found in your school. Comment on Mr. Lunser's behavior during the Anouncements, on the general attitude of 9th grade boys toward girls, on the attitude of students toward their exams and their teachers. You should mention events from the reading assignment, but you should also express your own opinion.

Chapters 5-8: Respond in your diary:Write about "the money crunch" - the need for money (yours, your family's, your school's), what it is needed for, and respond to the idea that there may not be enough of it. Imagine something that you (as an 11th or 12th grader) want which costs money - imagine how you will feel if the money is not available. Then respond to a poor grade which you have gotten on a major test.

Chapter 9: An article for the school newspaper: **Rules Trip Malloy**In the article, give the facts and interview the Coach, Miss Narwin and Philip. Be careful not to give your own opinion.

Be prepared to discuss this question in class tomorrow: Why does Philip not tell his father the truth about the track team? Is he telling himself the truth? What are some strategies you can think of to help him get along better with Miss Narwin?

Chapter 10 to page 55 (we will read the rest aloud in class): Respond in your diary:
You have heard about Narwin vs. Philip Malloy and about the humming. What do you think?
   Also - in play form, record a conversation you had at the dinner table with one or both of your parents.

1. Chapter 11-12 to p.83: Respond in your diary:
   Pressure - what are the pressures on you? Talk about pressures you teachers and/or parents and/or friends might be feeling. How do these pressures affect the way you act and react?
  Rewards - what has someone said or done to make you feel good about yourself, to make you feel your efforts are worthwhile?

   Be prepared in class to discuss Mr. Malloy's problems and what "sticking up for yourself" means in these chapters.  Be prepared to discuss the relationship Mr. Malloy has with his son.
2. p. 84-99: Write an article for the newspaper:  **Student Suspended for Humming** Include in your article the facts and statements from Philip, Miss Narwin, Dr. Palleni, Ken Barchet, and one of Philip's parents.  The point of the article is to try to uncover and express the truth.

   Be prepared to discuss in class: Why does Philip try to stop his father from calling Ted Griffin? What happens to the "truth" on p.96-99? How could this have been prevented?
3. Chapter 13: Write a humorous article for the newspaper: **10 Rules We Should Have** **(but don't)**
4. Chapter 14: **You must also either listen to 10 minutes of a 6:30 news report or read any front page newspaper article & bring it to class.** Respond in your diary:
   In English class you discussed the topic: Does the News Media Control Our Opinions?  Write your further thoughts about the topic. Refer to the news article on p.113. Are any of your opinions controlled by the news media - about President Clinton, about fashion, about sports or TV shows or movies, about anything?
   Also answer this question: How do the adults in your life influence your opinions.  Give at least one good example.
5. We will take a pause from reading to read the **Bill of Rights** in class. And we will have a test on chapters 1-14.
6. Chapter 15: Respond in your laptop journal/diary:  Imagine that...
   You have heard the Jack Barlow Talk Show. What do you think of Jake and his callers? Do you agree with their points of view? What would **you** write to Miss Narwin & to Philip? (we will write those postcards and telegrams at the very beginning of class tomorrow)
7. Chapter 16: Respond in your diary to Philip Malory's motives and actions.

   In class, be prepared to respond to Dr. Seymour's actions.
8. Chapter 17-18:
   Respond in your diary to what Miss Narwin tells the reporter, Mr. Duval, on p.191-2. Do you agree that people like to hear the worst and rarely seek out or talk about the best? Give some examples of this.
   Write a short newspaper article:  **Students Support Narwin**, which reports on what might have happened if a student petition had been circulated.
9. Chapter 19: Respond in your diary:
   What do you make of the ending of the book? What is fair, what is not fair? You need to pretend that you, the student, know "the whole story." It is time to present your opinion.