Monday, May 4

1:00pm   **The Great American Read, Part 2** – *4th thru 8th grade*

THE GREAT AMERICAN READ was an eight-part series that explored and celebrated the power of reading, told through the prism of America's 100 best-loved novels (as chosen in a national survey). It investigated how and why writers create their fictional worlds, how we as readers are affected by these stories, and what these 100 different books have to say about our diverse nation and our shared human experience. The television series featured entertaining and informative documentary segments, with compelling testimonials from celebrities, authors, notable Americans and book lovers across the country. It was comprised of a two-hour launch episode in which the list of 100 books was revealed, five one-hour theme episodes that examined concepts common to groups of books on the list, and a finale, in which the results were announced of a nationwide vote to choose America's best-loved book. The series was the centerpiece of an ambitious multi-platform digital, educational and community outreach campaign, designed to get the country reading and passionately talking about books. Join host Meredith Vieira in the search for America's best-loved novel. The voting is underway, and the competition is heating up any book could win.

> ## After watching this episode, choose from the following questions and/or tasks to extend your learning

Question Box 1

- What are some of your questions about this TV Show?
- What were you amazed to learn and what surprised you?
- What are the most important details in this program?
- How does the author feel about the topic? What evidence did you find that back up this statement?
- Reflect on the books discussed in the episode. What genres were they? Is one genre represented more than others?
- Who was the narrator of the episode? Was he/she objective when describing the books or did he/she seem to have a favorite?
- What phrases or tone did he/she use that leads you to make that determination?

Question Box 2

- How would you have responded to a situation from the video differently than the main character?

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- Do you have a title of a book that you believe should be in the top 100 novels?
- What do you think you learned from this program?
- Of the books discussed in this episode, which appealed to you most? Why?
- Which book would you vote for to be America's best-loved novel? Why?

Box 3 (Tasks)

- Create a theme collage of text and images to reinforce their themes.
- Based upon the program you have just viewed, share a story about yourself that is related to an event or character that was in the program by journaling your thoughts.
- Place yourself in the shoes of one of the characters you have just heard about and write a diary entry from the character's voice.
- You have heard the saying "Never judge a book by its cover." Think of your favorite book. What would you want someone to know about that book? Fold a piece of paper in half. On the front, use your ideas to create a new cover for your selected book. Incorporate the things that you love the best about your book. On the back, write about why this book is so special to you.
- Choose one of the books reviewed in the episode that you have not read before. Have an adult help you search online for a digital version of it and read it at home. (Don't forget to check your local library's website! You may find it in the ebook section.)
- Of the 100 books chosen, what is the ratio of fiction to nonfiction books?
- Create a bar graph showing how many books belong to the different books genres. What do you notice about your graph? What do you wonder about your graph?

Box 4 (Enrichment)

- Explore the list of best-loved books at https://www.pbs.org/the-great-american-read/books/#/
- Are there any that you have read? Select 5 books you would like to know more about. Click on the book to read a synopsis, quotes, and an author bio. Is there one book that you would like to read?

Box 5 (Extend/Real-Life)

- There are many forms of communication, however all communication follows the same cycle. Watch this short video to learn about the communication cycle: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4Z1BIeje_ko
- In this episode the focus was on novels (written communication). Even though many people read a novel, each person receives and decodes it differently.
  - Brainstorm a list of possible sources of noise that can change the way a person receives or decodes the message. (If you get stuck ask a family member for some ideas)
  - All of the sources you listed fall within four main categories.

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- - - Physiological (bodily functions)
      - Psychological (or internal)
      - Physical (or external)
      - Semantics (word usage)
    - o For each of the sources you listed place them in one of the four categories.
    - o Discuss your answers with a family member.
- Many careers in public service require a lot of writing for example a police officer, lawyer, crime scene investigator, and more.
- Think about the careers listed above and answer the following questions.
    - o What types of documents would a police officer have to write?
    - o List several reasons why clarity and accuracy would be important in a police officer's documents?
- Click on this link: https://www.cacareerzone.org/profile/33-3051.01 scroll down to *Things They Need to be Able to Do* and answer the following questions.
    - o Identify and match all activities that relate to the 5 different types of communication.
        - Verbal
        - Non-verbal
        - Written
        - Listening
        - Visual
    - o What was the total number of activities related to communication?
- Watch this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1sfM-xx7tHI on body language and answer the following questions.
    - o Define body language.
    - o What can your body language say to other people?
    - o How do you interpret body language in others to determine their mood?
    - o Do you think these skills would be important as a police officer? Why or why not?
- Would you consider a career as a police officer? Why or why not?
- Share what you have learned with a family member.