

Big Idea Books

These notebooks are for us to share. I write in them; you write in them. A Big Idea Book is a multi-year conversation because I keep these and recycle them each year. You're talking across time to students who are stumbling along through elementary or middle school right now, but will one day sit where you are.

The meat of a Big Idea Book is **your thinking**. I want you digging for what is beneath the story you're reading. You chose this book (this theme) for a reason. You can see how it connects to what is happening or what is explored in the book you're reading. You might connect the ideas or situations in the book to something in yourself or another book you've read. You might take the ideas in the book and go farther with them... thinking as you write.

You are doing a mini-book talk for someone who comes upon your words later. Try not to give away anything important that the reader would rather discover on his own: you know how you hate that! You can skim a Big Idea Book and find a dozen book talks from students like you. Add the titles to your NEXT list and you'll have a supply of answers when you've finished one book and can't decide what to read next.

RULES FOR CIVIL DISCOURSE IN COMMUNITY WRITING:

- 1. BE RESPECTFUL. DO NOT USE PROFANITY. DO NOT USE SOMEONE ELSE'S NAME WITHOUT PERMISSION.**
- 2. YOU ONLY NEED TO SIGN YOUR ENTRY IF YOU WANT TO. SOMETIMES WE SEND WORDS OUT INTO THE WORLD AS A GIFT WITHOUT ATTRIBUTION.**

TRUST THE WRITER INSIDE OF YOU. JUST WRITE.