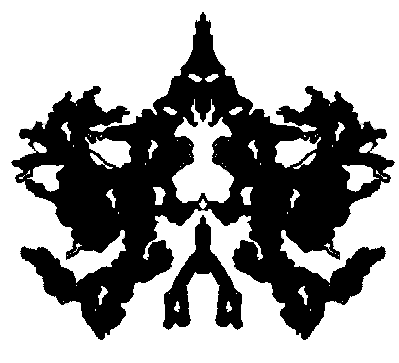
Independent Reading and Thematic Essay Conclude Communicate

Aim: **How can we analyze text evidence?**

Mind Spark

**What does this look like to you? What do you “see” when you look at this? Why do you think you see this?**



**Theme Simplified:**

**Sometimes, our family is powerless to help us because they need help themselves. Sometimes a close friend can be our support system and help alleviate some of the pain we feel.**

**1) Simplify and clarify your theme : 1-2 sentences**

Junior’s parents are alcoholics like many of the other adults on the reservation. As a result of their alcoholism, they often ignore Junior’s needs in order to pursue their own desire – drinking. For example, Junior says, “My mother and father are drunks, too…They sometimes ignore me” ( Alexie 24). Junior is aware that his parents are not emotionally there for him when he is being bullied on the reservation. He does not reveal all the troubles he faces. For example, he doesn’t tell his parents about the Andruss brothers beating him up at the Pow-Wow. He is aware that his own parents are powerless against this abuse. Therefore, he turns to the one person who he feels he can trust, Rowdy.

**Sometimes, our family is powerless to help us because they need help themselves. Sometimes a close friend can be our support system and help alleviate some of the pain we feel.**

Junior relies on Rowdy for emotional support because Rowdy is always there for him. Rowdy, unlike his parents, does not ignore him or disappear. Junior is aware of Rowdy’s importance and even says,

“ I think Rowdy might be the most important person in my life. Maybe more important than my family” ( Alexie 18). Rowdy is a staple in Junior’s life and protects him from the harmful effects of the reservation: physical abuse and loneliness. They both face abuse in different ways. Rowdy is abused by his father, while his mother watches helplessly while Junior is abused by the other tribesmen, while his own parents watch helplessly. Together, Junior and Rowdy escape this pain by drawing cartoons and reading. Their friendship allows them to overcome the abuse and the isolation surrounding the reservation because they know they can rely on each other.

Independent Work Period

* Look over your essay/ body paragraphs
* Do you have more analysis or plot summary?
* Identify parts you want to revise
* Revise them!