

## Language Arts Reflective Writing Based on Song Lyrics

Day 1 (Homework): After choosing a song, write down beliefs that the song makes you reflect on or think about. List at least 3 beliefs you could write 1 1/2 pages on. Bring the lyrics to class and your belief list.

Day 2 (In Class): Choose the belief that most interests you or that you have the most detail to write about. Begin your rough draft. Your rough draft should be at least 1 1/2 pages handwritten in length. It should have the following organization.

\*Remember to refer to words from your song and include the title of your song somewhere in your piece. See Mrs. Sharkey's example.

Paragraph 1: Introduce your reader to your belief. The reader should know what your piece is going to be about and should include vocabulary or a creative punch that makes them want to read it. 2-3 sentences long.

Paragraphs 2 and 3: Describe how your belief came to be by telling the reader the important information of who, what, where, when, why. Remember to use interesting vocabulary.

Paragraph 4: Bring your piece to a close, reminding the reader of your belief in a different way and how you will use in the future. 4-6 sentences long.

Part 2: Fix all the Unforgiveables

Part 3: Underline with colored pencil all your interesting/strong vocabulary. If you don't have 12, add some by using a thesaurus.

## **"Lived Like She Was Dying"**

The first time I heard the song, "Live Like You Were Dying" (Tim McGraw, Curb Records) I felt like the song was describing my mother, Jeanette Lenneman. My mom lived life to the fullest until she passed away from brain cancer in 2003.

The words "went Rocky Mountain climbing" brought back many memories of my mother and her list. In the year 2000, the millennium, my mother had created a list of things she wanted to do before she hit 65 year's old. She made the list two years before she found out she had cancer. One of the things on the list was she wanted to go mountain climbing. So, we took her to Colorado in the summer of 2000.

She was a trooper, and I actually had to keep up with her. It was my mom, three kids, and me on a four day tent camping experience at Rocky Mountain National Park. Each day we hiked from 8:00 a.m. until 5 p.m. We covered 7-10 miles a day and my mom never gave up even though she had huge blisters and sore legs. We also had 40 degree Fahrenheit temperatures at night, but she just snuggled closer to the kids and didn't complain.

The best time on the trip was when we went white water rafting which was another item on her list. What a hoot! We fell out of the boat, got completely soaked, and sunburned. But, when you look back at the pictures of my mom, she's always grinning. Our boat guide even told her she was the best rower and direction taker he'd had in months. She was so proud of herself!