**Creative Writing Assignment: Thematic Short Story**

**Assignment:** Choose one of the topics listed below, one of the topics we brainstormed together as a class, or an idea of your own to create a short story that demonstrates your knowledge and understanding of the literary elements of fiction.

**Due date:** Friday, Sept. 25th

**First Step**: Before beginning the writing process, you must complete a plot diagram for your story. This will help you map out your ideas and make sure you have all the required elements for the final project.

**Paper requirements:**

* The paper must be **2-3 pages typed**, double-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman font, with 1inch margins.
* Include a creative title that doesn’t give too much of the story away.
* Include at least 2 characters, dialogue, and descriptive concrete details that give the reader a sense of who the characters are.
* You must include the six basic features of the fiction plot diagram:
  + Exposition
  + Conflict
  + Complications/Rising Actions
  + Climax
  + Resolution
  + Theme
* Remember to include the required heading in the upper left-hand corner.
  + Example: Jane Smith

Ms. McNeeley

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* The story should use rich language and show understanding of the 6 traits of effective writing

(ideas, organization, voice, word choice, sentence fluency, conventions,)

* You must include all process, including brainstorming activities, rough drafts, peer review, and your final copy. (Staple all supportive materials to the back of the final copy.)
* Rubric must be stapled to the front.

**Due Dates and Points Available:**

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| Assignment | Points: 150 points total | Due Date |
| Brainstorming activities | 10 | September 4th |
| First Draft | 10 | September 11th |
| Peer Review | 10 | September 14th-15th |
| Second Draft | 10 | September 18th |
| Second Peer Review | 10 | September 21st-22nd |
| Final Draft | 100 | September 25th |

**Possible Writing Topics:**

1. A kid who becomes principal of the school.
2. Traveling back in time to see the dinosaurs.
3. A cat that stows away on a spaceship.
4. A brother and sister who find an old journal in the attic.
5. Traveling to the future to your city 300 years from now.
6. A friendly alien who comes to Earth.
7. A group of friends who learn a dangerous secret about their school.
8. A dog with magic powers.
9. Finding a chest of buried treasure in the backyard.
10. A magic cell phone that turns into a robot.