*Romeo and Juliet* Unit Big Questions Reflection

These were the “Big Questions” you answered before we started the unit. You should have your response back.

Take 5 minutes and re-read it with the perspective of the texts we read and conversations we had.

***1. Generational Conflict: In many ways, Romeo and Juliet is a story about the old and the young. List some of the biggest differences between older generations (your parents/grandparents) and younger generations in terms of VALUES. In other words, don’t write, “my grandma doesn’t have twitter and I do;” think more about what older people seem to value today and what younger people seem to value today. What conclusions can you draw? What do you notice?***

***2. Which force is more powerful—love or hate? Include specific examples to back up your points.***

***3. Loyalty: Is it more important to be loyal to your family, your friends, your religion, your country, or yourself? Maybe there are some connections to Mango Street and Into the Wild here: How much should you be loyal to yourself in pursuing your goals in life? How much should family, friends, religion, and society be important to you as you live your life?***

***4. Loyalty: To what extent is rebelling against one’s family, friends, and society justifiable? Have you ever “rebelled” against your family or friends? Were you right to? Explain.***

***5: Fate: Do you believe more in fate or free will? Moving forward into Romeo and Juliet and the world of love, do you believe there’s one person out there who you’re destined/supposed to be with? Do you believe it’s fate that you’ll end up with this person? Do we all have a “soulmate” we’re destined to spend our lives with? Explain.***

***More Questions About Love:***

***6. Are you allowed to date? Do your parents have “guidelines” for who you date? Do you agree with your parents’ current “rules” about you dating? Where do you agree/disagree and why?***

***7. What qualities are “musts” in someone you imagine yourself dating/marrying? What qualities do you think your parents value in who you date/marry? Do they match yours? Explain.***

***8. How do you know when you’re in “love”? What’s the difference between really liking someone a lot and being in love? Explain it.***

***9. In what ways do men and women see love differently? In what ways do you anticipate Romeo and Juliet will see love differently?***

***10. In love, is it better to act on impulse and emotion, or is it better to be thoughtful and use reason/logical thinking? Explain.***

Then, for homework, type responses to the following questions:

1. Revisit the four questions you responded to a few weeks ago. Upon reaching the end of the unit, have any of your responses changed slightly? How so? Has your understanding or perspective changed at all? If so, explain what changed your mind. If not, explain why your opinions remain unchanged.

2. Respond to one of the 10 questions that you didn’t last time and include references to any of the texts we read/watched to support your answer.

3. What do you think is most important idea/concept/issue students should take away from our *R&J* unit?

4. What about all of the units we had this year: grammar, short stories/narrative, Mango Street, Into the Wild, research/info lit, lit circles, and R&J? Which one or two or three were the best? The ones that you actually learned a few significant things that you think are important? Which were the least important or the least impactful? Any recommendations for how to do something differently?

5. Again, in looking back over the units, what are one or two or three important things you actually learned, about life or English or whatever? Explain a little.