Absolutely True Diary
Literary Postcard

One of the most important parts of reading is visualization. Making pictures in your mind is the key to both reading comprehension and enjoyment. Alexie crafts many rich visual descriptions to bring Arnold's story to life. Today we are going to explore and develop those elements of the book, focusing on any scene from the reading.

This assignment is about visualization, not about artistic talent.

1) Pick one theme from the following theme list:

   * Individual Ambition
   * Communal Obligation
   * Poverty and Privilege
   * Racism

2) Pick one scene from the book that represents one of the above themes. Make a list of all the sensory details present in the scene. List the details that are in print and those that are in your mind.
3) Use a passage from the text as a "legend" for your postcard that addresses chosen theme. Include page number from the book.
4) On one side of your card, write a postcard from one character in the scene to another, one character to you, or from yourself to a character. The writing should cover the back of the card. It should be in character – in other words, try to use the voice and personality of the character when you write. Make sure to embed one passage from the text into the postcard (include page number).
5) On the blank side of your card, draw and color the scene you selected. Review your list of sensory details before you begin to draw. Be sure to fill the whole space. You don't have to make the picture realistic, like a photo; rather, make sure you communicate the feeling of the scene.

A strong postcard will include:
*A legend made up of a passage from the text that reflects the theme topic you have chosen
*Art that conveys the feeling of the scene through the use of line, color, and arrangement of images
*A note from the character or yourself that gives background information about the scene or explains how the scene feels to a character or to you, filling the back of the card, and that includes one embedded quote from the text