**TO BE DISCUSSED IN CLASS ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 8:**

**WATSONS:**

1. Preview the book by reading the title and the author’s name and by looking at the blurbs and illustrations on the cover. What do you think the book will be about?
2. Read the dedication at the beginning of the novel. What do you learn about the author’s family? What does the author mean by his parents’ gifts of roots and wings? Do you agree that they are both important? Then read in memory of that appears at the beginning of the book. For homework, do some research and find out more about the four girls who all died on the same day.
3. What do you know about the civil rights movement? Begin to write a list of questions you have about that time.
4. What is a bully? What options do you have when dealing with a bully? Should adults intervene?
5. Find out more about Langston Hughes and why he was important.

**THE CAY:**

1. Preview the book and predict what it may be about.
2. This novel is dedicated to Dr. King and his dream for a society without prejudice. Predict how his speech may be woven into the fabric and theme of the book.
3. What do you know about the civil rights movement? Begin to list questions you have about that time.
4. What is a self fulfilling prophecy? (Vision). How do prejudice and stereotyping often reinforce the behaviors they criticize in their victims? In what situations at school might low expectations cause poor achievement?

Do research and find out more about some of the lasting effects of the civil rights movement. (This will be ongoing throughout the novel study). Start thinking about what other changes or reforms are still necessary. (Ongoing).

**BUD, NOT BUDDY**

1. Preview the book and predict what it may be about.
2. Explain what you think the following quote from the main character may mean: “It’s funny how ideas are, in a lot of ways they’re just like seeds. Both of them start real, real small and then… woop, zoop, sloop…before you can say Jack Robinson they’ve gone and grown a lot bigger than you ever thought they could.**”**Bud Caldwell
3. This story takes place during the Great Depression. Discuss what you know about this time period. Find out more about it. Check out this link: <http://www.shschicago.org/uploaded/PDFs/Student_Life/2012-13/Bud_Not_Buddy_StudyGuide.pdf>
4. What do you think will be the biggest challenges facing the main character?
5. What might the significance of the title be?