**Mentor Interpretive Essay- “Something Beautiful”**

•Engage/introduce the text that you are writing about

•Include the title and author of the book

-Summarize important events

•The theme that you have identified in the text

•The three ways that the author showed this theme-these should be stated BRIEFLY

•Voice-Write with personality and a point of view

Today in class, we read a beautifully illustrated book titled Something Beautiful by Sharon Dennis Wyeth. I really enjoyed reading the book and as I read through the challenges that the main character faces, it hit me, that the author, Sharon Dennis Wyeth is trying to teach her readers a lesson. In this story, a young African American girl first sees only ugliness in her neighborhood. She points out all of the “ugly” and unsafe parts of her neighborhood, including a wall that says the word “Die” on it. Once she ventures to find beautiful things however, she is surprised by just how many people in her neighborhood can identify beautiful things in their lives and their neighborhood. This story includes lessons or themes that many readers can learn about life from. One of the themes that this story made clear to me is that in life, there is beauty everywhere, you just have to look for it. I know this because of the main character’s interaction with Miss Delphine, how she acts against the word “Die” on the wall, and last, because of her conversation with her mother at the end of the story.

**The first way** Sharon Dennis Wyeth teaches us the lesson that beauty is everywhere and that you just have to look for it, is through the main character’s encounter with Miss Delphine. When she first walks us through her neighborhood, we are introduced to all of the ugly parts of it. Some of these ugly parts include an ally that she has to run through, which made me think that this was because it was a dangerous area and the wall that said the word “Die” on it. **Another** part that she described to us was walking passed the homeless person that slept on cardboard. At the beginning of the book it really seemed like everything that surrounded her was hopeless. When she met with Miss Delphine **however**, the main character seemed to go through a tremendous change. Miss Delphine told her that the beautiful thing in her life is fish sandwiches. This changed the mood of the story to more optimistic, and the events that followed were also more optimistic. **After** her encounter with Miss Delphine, she went on to ask other people in her community what was beautiful in their lives. Their responses showed us that she was now on the search for beauty, and was now becoming surrounded by it! There are other ways that this book teaches us that there is beauty all around us, we just have to look for it.

•Topic Sentence: The first way the author showed this theme is...

•Give specific Text Examples (Quotes) that show the first way the author showed this theme

**• Transitional words and phrases include: For example, Also, In addition,**

•Explain how each quote teaches the people that read this book, the theme that you have identified

•Voice-Write with personality and a point of view

**This book also shows** that beauty is everywhere, if you just look for it, in how the main character takes action against the wall where the word “Die” was written. **After** talking to so many people in her community and realizing that their “something beautiful” is so different from each other’s, she started to realize that she could make a difference in the world. Just by asking people what they found beautiful in their own lives, she was filling her own life with beauty. This inspired her to take action against the negative statement that was written on her wall. By washing the wall, she was showing us that once you look for beauty and positivity in the world, you start to create it. And that’s exactly what she did! She created a positive environment by erasing that very ugly word from the wall in her community. I especially loved how she said that one day she would help the homeless people in her community. I really believe that a person like the main character has the power and the kindness to make a positive effect on the world. Learning about the character’s experience inspires me and makes me want to think more positively and search for beauty, even in situations that have seemed hopeless to me before. I can make a change!

•Topic Sentence: The second way the author showed this theme is...

•Give specific Text Examples (Quotes) that show the second way the author showed this theme

**• Transitional words and phrases include: For example, Also, In addition,**

•Explain how each quote teaches the people that read this book, the theme that you have identified

•Voice-Write with personality and a point of view

**The last way** that the author teaches us the lesson that beauty is everywhere and that you just have to look for it, is through the main character’s encounter with her mother. When she asks her if she has something beautiful in her life, she responds that the little girl is her “something beautiful.” This teaches me that sometimes we look to the outside for “beautiful” things, **however,** they are often right there in front of us and are the loved ones surrounding us. The love that the mother and daughter shared was “something beautiful” to the characters, and teaches me to appreciate the people around me in my own life.

•Topic Sentence: The third way the author showed this theme is...

•Give specific Text Examples (Quotes) that show the third way the author showed this theme

**• Transitional words and phrases include: For example, Also, In addition,**

•Explain how each quote teaches the people that read this book, the theme that you have identified

•Voice-Write with personality and a point of view

I’m so happy to have read this text because it reminds me that there is beauty everywhere, you just have to look for it. Within the text, the author made this clear when she wrote about the main character’s interaction with Miss Delphine, how she acts against the word “Die” on the wall, and last, because of her conversation with her mother at the end of the story. I think that it’s very important that others read this text because it helps you to realize just how beneficial it is to take a step back every once in a while, and appreciate what you have around you; sometimes life may not look or seem all that beautiful, but there is beauty in most aspects of life. If you ask me, I’d rather find a tiny speck of beauty and a small reason to smile every day, than a problem and reason to frown…what about you?

Conclusion:

•Restate and rephrase the theme you identified and the three major ways the author showed this theme in the text (paraphrase, you don't need quote in your conclusion.)

•Connect the theme to real life and comment on how you feel reading this book would or would not benefit other people who read it.

•Wrap up your thoughts in a way that will leave an impression on your readers

**5th Grade Outline/Checklist: Interpretive Essay**

**Introduction Paragraph**

* Engage your readers and introduce the text that you are writing about
* Include the title and author of the book (Book titles are **C**apitalized and underlined)
* Summary of the important events
* The theme that you have identified in the text (Reminder: the theme is the lesson that you believe the author wanted to teach readers through this book)
* The three ways that the author showed this theme (3 examples from the text) OR the three reasons you believe that this is one of the themes in the text—these should be stated **BRIEFLY**
* Voice-Write with personality and a point of view

**Body Paragraph 1: The 1st way the theme is shown**

* Topic Sentence: The first way the author showed this theme is...
* Give specific Text Examples (Quotes) that show the first way the author showed this theme
* You can guide your readers from one text example to the next by using **transitional words** and phrases. Some of these transitional words and phrases include: For example, Also, In addition,
* Explain how each quote teaches the people that read this book, the theme that you have identified
* Voice-Write with personality and a point of view

**Body Paragraph 2: The 2nd way the theme is shown**

* Topic Sentence: The second way the author showed this theme is...
* Give specific Text Examples (Quotes) that show the second way the author showed this theme
* You can guide your readers from one text example to the next by using **transitional words** and phrases. Some of these transitional words and phrases include: For example, Also, In addition,
* Explain how each quote teaches the people that read this book, the theme that you have identified
* Voice-Write with personality and a point of view

**Body Paragraph 3: The 3rd way the theme is shown**

* Topic Sentence: The third way the author showed the theme \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is...
* Give specific Text Examples (Quotes) that show the first way the author showed this theme
* You can guide your readers from one text example to the next by using **transitional words** and phrases. Some of these transitional words and phrases include: For example, Also, In addition,
* Explain how each quote teaches the people that read this book the theme that you have identified
* Voice-Write with personality and a point of view

**Conclusion:**

* Restate and rephrase the theme you identified and the three major ways the author showed this theme in the text (paraphrase, you don't need quote in your conclusion.)
* Connect the theme to real life and comment on how you feel reading this book would or would not benefit other people who read it.
* Wrap up your thoughts in a way that will leave an impression on your readers

Today in class, we read a beautifully illustrated book titled Something Beautiful by Sharon Dennis Wyeth. I really enjoyed reading the book and as I read through the challenges that the main character faces, it hit me, that the author, Sharon Dennis Wyeth is trying to teach her readers a lesson. In this story, a young African American girl first sees only ugliness in her neighborhood. She points out all of the “ugly” and unsafe parts of her neighborhood, including a wall that says the word “Die” on it. Once she ventures to find beautiful things however, she is surprised by just how many people in her neighborhood can identify beautiful things in their lives and their neighborhood. This story includes lessons or themes that many readers can learn about life from. One of the themes that this story made clear to me is that in life, there is beauty everywhere, you just have to look for it. I know this because of the main character’s interaction with Miss Delphine, how she acts against the word “Die” on the wall, and last, because of her conversation with her mother at the end of the story.

**The first way** Sharon Dennis Wyeth teaches us the lesson that beauty is everywhere and that you just have to look for it, is through the main character’s encounter with Miss Delphine. When she first walks us through her neighborhood, we are introduced to all of the ugly parts of it. Some of these ugly parts include an ally that she has to run through, which made me think that this was because it was a dangerous area and the wall that said the word “Die” on it. **Another** part that she described to us was walking passed the homeless person that slept on cardboard. At the beginning of the book it really seemed like everything that surrounded her was hopeless. When she met with Miss Delphine **however**, the main character seemed to go through a tremendous change. Miss Delphine told her that the beautiful thing in her life is fish sandwiches. This changed the mood of the story to more optimistic, and the events that followed were also more optimistic. **After** her encounter with Miss Delphine, she went on to ask other people in her community what was beautiful in their lives. Their responses showed us that she was now on the search for beauty, and was now becoming surrounded by it! There are other ways that this book teaches us that there is beauty all around us, we just have to look for it.

**This book also shows** that beauty is everywhere, if you just look for it, in how the main character takes action against the wall where the word “Die” was written. **After** talking to so many people in her community and realizing that their “something beautiful” is so different from each other’s, she started to realize that she could make a difference in the world. Just by asking people what they found beautiful in their own lives, she was filling her own life with beauty. This inspired her to take action against the negative statement that was written on her wall. By washing the wall, she was showing us that once you look for beauty and positivity in the world, you start to create it. And that’s exactly what she did! She created a positive environment by erasing that very ugly word from the wall in her community. I especially loved how she said that one day she would help the homeless people in her community. I really believe that a person like the main character has the power and the kindness to make a positive effect on the world. Learning about the character’s experience inspires me and makes me want to think more positively and search for beauty, even in situations that have seemed hopeless to me before. I can make a change!

**The last way** that the author teaches us the lesson that beauty is everywhere and that you just have to look for it, is through the main character’s encounter with her mother. When she asks her if she has something beautiful in her life, she responds that the little girl is her “something beautiful.” This teaches me that sometimes we look to the outside for “beautiful” things, **however,** they are often right there in front of us and are the loved ones surrounding us. The love that the mother and daughter shared was “something beautiful” to the characters, and teaches me to appreciate the people around me in my own life.

I’m so happy to have read this text because it reminds me that there is beauty everywhere, you just have to look for it. Within the text, the author made this clear when she wrote about the main character’s interaction with Miss Delphine, how she acts against the word “Die” on the wall, and last, because of her conversation with her mother at the end of the story. I think that it’s very important that others read this text because it helps you to realize just how beneficial it is to take a step back every once in a while, and appreciate what you have around you; sometimes life may not look or seem all that beautiful, but there is beauty in most aspects of life. If you ask me, I’d rather find a tiny speck of beauty and a small reason to smile every day, than a problem and reason to frown…what about you?