Reflective Reading Questions

1. Monday, September 13th
Reflection due by 6 am on Monday, September 20th

1. Which texts are you choosing to read for this assignment? Why?
2. What is your reading plan/timetable? Come up with a bulleted list/chart with specific page numbers and due dates for each text. Both must be read by November 17th.
3. Initially, do you detect any potential themes or motifs that run across both books? Describe what might be one or two of these. Note that one or more of these might become more complex and significant once you get into reading and analyzing both texts.
4. What do you hope to learn by reading the teacher text?
5. What do you hope to learn by reading the K-12 student text?

Directions: Use the WebCT mailbox and send to “instructor.” Check your inbox in a few days for a brief reply.

2. Monday, September 27th
Reflection due by 6 am on Monday, October 4th

Write a total of three to four paragraphs regarding your first impressions of your readings. In your entry, make sure to include:
1. Your first impressions
2. Revisit your previous examinations of possible themes, patterns, and/or motifs to note whether your analysis has been affirmed or contradicted, providing page numbers in your explanation
3. Note whether different themes, patterns, and/or motifs are emerging, providing specific examples in the text(s) with corresponding page numbers

Directions: Use the WebCT mailbox and send to “instructor.” Check your inbox in a few days for a brief reply.

3. Monday, October 11th
Reflection due by 6 am on Monday, October 18th

Choose an element of our class readings, class discussion, or class projects to compare to your readings thus far. Include the following in your response:
1. What similarities or differences do you note to class readings, discussions, or projects?
2. How might the new text (your reading reflection text(s)) offer new insight into school, education in this country, and teaching and learning?

Directions: Use the WebCT mailbox and send to “instructor.” Check your inbox in a few days for a brief reply.
4. Monday, October 25th
Reflection due by 6 am on Monday, November 1st
Ask Mendi for help to set this up
Let’s go public using the Discussion Board; therefore, no need to email your entry to me this week. Instead post your entry to the Discussion Board under the text or texts that you want to discuss. A thread has been added for each trade book.

This is a free write, so what would you like to express about your text(s)? Potential ideas may include: talking about the themes that you have already thought of and want to discuss with classmates; themes, characters, messages that resonate with you; compare what you are reading to real life. You may want to cut and paste some of your previous e-journal comments and build upon them (now having read more and having had more class discussions). Finally, you may want to review Part II of the assignment and begin specifically addressing some of the criteria. These are just suggestions.

You can either post something original, or you can post something in response to an existing post about your text(s).

5. Monday, November 8th
Reflection due by 6 am on Monday, November 15th

For this entry, I want you to respond to at least two of your classmates’ postings from the last entry on the Discussion Board.

1. Respond to a classmate who is reading one of the same texts as you. Agree or disagree with what they have written about the text. Support your statement, making sure to cite page numbers. Help your classmate draw out the themes, patterns, or motifs that they have begun to discover.

2. Respond to a classmate who is reading a different text. This is wide open.

6. Monday, November 22nd
Reflection due by 6 am on Monday, November 29th

For the final entry, I want you to post this reflection to the Discussion Board strand for at least one of your texts.

We’ve finished reading the class text. Choose a specific chapter topic that relates in some way to an issue or theme in one of your texts. Do NOT choose the chapter that relates to your Issues Project. This entry should be at least three short paragraphs.

1. Name the chapter and write a brief, one-paragraph summary of what is significant to you in the chapter, using your own words.

2. How does the topic in the chapter compare or contrast to one or both of your texts? Look for examples in one or both of your texts of how one of this chapter’s main issues or topics plays out for students and teachers in schools or for people in school communities.

3. What are your thoughts about this issue and how it has impacted your life as (1) a student, (2) a potential, future educator, and (3) as someone who is learning about public education in this country?