

# Rhyming Season

## Writing Assignment – 2008

### Guidelines:

1. Each student must write a two page paper based upon one of the choices below.
2. Label the paper in the upper right hand corner with the following information:

Name	Example:	Jane Doe
Grade Level		11 <sup>th</sup> Grade
Choice Number		Choice A
3. The paper should be typed (double-spaced, Times New Roman 12 font), proofread, with correct grammar and spelling.
4. Include an introduction paragraph, body (at least 3 paragraphs), and conclusion paragraph. A paragraph contains a minimum of 4 sentences.
5. Be sure to cite specific examples from the book and include a reference to the page number after the example.

Example: Brenda acknowledges the true meaning of her poem when she tells Eric that she understands why basketball has become so important to her (p. 265).
6. The paper is due on Wednesday, August 27<sup>th</sup> and will be turned in to your family group teacher at chapel.
7. The paper will be graded and applied to the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter English grade of each student.

Choices: (9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders choose from A, B, or C;  
11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders choose from D, E, or F)

- A. What are some of the reasons that Brenda selects the poem that she does? When does she realize her own reason for the choice? Give examples from the book that show she is beginning to understand what the poem really means to her.
- B. Brenda has several occasions where she sees her dead brother and even talks with him. Are these real or imagined events? Why is she experiencing these events and what specifically causes them to stop? Cite examples from the book that support your position.
- C. Brenda goes through a real period of growth during her senior year. In what ways does she change for the better? What additional change is still needed, and why? Give examples from the book that show both her successful change and need for additional change.
- D. Brenda experiences a wide range of emotions related to her brother's death (sorrow, guilt, etc.). Explore 3-4 of these emotions by citing examples from the book that demonstrate her feelings and the ways in which she responds to those feelings. How is Brenda feeling about her brother by the close of her senior year? How can you tell?
- E. In the book, the town of Hemlock faces tough economic times with the closing of the logging mill. In what ways have you seen similar circumstances in your area and how has it affected the people in your community? Reference things you have seen in the news and in your personal experience. Cite examples from the book that show similarities in the two situations (in the book and in our community).
- F. The challenges (and the girls' reaction to the challenges) faced by the girls' basketball team could stand as a metaphor for the challenges faced by Brenda, or her family, or the townspeople. Discuss the metaphor of the basketball team and highlight parallels between the challenges faced by the team and those faced by Brenda, her family, or the community. Cite examples from the book that show the similarities.