Mentor Text 1:

Excerpt from “The Most Important Night of Melanie’s Life” by Richard Peck

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| The dream returned until the girl was no longer able to sleep. One night she threw back the bedcovers. Wide awake, she was drawn up the turning steps, higher and higher into the tower. Holding a flickering candle aloft, she came upon a heavy door that swung open. In the corner stood the suit of armor she’d known from a dozen nightmare nights. She moved nearer. Her hand reached out. Hoping against hope that seeing the skull would rid her of her terrible dreams, she lifted the visor.  Inside the helmet, a young man’s piercing eyes met her gaze, but his voice was hollowed by the years. “I died too young, before I could love,” he said. “Will you redeem me? Come away to share my lonely exile in a world beyond this one.” | Level 1: What types of imagery does the author use to create a creepy mood in this text? Cite examples. |

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| Topic: | Theme: |

Mentor Text 2:“Annabel Lee” by Edgar Allan Poe

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| It was many and many a year ago,  In a kingdom by the sea,  That a maiden there lived whom you may know  By the name of Annabel Lee;  And this maiden she lived with no other thought  Than to love and be loved by me.  *I* was a child and *she* was a child,  In this kingdom by the sea,  But we loved with a love that was more than love-  I and my Annabel Lee –  With a love that the winged seraphs of Heaven  Coveted her and me.  And this was the reason that, long ago,  In this kingdom by the sea,  A wind blew out of a cloud, chilling  My beautiful Annabel Lee;  So that her highborn kinsmen came  And bore her away from me,  To shut her up in a sepulcher  In this kingdom by the sea.  The angels, not half so happy in Heaven,  Went envying her and me –  Yes! – that was the reason (as all men know, in this kingdom by the sea)  That the wind came out of the cloud by night,  Chilling and killing my Annabel Lee.  But our love it was stronger by far than the love  Of those who were older than we –  Of many far wiser than we –  And neither the angels in Heaven above  Nor the demons down under the sea  Can ever dissever my soul from the soul  Of the beautiful Annabel Lee;  For the moon never beams, without bringing me dreams  Of the beautiful Annabel Lee;  And the stars never rise, but I feel the bright eyes  Of the beautiful Annabel Lee;  And so, all the night-tide, I lie down by the side  Of my darling – my darling – my life and my bride,  In her sepulcher there by the sea –  In her tomb by the sounding sea. | TDQ’s:  Level 1: What has happened to Annabel Lee?  Level 2: Why does the narrator think that his Annabel Lee has died? How is the narrator coping with her death?  Level 3: How are the narrator from this poem and the voice in the suit of armor in “The Most Important Night of Melanie’s Life” similar?  Level 3: Rewrite this poem as a narrative from the point of view of Annabel Lee herself. Be sure to include dialogue, characters, and conflict. |

Mentor Text #3:

Excerpt from “The Most Important Night of Melanie’s Life” by Richard Peck

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| They forgot how long they sat there, watching the fire flicker out. Then they heard the sound of a car, and right away the front door banged open again. Their mother and then their dad raced into the living room, coats flapping. They didn’t wipe their feet or anything. Their mother dropped to her knees and tried to get her arms around all three of them.  “Are you all right?” she gasped, trying to pull Clem closer. “What have you been doing all this time? We just got word from the Hutchinsons.”  “Who are they?” Mike asked.  “Ben’s aunt and uncle. Oh, it’s too terrible. Ben… I shouldn’t even tell you.”  Their mother’s hand covered her mouth. “Boys,” Dad said, “the reason that Ben didn’t come to sit for you tonight is that he had an accident. On his way here, he was struck by a hit-and-run driver. They found his body by the side of the road. He was dead before your mother and I ever left home tonight.”  Now the eyes of all three of them, Mike and Mark and Clem, were perfect circles.  “And where’s Melanie?” their mother asked, looking around. “Isn’t she home yet?” | TDQ’s  Level 1: Who was Ben the babysitter?  Level 1: Where did Melanie go? Is she still alive?  Level 2: How are Ben and the narrator from “Annabel Lee” similar? How are they different?  Level 3: Is the title “The Most Important Night of Melanie’s Life” appropriate for this story? Why or why not?  Level 3: Imagine if the author did not include foreshadowing and creepy imagery. What information would we lose? |

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| What are the common topics between the poem “Annabel Lee” and the story “The Most Important Night of Melanie’s Life”? Are there similar themes in the two pieces? |