This month each student is to choose 20 days to read independently for 20 minutes. Nightly reading must be recorded and initialed by a parent on the monthly reading calendar. In addition to the nightly reading, students are required to complete a book project each month. This month, we are studying the realistic fiction genre in reader’s workshop so it is my hope that each student will select a realistic fiction chapter book to read at home and complete the book project described below. **Book projects are due Monday, February 29th.**

# **“Peeling the Fruit” Thinking Routine…**

# ***Design a Poster Showcasing Your Central Character.***

1. Choose a realistic fiction chapter book with a strong central character.
2. Make a poster that explains all that you learned about this person.
3. Use pictures, words, and creativity to teach us about your character.
4. On your poster you should have 3 circles.

* On the outside circle, write words, draw pictures, or cut out pictures of things that remind you of this character.
* In the next circle choose character traits that describe your character. Give examples of a time that your character demonstrated that particular trait.
* In the next circle write down connections that you can make between this character and characters from different stories you have read. You can also make connections to other people that you know in your real life.
* In the very smallest, center circle write what is at the “HEART” of this character. Why are they special? What did they learn in the story, or what lesson did you learn from them.

1. Please make sure that correct spelling, capitalization, and punctuation are used in your summary as this will be a part of your final project grade!!
2. Make sure you practice your presentation at home so you are ready to share it with the class☺ .

\*\*This thinking routine is designed for us to see the difference between levels of thinking. The outer circle, or “skin” shows us just the surface of things. The medium circle pushes us to think of interesting questions that we have about a certain topic. The next layer pushes us to think more deeply about a character and what makes them behave in a certain way. Finally the innermost circle makes us get to the HEART of the matter by reminding us why that character is so important and what we might learn from them.

Example:

**“Opal” from Because of Winn Dixie**

1. **Outer circle:** 10 years old, red hair, dog leash, girl, freckles, bible, dog bone, library book
2. **Next circle:** Clever: she asked to tell her 10 things about her mom. Responsible: takes care of Winn Dixie, grocery shops alone, allowed to be around town alone. Honest: she admits when she makes mistakes. Hardworking: she works at Gertrude’s Pets.
3. **Next circle:** Opal is like Edward Tulane because they both meet friends along their journey. Opal is similar to my friend Ben because they both moved to new towns and needed to meet new friends. Opal is similar to me because we both take good care of our pets!
4. **Inner Circle:** Opal teaches me to think of others before myself and give people a chance!

I took pictures of the example I shared with the class. Check out our website and you will see it!