Hello Mystery students:

I hope everyone is doing well and staying safe during the COVID-19 quarantine period. At this point, we have approximately three weeks until school is officially done. So if you are continuing to work on assignments for extra credit, now is the time to be finishing them and emailing them to me.

As a reminder from last week, I am going to freeze your grade at the Spring Break mark, since that is the last time we met as a class. Any and all work that you turn into me will be marked as an extra credit grade. This extra credit will be added to your grade that is on freeze at the end of the semester to count as your final grade. Therefore, you can only improve your grade during this online schooling time, not hurt your grade. I would love to see you all continue with the assignments I am putting on the website each week, whether you need to improve your grade or not. Please make the effort so that you are continuing to learn the material we have been covering this semester.

I have decided to give this class an extra week in turn in your Mystery Short Stories. Therefore, all work for this project is now due 5/13 and 5/14. I cannot except any work after these dates. Please make sure you turn in all work on or before those dates. This will give me time to get final grades into Infinite Campus. Remember, as middle school and high school students, your grades at LEAP count toward your GPA for the year. I will check in with you weekly to see how your progress is going. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the assignment, you can email me at linda.ragazzo@thompsonschools.org.

1. At this point you should have completed each of the individual assignments that I gave to work up to writing your story. Character development, plot diagram, plot summary, dialogue writing, and scene development. If you haven't completed any or all of these, please make sure you do. Remember that I want you to add all of these assignments together in a packet to be turned in with the final draft of your story by 5/13 – 5/14.

2. Several weeks ago I assigned for you to watch videos on how to write effective dialogue. I have kept those links attached below for your continued reference.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9U7lm8ZnX6w
3. Two weeks ago I asked you to start creating your scenes by making a scene outline. Each chapter of your story should have at least 2 scenes in it. **A scene is a part of the story that introduces characters, shows an action or event in the story, and moves the story along to work through the plot and engage the reader.** If you have not done this yet, it is important to do before beginning your writing process. To do this you will need a few pieces of paper. Draw 4-6 large squares on the paper. In each box you will write a quick outline of what that scene will be about. You can add a picture to the notes if you would like, but it is not necessary. By the end, you should have about 30 squares of scenes to be able to use in telling your story. If you haven't finished this assignment, please do so asap.

4. **ASSIGNMENT:**
   I am now giving from this point until 5/13 – 5/14 to begin writing your rough draft and final draft of your story. If you completed the scene outline assignment, this should be relatively easy for you to do. You should be able to complete your rough draft in a week, and your final draft in a week.

   **Once you have finished your rough draft, please email a copy so that I can review it with you. I will send you back any suggestions/changes I have for you before you begin your final draft. Also remember to have at least 1 or 2 people at home proofreading your rough draft and your final draft before you turn them in.**

   6. Again, you now have until 5/13 – 5/14 to complete your Mystery Short Story.

   7. I will check in with you next week on your progress. Thank you all for being patient with this new type of learning right now. I have confidence that you will all do very well.