Our theme for first quarter is identity. With that in mind, we began the year with two pieces of poetry. The first is a random autobiography, modeled on a poem of that title by Mary Ann Larson. The second is a poem for two voices, composed by partner pairs, and based on mentor text by Paul Fleischman. Here are the [directions](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1LLU9rFok6muw9rcIbk0vz30tQZqrYwQ09aJEGcGhTPA/edit?usp=sharing) and the graphic [organizer](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ULSf_nWvV_imUV3jG7sR435AU5phykUMd_bpGAEXeMg/edit?usp=sharing) for the Dialogue Poem.  
  
We are finishing a personal narrative that focuses on clothing or personal accessories as an aspect of personal identity. We will use Langston Hughes' "Thank You, Ma'am," Gary Soto's "The Jacket," and Sandra Cisneros' "Eleven" as mentor texts with this theme. A final version of these narratives is due on Thursday, October 8. Here are the [editing sheets](http://weebly-file/1/3/1/9/13192339/narrative_edit.doc) for the assignment.  
  
In the background, students are also working on their self-selected writing projects with small group support. We have worked through numerous mini-lessons on character development to support this process. During the week of October 5, we will be working with four pieces of poetry related to personal identity, from which students will select one to carry through the writing process. In the middle of the month, we will be working on imaginative character profiles based on partner interviews. We experimented with flash fiction (50-word stories) the week of October 19. And we will turn our attention to flash-fiction style ghost stories during the last week of the month.