Our theme for second quarter is "place." We began the quarter with students creating personal poems based on George Ella Lyon's poem, "Where I'm From."  Next, we crafted nonfiction narratives about important places, using the format of "Letters to Place" and Joy Harjo's (and others' ) ["Letter to Tulsa"](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Oim5y3kKejobKJJOayftVCp_aLO9rycC2askGPT3ZnM/edit?usp=sharing) as models. Here are the [editing checklists](http://weebly-file/1/3/1/9/13192339/letter_to_place_edit.pdf" \t "_blank) for the Letters to Place pieces. Final versions were due on Friday, December 4.  
  
The class is currently working on drawings and descriptions of invented and real settings, which will be incorporated into alphabet books. Here are the [requirements for the alphabet book](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Xa6F0oJ1wkWg6k85E219Lc1-3Dk-CzfPuGJIGxiazdM/edit?usp=sharing).  Term students may use characters, rather than places, as the focus of the alphabet book, since they were not in this course during our focus on character during first quarter. It is also acceptable to describe people, places, and/or things within a certain place. Here is a link to my [sample ABC book](https://docs.google.com/document/d/13po0sKoPHuWVuzjNO9Fqm78YS6Xa2BxJUBAqcnvLFng/edit?usp=sharing), based on places in young adult literature. It is a work in progress. In the background, we worked on several short writing tasks, including the paint-chip 100 word "stories" and form poetry, the results of which are now displayed in the classroom.  
  
As second quarter winds down, will be finishing up the alphabet books and working on one last short descriptive assignment in which students either write:  
  
1. a poem that conveys seasonal details (like [Billy Collins' "Snow Day"](http://www.poetryfoundation.org/poem/176051) (here is an [audio version](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H56ZXBXUl3g)) or  [Geraldine Connolly's  "The Summer I Was 16"](https://www.loc.gov/poetry/180/003.html)); OR  
  
2. a paragraph that could be the beginning of an imaginative story based on a [photo of a bridge or path.](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/18GAUf_SsyD88AigF49afT7cJF8hFCC5FdeKUV7vaT2w/edit?usp=sharing)  
  
The due date for the complete bound and illustrated alphabet book is Wednesday, January 20, and the last short descriptive piece is due on Friday, January 22. To help with the final editing, here is a [Descriptive Tips checklist](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Hi9ZR21ARxrALwiX5kTSquI9-yutWcH4ZqfyvyZ0y-U/edit?usp=sharing) based on ideas students reported on NearPod on January 13.