



## Cherry Crest Winter Writing Challenge

### Fourth and Fifth Grade

This is the time of year when we get to spend extra time with family members who are important to us. Over the next six weeks, all Cherry Crest Chargers are encouraged (BUT NOT REQUIRED) to participate in a writing challenge, that will allow you the opportunity to get to know a family member better.

All writing will be published in a collective book that will be displayed by grade level in the library. Books will be available for purchase as well. What a great way to read your friends writing, and get to know their family better. Additionally, everyone who participates will automatically receive a ticket for a tasty treat at the Festival of Cultures on February 8th, and writing pieces will be featured for family and friends to read during the festival.

#### **PROMPT:**

Choose an older relative to interview about their school experience when they were your age. What were they taught, what was their day like, who were their teachers, how were they expected to behave academically and socially? Maybe that person has a funny school memory they would like to share with you. Perhaps their experience was totally different than yours and you'd like to compare and contrast the two. There are so many questions to ask and tons of information to learn.

## REQUIREMENTS:

- Writing should be one to two pages in length; but not much more.
- Final draft needs to be typed.
- **At the top of your essay please include your full name, your grade level and an email address that you and a parent can be reached.**
- Your final draft should include:
  - A strong introductory paragraph with a thesis statement.
  - Body paragraphs with topic sentences and reasons to support.
  - A meaningful conclusion.

## OPTIONS:

- This can be written as a biography or as a compare and contrast essay. If you need help organizing your thoughts for compare and contrast, you can use the third-grade graphic organizer.
- A photograph or drawing of the person you interview is encouraged but not required.

## HELPFUL TIPS:

### The Interview:

- Ask a family member ahead of time if it's okay to interview them.
- Pre-write a list of questions that you want to ask. The more questions you have, the better your essay will be.
- During your interview, encourage your interviewee to share as much as they want including stories. The more they share, the more you learn and the more you have to write about.

### Post Interview and Writing:

- Decide if you want to compare and contrast your school experience to your relative or write a biography about that person.
- Gather all of your findings and begin to categorize it by topic.
- Decide on your thesis statement and topic sentences that can be supported for each body paragraph.

Your finished piece is **DUE on FRIDAY JANUARY 18<sup>th</sup>** and should be turned into your teacher. Make sure you include your NAME, GRADE and TEACHER in the top right-hand corner of your essay. Have fun writers!!!