Peak by Roland Smith

Peak Marcello is a fourteen year old boy who has recently been arrested for trying to scale, climb a skyscraper in New York City. As a result, Peak has a tough decision ahead of him. On one hand, he can head to a juvenile detention center. On the other hand, Peak can go live with his father. One problem, he and his dad do not have a strong relationship. Problem number two, Peak Marcello’s dad lives in Thailand where he runs a climbing company. Peak’s father is eager to reunite with his son. Peak is uneasy with his father’s newfound interest in him and his life. Peak’s dad wants him to be the youngest person ever to climb Mount Everest!

Journal Project

While reading this book, please keep a journal as the main character in this story, Peak Marcello. After each event in the story concerning Peak, write an entry as though the event just happened to you. Connect yourself in some way to the event. Share the emotions, thoughts, and worries involved in the event.

Please include images and graphics in your journals. An example might be when/if Peak travels to Thailand to live with his father, attach a plane ticket or boarding pass stub to your entry. All additions can absolutely be hand-crafted or generated from the computer. Let your imagination run wild. This is the perfect story in which to do so.
**Matilda by Roald Dahl**

Matilda Wormwood is mild natured, sweetheart of a five-year-old with both extraordinary mental powers and even more extraordinary parents. Matilda’s parents think she is strange, because she loves to read. Mr. and Mrs. Wormwood love television! Matilda uses her powers to benefit both herself at home; and finally when she enters school, her classmates against the notoriously mean headmistress, Miss Trunchbull.

Once you have concluded your reading create a book in a bag to reflect the story *Matilda*.

**Book in a Bag Project**

1. Decorate a small paper bag and fill it with 6 “props” related to Matilda.
2. Your props should include items from the book that you can find around your house.
   You may also create props from materials you already have (paper, clay, etc.)
   • One prop should represent the setting of the story
   • One prop should represent our heroine, Matilda
   • Three props should represent events in the story with one specific to the main problem or conflict in the story
   • One last prop should represent the resolution, ending of the story.
3. The outside of your book in a bag should include: title, author, your name, and decorations to match the parts of the story.

You will present your book in a bag or journal to the class during an oral presentation where you will share your thoughts and representations of the story you chose to read. We will discuss the presentation criteria in class first.