*“I like to write about me, because I know about me.” ~ John Lennon*

**John’s Secret Dreams: The Life of John Lennon by Doreen Rappaport[[1]](#footnote--1)**

**About the Book**:

John Lennon’s influence on music and culture is legendary. He was a rebel, a genius, an innovator, and a peace activist. From a young age he dreamed of fame and fortune. When he achieved it as one of the Beatles, he recognized the need for a deeper meaning in life. Doreen Rappaport and Bryan Collier combine narrative and song lyrics, cut-paper collage and watercolor art to capture the energy and the essence of a man whose vision and creative genius continue to inspire today.

**Part One-read, analyze, discuss, REPORT**

We will read the first few pages of the picture book together using the visualizer.

Next, you will get into your groups where you will continue to **read** and **analyze** the text. As you read and analyze, **discuss** the answers to the questions provided. You will be provided with an organizer where you will **report** your answers. Each member of the group must complete his/her own organizer using his/her own insight and thought process. Answers must be in complete sentences. It will be collected and assessed.

**Background**: Doreen Rappaport’s elegant prose and Bryan Collier’s breathtaking art together depict the complex life of John Lennon. In addition, through the selected lyrics quoted inside, Lennon speaks for himself to the reader.

*words + art + lyrics are interdependent*

**Part Two- WRITE, SEARCH, CREATE, EXPLAIN, EMULATE**

1. **WRITE:** Write and autobiographical poem. You can either write about who you are as a person – as a whole – as an individual or you can write a poem that captures a moment that defines a central aspect of who you are as a person (or your personality). You should incorporate literary devices such as imagery, metaphor, simile, repetition, etc. Avoid “I Am” formats. No acrostics allowed. You poem MUST be a minimum of 20 lines. Once your first draft is edited, your final draft must be typed and be presented meaningfully on computer paper. Think of the shape the poem will take and the use of stanzas and line breaks to help paint a picture with your words.
2. **SEARCH:** Think of a song (or quote) that means a lot to you. Pull out up to five lines of the song’s lyrics. Thinking back to the art and layout executed by Rappaport and Collier, place the lyrics on the same page as your poem. You may want to use a different font and play with the size of the lyrics on the page. Think, what layout would be most impactful to the reader?
3. **CREATE:** This is the artistic component of the piece. Collier used collage as the medium in this book. What other mixed media could you use? (**Definition**: mixed media 1. A technique involving the use of two or more artistic media, such as ink and pastel or painting and collage, that are combined in a single composition.) Draw and/or print pictures to be included on this page. Decorate your page with artwork. You must remember that the words, art, and lyrics must work together to convey a message. There should be a balance and juxtaposition conveyed.
4. **EXPLAIN:** On an index card that will be stapled to the bottom of your page, explain your literary (song and poem) and artistic choices. What meaning do you hope to convey to the reader/viewer? Explain.
5. **EMULATE:** Your page should emulate Doreen Rappaport and Bryan Collier’s pages.

**DUE DATE: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12th**

You will work on this in class and at home this week for homework.

1. Sending a huge thank you to Mrs. Cahn and Mrs. Klein for allowing me to use their work in creating this assignment. [↑](#footnote-ref--1)