“Shacks from Mansions”/EOF Organizer

Language Arts—Kaye

**Characterize the following characters from “Shacks from Mansions”. Be sure to examine their traits, feelings, and attitudes. Also, explore their character motivations (why they behave the way they do).**

Randall (narrator):

Costas Tobin:

Preston (“The Thief”) Moncrief:

**Analyze how setting is used in “Shacks from Mansions”. Specifically, what do particular areas tell us about our society (as a whole). Often times, setting is used for effect to represent an idea or situation (symbolism). List adjectives that describe these two locations and compare and contrast them.**

South Oak Cliff:

Highland Park:

**You be the judge. Based on Preston’s actions, would you classify him as a good guy or a bad guy? Why? Provide details/evidence from text to support your opinion. Identify positive actions, as well as negative ones.**

**Analyze the following quotes from “Shacks from Mansions” and use them to unlock several of the themes from the story. Write a few sentences about each.**

*“I realized at that moment that all the textbooks in the world can’t teach you what a life you haven’t lived is all about.”*

*“All I had to do was ignore the pain, and I’d been practicing that my whole life.”*

*“….before Preston Moncrief I didn’t know shacks from mansions, so excuse me if I don’t join the Hallelujah chorus over three hundred lids set loose on the community, blindly colliding, if only momentarily, with real people living real lives. Those lives keep going long after the kids have reduced them to a line on a college application.”*

**Identify any allusions (cultural references) you’re unfamiliar with. Prior knowledge or discovery of this content will unlock meaning & form concrete connections.**

**What do you notice about the structure of “Shacks from Mansions”? Think about the way the story is built: the plot structure, and specifically, the way it starts and ends. How would you define this writing strategy?**

**What do you know about community service? What types of community service are depicted (represented) in “Shacks from Mansions”?**