LESSON 5: Dear T-Ray…

WHAT’S ON FOR TODAY AND WHY?: You will be able to utilize the language of the protagonist to construct a letter that articulates one character’s feelings towards another. This requires a close reading of the novel, as well as the demonstration of attention to detail and reflection upon the events within the novel. To allow you to ‘get into Lily’s head’, to relate to Lily and to better understand her plight and motivations. This activity gives you an opportunity to express your feelings about this particular familial relationship on paper in a creative way. In doing so, you are becoming active participants in the reading process, not passive readers.

MOTIVATION:

1. Let’s have a class discussion. How do you feel about the novel so far? In particular, what are your thoughts on the characters we have met so far? Can you sympathize with T-Ray? With Lily? How do you think Deborah’s leaving affected T-Ray? Had you ever heard of "kneeling on grits"? What qualities did Lily have that allowed her to survive, endure, and eventually thrive, despite T. Ray? Have you ever had fights with your parents like the argument between T-Ray and Lily? Is this a standard part of growing up?

2. You will write a letter from Lily to T. Ray. This letter must reference specific events, quotations, or actions in the novel.

3. Share their letters with 1 or 2 peers. Peers will offer constructive feedback, and will record their name on the bottom of the letter to demonstrate active participation in this process.