**Reading Journal #3** Making Inferences Feb. 6th, 2019

Characters can be loved or hated. They may grow on us as we read, and the decisions that they make teach us something about the character and who they are.

Choose a character from your current novel or from No Time to Say Goodbye. Pick a decision that they have made or are in the process of making. How do you feel about it? Have you ever had to make an important decision in your life? If you were in their shoes, how would you handle this choice? Do you feel this choice may be significant and if so, how? What do you learn about them based on their choice?

Give me the background information so that it makes sense to me, even if it’s from our read aloud novel.

Reading Journal #3

No Time to Say Goodbye – Sylvia Olsen, Rita Morris, Ann Sam

Feb. 04, 2019

As a mother I have a hard time even thinking about the decision that Thomas’ mom Pricilla, had to make in reference to he and his little brother attending a residential school. Although it is early in our novel, I can tell that she is struggling with the fact that two of her boys will be taken from their home to start an unchartered period at a residential school. She gives them rich butter at breakfast that is only used for special occasions, stares out the window mysteriously and doesn’t want to stop waving to them as the leave for their regular school. There is an ominousness that hangs in the air while reading about her mannerisms and her extra hug for each boy on this early morning.

Has she been forced? Is trickery involved? Is she promised excellent treatment, education and the opportunity of a life-time for her precious children? Why doesn’t she fight? I can only assume that she knows the risks and consequences sworn by local police and government if First Nations parents step in to try and keep their children home where they learn, fish, love, and support community members through their vibrant culture. There is no way that I can place myself in her shoes. I have yet to have to make a decision of this magnitude regarding my boys, thank God.

I am taught that she is strong and loving by her decision, even if she had no choice in the matter, she does choose the way she handles it and how she sends her boys off. If Pricilla knew for sure the reality of residential schools, I wonder if things may have been different. She does however have one year old twins at home and two other little boys… could she and her husband afford to be imprisoned? What would happen to the rest of her family? What an awesome and wretched decision.