Future Trojans, over the summer you will read **Parts 1-3 (pages 1-224)** of *I Will Always Write Back* by Caitlin Alifirenka and Martin Ganda with Liz Welch. Complete the Vocabulary portion, answer the Pre-Reading & Parts 1-3 Questions. Your assignment packet will be collected during the first week of school. We have also included a helpful word guide for reference as you read. Additional work will be completed once the school year begins.

We hope you enjoy this wonderful book and look forward to sharing Caitlin & Martin’s story with you all in the fall.

Sincerely,
The Sixth Grade World History Teachers
Word Guide Reference Sheet

Intrigued (3)- to have one's interest, desire, or curiosity
Exotic (3)- introduced from another country
Vibrant (3)- showing great energy and brightness
Rendering (7)- a description or explanation
Wafted (7)- to move lightly through the air
Entailed (8)- had something as a part of result
Vaguely (10)- in a way that is not clearly stated or expressed
Parallels (11)- very similar or at the same time
Giddy (12)- playful or silly
Ululating (14)- to cry loudly
Ferocity (15)- a fierce or violent quality
Polygamy (19)- the practice of being married to more than one person at the same time
Commuting (20)- to travel regularly to and from a place where you live or work
Chaotic (20)- a state of complete confusion or disorder
Husky (22)- sounding somewhat rough
Bellowing (22)- to shout in a deep voice
Porridge (23)- oatmeal
Exasperated (26)- to be very angry or annoyed
Naïve (29)- to lack experience or knowledge
Festive (31)- cheerful and exciting
Correspondence (32)- the letters that people write to each other
Sediment (33)- material like sand or stone that is carried into water by water or wind
Elated (38)- happy and excited
Escalating (49)- becoming worse
Swath (49)- a long, wide piece of land
Reluctantly (50)- to do something without being willing or with doubt
Pristine (54)- in perfect condition, clean or neat
Nuisance (55)- a person or situation that is annoying
Savoring (58)- to enjoy the taste or smell of something
Preoccupied (60)- thinking about something often or too much
Stationery (62)- not changing or moving
Embers (62)- a glowing piece of coal or wood from the fire
Orchestrated (66)- organized or planned
Embassy (66)- a group of people who work to represent their country in a foreign country
Dumbfounded (66)- very shocked or surprised
Nonchalant (70)- relaxed or not worried
Enclosing (72)- to put something around something
Astonishing (74)- causing a feeling of great surprise or wonder
Reciprocate (76)- to do something when something similar has been done to you
Adjacent (76)- sharing a border or wall
Jovial (79)- full of happiness and cheer
Conjugations (79)- a groups of verbs that change
Hindsight (86)- the knowledge or understanding you have about something after it has happened
Disintegrate (87)- to break apart into many small parts
Rancid (87)- to be unpleasant
Irate (88)- very angry
Reeling (88)- to be shocked or upset
Collateral (90)- something that you promise to give someone if you cannot pay them back
Vicariously (97)- experienced by watching or hearing about someone else rather than doing it yourself
Idling (98)- not working or without activity
Jostling (99)- to push against someone in a crowd
Famished (99)- very hungry
Exhilarating (99)- very happy and exciting
Grim (100)- feeling of sadness or worry
Residue (101)- a small amount of something that is left behind
Reimbursed (102)- to be paid back an amount of money
Haggling (102)- to argue with someone about a price
Rampant (102)- spreading very quickly or out of control
Retrenchment (103)- the change the way things are done
Compressed (104)- squeezed or pressed into a smaller space
Luxury (106)- something expensive or not necessary
Queue (112)- a line of people waiting
Sophisticates (112)- people that are knowledgeable about the world, art and culture
Bursar (113)- someone who manages money at a school
Smoldering (117) - burning slowly without flames
Tentative (117) - uncertain or hesitant
Trivial (117) - not important
Timid (118) - showing a lack of confidence or courage
Resilience (124) - ability to become strong or successful after something bad happens
Crucial (124) - extremely important
Pleated (125) - a fold in sloth
Alternated (125) - occurring in a repeated series, back and forth
Colleagues (125) - a fellow worker
Patrons (126) - a person who buys goods or uses the service of a business
Ornate (128) - covered with decorations
Gloomy (129) - feeling of sadness without hope
Siphoned (129) - to take and move something for your own purpose
Prospects (130) - opportunities for something or someone in the future
Lenient (131) - allowing a lot of freedom, not strict
Emboldened (131) - to become more confident
Cutlery (137) - forks, spoons, knives used for eating and serving food
Interjected (142) - interrupted someone else speaking
Adamant (143) - not willing to change opinions
Cynical (145) - believing people are selfish or dishonest
Affixing (146) - attaching to something else
Naysayers (147) - person who says something will not work or opposes something
Quizzically (148) - showing that you don't understand
Leeway (149) - freedom to do something that way you want
Volatile (151) - likely to change in a sudden or extreme way
Reprieve (153) - official order to delay something bad
Crude (153) - simple or basic, not ready to be used
Dicey (156) - a chance that something bad could happen
Barraged (157) - a great amount of something that came quickly and continuously
Petty (157) - not important or serious
Splayed (157) - to move things out and apart from each other
Torrents (157) - a large amount of something that is released suddenly
Coveting (159) - to want something very much
Ruse (162) - a trick or act that fools someone
Paraffin (163) - a soft of waxy substance made from petroleum
Reiterated (164) - repeated something you've said to emphasis it
Dissipated (166) - to spread out or disappear
Remedy (169) - something to cause or fix a problem
Equivalent (169) - equal meaning or value
Lieu (169) - instead of
Ample (170) - enough of what is needed
Efficiently (170) - capable of providing result without wasting time or materials
Tentatively (174) - not done with confidence
Riveted (175) - to have given complete attention
Exquisite (175) - finely done or made
Encircled (181) - to surround
Alumnus (183) - people who attended a specific school
Bewildered (183) - to have been confused very much
Ranted (185) - complained loudly and with anger
Ambassador (188) - the highest-ranking person who represents his or her own government while living in another country
Taupe (189) - a brownish gray color
Fuming (190) - to show anger
 Appropriated (192) - suited for a specific purpose or situation
Deplorable (201) - very bad in a shocking way
Infrequent (201) - not happening often
Flanked (206) - the side of something
Pulsated (207) - filled with activity or feeling
Preemptive (207) - done to stop an unwanted act from happening
Deadpan (209) - showing no feeling or emotion
Bleak (215) - not hopeful or cheerful
Gnarly (218) - very difficult or bad
Empower (222) - to give power or authority to something
Candid (223) - expressing feelings honestly or naturally
Vocabulary

Define the following terms.

1. Suburban-
2. Colonialism-
3. Liberated-
4. Culture-
5. Ancestral-
6. Royal-
7. Inflation-
8. Ration-
9. Sacred-
10. Domestic-
11. Shrine-
12. Sanctions-
13. Communal-
14. Bartering-
15. Regal-
16. Provision-
17. Impoverished-
18. Commission-
19. Mandate-
20. Chartered-
Pre-Reading Questions

Answer the following questions in complete sentences.

What is a memoir?

What do you know about penpals? Have you ever had one? If so, explain. If not, would you think you would like to have one? Why or why not?

What do you know about the word culture? What comes to mind when you hear that word?

Key Components of Contrasting Cultures.

Complete the following chart, filling in what you know and what you want to know about the cultures of Florida on the continent of North America vs that of Zimbabwe in Africa. Throughout the book, our authors show us the stark contrast and we will return to this topic during the school year.

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<tr>
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<th>What do you know?</th>
<th>What do you want to know?</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Florida (North America)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zimbabwe (Africa)</td>
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Part 1

Answer the following questions in complete sentences.

1. Caitlin does a little research about Zimbabwe. What are a few things she learns about that country, its language and its culture?

2. What do Martin’s letters tell you about the way kids in Zimbabwe view American culture, fame and sports?

3. What is Martin’s “only hope” to have a better life and how is he working toward accomplishing goals in this area?

4. What starts happening in Africa that is worrying for Caitlin?

Part 2

Answer the following questions in complete sentences.

1. What was shameful about the way Simba was acting at school? Is this only true in African culture?

2. What do you think would happen if he were an American from an American family acting that way at school? Would parents react the same way?

3. On what item did Martin write his letter to Caitlin? What does this tell you about the state he and his family were in?
Part 3

Answer the following questions in complete sentences.

1. Compare and contrast Martin’s first experience at a restaurant and his description of coffee to life in America.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Similarities</th>
<th>Differences</th>
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2. What are the differences between conversations regarding schooling in the USA vs. schooling in Zimbabwe?

3. What shocking statements does Martin make in his letters about their poverty, hunger and society’s portrayal of his mother?

4. How does Stephie’s culture clash with Caitlin’s? How is this different from the way Caitlin’s culture clashes with Martin’s?

5. How does Caitlin see unfairness in the way people are treated around the world? What message do you believe she is trying to convey and is learning herself?