Narrative Essay
Out of the Dust

Context:
As the culminating assignment for the study of Out of the Dust (OotD), you will write a narrative essay.

Purpose:
The purpose of this narrative essay is to exhibit your ability to write a well-organized, thoughtful, and interesting essay relating to the themes we have discussed with Out of the Dust.

Audience:
The audience for your essay will include your fellow students who will be peer reviewing it, your teacher who will be grading it, and any others with whom you desire to share it.

Directions

STEP 1
Respond to one of the following prompts:
• Was there a time in your life when you thought that all you had to do to make things better was to get away from where you were? Did you go to the other side to see if the grass was greener? Was it?
• Have you experienced a significant loss in your life? What did you do to get through it? Did it require forgiveness to be able to move on?
• Have you ever wanted to give up on something that you really loved because it became difficult? Did you persevere or give up? Looking back now would you do anything differently?
These are just ideas to get the juices flowing. If you have a different story you would like to tell that doesn’t fit one of these prompts, but still relates to one of the themes we have discussed, please come to me to get it approved.

STEP 2
Outline the basic storyline of your narration
STEP 3
Write the rough draft, beginning with an interesting and relevant introduction and ending with an equally interesting and relevant conclusion. Your essay must be at least two pages in length.
You will be graded on the following criteria:
- **Voice**—sounds genuine, like you wrote it
- **Ideas and Content**—an original story that ties in with a theme from *Out of the Dust*
- **Organization**—flows logically, makes sense
- **Sentence Fluency**—sentence flow, variation in sentence structure and length.
- **Word Choice**—active, not passive; lively, interesting descriptions; fresh and dynamic words
- **Conventions**—capitalization, spelling, punctuation, grammar, etc.
See the grading rubric for specifics on these criteria. You will have ten days to complete your rough draft.

STEP 4
Share your essay with a peer and listen to his/her suggestions

STEP 5
Revise your essay, taking into account suggestions made by your peers, but deciding for yourself whether or not to use them. Review your essay for all of the above grading criteria, asking me for clarification and help if you get stuck or confused. (Please note, I may offer suggestions, but I will not write your essay for you.) You will have one week for this step before you narrations must be turned in to me for grading.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pts. Poss.</th>
<th>Voice</th>
<th>Ideas and Content</th>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Sentence Fluency</th>
<th>Word Choice</th>
<th>Conventions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Individual, honest, sincere. Writer cares about topic and takes risks</td>
<td>Clear, focused, deals with theme from OotD, creative, relevant</td>
<td>Strong intro and conclusion. Ideas are linked. Smooth flow and transitions.</td>
<td>Easy flow. Variation in sentence length and structure. Sounds natural.</td>
<td>Fresh, appealing, lively, rich, active, dynamic</td>
<td>Free from all mechanical errors</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Pleasant. Writer seems sincere, but not fully involved</td>
<td>Creative effort but flat in places. Relates mostly to theme from OotD.</td>
<td>Story line can be followed. Slightly confusing in some places.</td>
<td>Slightly choppy and mechanical. Little variety in sentences.</td>
<td>Writer attempts energetic words, but not always successful.</td>
<td>A few mechanical errors.</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Flat, lifeless, sounds like it was written by a machine.</td>
<td>No central idea or purpose. Does not relate at all to theme from OotD.</td>
<td>No ending or conclusion. No direction. Does not make sense.</td>
<td>Incomplete. Difficult to understand.</td>
<td>Monotonous, dull, colorless words. Inappropriate word choices.</td>
<td>So many errors, they make the story difficult to read.</td>
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Score__________  60 Points Possible