**Whirligig Introductory Assignment**

For the introductory discussion about the novel, you will write a blog entry that relates to either of the first two themes: self-esteem and identity or Restorative Justice.

Your options for the first theme are as follows:

1. For those creative writers out there - pretend you are an alien visiting Earth, at Riverside, to observe teenagers. Your job is to figure out how they interact with each other, what stressors do they have in their lives? How do they deal with them? How do they have fun? Do you, as an alien observer, have any concerns about their behaviours and actions? What seems to be their number one concern? How do they interact with one another? Do not treat each question individually; instead, consider all the prompts together and answer holistically. Remember to stay in the voice of an alien reporter from the *Tatooie Times* – write in a journalistic style: give your ‘article’ a heading, a byline, a [photo](https://www.google.ca/search?q=teens+partying&source=lnms&tbm=isch&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwjT0ceAxenLAhVO3WMKHTLXDbwQ_AUIBygB&biw=896&bih=412#tbm=isch&q=adolescents+at+parties) and at least one direct quote from an interview you had in disguise with a teen earthling. **TAG: alienassignmentC2018**
2. If you want to write about self-esteem and identity and the pressures and issues that affect young people that might result in alcohol or drug abuse, but not in the style above, write about the topic in a more serious, personal voice. Go to this [link](https://www.google.ca/search?q=self-esteem+in+teens&source=lnms&tbm=isch&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwiJp__Mw-nLAhUO2WMKHeTVBOIQ_AUIBygB&biw=896&bih=412), and chose a visual that matches your thoughts and post it above your paragraph. Think about our class discussion and write about your thoughts and feelings regarding the issue. **TAG: identityC2018**

If you want to write about the second theme, here is your option:

1. Go to this [link](https://www.google.ca/search?q=quotes+on+forgiveness+and+moving+on&rlz=1T4ADRA_enCA441CA442&tbm=isch&tbo=u&source=univ&sa=X&ei=Bu4uVeXWF4ubyAT55YGICg&ved=0CDAQsAQ&biw=1280&bih=621#imgrc=_) and spend some time looking at the various quotes (they do express different thoughts on forgiveness), choose one that mirrors your thoughts on forgiveness and your thoughts on the video “Walking After Midnight.” Is forgiveness or letting go necessary for happiness and peace? Do you practice forgiveness in your own life? Why is it hard to forgive? Or to be the first to admit you did something that hurt or wronged another person? What are the benefits of Restorative Justice? Consider these prompts holistically. Post the picture of the quote that you choose with your entry to your blog – TAG: **forgivenessC2018**

Summative Assessment Criteria: (10 marks)

* Followed instructions: TAG; length – 300 words or so; posting right in the blog
* Writing – fluid, insightful, thought-provoking, original, picking a ‘voice/style’ and sticking to it – the reader is fully engaged
* Mechanics – minimal errors in sentence structure that do not interrupt the reader