**Significant Spot**

All of us have a place(s) that is important to us, makes us feel safe, allows us to hide from the world, is filled with memories, or just makes us happy.

Examples:

*The pine tree I would run away to when my mom made me mad*

*The 7-11 where countless Slurpees, Lemonheads, and comic books were consumed*

*Bob Dohmeyer’s backyard pool, where we jumped off the roof when his parents weren’t home*

1. From memory, draw a detailed map of the neighborhood where you grew up (if more than one, the map can be a synthesis of places). Make sure to include all of the places that make your neighborhood unique. Draw the hidden nooks, crannies, and out of the way places. Don’t leave anything out! Label your map with a pen, describing each important location with a few sentences off to the side. Write these descriptions as if they were intended for a complete stranger who wanted to explore your neighborhood.

OR

1. Make a list of 10-15 places where interesting things have happened or are important to you. List each one below and write a brief reason why it is significant to you.
2. Now, for three of the important location on your map, write three memories of things that happened to you in those places.

A.

B.

C.

Choose the one spot you would like to write more about: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Fill in the information on the chart below:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Details, memories, dialogue | Why is this spot important in my memory? |
|  |  |

Draw a picture of the spot. What memories pop into your mind as you draw? Add them to the chart above.

|  |
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|  |

Read chapter 5 of *The Last Lecture* by Randy Pausch as one example of a significant place. Read Harlem chapter from *Bad Boy* as an example.

**Write a descriptive memoir about your spot. Remember to add pieces of dialogue, details, and IMAGERY (sensory words) that will help us visualize not only what this spot looks like but why this place is important to you.**

Significant Spot memoir checklist:

\_\_\_\_\_\_ Provides imagery (Sensory details) \_\_\_\_\_ Includes personification or onomatopoeia

\_\_\_\_\_\_ Clearly shows why this is an important spot (highlight the example)

\_\_\_\_\_\_ Is free of grammar and spelling errors