ALL Names: Catie Cronk and Devon Dwigans Period: 4

1. Look over the following poems:
    a. “The Situation is Intolerable”
    b. “Freedom Ride”
    c. “Claudette Colvin Goes to Work”
    d. “In the Lobby of the Warner Theatre, Washington DC”
2. **Discuss** (IN DEPTH) each poem with your group. **Annotate**, ask questions, look things up, etc. Then, write a THESIS and HOOK for each poem—as if you were writing an explication.

    a. “The Situation is Intolerable”

Thesis: In Rita Dove’s poem, “The Situation is Intolerable,” she uses sky diction and sibilence to juxtapose the peace and freedom represented in the stars with the negative, stark tone of war.

Hook: Picture the sky: stars shimmering plesantly under the blue blanket of night. Meanwhile, fiery battles and vast human suffering of the Civil War rages beneath.

    b. “Freedom Ride”

Thesis: In Rita Dove’s Poem, “Freedom Ride,” Dove uses fire imagery and personification to create an intense tone that emphasizes the power and impact of the civil rights movement, and the leaders within it who took part in freedom rides.

Hook: Can you imagine if everytime you got on a bus, you were risking your life?

    c. “Rosa (1999)”

Thesis: In Rita Doves poem Rosa (1999) she uses practical diction and imagery to paint the picture of Rosa Park’s refusal to give up her seat with a dry, unemotional tone.

Hook: Imagine the simple act of taking a seat becoming a nationwide statement that led to protests and debates, while that is true for one women: Rosa Parks.

d. “In the Lobby of the Warner Theatre, Washington DC”

Thesis: In Rita Dove's poem In the Lobby of the Warner Theatre, Washington DC, Dove uses strong visual imagery and enjambment to cultivate a detail oriented and fast pace tone that keeps the reader engaged.

Hook: Who would ever think of Steven Speilberg and Rosa Parks being in the same sentence let alone the same room?

When you get finished, discuss:

- How does the form of each poem have an effect on the meaning of the poem?
- Why the variety of perspectives in these poems?
- How does this variety affect the way the reader sees this time in history?
- What new insights do these poems give the reader?
- Using the poems as the source of your answer, how does Dove feel about the topic of Civil Rights, Rosa Parks and being Black in America in 1999 (when these poems were written)?
- How can you compare these poems to the poems in the Slavery section? To Historical Figures?