Opening Activity:

Mentor Sentences. Review the sentences below and look at the use of semi-colons. Complete the chart below…

1. With educated people, I suppose, punctuation is a matter of rule**;** with me it is a matter of feeling. But I must say I have a great respect for the **semi-colon;** it's a useful little chap. (Abraham Lincoln)
2. The air was full of the scent of growing things**;** strange, shy creatures came and went about him as he walked**;** down in the woods a nightingale had begun to sing**;** and there was something grandly majestic in the huge bulk of the castle as it towered against the sky. But Baxter had temporarily lost his sense of smell**;** he feared and disliked the strange, shy creatures**;** the nightingale left him cold**;** and the only thought the towering castle inspired in him was that it looked as if a fellow would need half a ton of dynamite to get into it. (P.G. Wodehouse, *Leave It to Psmith*, 1923)
3. A banana tree isn't a tree at all**;** it's the world's largest herb.  
   (Dan Koeppel, *Banana: The Fate of the Fruit That Changed the World*. Hudson Street Press, 2008)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| What I notice (grammatically) is...(3 things at least...) |  |
| Imitate (create one sentence using the grammar technique from above). |  |
| Questions I have... |  |

Mentor Text: *Excerpt taken from Little Bee by Chris Cleave (page 75-76)*

If I was telling this story to the girls back home, then one of the new words I would have to explain to them is *efficiency.* We refugees are very efficient. We do not have the things we need—our children, for example—and so we are clever at making things stretch a little further. Just see what that girl with no name could make out of one little patch of sunlight. Or look how the sari girl could fit the entire color yellow into one empty see-through plastic bag.

I lay back on the bed and looked up at the chains. I was thinking, *That sunshine, that color yellow, maybe I will not see very much of these now.* Maybe the new color of my life was gray. Two years in the gray detention center, and now I was an illegal immigrant. That means, you are free until they catch you. That means, you live in a gray area. I thought about how I was going to live. I thought about the years, living as quiet as could be. Hiding my colors and living in the twilight and shadows. I sighed, and I tried to breathe deeply. I wanted to cry when I looked up at those chains and thought about the color gray.

Mentor Text: *Excerpt taken from The Book Thief by Markus Zusak (pages 3-4 )*

**Death and Chocolate**

First the colors.

Then the humans.

That’s usually how I see things.

Or at, how I try…

**\*\*\*HERE IS A SMALL FACT\*\*\***

**You are going to die.**

I am in all truthfulness attempting to be cheerful about this whole topic, though most people find themselves hindered in believing me, no matter my protestations. Please, trust me. I most definitely can be cheerful. I can be amiable. Agreeable. Affable. And that’s only the A’s. Just don’t ask me to be nice. Nice has nothing to do with me…

**\*\*\*REACTION TO THE\*\*\***

**AFOREMENTIONED FACT**

**Does this worry you?**

**I urge you don’t be afraid.**

**I’m nothing if not fair.**

—Of course, an introduction.

A beginning.

Where are my manners?

I could introduce myself properly, but it’s not really necessary. You will know me well enough and soon enough, depending on a diverse range of variables. It suffices to say that at some point in time, I will be standing over you, as genially as possible. Your soul will be in my arms. A color will be perched on my shoulder. I will carry you gently away.

At that moment, you will be lying there (I rarely find people standing up). You will be caked in your own body. There might be a discovery; a scream will dribble down the air. The only sound I’ll hear after that will be my own breathing, and the sound of the smell, or my footsteps.

The question is, what color will everything be at that moment when I come for you? What will the sky be saying?

Personally, I like a chocolate-colored sky. Dark, dark chocolate. People says it suits me. I do, however, try to enjoy every color I see—the whole spectrum. A billion or so flavors, none of them quite the same, and a sky to slowly suck on. It takes the edge off the stress. It helps me relax.

**\*\*\*A SMALL THEORY\*\*\***

**People observe the colors of the day only at its beginnings and**

**ends, but to me, it’s quite clear that a day merges through a**

**multitude of shades and intonations, with each passing**

**moment. A single hour can consist of thousands of different**

**colors. Waxy yellows, cloud-spat blues. Murky darkness.**

**In my line of work, I make it a point to notice them.**

As I have been alluding to, my one saving grace is distraction. It keeps me sane. It helps me cope, considering the length of time I’ve been performing this job. The trouble is, who could ever replace me? Who could step in while I take a break in your stock-standard resort-style vacation destination, whether it be tropical or of the ski trip variety? The answer, of course, is nobody, which as prompted me to make a conscious, deliberate decision—to make distraction my vacation. Needless to say, I vacation in increments. In colors.

***Semi-Colon Rules and Guided Notes***

*What is wrong with this sentence?*

***Creative writing takes great grammar skills, you want to show good syntax!***

*It is a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_!*

***A \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is when you smash two \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ clauses together. No-No!***

Semi-Colon Equation:

***Semi-Colons RULE #1:***

1. ***Can be used to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ comma splices.***
2. ***Combine two \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ sentences together to create \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and length.***
3. ***Both sentences have to be complete! Could use in place of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, which is a FANBOYS.***

***Semi-Colons RULE #2:  
1. Semi-colons can \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ be used with an AAAWWWUBBIS phrase or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_clause or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ sentence***

***Example: Which is incorrect? Label the correct vs. incorrect sentences and tell me why.***

1. ***Until I have my grammar skills down; I won’t be a great writer.***
2. ***This book, Little Bee, was one of my favorite; I could not put it down.***
3. ***Death is an interesting character; in Zusak’s novel.***
4. ***Although I love using AWUBS sentences, semi-colons sentences are even better; they look more sophisticated.***

Create two of your own sentences that use a semi-colon below. You can use our class, the mentor text, or something random for inspiration.

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. (partner share)

Writing: Write a response that uses or discusses color somehow, or someway. Some prompts to help you are:

* **What color would best represent you?**
* **What colors best represent humanity?**
* **Where have you seen some colors that have been amazing and memorable?**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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| 4= Awesome! | 3=Got It! | 2=Almost | 1=Not Quite |
| I artfully revise my grammar and experiment with the grammar technique, or use other grammar techniques with it (10pts).  My response is thoughtful, thorough, and complete (10pts)  I highlight my grammar (5pts).  Closing Question: | I successfully revise my grammar technique, and complete all of the appropriate revisions (8pts)  My response is clear, appropriate and complete (8pts).  \*\*\* | I may have revised my grammar but it is incomplete or I am missing a revision (6-7pts).  My response is minimal, and needs to be pushed more, but it is somewhat complete (6-7pts).  I may highlight my grammar, but its unclear(3pts). | I fail to revise my grammar and/or there are errors (0-5pts).  My response is basic, weak, incomplete and/or incorrect (0-5pts).  I fail to highlight my grammar (0pts). |