What an exciting unit! During this unit, we wrote true and exciting stories from our lives. As writers we learned to craft our pieces. We did this by reading and closely studying Googles by Donald Crews. Donald taught us to stretch out an exciting moment by including dialogue, internal thinking, and lots of action. He also taught us to use vivid language and strings of sentences to bring our emotions and feelings to life. We continued to use his story as a mentor text when we revised. We tried to develop our character (ourselves) in the many ways that authors do (through narration, dialogue, etc.). We also revised by studying Kate DiCamillo’s drafts of Because of Winn-Dixie. Authors put in a lot of time and try multiple strategies to get their pieces right!

Kate’s hard work inspired us to practice great beginnings and endings. We wanted to really hook our readers like she and Donald did! Last, but not least, we worked extra carefully to edit. We know it is important for readers to read with intention. We showed them how to read our stories by thinking carefully about our indents, spacing, punctuation, and spelling. This unit wasn’t easy! However, our books are AMAZING! Please enjoy a peek into our process by looking at one writer (Eric’s) work in progress. Then, enjoy all our marvelous writing. We have a lot to celebrate!