FRIDAY, JANUARY 12: ENGLISH 12

Happy Friday. See you Tuesday.

If you were out earlier this week, please see the personal essay assignment from Monday (I posted it to my website yesterday, at the end of yesterday’s assignment), and complete it in class today.

Remember to bring your *Macbeth* book Tuesday, and to be ready for a vocab quiz on unit 7 Thursday.

Enjoy the long weekend. Happy MLK Day.

MLK Day is an invitation to remember and reflect on not only the country’s most famous civil rights icon and the causes he stood for, but also the countless ordinary women and men who contributed, often without recognition, to the civil rights cause. This history is still recent in Birmingham. Ask your family if your family has any stories from the movement. Do you know anyone who participated in any aspect of Birmingham’s movement? **If so, I would like to ask you to tell us something about that in class on Tuesday.** If we dig just a little, we will find that all of us are only a step or two removed from this crucial moment in world history. Please take time to know your history, and to feel how close it is.

Here are a few well-known MLK quotes to think about:

*He who passively accepts evil is as much involved in it as he who helps to perpetrate it. He who accepts evil without protesting against it is really cooperating with it.*

*In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends.*

*Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.*

And:

*I have decided to stick with love. Hate is too great a burden to bear.*

And here are just a handful of names from Birmingham’s movement that you may *not* know. In class today, please spend 15 minutes (or more, if you like) reading online about any of the names on this list. Then use the rest of the period as a study hall, working silently and independently.

Carlton Reese

Shelley “The Playboy” Stewart and

“Tall Paul” White

Virgil Ware

Ralph Abernathy

James Bevel

A.D. King

Virginia Durr

A.G. Gaston