

## Figure 4.5: How Stories Reveal Truth

**Directions:** Copy a quote from your book you feel reveals a universal truth. We will then randomly distribute these papers, and another student will attempt to uncover a truth your quote conveys.

**Direct quotation from the text:**

**Truth:**

### Fiction examples

**Quote:** “Like she was trying to be pretty and popular. It was the trying part that was so disgusting.”  
—*Eleanor & Park* (Rowell, 2013, p. 215)

**Truth:** It’s sad how we try so hard just to be accepted.

**Quote:** “No one in the world ever gets what they want, and that is beautiful.” —*Ready Player One* (Cline, 2011, p. 199)

**Truth:** If we got everything we wanted, we would have nothing to work for.

**Quote:** “You start believing you’re poor because you’re stupid and ugly. And then you start believing that you’re stupid and ugly because you’re Indian. . . . It’s an ugly circle and there’s nothing you can do about it.”  
—*The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* (Alexie, 2007, p. 13)

**Truth:** We can be so mean to ourselves; we blame ourselves for things that are not our fault.

### Nonfiction examples

**Quote:** “There is nothing uniquely evil in these destroyers or even in this moment. The destroyers are merely men enforcing the whims of our country, correctly interpreting its heritage and legacy.” —*Between the World and Me* (Coates, 2015, p. 10)

**Truth:** People in power who commit unfair actions are not evil. They are following society’s beliefs.

**Quote:** “But, on the whole, tho’ I never arrived at the perfection I had been so ambitious of obtaining, but fell far short of it, yet I was, by the endeavour, a better and happier man than I otherwise should have been if I had not attempted it.” —*The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin* (Franklin, 1793/1922, p. 41)

**Truth:** Self-improvement is always worth attempting, even if you don’t exactly reach your goal.

*Source: Alexie, S. (2007). The absolutely true diary of a part-time Indian. New York: Little, Brown.*

*Cline, E. (2011). Ready player one. New York: Broadway.*

*Coates, T-N. (2015). Between the world and me. New York: Spiegel & Grau.*

*Franklin, B. (n.d.). Project for moral perfection. What So Proudly We Hail. Accessed at <https://whatsoproudlywehail.org/curriculum/the-meaning-of-america/project-for-moral-perfection> on September 25, 2019. (Original work published 1791)*

*Rowell, R. (2013). Eleanor & Park. New York: St. Martin’s Griffin.*

## REPRODUCIBLE

**Assessment:** I will grade your paper on the following for a total of 30 points.

<b>Total score</b>	<u>30</u>
Format and content	<u>20</u>
Interesting, insightful response to the prompt using specific examples from discussions or the text	<u>10</u>
At least two well-chosen quotations from the novel seamlessly integrated into the reflection to make a direct, meaningful connection	<u>4</u>
Creative, interesting title	<u>1</u>
Clear topic sentence and closing sentences	<u>3</u>
Properly formatted heading, font, and type size	<u>1</u>
Two or three pages	<u>1</u>
Writing style	<u>10</u>
Clarity, precision	<u>4</u>
Organization, progression of ideas	<u>2</u>
Style, descriptiveness, word choice	<u>2</u>
Knowledge of language and conventions	<u>2</u>