Here is what my Journal #3 response looked like:

**1/21/14**

**Response #2**

I’m impressed with King’s clear, concise, blunt language. It’s intelligent but not at all pretentious or formal. He uses juxtaposition to create unique settings and also to add humor. Terrific misuse of punctuation when he has a purpose. A couple of nicely placed fragments. Otherwise, his punctuation and sentence usage is confidant, unaffected. The writing reads well for teenagers and adults. Not condescending. It feels like I’m sitting in the room with him and we’re having a fun conversation. I’m amazed at how quickly and efficiently he creates setting with concrete details, names, and individual characters. Love the juxtaposition of the mundane or understatement with the gross or profane. Concrete language to establish setting, individual names—Eula-Beulah. Love the continued repetition of “Pow!” to describe early babysitter and then again and again when he has another success or epiphany concerning his writing. Great humor device that also underscores his ideas about how one becomes a writer.

While enjoying his story of becoming a writer from his earliest consciousness, he dropped in lots of great advice to other would-be writers. Here are some of the pointers his personal story emphasized: pay attention to details, cultivate a sense of possibility, not everything has to be about death (or other teen angst themes); to create character, use short physical descriptions—combined with what others say about them is a terrific combo (29-30). Read and pay attention and then copy (steal like an artist) and imitate—use those strategies to get your mind flowing. Ideas will come.

Loved his description of his mom licking green stamps and his brother’s printing drum in basement to create a story and also the story of a coworker telling King about cleaning the mill and seeing “rats as big as dogs,” which gave him the idea for the first story he sold called “Graveyard Shift.” IT PAYS TO PAY ATTENTION.

**Writing Ideas – Gather Place**

King from *On Writing*:

“There are no lines—only snapshots, most out of focus” (18)

p. 19: “he was a crewcut daddy.”

“yarked” for barfed. Great word.

P. 29: “I was in the second grade and stone in love with the pretty teenage girl who lived next door.”