**Ms. McLeod**

**ELA 20**

**Response Journal**

**Starting Out- Beginning and Becoming**

Life is a journey that starts at birth. As we travel the road of life, we make many discoveries that change the way we see ourselves, others, and the communities around us. The first stage, childhood, is a time of wonder, discovery, and experimentation. It can also be a time of absolute opposites: innocence and experience; laughter and tears; security and uncertainty. Childhood is a time of critical transformation and change, a time crucial for providing the foundation for life-long learning and good health. The early years are times of growth and development (social, emotional, physical, cognitive, cultural, linguistic and spiritual). These early years of life are vital for building children’s identity and sense of self. This building of identity and sense of self contributes to a person’s individual and collective well-being in later years. Lessons learned in childhood are foundational influencing the person for years to come.

Re-read the passage silently. After reading the passage, write a response to it in your journals. You may use any line, phrase or idea from the passage to begin your response. For example:

* Laughter can be sure to change into tears quickly in a child’s world. But in most cases the tears dry up fast enough when some attention is paid to their “hurts” I saw…
* I remember one discovery I made in Grade One that sure changed the way I saw the world. I was…
* There is a reference to health in the passage. I wonder if that is physical health or something more. Maybe health has multiple meanings here…
* I think it is a critical time in life because…