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SCHOOL BUSES: A ROLLING LOUVRE

Buses provide transportation for thousands of school students every day. At some point in the past, someone made the decision that school buses should be orangish-yellow with black text to provide information to onlookers about the school name and bus number. Red lights flash to send out communications to drivers about when to stop for loading passengers. School buses have had this coloration for decades.

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It's time to make an alteration to this design. School buses should no longer make appearances as rolling orangey-yellow tubes of pumpkin toothpaste. They should undergo a transformation and become exhibitions of the artwork of the students who ride them.

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Imagine our streets and roads showcasing young people's unique expressions rather than the uniform relics of years past. School buses would not only be more attractive, they'd attract more attention. This would make them safer than the current unvarying color scheme. Neons and vibrant hues would bring school buses alive like hot air inflating a balloon. They'd be such a sight that no

driver would be able to ignore them.

In addition to being safer, school buses painted by the students who ride them would provide some motivation for students to go to school. Helping design and paint the school bus would make them feel like they have some say in how they get to and from school. According to researcher and writer David Park, giving people choices is one way to motivate them.¹ By making their school bus distinct, students would feel not only school pride, but also personal pride in their contribution to mobile art.

Some may argue that turning a school bus's exterior over to students will result in a sloppy appearance. This could be avoided by having a requirement that students submit a paint plan to the school's administrator of transportation. The administrator could approve or disapprove any submitted plans before students are allowed to lift a spray can or paintbrush. This obstacle is easily overcome with such a simple permission process.

School buses could be more attractive and safer. They could provide some motivation for

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students to have regular attendance at school. Buses could be the new canvas for budding da Vincis

and Michelangelos. These are great reasons to replace our outdated, orangish-yellow school buses

with new, vibrant displays of student talent.

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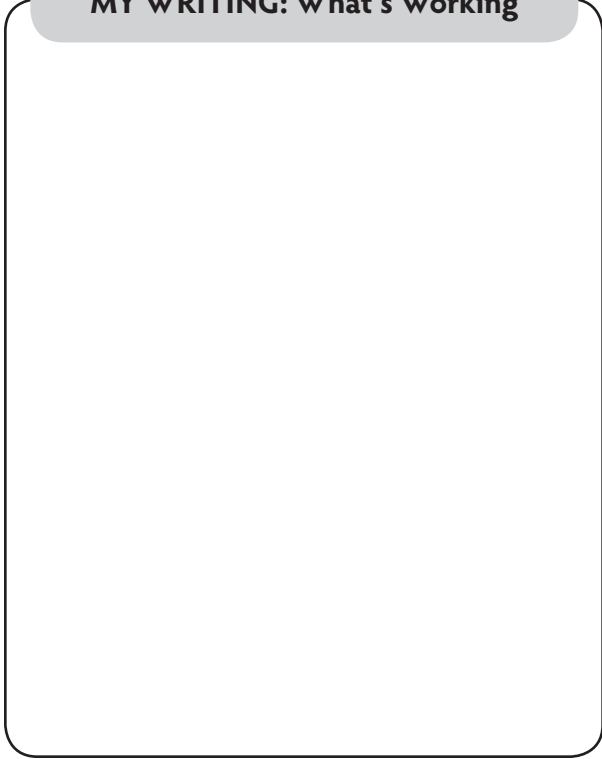
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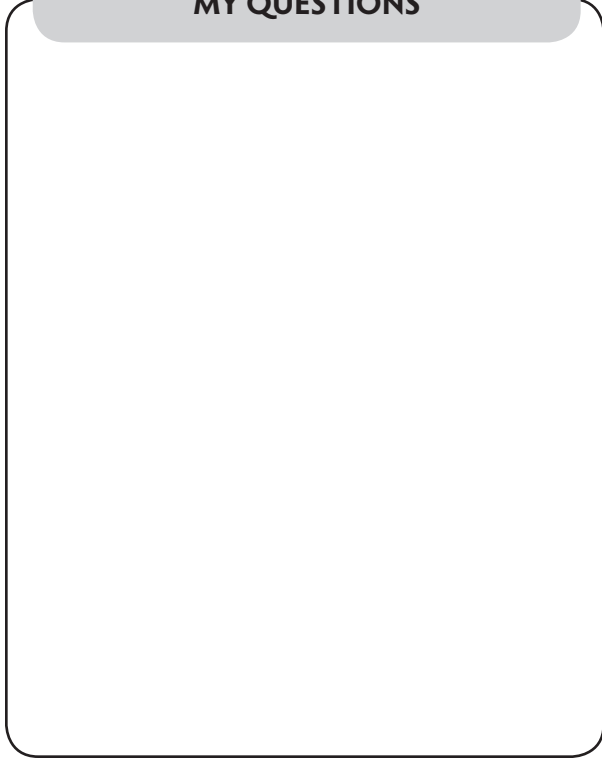
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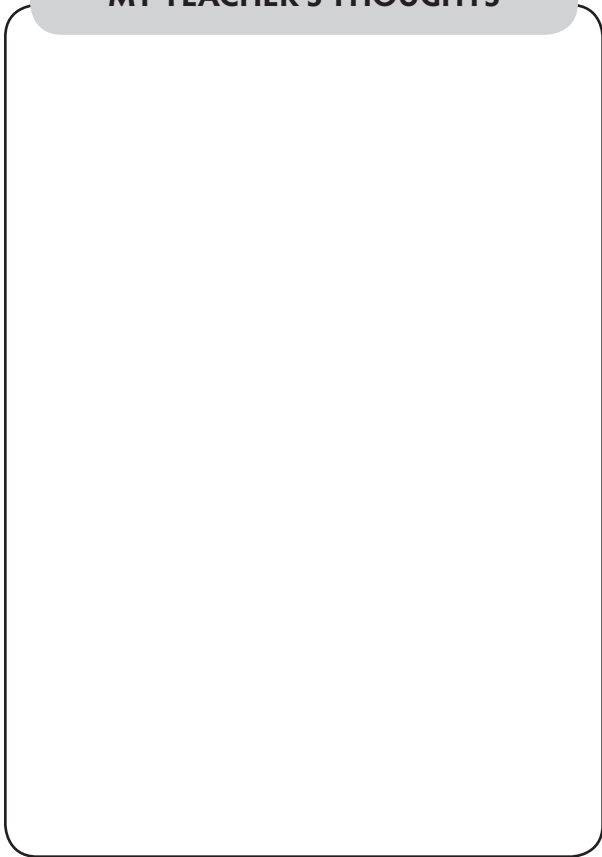


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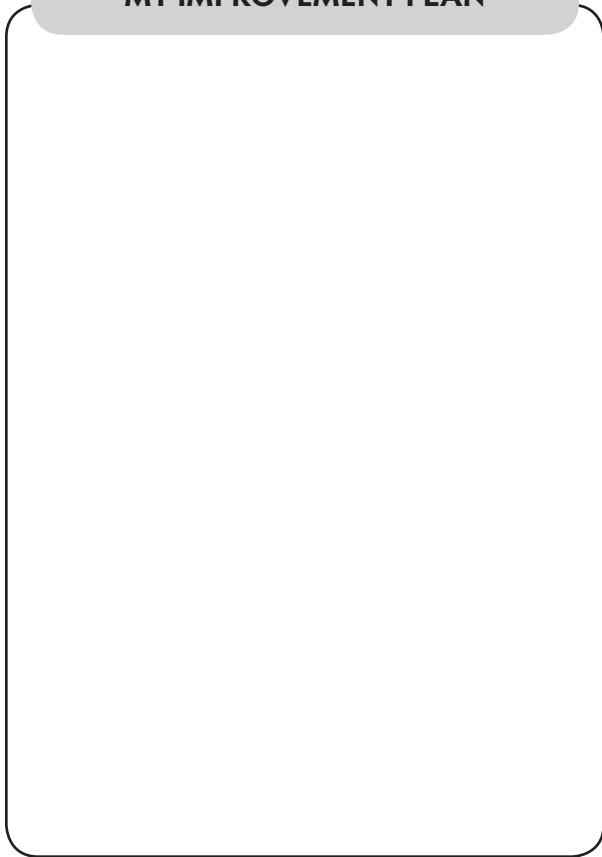
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