Literacy Spotlights

Spotlight Topic	Talking to Students About What They're Reading
Background Information	Sometimes it's hard to get teens to talk...at least anything beyond one word answers like "good" and "fine." One great topic of conversation is whatever book/text your student's reading. You don't need to have read the book in order to have a conversation about it--in fact, you will find that a conversation that starts about a book usually ends up as a discussion of bigger ideas.
Standard	**Standard 13:** Read independently and comprehend a variety of texts for the purposes of reading for enjoyment, acquiring new learning, and building stamina; reflect and respond to increasingly complex text over time.
Activity	Try using some of these questions to get the conversation started. ❖ Did you enjoy the book? What did you like about it? If you didn't enjoy it, what do you think would have made it better? ❖ What was your favorite part? ❖ Was there anything that was confusing? ❖ How do you feel about the characters? Who do you like? Not like? Do any of the characters remind you of yourself or someone you know? ❖ Did any of the characters change over the course of the story? How? Do you think that change is important? ❖ If the book were turned into a movie, who do you think should play each character? ❖ What lessons do you think the author wants readers to learn from the story? ❖ Did the book make you think about or help you understand something about life that you hadn't thought about before?