Model (Chapter 3)
Prompt/Question: How does a night spent on the beach solidify the friendship between Gene and Finny?

Restate (Reword): During their night on the beach, Finny solidifies his friendship with Gene…

Answer (the question): …when he admits aloud that Gene is his best friend.

Cite (evidence): At the end of Chapter 3, after a day of fun on the beach, Finny says, “…you can’t come to the shore with just anybody and you can’t come by yourself, and at this teenage period in life the proper person is your best pal…which is what you are.” Gene then notes Finny’s courage: “Exposing a sincere emotion nakedly like that at Devon School was the next thing to suicide.”

Explain (Elaborate/Reasoning): Teenage boys are not traditionally open with their emotions, and those who are may be victimized by their classmates. Their friendships tend to show in teasing, roughhousing, and competition, which there is plenty of in this novel, but Finny’s simple admission is both brave and profound. He is not only going against an accepted standard of teenage male behavior, but he is opening himself up to Gene, a narrator whose suspicious and competitive nature will not allow him to respond in kind. At this point, the reader realizes Gene has misinterpreted Finny’s nature, seeming to believe that his openness and charm are mere deceptions. In truth, Finny considers Gene his best friend and has no ill will toward him.

Restate Answer/Conclude Explanation: While Gene is unable to return Finny’s openness and courage, it is clear after the scene on the beach that Finny’s friendship is genuine.

Your Turn (Chapters 4 & 5)
Using the RACE strategy, write a constructed response to two (2) of these questions:

- Why does Finny tell Gene not to attend the meeting and instead stay in to study?
- Gene’s secret is that he wants to be valedictorian. Why does he withhold this secret from Finny?
- Why does Gene dress in Finny’s clothes?
- Why can’t Finny remember what caused him to fall from the tree?
- Why does Finny react as he does when Gene admits to causing Finny’s fall?

#1
R(estate): _________________________________________________________________
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A(nswer): _______________________________________________________________
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C(ite): ___________________________________________________________________
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Explain: ________________________________________________________________

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Restate Answer/Conclude Explanation: ________________________________________

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#2
R(estate): ________________________________________________________________

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A(nswer): ________________________________________________________________

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C(ite): _________________________________________________________________

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Explain: ________________________________________________________________

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Restate Answer/Conclude Explanation: ________________________________________

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