*I Am the Messenger*: Writing Prompts

How do you find your purpose and meaning?

 Part 1

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| **Creative Prompts** | **CEIEI Prompts** |
| p. 48 “It kind of depressed me to think a human could be so lonely that she would comfort herself with the company of appliances that whistle, and sit alone to eat.”  Write about your loneliest time. Be descriptive. What would it look like from the outside? Use two similes or metaphors in your writing to help paint the picture. | After the first two stops (Edgar Street and Milla), Ed is moved by the people he observes. What does this show about his character? Use textual evidence to support your answer. |
| p. 66 “It’s funny how when you watch people from a long distance, it all seems voiceless.”  Go observe someone you don’t know from a distance for at least 10 minutes. Write about their life Who are they? What are their struggles? Their joys? | p. 74 “Are you some kind of saint or something?”  How would you describe Ed? Use evidence from the text to prove your claim.  OR  Mother Theresa was considered a saint. Consider a person you feel is worthy of this recognition. Use evidence from outside sources to support your rationale. |

 Part 2

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| **Creative Prompts** | **CEIEI Prompts** |
| Ed is in a unique position by receiving the cards. Why do you suppose he takes the messages so seriously? How would you react had you been the one to receive the cards? | p. 124 “How many people get this chance? And of those few, how many actually take it?”  What do you think has urged Ed to continue with the messages? Support your answer with textual evidence. |
| p. 140 “Who knows you real well Ed? That’s just it. No one.”  Who knows your well? Why do you feel so comfortable with that person? Or, if no one really knows you, why not? What should they know about you? | p. 96 “The sun’s well up and people are going to work. I sit at the kitchen table and feel quite sure that no one on my anonymous, dew covered street has had a night like mine. I picture them all getting up in the night to have a leak…” (p. 96)  Think about a time you worked thought the night on something meaningful, and on the next morning, you find the world to look different knowing that everyone else was sleeping while you were working. How might this feeling compare to Ed’s character development? |

 Part 3

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| **Creative Prompts** | **CEIEI Prompts** |
| p. 208 After Ed kisses Audrey, he says,“I still feel stupid.”  Describe a moment you’ve felt stupid. How do you move on from that moment? Did it change future behavior? Why or why not? | p. 231 “I feel like you’re slipping away somehow. You’ve become different since all this started.”  Consider Audrey’s statement about Ed. How has Ed changed since the robbery? Use evidence from the text to support your answer. |
| p. 221 “It’s about glowing lights and small things that are big.”  Describe a time you have given or received a small gesture that had great meaning. Or, what small thing could you do to make a big/meaningful change for someone? | At times, Ed employs questionable means to deliver his messages, using violence and dishonesty to get the point across. Using the novel as a source, answer the following question: Is violence ever necessary in order to achieve a greater good? |
| Does the language we use reflect our character, place in life, view on life, perception?? | Ed has encountered numerous people with various levels of problems. Who do you believe Ed has helped the most? Provide textual evidence to support your opinion. |
| p. 232 “She wants us to stay okay. Like before.”  Can relationships stay the same or must they change? Explain. | **Flat characters** are two-dimensional in that they are relatively uncomplicated and do not change throughout the course of a work. By contrast, **round characters** are complex and undergo development, sometimes sufficiently to surprise the reader. How has had Ed come to surprise the reader at this point in the novel? |
| p. 244 “It smells like my childhood, this house.”  Our sense of smell is attached to memories. What smells are attached to your childhood? Tell the story of one of those memories/smells. |  |
| p. 244 “All I do is sink to my knees, felled by the words that could deliver such a knockout blow.”  What words have been said to you that “bring your to your knees?” Tell the story of that moment. How did you recover? Or have you? |  |

 Part 4

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| **Creative Prompts** | **CEIEI Prompts** |
| p. 305 Ed asks himself, “But is this what you want?”  What do you want? Out of life? Yourself? Others? | How do Ed’s Messages alter his friendhip / relationships with Marv, Ritchie, and Audrey? Choose 2 of the 3 characters and write a CEIEI paragraph per character. You must address the complete change and be sure to include evidence from the resolution of the novel. |