

REFLECTIVE WRITING-

We are concluding our unit on genocide. Please reflect on what you've learned and answer the following questions on separate sheets of paper:

- 1) How do people make distinctions between “us” and “them”? Why do they make these distinctions? What evidence have you seen people doing so at school? In this country? In this world?
- 2) How are genocide and other acts of mass violence humanly possible? What psychological and political factors cause such things to happen?
- 3) How can individuals and societies remember and commemorate difficult histories? What is the purpose of remembering? What are the consequences of forgetting?
- 4) What can we, as individuals, groups and nations, do to prevent massive acts of violence in the future? Take into consideration that we all have a sphere of influence and that the causal factors of violence and hate exist on all scales. What can be done to improve matters?
- 5) Read this quote. What is the meaning of it and how does it relate to today?

*“First they came for the Socialists, and I did not speak out—
because I was not a Socialist.*

*Then they came for the Trade Unionists, and I did not speak out—
because I was not a Trade Unionist.*

*Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out—
because I was not a Jew.*

Then they came for me—and there was no one left to speak for me.”

Pastor Martin Niemöller