Sixth-Eighth (Middle/Junior High School Stories/Lessons)

Sample Story One:
***Chicken Soup for the Soul: Teens Talk Middle School*, pg. 23, "Meeting Julia"**

Sixth-Grade Curriculum Connections:

- Vocabulary Words: communicate, various, publications.
- Write letters back and forth with classmates or with another sixth-grade class in your state on a monthly basis.
- Write about your friends and how they are the same or different from elementary school.
- Create an online profile for a fictional character (this will not really be posted online).
- Design a travel brochure that showcases the fashions, current events, big activities, laws, and special information about your state.

Seventh-Grade Curriculum Connections:

- Vocabulary Words: impression, participate.
- Interpretation of introductory quote and other poetry by Henry David Thoreau.
- Use a pen pal journal with classmates to write back and forth about books you're reading, selected topics by the teacher, or free choice.
- Create an online profile for an animal, inanimate object, or thing (this will not really be posted online).
- Write a persuasive article for a travel magazine encouraging people to visit your state.

Eighth-Grade Curriculum Connections:

- Vocabulary Words: Kiddush, ark, bema, Bat Mitzvah (as used in story content).
- Implement pen pals or e-pals within your classroom, school, or local community.
- Create an online profile for a historical figure (this will not really be posted online).
- Classroom conversation about first impressions in the real world.
- Develop a print or digital advertisement focusing on key events, lifestyle aspects, events, or laws specific to your state.

Sixth-Eighth Additional Curriculum Connections:

- To teach religious tolerance, read fiction and nonfiction books that have main characters of different religious backgrounds (example texts including Jewish characters: *Number the Stars*, *Danger on My Doorstep, The Diary of Anne Frank*).
- To study the importance of the setting in texts, read fiction and nonfiction books from all fifty states and mark them on a US map.
- Use an online pen pal site (examples include: http://www.studentsoftheworld.info/ and http://www.worldwide.edu/travel_planner/pen_pals.html).

- Rely on classmates to share experiences of or at a Bat Mitzvah or Bar Mitzvah.
- Run a Script Frenzy (20,000 word script individually, with partners, or in a group in a month) to perform live or film. (http://www.scribendi.com/advice/script_frenzy.en.html)
- Participate in National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo) in November with 50,000 word novels written individually, with partners, in groups, or as a class. (http://nanowrimo.org/)
- Invite a guest speaker from the tourism department in your community, state, or a travel agency to learn more information about other U.S. states.
- Classroom Community Project: Have each student create an online profile (on paper) to turn into the teacher with basic facts including number of siblings, favorite sports team, birthday, interests, etc.. Based on the interests, the teacher will create “meet up groups” for students to work together with these people at times for group work or projects.