A Kind of Murder

Group Write (First answer the questions individually)

1. How would you define peer pressure?

2. What are some examples of peer pressure that you are familiar with?

3. Why are some unaffected by peer pressure?

4. What are some of the characteristics of bullying? What do bullies look for?

5. Think about the meanings of the word murder in phrases like “murder the opposition” and a “murderous look.” Then write what you think that the title A Kind of Murder might potentially mean.

Individual questions as you read

1. Describe Pentecost. How does he develop throughout the story?

2. How did you feel about the end of the story?
3. How would you describe Mr. Warren? Use specific examples from the text where his appearance, demeanor, speech, and actions are described.

4. Why is Mr. Warren such an easy target for student pranks?

Discussion Questions (For Next Class)

5. Read Mr. Warren’s definition of courage on pg. 59. What do you think of his definition? Is Mr. Warren courageous according to the definition? Why or why not?
6. Mr. Warren says that the boys are not cruel, just high-spirited. What do you think? Why?
7. Pentecost stands up for Mr. Warren in study hall once, but he does not defend him a second time. Do you agree with his decision?
8. Why does Pentecost call what happened to Mr. Warren a murder, and is Pentecost responsible for Mr. Warren’s death? Explain.