**Gold** **earring** - In the first chapter, Brent says earrings were one of the first things he checked in front of the mirror. Brent always wore an earring.

**Chicago** **Bulls** **logo** – Brent wore a Chicago Bulls t-shirt to the party he wasn't invited to.

**Car** - Brent has some knowledge about cars and he’s quite fond of them as well.

**Video game console** - In the first chapter, Brent plays video games to steal some time before the party. It seemed like playing video games was his hobby.

**Paint** - After the huge accident, ending someone’s life, Brent was sent on a journey around America to build and make whirligigs. He painted the whirligigs, and painting became something he liked to do later in the book.

**Bishop** – Brent's last name is Bishop, and in chapter 1, Chaz teases Brent about his last name. Brent allowed himself to be treated like a toy in a chess game, but he hated his helplessness.

**Bus** **pass** - After Ms. Zamora gave Brent the bus pass in chapter 3, Brent's journey to make whirligigs began. Without that bus pass to help him travel to each destination, he wouldn't have accomplished making the whirligigs, and he couldn't have found himself. He learned a lot, travelling with the 45-day Greyhound bus pass.

**Whirligig** - Brent's life had changed throughout the whirligig making process. He truly became a creative, deep-thinking person after the trip.

**Camera** - Brent always kept his camera with him to take a picture after making each whirligig in the novel.

**Books** - Brent started to read a lot during the trip (he even said it looked like he could've been reading his whole life).

**USA** **flag** – Afterall, Brent has been travelling around the 4 corners of America, so this leaves a connection to Brent’s life.

**Sand** - Brent spent a lot of time on a beach, creating whirligigs and eating at the sand dollar cafe (which is mentioned a lot in the final few chapters).

This shoe I designed represents Brent Bishop, the main character of the book whirligig. Each item I decorated the shoe with, is a huge part of Brent’s life and significant to the story itself. The novel Whirligig would’ve been a different story without these items/materials above in Brent’s life. Not to mention, it could’ve changed Brent’s personality and what kind of person he was. Brent overcame his fears and found his true self over the trip making whirligigs, with the materials involved. I created this shoe in a way to represent Brent’s overall journey in the novel, and how he found such an amazing new hobby off something so tragic that happened before.

Competency reflection:

I chose to reflect on Creative Thinking because I believe I had shown that core competency the most throughout the process of decorating the shoe. I demonstrated that I can usually make my ideas work within the constraints of a given form or material, by reading over some chapters of the novel Whirligig that caught my attention, and finding items/objects that associated or impacted the main character’s life within the novel. After I found the items, I wrote them down on a sticky note to remember and keep track. I built the skills I needed to make my ideas work, by printing out images of items in the novel, if I couldn’t find them at home. To make sure the images didn’t come out to big or small, I laid out all 12 of the images on Word to make sure they all had a correct/balanced size. I used my experiences with various steps from the past to direct my work in a good way. Such as, following the criteria sheet *in order* 1 to 7 instead of *mixing up* the order.

I expressed novelty and value by generating new ideas and finding several different ways to decorate the shoe in a meaningful way. After a couple times of decorating the shoe, I chose a design the shoe would fit best. I developed a body of creative work in an area I’m passionate about, by letting the detail-oriented side of me work through the project. My ideas are fun for me and it makes me happy, so I try to find as many new ideas as possible. Relaxing, and being active clears my busy mind, so I can be more creative.

If I could’ve changed a little something about my shoe, it’s probably adding actual stuff I had at home (that I unfortunately couldn’t find). I think my project could’ve looked a whole lot better, if I added sparkles or paint defining/representing the main character’s personality or lifestyle. I was not able to make my shoe stand out or colorful, since all the decorations were made of paper. Overall, I think my project in completed form looked awesome, and full of meaning. I hope I can improve making my future projects stand out, and I wish to research more as well, so that I’m able to generate new ideas that can just pop into my head. If I master these goals, I’m sure this will somehow lead me to academic success in the future.