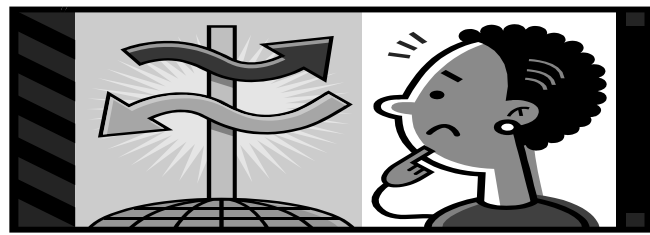# We're just a mess;

how are we going to make it through life?

By the Skin of Our Teeth,

OR MORE EFFECTIVELY?

Although this play (first staged in 1942) is even older than (gasp) Mrs. Harrell,
it's a compendium of what we need to think about as we face life and the future.

First think back over various pieces of literature and essays we have discovered through the years, among them:

Huck Finn
Puddin'head Wilson
The Prince and the Pauper
The Wave and A Class Divided
The Crucible and Three Sovereigns for Sarah
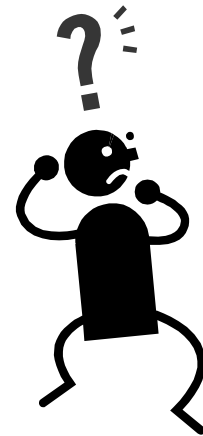Copper Sun
Jonathan Livingston Seagull
Darmok at Tanagra

The Sniper
On the Sidewalk Bleeding
The Scarlet Ibis
The Veldt
All Summer in a Day
Anatomy of a Martian
The Black Cat
The Cask of Amontillado
Rappacinni's Daughter
Harrison Bergeron
The Lottery

Green Gulch
What Makes Us Moral?
Can Ethics be Taught?
7 Habits for Highly Successful Teens
Various proverbs from Wisdom literature
Benet's quotes on brotherhood and e e cummings' "plato told"
Millay's poems, "Conscientious Objector" and "Read history…"

Now consider some of the eternal philosophical questions, among them:

1. Why am I here?
2. What is evil?
3. Why is evil in the world?
4. What is the relationship between individual freedom and the rights of others?
5. What is my obligation to the rest of the world?
6. Are people inherently good or evil?

Consider how the three acts of *Skin of Our Teeth* address these questions and reflect the themes of our literature and articles.

All of this helps me remember and reflect on the concept that **community vs "the other" offers insight into our quest to understand evil.** Therefore, we should surely be finding/developing community rather than division in our democracy (and our school). And we should be establishing order rather than chaos within ourselves. How are we doing with that?

What does all this help you remember and reflect upon? Brainstorm one or several insights and/or ideas you think worth exploring in relation to all this, and stand by for your *piece de resistance* assignment—your *magnum opus*