BRANDY VENCEL'S

INVENTORY FOR IDEA MAXIMIZATION

DID I CHOOSE A LIVING BOOK FULL OF GOOD IDEAS?

1. Is my book recommended by people with good taste in books? Is it on a list such as the 1000 Good Books list?
2. Is it written by an author who is an expert on his subject? Or very passionate about it?
3. Is it interesting to *me* as an adult?
4. Does the author make too many judgments or moralize a lot? (If so, just say no!)
5. What are the relationships like between the characters in the book? Are they healthy? Is Good called good and Bad called bad?
6. What are the underlying assumptions the book makes about the world? Here you want to think about the setting – the backdrop in which the story takes place. What things are assumed to be normal?

DID I HAVE THE CHILD NARRATE?

1. Did I read the right amount so that the child could tell back without too much difficulty?
2. If there is more than one child, did I give the other children a chance to add anything they think the first narrator missed?

DID I ASK ANY QUESTIONS? (SHOULDN'T BE DONE EVERY TIME...)

1. Do you (directed at the child) have any questions or things you want to talk about?
2. Does this reading remind you of anything else?
3. Should X have done Y? (Where X is a character in the story and Y is something that character did that is worth discussing.)

DID I ALLOW TIME FOR PROCESSING?

1. Did I interrupt my child when he appeared to be "doing nothing?"
2. How many minutes/hours of free time did my child get on average each day this week?
3. Do I respect the way my children need to process? The loud, messy, imaginative play of the extrovert? The reclusive isolation of the introvert who climbs a tree or wants to "be alone" in the garden?