IB English II SL Summer Assignment

Now that your junior year is coming to a close, I want to commend you for choosing another challenging year in IB English! Before you leave Robinson to begin your summer break as a rising senior, let me tell you a little bit about the IB English II course.

Throughout the year we will focus on the purposes of narrative techniques and authorial choices. We will begin this discussion by considering short essays as they relate to your college essay, and we will conclude the analysis with a detailed comparison of short stories at the end of the year. With the shorter text in mind, this summer you will read and examine authors’ choices in technique and style by reading a collection of short essays.

Assignment

Read the following 15 stories from In Short: A Collection of Brief Creative Nonfiction.

1. “Around the Corner” by Sharon Bryan (37-38)
2. “Tino and Papi” by Norma Elia Cantu (55-56)
3. “Suspended” (83-84)
5. “Sunday” (92-93)
6. “Mint Snowball” (94-95)
7. “Loose Ends” by Rita Dove (98-99)
8. “A Wind from the North” by Bill Capossere (104-106)
9. “My Mother in Two Photographs, Among Other Things” by Aleida Rodriguez (138-141)
10. “On Two Wheels” by Lee Gutkind (165-167)
11. “A Note About Allen Tate” by Kelly Cherry (172-174)
12. “Into the Storm” by Jerry Ellis (233-236)
13. “Crazy Horse” by Ian Frazier (237-238)
14. “Buckeye” (247-250)
15. “The Fine Art of Sighing” (301-303)

As you read and take notes, consider the following questions:

- How does the author convey the story in a unique way? What do you observe regarding the author’s craft? Think about figurative language, point of view, and characterization.
- How does the author choose to structure the writing and for what purpose?
- What has the author chosen to include? What has the author chosen to omit? What does this reveal about the narrator?
- How does the author develop tone and to what effect?
- What are the big ideas of each essay? How does the author develop and achieve these big ideas?

Due your first class: You should come to the first class with typed notes, detailing your observations for ten of the fifteen assigned essays that spoke to you most. Use the questions listed above to guide your analysis.

Assessments:

Written Assessment: After we spend some time discussing the short stories and authors’ choices, you will write one college essay that you may submit during your application process.

Oral assessments- You will discuss the correlation between nonfiction and authorial choices in a culminating Socratic Seminar.

Text

In Short: A Collection of Brief Creative Nonfiction, Judith Kitchen and Mary Paumier Jones, Editors. ISBN: 0-393-03960-9. You may borrow this text from your English teacher, find it at the library, or purchase it at a bookstore. You will need the text throughout the first month of school.

Note: Although not required for an English grade, you should also read the common Robinson read, I Will Always Write Back by Caitlin Alifirenka and Martin Ganda.

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