

**Summer Reading Assignment for Students Enrolled In Sophomore English, Level 1 for
2010-11**

“A traveler without observation is a bird without wings.”

--Moslih Eddin Saadi

As Saadi remarks, to journey without observation is fruitless; why bother to travel at all? As a Sophomore Level 1 English student next year, not only will your own travel require countless reflective observations, but you will also make observations of other people’s journeys, especially those made through storytelling. Our primary themes next year will revolve around journeys, quests, and pilgrimages of all kinds as well as the storytelling (the observations of the traveler) that inevitably results.

To help us begin our travel, we ask that you make a preliminary journey of your own this summer—one that will require you to go back in time, but also to move forward. Here are the steps to follow:

1. Please choose a book from your childhood to REREAD. This should not be a book geared for an adult audience that you might have read as a child, but rather a book intended for children or young adults. Think back to your first favorite chapter books, i.e. *Charlotte’s Web*, *A Wrinkle in Time*, etc. Please do not choose a picture book.
2. Please reread this book. We suggest that you purchase the book, if you do not already own it. If this is not possible, you may check it out from the library, and annotate on a separate piece of paper. You will need the book in the fall.
3. As you reread the book, think about your journey as a reader. ***How has your understanding evolved now that you are older and brought more knowledge to your reading?*** As you read, please annotate for **the evolution of your understanding** in as many of the following as possible:
 - a. Symbols and images
 - b. Characters and characterization techniques
 - c. Messages/meanings of the plot and setting
 - d. Connections to current events, ideas, philosophies
 - e. Archetypes (if you already know what these are; if not, do not worry!)
 - f. Literary criticism perspectives, i.e. feminism, Marxism, psychoanalysis, etc. (if you already know what these are; otherwise, do not worry!)
4. Please also keep track of your new PERSONAL perspectives and ideas about the book that you loved as a child. Do you still find it entertaining and enjoyable? Why, or why not?
5. Please be prepared to write about your summer reading journey when you return to English class in the fall. We will provide you with a prompt to help us gather an initial writing sample from you.

Enjoy your journey!