

# British and American Essays Readings

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**Professor K. Campigotto**

**Fall 2013**

# British and American Essays

Tuesday 3:20-5:10, Wednesday 2:20-3:10 (Fall 2013)

## I. Professor Information

Professor: Kevin Campigotto  
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## Office Hours

Tuesday 12:20 – 2:10  
Wed: 1:20  
Fri 3:20  
Other times by request

## II. Course Description

In this course, we will read and analyze various essays and speeches from a wide variety of American, British, and Canadian authors. We will take a thematic approach and analyze works in terms of content, tone, structure, imagery, and other literary elements. Almost all of the readings are short (under 500 words) but **MUST** be read and understood before class.

## III. Course Objectives

As a consequence of taking this course, the student should accomplish the following objective:

- Increase your ability to recognize literary elements and analyze English works.
- Understand the conventions of English essays and speeches and their functions.
- Gain an appreciation for a wide variety of British and American authors.

## IV. Course Requirements

**Readings:** I will provide each week's readings; you may have to print them out.

- ✓ 1 large notebook to take notes and for in-class exercises
- ✓ Pen/Pencil / Dictionary / Notebook / A4 Report pad
- ✓ Bring **Readings, NOTE BOOK AND PEN/PENCIL**, to **EVERY** class.

## V. Grading System

Participation	25%	Midterm exam	25%
Response Papers	25%	Final exam	25%*

Turn in 5 English Caf éslips for 1 percent added onto your grade.

\* Participate in the Muse Festival and I will add up to 5% to your grade. (Up to my discretion)

**VI. Course Outline:** This course will meet twice a week. During the two-hour session we will read, discuss, and analyze an essay, song, or speech which students must read prior to the class. The essays will cover a wide variety of topics including nature, feminism, politics, advice, and nostalgia. The one hour session on Wednesday will be used to provide students with background information about the following week's reading. These lectures will initially be done by the professor but will be taken over by students, these will be their presentations which are worth 20% of their grade.

### **VII. Class Policies:**

1. Class attendance is mandatory. You are allowed **3 unexcused absences**. **Five unexcused absences will earn you a failing grade.** Please be on time and come to every class.
2. Cell phones must be turned off or set on silent mode. **NO TEXTING IN CLASS!**
3. This is a discussion class, but it is very important only one person speaks at a time. Please do not speak when I am explaining something or when your classmates are speaking.
4. Cheating during the examination will not be tolerated. The student concerned shall be dealt with accordingly.
5. Students **MUST** read the assigned readings before class, and arrive in class ready to discuss them. If you do not do the readings, and do not participate in classroom discussions you risk failing the course.
6. This is an English class. Please try to **ONLY** speak English, especially when doing group work. If you speak to each other in Korean, you won't be practicing your English properly.

### **Format:**

Generally, I will begin classes with a very short overview of the readings. Students **MUST READ** the work **BEFORE** class so they are familiar with it. After giving some background information we will read the work together in class, analyze, and discuss it. Most classes will contain a lot of speaking and discussion. The less I speak and the more you speak the better so please come prepared to participate and speak.

### **Response Papers:**

As individuals, students must write weekly response papers, in which they will voice their opinions of the main topic presented in the reading. The papers should be 1 page in length and should not recap or explain the content of the reading. The focus is on giving your opinions of the issues, not explaining what the issue is or what the authors say about it. For many of the weeks I will give you a specific theme or idea to respond to.

### **Final Thought:**

I will make minor changes to the course if I feel that they will give you more opportunity to enhance your English abilities. The more you bring to this course, the more you will get out of it. I would much rather you try your best and make mistakes than be shy and stay silent. No one is perfect so I expect you to be respectful and supportive of your classmates at all times. The most important thing is that students do the readings before class, and if they do not understand anything they visit me in my office or e-mail me for clarification. Please, if you have any questions or concerns see me after class or during my office hours. It is best to contact me via e-mail.

<b>Theme</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Degree Of Difficulty</b>
Feminism	Naheed Mustafa	My body is my business	Medium
Nostalgia	Tony Kornheiser	You camp go home again	Easy
Description/ Nostalgia	Mark Twain	Two ways of seeing a river	Hard
Advice	Mary Schmich	Wear sunscreen	Easy
Speeches	Martin Luther King Jr.	I have a dream	Medium
Nature	David Suzuki	Hidden Lessons	Easy
Narrative	Chui-Ling Tam	A hard life but a better one	Easy
Analogy	Wendy Magahay	The trail hiker's guide to the workplace	Easy
Monologue	Randy Pausch William Shakespeare Robert Browning	The Last lecture all the world's a stage My Last Duchess	We will do one of these, I will choose which one at some point during the semester. All 3 are very challenging.

\*\*\* The documents for the final week are not included in this packet and will be provided separately\*\*\*

# Literary Devices

<b>Device</b>	<b>Example</b>	<b>Note</b>
<b>Allusion</b> A reference to a famous person or event in life or literature.	<i>She is as pretty as the Mona Lisa.</i>	
<b>Analogy</b> A comparison between two situations (very similar to simile and metaphor)	<i>Speaking English is like climbing a mountain.</i>	
<b>Diction</b> A specific choice of words	Describing Light ominous glow vs. beaming light	
<b>Foreshadowing</b> Hints of what is to come in the future	Music cues in movies	
<b>Hyperbole</b>	I'm so hungry I could eat a horse.	
<b>Imagery</b> Descriptive language that appeals to any or all of the 5 senses	Her blue eyes were as bright as the Sun, blue as the sky, but soft as silk.	
<b>Metaphor</b> A comparison where something is said to be something else.	He is a pig She is an angel	
<b>Personification</b> Giving human qualities to non-human things.	The wind screamed. The sun kissed the flowers	

<p><b>Repetition</b> Repeating the same words or structures for an effect.</p>	<p>Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall, Humpty Dumpty had a great fall; All the King's horses and all the King's men Couldn't put Humpty together again</p>	
<p><b>Symbolism</b> An object that is used to mean more than just what it is.</p>	<p>A rose is a symbol for love</p>	
<p><b>Simile</b> A comparison that uses "like" or "as"</p>	<p>He is as strong as an ox I am as fast as the wind</p>	
<p><b>Tone</b> The writer's attitude or emotions towards the subject</p>	<p>Scary, happy, nostalgic, tense, sarcastic, angry, etc.</p>	
<p><b>Plot</b> The events in a story</p>		
<p><b>Setting</b> The time and place where a story occurs</p>		
<p><b>Climax</b> The turning point in a story where the main problem is solved</p>		
<p><b>Characterization</b> Words or phrases that tell us something about a person's character</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Describing a character's appearance</li> <li>- Showing a character's actions</li> <li>- Showing the reactions of others to that character</li> </ul>	

## Literary Devices Worksheet

Identify Each Literary Device with a partner (Many of them include more than once device)

1. Her skin was tiny mountains of champagne silk
2. Dancing butterflies, chirping birds, dandelion fluff, and unfurling wildflowers tickled his nose
3. My father dances like a monkey
4. She howled like a wolf
5. The fire ran wild.
6. After that day nothing would be the same in my life.
7. Riding the roller coaster was like taking a space ship to the moon.
8. My sister is the devil
9. I drove a million miles an hour to get to my appointment on time.
10. The mountains looked down on us.
11. The bakery was filled with the sweet smells of freshly baked bread and the noise of happy customers.
12. Nobody, oh nobody can make it out here alone.
13. Time is money
14. Free at last, free at last, thank god almighty I'm free at last.
15. As the cave's roof collapsed, he was swallowed up in the dust like Jonah
16. My friend is a Casanova.
17. The sunset is jealous of your beauty!
18. The mourners wore black.
19. When I saw it was raining I knew I would have a bad day.
20. I am the prodigal son
21. My father exploded in rage.
22. He fought like a tiger
23. The fresh snow crunched under my feet and I could feel the icy wind. Everywhere I looked was covered in a white layer of now like a carpet.
24. The cake was heaven.
25. Graduating university is like being reborn

## My Body is my own Business By Naheed Mustafa

I often wonder whether people see me as a radical, fundamentalist Muslim terrorist packing an AK-47 assault rifle inside my jean jacket. Or may be they see me as the poster girl for oppressed womanhood everywhere. I'm not sure which it is.

I get the whole gamut of strange looks, stares, and covert glances. You see, I wear the hijab, a scarf that covers my head, neck, and throat. I do this because I am a Muslim woman who believes her body is her own private concern.

Young Muslim women are reclaiming the hijab, reinterpreting it in light of its original purpose to give back to women ultimate control of their own bodies.

The Qur'an teaches us that men and women are equal, that individuals should not be judged according to gender, beauty, wealth, or privilege. The only thing that makes one person better than another is her or his character.

Nonetheless, people have a difficult time relating to me. After all, I'm young, Canadian born and raised, university educated why would I do this to myself, they ask.

Strangers speak to me in loud, slow English and often appear to be playing charades. They politely inquire how I like living in Canada and whether or not the cold bothers me. If I'm in the right mood, it can be very amusing.

But, why would I, a woman with all the advantages of a North American upbringing, suddenly, at 21, want to cover myself so that with the hijab and the other clothes I choose to wear, only my face and hands show?

Because it gives me freedom.

Women are taught from early childhood that their worth is proportional to their attractiveness. We feel compelled to pursue abstract notions of beauty, half realizing that such a pursuit is futile.

When women reject this form of oppression, they face ridicule and contempt. Whether it's women who refuse to wear makeup or to shave their legs, or to expose their bodies, society, both men and women, have trouble dealing with them.

In the Western world, the hijab has come to symbolize either forced silence or radical, unconscionable militancy. Actually, it's neither. It is simply a woman's assertion that judgment of her physical person is to play no role whatsoever in social interaction.

Wearing the hijab has given me freedom from constant attention to my physical self. Because my appearance is not subjected to public scrutiny, my beauty, or perhaps lack of it, has been removed from the realm of what can legitimately be discussed.

A Canadian-born Muslim woman has taken to wearing the traditional hijab scarf. It tends to make people see her as either a terrorist or a symbol of oppressed womanhood, but she finds the experience liberating

**Hijab-** Traditional Muslim head covering

**Poster Girl-** a perfect example

**the whole gamut-** the whole range/spectrum

**Covert-** Secret

**Reclaiming-** taking back control of

**Qur'an-** the Muslim bible

**Charades-** Using body language to explain something

**Proportional-** related to, tied to,

**Abstract-** made up, theoretical

**Futile** – useless, can't be successful

**Ridicule-** To make fun of

**Contempt-** to treat mean, dislike, dishonor, disrespect

**Unconscionable militancy** – Unethical aggression, evil violence

**Assertion-** Statement

**Scrutiny-** Examination and judgment

**Pinch an inch-** test if your body is fast by trying to pinch an inch of fat

**Borderline-** almost

**Bulimic-** someone who never eats, or throws up after they eat so they don't gain weight.

**Waifish-** very thin

**Objectification-** being treated like an object



No one knows whether my hair looks as if I just stepped out of a salon, whether or not I can pinch an inch, or even if I have unsightly stretch marks. And because no one knows, no one cares.

Feeling that one has to meet the impossible male standards of beauty is tiring and often humiliating. I should know, I spent my entire teenage years trying to do it. I was a borderline bulimic and spent a lot of money I didn't have on potions and lotions in hopes of becoming the next Cindy Crawford.

The definition of beauty is ever-changing; waifish is good, waifish is bad, athletic is good -- sorry, athletic is bad. Narrow hips? Great. Narrow hips? Too bad.

Women are not going to achieve equality with the right to bear their breasts in public, as some people would like to have you believe. That would only make us party to our own objectification. True equality will be had only when women don't need to display themselves to get attention and won't need to defend their decision to keep their bodies to themselves

### **Questions and Issues for Discussion**

- What is her thesis? What is her support?
- Do you agree or disagree with her, which parts do you agree with, etc.
- Why would people see it as a form of oppression?
- Is it liberating not to have to show your body? What would you think or feel if you talked to someone who is covered?
- Why do feel people speak to her in slow English and charades? Idea that Islam is a religion. How we judge people by appearance. Koreans expecting Korean-looking people to speak Korean.
- Have you ever felt like your appearance has been judged? In what situations? Job interview, etc.
- Korean ideals of beauty → double eye, surgery, men wearing lifts, etc.
- Who/what sets the standard of beauty?
- What about her beliefs on equality? Why aren't women treated equally? Is it about their physical appearances? Is that a factor?
- France ban on the Burqa in public (220,00 won fine),
- Many places have banned hijab, turban, and yarmulke in schools, overnment and public officials can't wear these
- Should people be allowed to wear whatever they want? Or should countries force them to be non-religious and conform to local culture?
- How much should immigrants be forced to integrate?
- The idea of Korea as a single culture, European countries as slightly less but still one main culture, Canada/USA as multicultural,

## You Camp go Home Again by Tony Kornheiser

This past weekend I went to my camp reunion. Camp Keeyumah was in business twenty-five years, from 1949 to 1974. (Official motto: “Send Us Your Child for Eight Weeks, and If We Don’t Send You Back Your Child, No Sweat, We’ll Send You Somebody Else’s.”) About two hundred people showed up, ranging from their forties to their seventies. Because I’d gone to camp for sixteen summers as a camper and counselor, I knew almost all of them, though their faces had changed; now they had the fuller, weathered faces of their parents that I remembered from Visiting Day thirty-five and forty years ago.

In the main, the women had aged better than the men. I say this because some of the men were so fat they could have been entered in the Pennsylvania State Fair. Women are quicker at recognizing the perils of aging. For example, women usually know when to stop wearing halter tops. Men blithely continue to wear form-fitting shirts even when their “form” now resembles a big old sack of feed. Women would never be so blissfully ignorant. Like the woman in her mid-forties who showed up with spectacularly platinum blond hair, and when a man said she looked like Marilyn Monroe, she responded: “Do I look like Marilyn Monroe when she was alive or dead?”

As much as a reunion- any reunion – is about glory and camaraderie and reliving the best moments of your life, reunions are also about time gone by and friends lost. When you go fifteen, twenty-five, thirty-five years without seeing somebody, sometimes it’s too late. These were people I spent every summer of my youth with, people I loved in a place I adored. And lately I’ve begun to count the wrinkles and the bald heads and the artificial hips, and I know there’s more time behind us than ahead. You come together on occasions like this, aging and slowing, and you don’t know whether to cry or laugh.

At the end of the reunion, we gathered at the lake, where people made small speeches about the campers, counselors, and staff who had passed on— then we lit candles that were fastened to paper plates and cast them out onto the water. One of the people we mourned was my Aunt Shirley, who had died recently. My Aunt Shirley and my Uncle Arnie owned the camp and were beloved by all who went there. Arnie, now in his eighties, was the last to place a candle on the lake.

I loved being there, rocking in the cradle of my childhood, seeing dear friends, deceiving myself into feeling momentarily young again. But every step I took I saw my aunt, and I felt the presence of my mother and father, coming one last time to visit me. Mostly I wandered around alone, standing silently in old, familiar places, inhaling the aromas, and trying to press every square inch of the camp into my mind’s eye like flowers in a book.

There would be other reunions, but I guessed I’d never be back again. The book of the dead would be too long. So I wanted to memorize this one perfect day and hold on to it forever. And I stood on the shore and looked out at the lake, crying gratefully as the tiny flames bobbed in the water.

**Weathered-** worn, old, aged,

**In the main-** Generally/mostly

**State Fair-** where farmers compete to see who has the best pig.

**Perils-** dangers

**Blithely-** happily, without worry

**Sack of Feed-** a bag of rice

**Blissfully ignorant-** happily unaware

**Camaraderie-** friendship

**Fastened –** attached to, glued onto

**Passed on-** died

**Momentarily-** for one second

**Aromas-** smells

**Mind’s Eye –** memory/imagination

## Questions and Issues for Discussion

- What is his thesis or main idea?
- What is the tone of the essay? What examples tell you the tone?
- Third paragraph- about aging, losing friends why does he say you don't know whether to cry or laugh?
- Why does he say he won't go back to another reunion → what does he mean by 'the book of the dead would be too long'?
- What is he nostalgic about?
- The idea of seeing people you used to know after not seeing them for a long time
- Was he happy that he went back to the reunion or sad?
- How does his commentary on appearances compare with that of last week's essay?
- What childhood memories are you nostalgic about? What do you miss from your childhood?
- Can you relate to his experience of having friends that he hasn't spoken to or seen in a long time?

## Two Ways of Seeing a River by Mark Twain

Now when I had mastered the language of this water and had come to know every trifling feature that bordered the great river as familiarly as I knew the letters of the alphabet, I had made a valuable acquisition. But I had lost something, too. I had lost something which could never be restored to me while I lived. All the grace, the beauty, the poetry had gone out of the majestic river! I still keep in mind a certain wonderful sunset which I witnessed when steam boating was new to me. A broad expanse of the river was turned to blood; in the middle distance the red hue brightened into gold, through which a solitary log came floating, black and conspicuous; in one place a long, slanting mark lay sparkling upon the water; in another the surface was broken by boiling, tumbling rings, that were as many-tinted as an opal; where the ruddy flush was faintest, was a smooth spot that was covered with graceful circles and radiating lines, ever so delicately traced; the shore on our left was densely wooded, and the somber shadow that fell from this forest was broken in one place by a long, ruffled trail that shone like silver; and high above the forest wall a clean-stemmed dead tree waved a single leafy branch that glowed like a flame in the unobstructed splendor that was flowing from the sun. There were graceful curves, reflected images, woody heights, soft distances; and over the whole scene, far and near, the dissolving lights drifted steadily, enriching it, every passing moment, with new marvels of coloring.

I stood like one bewitched. I drank it in, in a speechless rapture. The world was new to me, and I had never seen anything like this at home. But as I have said, a day came when I began to cease from noting the glories and the charms which the moon and the sun and the twilight wrote upon the river's face; another day came when I ceased altogether to note them. Then, if that sunset scene had been repeated, I should have looked upon it without rapture, and should have commented upon it, inwardly, in this fashion: "This sun means that we are going to have wind tomorrow; that floating log means that the river is rising, small thanks to it; that slanting mark on the water refers to a bluff reef which is going to kill somebody's steamboat one of these nights, if it keeps on stretching out like that; those tumbling 'boils' show a dissolving bar and a changing channel there; the lines and circles in the slick water over yonder are a warning that that troublesome place is shoaling up dangerously; that silver streak in the shadow of the forest is the 'break' from a new snag, and he has located himself in the very best place he could have found to fish for steamboats; that tall dead tree, with a single living branch, is not going to last long, and then how is a body ever going to get through this blind place at night without the friendly old landmark?"

No, the romance and the beauty were all gone from the river. All the value any feature of it had for me now was the amount of usefulness it could furnish toward compassing the safe piloting of a steamboat. Since those days, I have pitied doctors from my heart. What does the lovely flush in a beauty's cheek mean to a doctor but a "break" that ripples above some deadly disease? Are not all her visible charms sown thick with what are to him the signs and symbols of hidden decay? Does he ever see her beauty at all, or doesn't he simply view her professionally, and comment upon her unwholesome condition all to himself? And doesn't he sometimes wonder whether he has gained most or lost most by learning his trade?

**Mastered-** learned

**Trifling-** minor

**Acquisition-** something to get

**Majestic-** amazing, beautiful

**Broad expanse-** wide part

**Hue-** shade, color,

**Solitary-** single, alone

**Conspicuous-** easily seen

**Opal-** a white gem/jewel

**Ruddy flush -** red coloring

**Somber-** gloomy, dark,

**Clean-stemmed-** having no branches

**Unobstructed splendor-** unblocked beauty

**Bewitched, rapture-** amazement

**Cease-** stop

**Inwardly-** to myself/oneself

**Bluff reef** – a dull ridge of sand, where the bottom of the river rises up so the water is shallower.

**Yonder-** there

**Bar-** a sandbar, a place where the water is shallow

**Shoaling-** where the water is shallow

**Shoaling-** where the water becomes shallow

**Compassing the safe piloting-** steering the boat so as not to crash

**Flush-** turning red

**Sown thick with-** full of

**Unwholesome-** bad

## Questions and Issues for Discussion

→ What is his thesis? (it is very early in the essay)

→ Paragraph 2- look at the changes in how he sees things, reference back to paragraph one to show his change in viewpoint

1) The sun    2) The log    3) The slanting mark    4) The rings    5) The circles    6) the short/tree

→ Paragraph 3 → this is his main point, now he's turning it from being about him to another example, what about doctors?

→ The First paragraph as a descriptive paragraph → mostly only focuses on sight but is extremely descriptive; all he's doing in the first paragraph is describing the river at sunset

→ Find literary devices in the first paragraph → 1 simile, 1 metaphor, 1 personification (there is 1 metaphor, 2 personification, 3 similes)

→ Is ignorance bliss, is it better not to know, do you lose something in scientifically studying it?

→ The final line, Twain is asking a question, he isn't sure of the answer → this is the main question of the essay

→ In analyzing this essay, have we lost the beauty of the language?

→ His support- personal experience, analogy

→ What is he nostalgic about?

→ Have you ever learned something and then wished you didn't know it? In what situations is it better to know? If you knew your friend was being cheated on would you tell them? What if they were doing the cheating, would you tell their boyfriend/girlfriend?

→ What about food? Eating something, then you find out what it is, all of a sudden they hate it

→ You learn something about someone, then you see them totally differently

→ Issue of knowing vs. ignorance and bliss

## Wear Sunscreen by Mary Schmich

Ladies and gentlemen of the class of '98: Wear sunscreen.

If I could offer you only one tip for the future, sunscreen would be it. The long-term benefits of sunscreen have been proved by scientists whereas the rest of my advice has no basis more reliable than my own meandering experience. I will dispense this advice now.

Enjoy the power and beauty of your youth. Oh, never mind. You will not understand the power and beauty of your youth until they've faded. But trust me, in 20 years, you'll look back at photos of yourself and recall in a way you can't grasp now how much possibility lay before you and how fabulous you really looked. You are not as fat as you imagine.

Don't worry about the future. Or worry, but know that worrying is as effective as trying to solve an algebra equation by chewing bubble gum. The real troubles in your life are apt to be things that never crossed your worried mind, the kind that blind side you at 4 PM on some idle Tuesday.

Do one thing every day that scares you.

Sing.

Don't be reckless with other people's hearts. Don't put up with people who are reckless with yours.

Floss.

Don't waste your time on jealousy. Sometimes you're ahead, sometimes you're behind. The race is long and, in the end, it's only with yourself.

Remember compliments you receive. Forget the insults. If you succeed in doing this, tell me how.

Keep your old love letters. Throw away your old bank statements.

Stretch.

Don't feel guilty if you don't know what you want to do with your life. The most interesting people I know didn't know at 22 what they wanted to do with their lives. Some of the most interesting 40-year-olds I know still don't.

Get plenty of calcium.

Be kind to your knees. You'll miss them when they're gone.

**Meandering-** wandering,

**Dispense-** give out

**Recall-**remember

**Grasp-** understand

**Fabulous-** fantastic

**Effective** – useful,

**Apt-** likely, probably

**Blind Side-** surprise

**Idle-** when nothing is happening

**Reckless-** careless, not caring about the consequences/effects

**Berate-** yell angrily, criticize

**Precious-** valuable

**Bridge the gaps-** fill the space/holes, cover the distance

**Inalienable-** things that can't be changed or removed

**Philander-** abuse their power, lie, cheat,

**Fantasize** – dream

**Noble** – honorable

**Trust Fund-** money your parents give you, usually a lot of money

**Disposal-** trash, garbage

Maybe you'll marry, maybe you won't. Maybe you'll have children, maybe you won't. Maybe you'll divorce at 40, maybe you'll dance the funky chicken on your 75th wedding anniversary. Whatever you do, don't congratulate yourself too much, or berate yourself either. Your choices are half chance. So are everybody else's.

Enjoy your body. Use it every way you can. Don't be afraid of it or of what other people think of it. It's the greatest instrument you'll ever own.

Dance, even if you have nowhere to do it but your living room.

Read the directions, even if you don't follow them.

Do not read beauty magazines. They will only make you feel ugly.

Get to know your parents. You never know when they'll be gone for good.

Be nice to your siblings. They're your best link to your past and the people most likely to stick with you in the future.

Understand that friends come and go, but with a precious few you should hold on. Work hard to bridge the gaps in geography and lifestyle, because the older you get, the more you need the people who knew you when you were young.

Live in New York City once, but leave before it makes you hard.

Live in Northern California once, but leave before it makes you soft.

Travel.

Accept certain inalienable truths: Prices will rise. Politicians will philander. You, too, will get old. And when you do, you'll fantasize that when you were young, prices were reasonable, politicians were noble, and children respected their elders.

Respect your elders.

Don't expect anyone else to support you. Maybe you have a trust fund. Maybe you'll have a wealthy spouse. But you never know when either one might run out.

Don't mess too much with your hair or by the time you're 40 it will look 85.

Be careful whose advice you buy, but be patient with those who supply it. Advice is a form of nostalgia. Dispensing it is a way of fishing the past from the disposal, wiping it off, painting over the ugly parts and recycling it for more than it's worth.

But trust me on the sunscreen

## Questions and Issues for Discussion

- Wearing sunscreen seems like such a minor, unimportant thing in life, why is it the main piece of advice?
- The idea that it is the only piece of advice that is scientifically proven (not actually true → calcium, floss, etc)
- Idea that we don't appreciate things until they are gone, youth is wasted on the young
- We always worry about the big things, but the real problems are things you never think of, unexpected
- Why should you do something every day that scares you?
- 'The race is long'- what device (analogy), what does she mean by this? Why is it only with yourself? How so?
- If you succeed in doing this, tell me how, what does she mean by this?
- Why is it the interesting people who don't know what they want to do?
- 'Your choices are half chance' what does she mean? Do you agree?
- Why read the directions if you aren't going to follow them?
- Why read the directions if you aren't going to follow them?
- Why is singing, dancing, etc. a good thing?
- How do the beauty magazines connect with the first reading?
- How does the part about your parents connect to the Kornheiser reading
- Why would New York make you hard? Why would Northern California make you soft?
- Why is travelling a good thing?
- Lots of nostalgia in this essay
- Look at her last paragraph and tie it to nostalgia, what is her attitude about giving advice?
- **All of her advice can be sorted into 3 categories, what are they?**



## Civil Rights Movement (1955-1968)

- Africans enslaved and brought to America- mostly in the south
  - During the American Civil War Lincoln issues the emancipation proclamation – ends slavery
  - North wins war, Lincoln is assassinated, reconstruction occurs- blacks are essentially re-enslaved
- Post reconstruction South- racial segregation, disenfranchisement, economic exploitation, violence
- Major part of segregation- separate but equal
  - 1954- Supreme Court rejects separate but equal school systems (brown vs. board of education)- Schools have to allow black students to attend- Some cities refused, the army had to be called in to escort the students into the schools, between classes, etc. Some cities shut down their public schools to prevent integration
  - People start demanding the system change rapidly- start mass actions
  - There is huge resistance to this in the south

**Rosa Parks**- Dec 1955- she refuses to give up her seat on the bus to a white man- she is arrested (in Alabama)

- African Americans boycott the busses in Montgomery, demand buses be desegregated, boycott lasts 1 year, is successful
- King was the president of the group that organized the boycott- he becomes a national figure
- His focus is all on non-violence, goal is integration

**Sit ins**- Blacks are refused service at a white-only lunch counter, they refuse to leave, starts in NC and spreads to parks, beaches, libraries, theaters, museums, and other public places

- Are often beaten, arrested, harassed, etc. refuse to leave- if arrested refuse to post bail
- **Freedom Rides**- blacks ride interstate busses that have been ordered to be desegregated, use segregated washrooms, water fountains, terminals, etc. on the way
- One bus is bombed by racists, local police allow KKK to attack blacks riding the busses, blacks are badly beaten
- Are often arrested, they win sympathy of the public, led Kennedy to issue new desegregation laws

**Voting**- Blacks are prevented from voting- poll taxes, literacy tests, etc.

- Those who try are beaten, arrested, businesses are burned, organizers are murdered
- New laws are passed in 1964 and 1965 to allow blacks to vote

**King**- Gains fame for leading marches, sit ins, etc. in Birmingham Alabama, is arrested,

- In the marches hundreds were arrested, police set their dogs to attack the protesters, shoot them with fire hoses- many of the protesters were children, videos of this are broadcast on tv

- The outcry to his extreme violent repression gives the civil rights movement new energy
- The government steps in to enforce desegregation
- The headquarters of the black organization are bombed
- A Baptist church is bombed in Birmingham killing four young black girls
- The governor of Alabama tries to prevent black students from attending the university of Alabama
- Kennedy sends the national guard to allow the students to enroll, gives a famous speech, submits civil rights bill to congress

**March on Washington**- Aug 28 1963- Huge rally in support of economic and civil rights

- 200-300,000 people attend the march, it's here that king delivers his "I Have A Dream Speech"
- King wins the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964

### **Black Power Movement**

- During the civil rights movement King always preached non-violence
- Other black leaders did not support this, they suggested blacks should meet violence with violence

**Malcolm X**- by any means necessary- if the police won't protect blacks they should protect themselves

- He originally supported segregation- believed blacks should establish their own country, their own businesses, etc.

## I Have a Dream by Martin Luther King, Jr.

I am happy to join with you today in what will go down in history as the greatest demonstration for freedom in the history of our nation.

Five score years ago, a great American, in whose symbolic shadow we stand today, signed the Emancipation Proclamation. This momentous decree came as a great beacon light of hope to millions of Negro slaves who had been seared in the flames of withering injustice. It came as a joyous daybreak to end the long night of their captivity.

But one hundred years later, the Negro still is not free. One hundred years later, the life of the Negro is still sadly crippled by the manacles of segregation and the chains of discrimination. One hundred years later, the Negro lives on a lonely island of poverty in the midst of a vast ocean of material prosperity. One hundred years later, the Negro is still languishing in the corners of American society and finds himself an exile in his own land. And so we've come here today to dramatize a shameful condition.

In a sense we've come to our nation's capital to cash a check. When the architects of our republic wrote the magnificent words of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, they were signing a promissory note to which every American was to fall heir. This note was a promise that all men, yes, black men as well as white men, would be guaranteed the "unalienable Rights" of "Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." It is obvious today that America has defaulted on this promissory note, insofar as her citizens of color are concerned. Instead of honoring this sacred obligation, America has given the Negro people a bad check, a check which has come back marked "insufficient funds."

But we refuse to believe that the bank of justice is bankrupt. We refuse to believe that there are insufficient funds in the great vaults of opportunity of this nation. And so, we've come to cash this check, a check that will give us upon demand the riches of freedom and the security of justice.

We have also come to this hallowed spot to remind America of the fierce urgency of *now*. This is no time to engage in the luxury of cooling off or to take the tranquilizing drug of gradualism. *Now* is the time to make real the promises of democracy. *Now* is the time to rise from the dark and desolate valley of segregation to the sunlit path of racial justice. *Now* is the time to lift our nation from the quicksands of racial injustice to the solid rock of brotherhood. *Now* is the time to make justice a reality for all of God's children.

It would be fatal for the nation to overlook the urgency of the moment. This sweltering summer of the Negro's legitimate discontent will not pass until there is an invigorating autumn of freedom and equality. 1963 is not an end, but a beginning. And those who hope that the Negro needed to blow off steam and will now be content will have a rude awakening if the nation returns to business as usual. And there will be neither rest nor tranquility in America until the Negro is granted his citizenship rights. The whirlwinds of revolt will continue to shake the foundations of our nation until the bright day of justice emerges.

But there is something that I must say to my people, who stand on the warm threshold which leads into the palace of justice. In the process of gaining our rightful place, we must not be guilty of wrongful deeds. Let us not seek to satisfy our thirst for freedom

**Score-** 20 years

**Momentous** - great, important

**Decree-** order, command, law

**Beacon-** A guiding signal,

**Seared-** Burned

**Withering-** rotting, decaying

**Crippled-** hurt, broken

**Manacles-** chains

**Segregation-** separating people based on their race

**Poverty-** being poor

**Prosperity-** being rich

**Languishing-** suffering, being held back

**Exile-** banishment, forced to leave

**Promissory Note-** a note promising to pay

**Unalienable-** Can't be taken away

**Defaulted-** failed to pay

**Obligation-** something you must do

**Hallowed-** holy, worshipped

**Desolate-** empty, lonely, barren

**Gradualism-** doing things slowly

**Quicksands-** sand that when you step on it you sink into the ground

**Sweltering-** very hot

**Invigorating-** giving energy

**Blow off Steam-** get angry and then calm down

**Tranquility-** peace

**Whirlwinds-** winds

**Revolt-** uprising, rebellion, fighting against the ruling powers

**Threshold-** the edge, the border

**Fatal-** deadly

by drinking from the cup of bitterness and hatred. We must forever conduct our struggle on the high plane of dignity and discipline. We must not allow our creative protest to degenerate into physical violence. Again and again, we must rise to the majestic heights of meeting physical force with soul force.

The marvelous new militancy which has engulfed the Negro community must not lead us to a distrust of all white people, for many of our white brothers, as evidenced by their presence here today, have come to realize that their destiny is tied up with our destiny. And they have come to realize that their freedom is inextricably bound to our freedom. We cannot walk alone.

And as we walk, we must make the pledge that we shall always march ahead. We cannot turn back. There are those who are asking the devotees of civil rights, "When will you be satisfied?" We can never be satisfied as long as the Negro is the victim of the unspeakable horrors of police brutality. We can never be satisfied as long as our bodies, heavy with the fatigue of travel, cannot gain lodging in the motels of the highways and the hotels of the cities. We cannot be satisfied as long as the Negro's basic mobility is from a smaller ghetto to a larger one. We can never be satisfied as long as our children are stripped of their self-hood and robbed of their dignity by a sign stating "For Whites Only." We cannot be satisfied as long as a Negro in Mississippi cannot vote and a Negro in New York believes he has nothing for which to vote. No, no, we are not satisfied, and we will not be satisfied until justice rolls down like waters, and righteousness like a mighty stream.

I am not unmindful that some of you have come here out of great trials and tribulations. Some of you have come fresh from narrow jail cells. And some of you have come from areas where your quest -- quest for freedom left you battered by the storms of persecution and staggered by the winds of police brutality. You have been the veterans of creative suffering. Continue to work with the faith that unearned suffering is redemptive. Go back to Mississippi, go back to Alabama, go back to South Carolina, go back to Georgia, go back to Louisiana, go back to the slums and ghettos of our northern cities, knowing that somehow this situation can and will be changed.

Let us not wallow in the valley of despair, I say to you today, my friends. And so even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream.

I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that *all* men are created equal."

I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia, the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood.

I have a dream that one day even the state of Mississippi, a state sweltering with the heat of injustice, sweltering with the heat of oppression, will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice.

**I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.**

I have a dream today!

**Degenerate-** become immoral, weaken, become dirty

**Marvelous-** excellent, amazing

**Engulfed-** surrounded by, covered in

**Militancy-** acting like an army

**Evidenced by their Presence-** shown by them being here

**Inextricably-** can't separate

**Pledge-** vow, promise

**Devotees-** followers, supporters

**Brutality-** abuse, acting inhuman

**Fatigue-** tired

**Mobility-** movement

**Ghetto-** poor neighborhood

**Trials and tribulations-** hard situations, hardships,

**Battered-** beaten up

**Unmindful-** not thinking about

**Persecution-** oppression, abuse

**Staggered-** stunned, stumbling

**Redemptive-** will serve you, help you in the long run,

**Slums-** poor neighborhoods

**Wallow-** stay

**Despair-** depression

**Oasis-** a paradise in the middle of a desert

**Creed-** motto, slogan

I have a dream that one day, down in Alabama, with its vicious racists, with its governor having his lips dripping with the words of "interposition" and "nullification"-one day right there in Alabama little black boys and black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls as sisters and brothers.

I have a dream today!

I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted, and every hill and mountain shall be made low, the rough places will be made plain, and the crooked places will be made straight; and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all flesh shall see it together.

This is our hope, and this is the faith that I go back to the South with.

With this faith, we will be able to hew out of the mountain of despair a stone of hope. With this faith, we will be able to transform the jangling discords of our nation into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood. With this faith, we will be able to work together, to pray together, to struggle together, to go to jail together, to stand up for freedom together, knowing that we will be free one day.

And this will be the day--this will be the day when all of God's children will be able to sing with new meaning:

My country 'tis of thee,  
Sweet land of liberty,  
Of thee I sing.  
Land where my fathers died,  
Land of the Pilgrim's pride,  
From every mountainside,  
Let freedom ring!

And if America is to be a great nation, this must become true. And so let freedom ring from the prodigious hilltops of New Hampshire. Let freedom ring from the mighty mountains of New York. Let freedom ring from the heightening Alleghenies of Pennsylvania!

Let freedom ring from the snow-capped Rockies of Colorado!

Let freedom ring from the curvaceous slopes of California!

But not only that. Let freedom ring from Stone Mountain of Georgia!

Let freedom ring from Lookout Mountain of Tennessee!

Let freedom ring from every hill and molehill of Mississippi. From every mountainside, let freedom ring.

And when this happens, when we allow freedom to ring, when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual, "Free at last! Free at last! Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!"

**Interposition-** separating

**Nullification-** removing, making something not count anymore

**Exalted-** raised

**Hew-** carve

**Jangling Discord-** loud disagreement

**Prodigious-** Huge

**Curvaceous-** curvy, wavy

**Hamlet-** small village

**Gentiles-** Christians

## Questions and Issues for Discussion

- What is the main idea/point/message of the speech?
- What is his dream?
- What is the purpose of so much repetition?
- How is a speech different from a written essay?
- Highlight the devices, King was a Baptist minister, hence all the biblical references
  
- P2.** → Where is the speech taking place? Why is this significant? Who is the great American?
- P4.** → What does King believe African-Americans have been promised?
- P8.** → King warns America against something and his people against something? What does he warn each group?
- P11.** → What is King calling people to do?
- P13.** → What are the elements of the dream? How do they relate to the American Dream?
- P20.** → Why does King quote this patriotic song?
- P23.** → Why does he finish with the Negro Spiritual? What is the significance?
  
- What is the situation of black Americans according to the info given in the speech? What injustices do they face? (p3, 10, 11)
  
  
- The idea of freedom of speech in America making the rally possible
  
- Has King's dream come true?
  
- What issues have replaced the civil rights issues in America?

## HIDDEN LESSONS: BY DAVID SUZUKI

In spite of the vast expanse of wilderness in this country, most Canadian children grow up in urban settings. In other words, they live in a world conceived, shaped and dominated by people. Even the farms located around cities and towns are carefully groomed and landscaped for human convenience. There's nothing wrong with that, of course, but in such an environment, it's very easy to lose any sense of connection with nature.

In city apartments and dwellings, the presence of roaches, fleas, ants, mosquitoes or houseflies is guaranteed to elicit the spraying of insecticides. Mice and rats are poisoned or trapped, while the gardener wages a never-ending struggle with ragweed, dandelions, slugs and root-rot. We have a modern arsenal of chemical weapons to fight off these invaders and we use them lavishly.

We worry when kids roll in the mud or wade through a puddle because they'll get "dirty." Children learn attitudes and values very quickly and the lesson in cities is very clear – nature is an enemy, it's dirty, dangerous or a nuisance. So youngsters learn to distance themselves from nature and to try to control it. I am astonished at the number of adults who loathe or are terrified by snakes, spiders, butterflies, worms, birds – the list seems endless.

If you reflect on the history of humankind, you realize that for 99 per cent of our species' existence on the planet, we were deeply embedded in and dependent on nature. When plants and animals were plentiful, we flourished. When famine and drought struck, our numbers fell accordingly. We remain every bit as dependent upon nature today – we need plants to fix photons of energy unto sugar molecules and to cleanse the air and replenish the oxygen. It is folly to forget our dependence on an intact ecosystem. But we do whenever we teach our offspring to fear or detest the natural world. The urban message kids get runs completely counter to what they are born with, a natural interest in other life forms. Just watch a child in a first encounter with a flower or an ant – there is instant interest and fascination. We condition them out of it.

The result is that when my 7-year old daughter brings home new friends, they invariably recoil in fear when she tries to show them her favorite pets – three beautiful salamanders her grandfather got for her in Vancouver. And when my 3-year old comes wandering in with her treasures – millipedes, spiders, slugs and sowbugs that she catches under rocks lining the front lawn – children and adults alike usually respond by saying "yuk."

I can't overemphasize the tragedy of that attitude. For, inherent in this view is the assumption that human beings are special and different and that we lie outside nature. Yet it is this belief that is creating many of our environmental problems today.

Does it matter whether we sense our place in nature so long as we have cities and technology? Yes, for many reasons, not the least of which is that virtually all scientists were fascinated with nature as children and retained that curiosity throughout their lives. But a far more important reason is that if we retain a spiritual sense of connection with all other life forms, it can't help but profoundly affect the way we act.

Whenever my daughter sees a picture of an animal dead or dying, she asks me fearfully, "Daddy are there any more?" At 7 years, she already knows about extinction and it frightens her.

**Vast Expanse-** Huge area

**Conceived-** thought up

**Groomed-** made neat/clean

**Insecticides-** things that kill insects

**Wages-** fights

**Ragweed....root-rot-** weeds

**Arsenal-** collection of weapons

**Lavishly-** a lot, often

**Nuisance-** something that is annoying, a problem,

**Astonished-** Amazed

**Loathe-** hate

**Embedded-** surrounded, planted in,

**Drought-** time when there is no rain

**Cleanse-** clean

**Replenish-** refill

**Folly-** Foolish

**Intact-** complete, not broken

**Offspring-** Children

**Detest-** Hate

**Encounter-** meeting

**Fascination-** interest

**Condition-** Train

**Invariably-** always

**Recoil-** flinch, turn back in fear

**Inherent-** included in

**Virtually-** almost

**Retained-** kept

The yodel of a loon at sunset, the vast flocks of migrating waterfowl in the fall, the indomitable salmon returning thousands of kilometers – these images of nature have inspired us to create music, poetry and art. And when we struggle to retain a handful of California condors or whooping cranes, it's clearly not from a fear of ecological collapse, it's because there is something obscene and frightening about the disappearance of another species at our hands.

If children grow up understanding that we are animals they will look at other species with a sense of fellowship and community. If they understand their ecological place – the biosphere – then when children see the great virgin forests of the Queen Charlotte Islands being clear-cut, they will feel physical pain, because they will understand that those trees are an extension of themselves.

When children who know their place in the ecosystem see factories spewing poison into the air, water and soil, they will feel ill because someone has violated their home. This is not mystical mumbo-jumbo because we have lost a sense of ecological place. Those of us who are parents have to realize the unspoken, negative lessons we are conveying to our children. Otherwise, they will continue to desecrate this planet as we have.

It's not easy to avoid giving these hidden lessons. I have struggled to cover my dismay and queasiness when Severn and Sarika come running in with a large wolf spider or when we've emerged from a ditch covered with leeches or when they have been stung accidentally by yellow jackets feeding on our leftovers. But that's nature. I believe efforts to teach our children to love and respect other life forms are priceless.

**Profoundly** – in a major way

**Extinction**- completely gone

**Yodel**- song, bird call

**Migrating**- flying south for the winter

**Waterfowl**- birds that live near/on the water

**Indomitable**- can't be controlled, won't give up

**California Condors, Whooping Cranes** – two kinds of birds

**Ecological**- how different species in nature interact

**Obscene**- offensive, horrible

**At our hands**- because of us

**Fellowship**- friendship

**Biosphere**- the whole environment

**Virgin forests**- forests that have not been cut down, logged

**Extension**- a part, attached

**Spewing**- spitting, releasing

**Violated**- dirtied, treated disrespectfully

**Mystical Mumbo-Jumbo**- magic nonsense

**Conveying**- teaching

**Desecrate**- ruin, dirty, destroy

**Dismay**- anger, feeling bad

**Queasiness**- feeling sick

**Severn and Sarika**- his daughters



## Questions and Issues for Discussion

→ What is his thesis?

**P1**→ What does he mean by farms being groomed and landscaped for human convenience?

**P3**→ What attitudes and values is he worried that children are learning?

**P4**→ Are we still dependant on nature? Do we realize it or is it subconscious? In what ways are we distanced from nature?

**P5**→ Why do the friends recoil?

**P6**→ How do humans show they are special and different and lie outside nature? How is the belief creating environmental problems?

**P7**→ Do you think it matters whether we sense our place in nature?

→ How does retaining your connection affect the way you act? What does he mean by this?

**P9**→ Why are these things inspiring? What does he mean about the condors and cranes and the reason we keep them

**P11**→ What is he saying parents should do? Why should they do it?

**P12**→ What are the hidden lessons? Why are they hidden?

### **Cause and Effect**

→ What does he believe is one cause for humans mistreating the environment?

→ What are the effects on their children and effects on nature of people losing their connection to nature?

→ What would be the effects if we regained our sense of connection?

→ What will be the effects of teaching our children they are animals, are part of nature?

## A Hard Life, But a Better One by Chui-Ling Tam

My aunt married her sweetheart of twelve years last week. It was a simple wedding at home, with a justice of the peace who intoned the marriage vows in words they didn't understand.

That didn't matter. She knew when it was time to say "Yes," and she said it—emphatically—in a tight, hard voice that suppressed twelve long years of waiting to start her new life in Canada with her husband and family. Beside her, my new uncle grinned foolishly in relief a scant three days before his ninety-day grace period with immigration expired. It was the first time I'd seen him smile since he arrived from China.

It may seem strange for two people to wait twelve years to marry, but it was the price my aunt paid to leave her homeland, where she met her husband on a state farm in their late teens. She would not have been allowed to leave if they had married in China.

My aunt was the last member of my mother's family to come to Canada, by grace of the reunification program introduced in 1988. She came in search of a better life, and in the modest home she shares with her two younger sisters, her brother-in-law, and her father, she has found it.

Many Southeast-Asian immigrants arrived in the 1970s. My family was part of that group. We had little worldly wealth to lose. When we landed in Ottawa in 1972, we had about one hundred dollars in cash, and all we left behind, besides a rather extensive family and numerous friends, was a little two-room shack that passed for our home.

My mother has worked at the same restaurant for the past eighteen years, and my father has hopped along a string of jobs in other people's restaurants. They did not take a vacation until two years ago, and they did not go anywhere when they did. They couldn't afford it.

But they don't mind. My older brother and I are working—not in kitchens—and my younger brother and sister are in university. My parents now live in a red-brick bungalow surrounded by trees in a quiet suburb in Ottawa. They have running water, a 28-inch colour TV, and a car.

It's a far cry from the two-room home we left in Hong Kong, which had no running water. As a child of five, I recall trooping off to the big black outhouses down the street and the hordes of women and children who washed and bathed in the common watering area near our house.

When a thunderstorm knocked out the roof in the front room, the whole neighbourhood pitched in to attach a new corrugated-iron roof, and the air reeked with the smell of tar.

Not speaking English and with only a high school education, my parents never expected to find comfortable jobs. Some days, my mother doubts whether her life would have been any harder in Hong Kong, where she worked for a time at a laundromat. She knew the life of riches was long behind her, ever since the Chinese Communists forced her family to give up their mansion and servants in Canton.

Often, before my grandparents and aunts arrived in 1985, my mother would talk wistfully of them, never expecting to find the money to make the trip back. The last time I gave her roses, she told me that the blooms were more fragrant in China.

But I don't think my parents ever regretted their choice. They have friends and family in Canada, and their children will never know the life they had.

**Justice of the Peace-** A government official who can marry people

**Intoned-** said, recited

**Emphatically-** strongly

**Suppressed-** held back

**Scant-** small number, barely

**Grace-** goodwill, mercy,

**Reunification-** reuniting, connecting families who were separated

**Modest-** simple, small

**Extensive-** large

**Shack-** tiny/very poor house

**A string-** a series, one after another

**Bungalow-** a one floor house

**Suburb-** a neighborhood outside of a big city

**Recall-** remember

**Far Cry-** long way off, very different

**Trooping-** walking together

**Outhouses-** outdoor toilets

**Hordes-** crowds, lots of people

**Pitched in-** helped

**Reeked-** smelled bad

**Wistfully-** sad because you miss something

Canada hasn't been wonderful. The winters are hard, the work is hard, and the range of services is bewildering to a Chinese-speaking couple. In leaving Hong Kong, my parents gave up some of their independence. They rely on their children to help them with finances and visits to the doctor, or choosing paint and wallpaper at hardware stores.

My mother often stares at her knotted hands and murmurs that when she was a young woman, she had long, beautiful hands. Two decades of dishwashing and cooking eight hours a day, six days a week, have left brown spots from splashing grease.

Today, she and my father are both worried about how long their aging bodies can continue such work.

For all that, they have a good life. They have a comfortable home and enough to eat. They can brag about their children to friends. Their son, the pilot, their daughter, the journalist, their younger son and daughter, the university students. Very probably, my aunt and her husband will have a similar life. She works as a seamstress and he at a laundromat. They expect, and ask, for little more. It is enough that they can choose their lives, that their children will have an education and perhaps work in offices rather than endure the hard labour of state farms in China, or the hot kitchens and dirty hotel toilets in Canada.

I expect that they will brag about their children in twentyfive years, as do my parents. And they will quite likely have their own home and be grateful that after twelve long years, they were finally able to start the family they wanted for so long in a country where they could decide their future.

Their life will be hard, but I doubt that they will ever regret the loss of their homeland. While Canada is not the land of milk and honey, it offers them a lot more worldly wealth and freedom than China ever could.

**Bewildering**- confusing

**Murmurs**- mumbles, speaks quietly

**Seamstress**- someone who sews clothes or fixes clothes

**Grateful**- thankful

### Questions and Issues for Discussion

→ Read over the essay explaining things as you go

→ P1- Why don't they understand the words

\*\*\*→ P6/10/13/14- What difficulties did the family face in Canada?

\*\*\*→ P7/16- What have they gained?

→ P8/10/11- What did they leave behind?

→ P9- Is this a positive memory or a negative one- people pitching in to help, thunderstorm, smells like tar

→ P11- why might she think the blooms were more fragrant in China?

### **General Questions**

→ What is the thesis of this essay? How does the author support the thesis?

→ Was the decision to move to Canada good for the parents? Who is it good for?

## Analogies

Sing is to sang as eat is to \_\_\_\_\_.

Left is to right as down is to \_\_\_\_\_.

Bird is to fly as fish is to \_\_\_\_\_.

Monday is to day as October is to \_\_\_\_\_.

Which is to witch as weather is to \_\_\_\_\_.

Parrot is to feathers as bear is to \_\_\_\_\_.

Automobile is to gasoline as television is to \_\_\_\_\_.

Smile is to frown as ugly is to \_\_\_\_\_.

Penguin is to Antarctica as panda is to \_\_\_\_\_.

Cow is to walk as kangaroo is to \_\_\_\_\_.

Husband is to wife as brother is to \_\_\_\_\_.

Water is to boat as air is to \_\_\_\_\_.

Wealthy is to rich as poor is to \_\_\_\_\_.

Shoe box is to cardboard as dollar bill is to \_\_\_\_\_.

Swimming is to pool as cooking is to \_\_\_\_\_.

Teacher is to school as doctor is to \_\_\_\_\_.

Blizzard is to \_\_\_\_\_ as flood is to rain.

Baseball is to ball as hockey is to \_\_\_\_\_.

Team is to player as crowd is to \_\_\_\_\_.

Basketball is to sneakers as hockey is to \_\_\_\_\_.

# The Trail-Hiker's Guide to the Workplace By Wendy Magaha

While weekend and vacation hikes are meant to provide a break from the world of work, a number of rules to keep in mind on the trail have equally valuable application in the workplace.

So here's a trail-hiker's guide to the career world:

**Hike with a buddy.** Whenever possible, you should travel with a companion; it can enhance the journey and, if something goes wrong, it just might save your life.

The same holds true at work, where some of our most important assets are our colleagues and the alliances and networks we build. Work teams, quality circles and formal and informal mentoring programs are all examples of powerful buddy systems at work.

**Stay connected.** Sometimes a hiker prefers to commune with nature alone, but it's imperative that someone always knows where you are and your plans.

There are also times at work when the creative among us need to be alone to run with an idea. But if you don't want to end up isolating yourself or creating ill feelings, it's imperative to let your colleagues, bosses, and support staff always know what you're up to—and keep them in the loop. Don't shut out the rest of your team. That way, nobody gets left behind.

**Have a map.** You might never take it out of your pocket, but you need to know your starting point and where you want to go. You also need to have a career map for your own professional development and use it to track your progress.

At the same time, whether on the trail or in the office, there are lots of different routes to choose from. It's all right to change plans as you go along, as long as you stay focused on your final destination.

But don't be so fixed on staying the course that you forget to lift your head every so often and look around. Conditions both outdoors and indoors change, creating new opportunities or signaling a need to reassess where you're heading.

**Break a long hike into manageable chunks.** If you don't want to get overwhelmed, it's easier to reach for shorter-term goals and clearly measurable results to keep your enthusiasm from waning.

The same goes for your job. Set work goals and benchmarks for yourself and your team that are realistic and can be easily achieved -and be certain to celebrate every success. Setting benchmarks will also let you know when things aren't working out as you projected and help you change course before it's too late.

**It doesn't matter who made the mess - clean it up.** As you're walking along a trail, you may come across droppings left by an irresponsible dog owner who failed to clean up after the pet. That leaves you with two choices: pick them up or leave them for someone else to step in.

Similarly, in the office, you may also be faced with the "droppings" of someone else's mistakes, laziness or ineptitude. It doesn't matter the reason or whose fault it is. If you can clean up the mess, do it. Not only will you exemplify positive leadership to those around you, you'll also make your own life easier.

**Application-** use, fit

**Enhance-** Make better

**Assets-** useful or desirable quality

**Colleagues-** co-workers

**Alliances-** teams

**Mentoring-** giving advice to people just starting out

**Commune-** talk, meet

**Imperative-** very important

**Isolating-** separate/alone

**In the loop-** understanding what is going on

**Staying the course-** continuing to do something, not changing

**Reassess-** reconsider, think again

**Waning-** going away

**Benchmarks-** targets, goals

**Projected-** expected

**Droppings-** poop

**Share the load.** When hiking with a group, it's important to plan the trip ahead of time, split up the work to be done and assign tasks that people enjoy. After all, the goal is for everyone to have a good time.

Same goes at work. Advance planning, effective communication around roles and responsibilities, and recognition of everyone's strengths help to ensure that tasks get done, and done well - and, just as importantly, that people have fun and feel good about the work they're doing.

**Practice etiquette.** On the trail, it's important to leave nothing but your footprints behind. To keep your voice down. To use your cellphone only in an emergency because nobody wants to hear you talking to your broker while they're trying to commune with nature.

That's the etiquette of hiking - and off the trail, all organizations have their own rules that reflect, govern and reinforce their culture and acceptable behavior.

Sometimes workplace etiquette is explicit—you can find it in mission and values statements or an employee manual. Other times, it is implicit and learned through experience, observation and asking questions. Learn the rules of the organization where you work and apply them. Practicing etiquette makes you a valued part of the workplace community.

**Take care of your feet.** They support you and can easily suffer when you're hiking. Painful blisters and injuries can keep you off the trail so you need to keep yourself in shape for the trail.

It's the same at work, where your ability to do your best depends on taking care of yourself. Keep your life and work in balance. Job-sharing, flexible hours, health breaks, and participating in health and wellness programs inside and outside of work all help to keep the stress down and the morale up.

**The person expending the most energy has priority.** When a hiker going uphill meets one heading down, it's usually the one going down who yields the right of way so the uphill climber can keep momentum and maintain aerobic level.

One of the best things you can do as a team leader and member is to recognize the hardest workers in your group and support them, sometimes by getting out of their way. Clear obstacles in their paths. Offer encouragement. Reward them and keep their momentum going, too.

**Sometimes basic is beautiful.** Your battered, brown hiking boots might be the only footwear in your closet without wing tips or a three inch heel. But there are times when absolutely nothing else will do.

In the workplace, solutions don't have to be complicated or experimental to be effective. Real innovation respects and builds on the things that are already working. What's most important is to gather the right people and the right tools for the job.

**Exercise leadership.** Just as your leg muscles will be stronger if you make a point of exercising them year-round, your teamwork and leadership skills will also become stronger and work more effectively with regular use.

**Ineptitude-** stupidity, failing

**Exemplify-** be a perfect example of

**Roles-** jobs

**Recognition-** realizing

**Etiquette-** Proper behavior, polite behavior

**Broker-** special banker

**Govern-** rule

**Reinforce-** support,

**Explicit-** told very clearly

**Implicit-** implied, not told clearly

**Morale-** positive feelings, enthusiasm

**Priority-** goes first, most important

**Yields-** gives up

**Momentum-** movement or energy going in one direction

**Obstacles-** things in the way

**Innovation-** invention, creative solutions or ideas

## Questions and Issues for Discussion

- How is hiking with a buddy connected to working?
- How do coworkers help? What can they save?
- Why is it important for someone to know your plans when you are hiking?
- Why is it important to keep your coworkers in the loop?
- What is professional development?
- Why is setting goals important?
- What does she mean by conditions changing to create opportunities? How does this apply to hiking and working?
- What does she mean by changing course?
- How does cleaning up other people's mess make your life easier?
- What will happen if you don't plan ahead? If you don't assign tasks well?
- What kind of rules is she referring to in the paragraphs about etiquette?
  
- What is her real subject? Does the hiking explain the office, or does the office explain the hiking? Which of the two does she really want you to understand/learn about?**
  
- What are her main pieces of advice?
- How effective or fitting is the analogy?