

Waves of Thought

Volume II

The Creative Writings of Grundy High School
Advanced Placement English 12 and Creative
Writing Students 2007 - 2008

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Keeping a Journal



An important part of Advanced Placement English and Creative Writing is journaling. We begin each class by writing in our journals. Topics, quotations, and proverbs are provided, music plays in the background, and creativity flows. This avenue of creative reflection gives the students an opportunity to put their personal thoughts and ideas on paper.

AP English 1st Block

*****The dates listed are the day the student wrote the journal response and the words following the date are the writing prompt. *****

8/29/07 – Everything comes to he who hustles while he waits. – Thomas Edison

The scoreboard illuminates the numbers of a loss. Breaking one, two tackles and makes two more miss. I read the hole created by my teammates. All of that work meant nothing! The 162 yards on 21 carries that I had accomplished meant nothing! After all the broken tackles and all of the energy, everything came down to one more play. I had read the defense all night; I knew what was open. I broke for the corner with the touchdown in sight. Two men left to beat.

Patiently and unpatiently, I handed the ball off to my teammate – a reverse and a touchdown. No more of a 0 and 10 record! “The undefeated Hurley Rebels win over the Ervington Rebels in double overtime.” (Virginia Mountaineer) – ***Scottie Hurley***

8/30/07 – If Life was a multiple choice test, what would be the first five questions on yours? Write the questions and multiple choice answers.



1. Do you laugh? A. Often B. Sometimes C. Never
2. Do you enjoy/have fun in life? A. I live life to the fullest. B. I have fun sometimes. C. I never have fun.
3. Do you believe in yourself? A. YES B. Sometimes C. Never

4. Do you value your family and friendships? A. Yes, family/friends are very important to me. B. Family/friends are somewhat important. C. Family/friends are not important to me.
5. Do you try to do your best and give everything you have in life? A. I do my best in everything I try. B. I try sometimes. C. I never try. – *Erica Coleman*

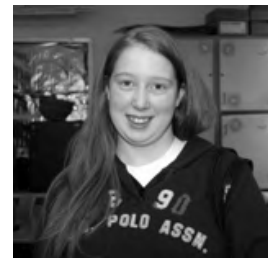
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8/31/07 – What is more important to you appearance or personality? Why?

I could tell when I saw her. Dark brown locks and deep brown eyes, each playing its own game making thoughts dance through my mind. Her body looked as if it had been carved by angels, or God himself. Oh, how I could hold her! I knew she was interested so I sat down beside of her. We talked about the usual and then about the summer, how I never before had looked her way. I was calm and cool as I gave her a line. The more I talked the more I was myself. Her looks got me at first, but after she showed me her heart, I knew that was where I wanted to be. On Sept. 19, I'll be glad to say that I've been in love with my soul mate for a year.-

Scottie Hurley

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8/31/07 – What is more important to you appearance or personality? Why?

I think that personality is more important than appearance because looks don't really matter; it's what's on the inside that counts. I don't think that age, race, or appearance matters as long as you're happy with the person and love them then that's all that really matters. Right?



And if you think that “Oh, well, what is everyone else going to say,” who cares what they think? It's what's in your heart that matters. There was only one guy I ever dated because of his looks

and that was the biggest mistake I ever made because all we ever did was fight and that's not good at all. – *Angie Adkins*

9/6/07 - Whatever you do you need courage...there is always



someone to tell you that you are wrong. There are always difficulties arising that tempt you to believe your critics are right. – Ralph Waldo Emerson

People will always have a negative comment to say, no matter what. They will always doubt you. I guess they do it because if they aren't happy, they don't want anyone else to be. Actually, they want to be on top. Just have everything better. But you have to follow your heart. Go with your first instinct. Don't worry about anyone else's opinion. Just try to be as happy as possible. Look out for yourself because if you don't, no one will. I've realized just recently to go with my heart, even if people tell me differently. They don't know how my heart feels. I can't help my heart. I can't let them constantly influence me and make me second guess myself. – *Lauren Hawks*

9/17/07 – Dance like no one is watching. Sing like no one is listening. Love like you've never been hurt, and live like its heaven on earth. – Old Irish Proverb

As humans, we only have so much time to have fun and to be with the ones we love. So when you dance, dance like no one is watching you; like you could dance all night. Dance like you were born to dance. When you sing, sing like no one is listening. Sing out loud to your favorite song driving down the road. Let everyone hear that you have a voice, and you're not afraid to use it. Love like you've never been hurt. Love like no



one has ever loved you before. Don't be worried what the next day brings. Make the best of things. Finally, live like its heaven on earth because you're here dancing, singing, and loving! Isn't that heaven enough? – **Jennifer Johnson**

09/17/07 – Dance like no one is watching, sing like no one is



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listening, love like you've never been hurt,
and live like its heaven on earth. – Irish
Proverb

This proverb means to live your life to the fullest. Take all the opportunities you can, and always be yourself. I guess this is the Irish secret to happiness. If you can be upfront and honest, with love and caring in your heart, life can be heaven on earth. Don't hold yourself back because you never know tomorrow brings. – **Briana Boyd**

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09/27/07 – People who live in glass houses should not throw
stones. – Old Irish Proverb

I have never seen a glass house, but I'm sure that mine would be easily shattered. If you have a weakness, you shouldn't attack other people. People shouldn't make fun of other people because they can just throw a stone back and shatter your metaphorical glass house. People who live in stone houses shouldn't throw stones either! It's just not polite! HA! HA! Everyone has an area they are sensitive about; every house has windows after all, and we shouldn't attract those weaknesses and sensitivities. – **Jake Oliva**

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10/9/07 - There are two ways to live your life. One is as though
nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle.
– Albert Einstein

Life is more pleasant when you treat mediocre occurrences as though they are true miracles. It's beautiful the way a child is so easily intrigued by everything. The world around them is a playground of mysterious wonders. Really, when is the last time you really considered the stars in the sky or the teddy bears in the clouds miracles? Maybe if we'd all start looking at the world through a child's eyes, we'd see things clearly. -



Amanda Blankenship

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10/23/07 – Be nice to people on your way up because you may have to meet them on the way down. – Jimmy Durante

Always be nice to people no matter what. Never think you are better than anyone else. When someone knocks you back down to earth and you realize that you are no better than anybody else, the people you hurt will be the ones you depend on. I know someone who thinks she is better than anybody else, but someone will eventually put her back down to our level and let her know what she is not better. Your clothes are not what matters; it's what's inside and if she could realize that, she would have a lot more friends in our school. – ***Laura Dotson***

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10/23/07 – Well timed silence hath more eloquence than speech.



Sometimes you just need to know when to say nothing because silence is better than any words you could say. Like when your friend is upset and crying, instead of telling them your opinion, it may be better to just let them cry on your shoulder, or saying "I told you so," isn't always necessary. This proverb reminds me of something my mom tells me sometimes, "If you can't say something nice, don't say anything at all." If you got asked, "Do I

look good in this shirt?" It may be better to just be quiet. My mom's advice applies to that and so does this proverb. All in all, keep some opinions to yourself. The world doesn't need to know everything you think. – **Nikki Farmer**

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10/24/07 – When I take a long look in the mirror, this is what I see...

When I look in the mirror, I see many things. First off, I see brown hair and blue eyes. I see somewhat a resemblance of my mother in a younger version.



I see the same face I look at every day. When I look in the mirror, I see a person that is completely comfortable in her own skin and is okay with her flaws. I see someone who has failed in the past, yet also succeeded. When I look in the mirror, I see someone who isn't afraid to take chances and lives each day to the fullest. I see a happy person.

When I look in the mirror, I see a caring person, a loving daughter, and a loyal friend. I see inner beauty in her smile. This person I see in the mirror is me. – **Sara Looney**

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11/2 /07 – Describe your "dream" vacation. Plan a week's vacation and spend as much money as you want.

My dream vacation would be to go to Egypt because I am just fascinated with all that stuff and would love to know more information about it. I would have all the money that I need for this trip and more. I would go by plane. I would take as much time as I needed and see everything that I intended to. Pictures would be taken of me and the pyramids and if I wanted something from them it would be given to me. Also, while



traveling through the Egyptian lands, I would ride on a camel and be led by a man dressed in Egyptian clothes. I would be treated like a queen! This would truly be my “dream” vacation. -

Kassie Bell

11/02/07 – Win without boasting; lose without excuse. – Proverb

When you win, you should be able to know by winning that you have performed well. When you have won there is no need to say, “I won,” because everyone knows you won. If you let winning go to your head, it will make you a loser. The same is true as being able to win without jumping up and down and yelling and screaming about it for a month. When you lose, you shouldn’t have to cry and be a bad sport and embarrass not only yourself, but everyone who is watching. Any fool can lose and go back and cry. A champion can lose and go back and train. Winning and losing are completely different feelings, but your actions afterwards should be exactly the same. –



Kaleb Smith

11/08/07 – A rainbow is a sign from Him who is in all things. – Hopi Indian Proverb

The rainbow is a sign from God stating a promise that the world will never be destroyed by flood again. God is in all things and will reign over all for ages to come. He is in the trees, the air, the clouds, and everything around us. He has the control to do unimaginable things. He will make the decision for you when judgment day comes. He is what makes the World. This is what I think the rainbow is – a sign of God. – ***Kassie Bell***

11/07/07 – Men fall only in order to rise. – African Proverb



If you keep on winning you never learn anything new. While winning is the hoped for outcome, losing teaches you more. You learn from mistakes and rise up again hoping to correct those mistakes. And, because no one always wins, everyone is constantly learning. – **Tabatha Whited**

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11/13/07 – Describe your typical “morning madness.”

I wake up at six and wake my mom in case she didn’t hear her alarm clock, then I go back to bed. My alarm blares the guitar solo from “Sweet Child of Mine” at 7:22 when I get up. During “Malcolm in the Middle” I fight with my contacts and hair, feeling a sense of urgency. I quickly apply makeup and dig for whatever jewelry I’m going to wear. At this point, my brother Logan has taken over my bedroom and is demanding I change the channel to “Sponge bob”. I rush to find my purse which Logan has hidden, and my shoes, also hidden. I pack my lunch and get all my books in my bag while tripping over Logan and my cousin Payton who rides to school with me. I load my car with my bookbag, purse, guitar, and Payton, then feed the dogs, get my coffee and get to school before 8:05. – **Samantha Gibson**

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11/16/07 – Review of the play *Dracula* performed at the Barter Theatre.

The opening scene was thoroughly enticing when Dracula seemed to melt into the bed and disappear. I knew then, the play would be excellent. Lucy’s writhing form gave the impression of someone being truly entranced by an unseen force. She resists, building excitement to a crescendo, then succumbs.

The character Reinfield was a crowd favorite as his sanity was at times clear and at other times cloudy as a winter's day. One was both charmed and a bit worried about Reinfield. Jonathan seemed sarcastic at times and was a very convincing love for Mina. Dr. Seward was excellent! Van Helsing was a woman(not like in the play where Van Helsing was a man) which I adored. She was loving but levelheaded in her care. She was brave. Her character was just perfect.

And of course, Dracula. He was both charming and deadly. He was intelligent but unaware of his foe's intelligence. He was one of the best actors on the stage. He and Reinfield were my favorite characters. This Dracula was better than all the movies I have seen thus far. – **Samantha Gibson**

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11/20/07 – What are you truly thankful for?

If I was to write down everything I was thankful for, there might not be any paper left. The word Thanksgiving is to give “thanks” first and the “giving” is second.



I am truly thankful that my mother is a cancer survivor. I am also thankful for my brother who not only was born early; he was hit by a car. I am thankful for my dad because he is strict, even though I don't like it and I don't want to admit he is right. I am thankful for my grandmother for being a survivor of a five-bypass surgery last summer. I am thankful for my relatives, for being themselves. I am thankful for my dog, Spot, who never quits caring for my family. I am thankful for every breath that I am able to take, everything I can smell and hear. Also, I am thankful to have a voice and I am thankful for everything I can touch. I realize that we take many things for granted don't twice about them

I am thankful most for God because he lights up my world. He is always there, even when I think I'm alone. He has always cared, and gave up his only Son, Jesus, for our sins.

I am thankful for the clothes I wear and the house I live in. I am thankful for food and water and the rain, snow, sleet, and heat. I am thankful for my best friend because she is always there to pick me up when I fail. I am thankful for all of my friends because they care. I am thankful for each day I live because that is one more day I can be with my family, and praise God. All earthly things I have cannot compare to being thankful for what he is going to give me – a life without pain, streets of gold and most of all, his love and eternal life. Everything we have is given to us, and for that, I am thankful. – *Amanda Sturgill*

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01/07/08 – What would you like to remember most about your Christmas break?



I would like to remember my family dinner with my Dad the most. This is his first time home for Christmas in four or five years. My aunt, her children, my brother, my Dad; all of us got to eat and open presents together. It was special to me because we all got to sit down and talk for the first time.

I also won't forget all of my one o'clock a.m. trips to Wal-Mart to do my Christmas shopping. Getting everyone's presents in three trips to Wal-Mart; I think that's pretty good! – *Jessica Dotson*

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01/08/08 – Write about when you heard a song that “spoke” to you. What was the song and why did it speak to you?

“Green Fields of France” by the Dropkick Murphys really spoke to me. I was coming home from cleaning off Papaw's grave and I was listening to the rest of the CD, I borrowed from Shannon. And

then I heard it. It's a song about a guy who's been walking. He goes through a graveyard and stops to rest by a tombstone with the name Willy McBride on it that died in the war at only nineteen. The song laments that it was a war to end all wars but we did it again and again. He talks about the boys loved ones. This song made me hate the war in Iraq even more because I knew men were dying. It made me think about their families and all they'll miss in life. It made me wish for world peace even more. No Blood for Oil! Wars may come and go, but my soldiers stay eternal. – *Samantha Gibson*



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