

## CW Summer Assignment 2009-2010

1.) On the first day of Creative Writing, Monday, August 25<sup>th</sup>, you will turn in a **writers' notebook**,

The notebooks are to be the standard composition books with lined paper. You will continue to work with these notebooks throughout the year. These are not private journals, but *writers' notebooks*, which are to accompany you everywhere. **I will be reading and checking for the items listed below:**

- |  |                      |
|--|----------------------|
| --Observed interesting, precise <i>details</i> | --Character sketches |
| --Overheard conversations                      | --Story ideas        |
| --Dialogue                                     | --Poems              |

2.) **One** thoughtful, well-crafted short story: at least **five** pages for the incoming freshmen, at least **ten** for everyone else.

3.) **Ten** polished poems; one of these may be a series of three haikus. *I will be looking for longer poems.*

These should contain no errors of grammar, spelling, or punctuation and be properly formatted, including your *name* and *title*. *I will be looking for writing development in all areas over the summer.* Use your notebook for ideas—that's what it's for.

4.) You are to read at least **three books** over the summer. I am happy to suggest titles. As you finish each book you are to write a one-page response in your notebook. The response is to be thoughtful and go beyond whether or not you liked the book.

**CW II students who fail to satisfactorily complete this long-term assignment will begin the year in CW I. For those who will be beginning the 09-10 year in CW I, this will impact any eventual move to CW II.**

**WRITERS READ AND WRITE REGULARLY.**

**GOOD WRITERS READ AND WRITE PROLIFICALLY.**

**GREAT WRITERS READ AND WRITE EVERY CHANCE THEY GET.**

## CW Senior Summer Assignment 2009-2010

On the first day of Creative Writing you will turn in the first **twenty pages** of your thesis, along with a separate, detailed book proposal (novel, book of short stories or poems, play, etc.), wherein you discuss the work's theme/s, concerns, purpose, and objective. *This should be at the very least one page.*

Your thesis work will be correctly formatted and ERROR-FREE. As a senior I expect you to submit clean copy; if you cannot, then you are not ready to write a thesis.

You will be required to meet with your thesis advisor early in the summer to discuss your proposal and receive his or her approval. At that time you will also set up your schedule of meetings and deadlines (a copy which you will send to me).

Finally, you are to read at least five books of poems by different poets if you are writing a poetry manuscript, three to four books of short stories by different authors if you are writing a short story manuscript, and at least six plays by different playwrights if you are writing a play.

I expect you to attend at least three readings during the summer.

If you cannot complete the above you are not ready to write a thesis, which is a requirement for graduation with the department. The thesis is the culminating work of your four years in Creative Writing. You will know that you CAN write a book, for you will have done so! I am looking forward to reading your first twenty pages—Heather