

Reflective Writing: Portfolio 1c/d

Responses to Alice Walker's essay, "Beauty: When the Other Dancer is the Self"

(due Tuesday, January 24)

1. How does Walker remember herself as a young girl? What descriptive details or narratives does she include that illustrate this earlier self?
2. Why do you think Walker begins with these descriptive details of herself as a child of two and six?
3. What happens to Walker when she is eight years old that changes her life? What details does she provide that illustrate the change in herself?
4. This essay is a series of narratives or short stories about the writer's experiences. What techniques does the writer use to stitch these narratives together?
5. Write a one to two-paragraph response to this essay describing your reaction to Walker's essay or describing an experience of your own that Walker's writing brings to your mind. Support your claims with specific details from the essay or from your experience.

Responses to Scott Russell Sanders' essay, "Under the Influence"

(due Thursday, January 26)

1. List at least ten specific and concrete words/details that Sanders uses to make his writing vivid.
2. Locate at least two similes (comparisons of unlike things, using the words "like" or "as") in this essay and write them down. To what does Sanders compare the shame of having an alcoholic family member?
3. List at least five verbs that Sanders uses that help describe the drunken father as animal-like, secretive, and/or out of control.
4. List at least two allusions to literary and Biblical figures and stories that Russell includes to describe the character of his drunken father or to explain the actions and hopes of the other family members.
5. Choose an incident, a quotation, or a description in the essay that captured your interest or that was particularly thought-provoking. In one to three paragraphs, explain why that particular passage or description caught your eye.