

2009 ODE TO AP COMP. and LIT. Final Copy

T'was the night before **3rd term**
 and the rumors were flyin'
 Would AP be a Grendel
 Or were last year's AP-ers lyin'?

Some were still getting through Irving
 Before Things Fell Apart
 Would they really test us on **Tale?**
 "Oh, the Horror! the horror! To start!

NO FAIR!

Those lucky **non**-AP-ers were nestled
 all snug in their beds
NO dreams of WA's, CC's and PR's
 would ever dance in their heads!

But, yes! from last year's AP-ers . . .
They'd even heard rumors
 AP might give you headaches
 and delirius tremors.

No way! They decided
 A.P.'d be a breeze!
 13 years had prepared them!
 Olson and Wally would be easy to please!

For they'd aced multiple choice tests
 and could even recite theories!
 But would it be just like Classics
 where as juniors some had grown weary?

But now they were seniors--
 3rd and 4th term to boot!
 Rolf and Wally surely'd not push them
 'cuz grades don't mean a hoot!

1st hour was now over
 To **2nd hour** did they skate
 But some couldn't find the room
 And came in incredibly late!

Being late's not good for AP-ers
 with masses of handouts to cover
Sean & Audrey had no idea
 what soon **they'd** discover

And what to **their** wondering eyes should appear
 but **Mr. Olson** and a miniature teacher
 with Survival Packets, LBTs and hand-outs!
 Now, they began to fear!!

GOLD Wally suggested you'd need three rings
 For millions of hand-outs to store
Tom had **his** own system
 Just stuff and stuff and then stuff some more!

What **WAS** up that FATE can?
 And putting quotes up unfamiliar
 Rolf said, "**This one's for you,
 so it's up to you to deliver**"

And "**Keep those flags flyin**"
 Wally says as hour's end nears
 And "**When the student is ready,
 the teacher appears.**"

She said, "In here you'll find SYNCRONICITY
 and SERENDIPITY, too
Ashley thought that was weird
 but when she saw **Derek Jacobi on Frazier**
 "synchronicity" really rang true!

These teachers didn't seem typical
 With their huge syllabi.
 Then they handed out advice letters.
"Last year's AP-ers wouldn't lie!"

And they warned **Matt Steen** of journals
 Don't lose them! and get behind--
 Or do ten, twelve, or forty
 in less than a week **he** would find!"

"You'll have to be honest
 and say what you feel;
 No chance then from Spark Notes
 any ideas you can steal."

So, give it your all
 and just try your best
 And **Natalia** liked Wally's mantra:
 "**Take what you like; leave the rest.**"

But, for **Sam Daub** it bugged **him**
 When Wally called him **his brother on a lark**
 And her style in that green letter?
 Seemed rotten like Denmark?

Their green “Welcome Letter” brought questions
 about that guy Olson and Wally
 What was Lit? What was Comp?
 Why, their hand-outs could fit in a trolley!

What? Homework the first night?
Emily’s and Vall’s extra-curricular life looked doomed
 Where's the time to journal on these hand-outs?
 How will there ever be room?

Next day brought more journaling on
 Universal Questions, summer novels, and quotes
Some might have scratched Owen
 “Wait” said **some** “**Tale** gets my vote!”

We discussed **Sydney Carton and Okonkwo,**
Owen and Madame DeFarge--all dead
 And the din of over 50 trying to discuss in this room
 How it rattled our heads!

Many had Captain English
 So had deja vu's from Holm's “Block”:
 With Wally and Rolf, would there be only **one answer**?
 So no one could fly far from the **formalist** flock?

Well, **Eric, Andrew, Becca, Joe, & Lindsey**
survived Wally’s English 9
 And **Kate & Maggie & Sam**
 On **Olson’s mighty stage had memorized** many a line!

So, they knew that in AP,
 We'd all be the teachers . . .
 Let's outlaw the lectures!
 Let there be no more preachers!

And let's learn some allusions
 And some Vocab to boot
Jenny even taught them to young gymnasts
 Her **TAGS Word of the Day** was the proof!

Ann began to ponder this and all **EP** classes,
 Were they Punishment? Or what Kohn calls rewards?
She's pushed **herself this term** to learn
 And not just for gold stars.

We then took some tests
to learn **colors true**
and **some** began to wonder
whether **be or not to be** **GREEN, ORANGE, GOLD or** **BLUE!**

GREEN like **Brittany and Heidi** couldn't wait
to set **their** minds free
They didn't agree with Kermit—
That it's not easy being green!

Some greens didn't mind binder structure
BLUES like **Emilie** preferred theatre, emo and feeling
ORANGES like **Annie** never needed agendas
Which would send many a **GOLD** like **Margaret** reeling!

She thought **she** hated group work
But branched out and **she** grew
Found writing partner papers with **the Kelsies**
Can be more even fun when you're two!

As we sat in these small groups
& talked about which COLOR to do
CHAMELEONS like **SARAH LARSON** were sometimes confused
"Am I green, orange, yellow, or BLUE?"

We started Fantastic Healthy Food Fridays
And learned to love yummy Swedish fish
And found out **Melissa** was the queen
Of the **lemon bar dish!**

Then Rolf and Wally said, "We're sorry
To break up this party,
But it's time for **a paper**
To see who's a smarty."

NO!! the dreaded word, "paper"?
CLT? Research? --how smart!
And we have to be creative, too?
then **Things Really Fell Apart?**

We learned MLA
And documentation parenthetical
Had to find those credentials
Or risk to be plagiarists—heretical!

Then about **Beowulf** we'd study
 The last action hero?--so thrillin'
Emilie, a Nordic mythology fan, wondered
 whether Beowulf would be just as chillin'

When we met this brave Beowulf
 who against bare-handed Grendel did fight
Vall pondered how much like him
 Our struggles were to do right!

Some of the journals showed Beowulf didn't move **them**
 "How could anyone weep?"
 "Amen" piped most Greens
 "Those lays made me sleep."

But **Wally** had them journal on lays,
 about "last survivors," honor, and names
 They began to see what's important--
relationships --not jobs, pride, or fame.

Now Beowulf was over

Again, time to unite!
 Not just talk to each other through PR's
 Where I heard many strange stories at night!

THE CLT PAPER FINALLY CAME BACK!

And Rolf, he was clever
 Never writing in red!
 But where was the grade?
 Write in a box?
 He's rather be dead!

We all wanted to quit
 Seeing our preliminary score
 But Wally said, "We've got buybacks"
 To remove those F's galore!

Then off to the Children's Theatre
 to have the "best of times" with R&J
but it was promenade style
and we got caught in the fray

Cody cared not for commas
 more about getting the new lay reader.
 Can we bribe her before next paper?
 If not, to whom could we feed her?

But **Matt Smith** learned **he** could do it
 As they say, "Seek and find"
 Because it really bites the big one
 to write so many buybacks—wasn't it **138** times?

It came **time to divide**
 Into Wallies and Oles for day-zes!
 The Oles trekked eastward
 to do clauses and phrāy-ZES.

The Oles wrote and they wrote
 and then wrote some more,
 And Rolf read and he read
 AP Practice essays galore.

That Olson seemed crazy
 Filling chalkboards he must
 and verbals are something
 we never ever should trust!

The **Wallies started with a poem**
 about gathering rosebuds and time fleeting.
 Then Wally started a video
 starring Robin Williams as Keating.

Hey! movies! Alright!
 We get to sleep in this class,
 But the "food for worms" clip left **Brad** wondering
 whether Wally'd really kick a

She said it'll be **YOU** you'll be cheating
 If you don't step up to the plate
 "Today's most important! **Carpe Diem!**
 For the future, you'd better not wait."

Then came Pope's poem about writing
 but more lessons about life did it bring
J.P. knew he was ready
To drink deep from that Pierian Spring!

Jack's book of poetry
 Showed he knew well that Spring!
 He'd hope some revenue
 Might come from publishing that thing!

More poetry came next!

Ah yes, "Musée des Beaux Arts" !

Cody saw lessons in suffering—Ah the Last Lecture!

He'd heard of Randy from afar.

Jenn'd rather tackle a poem

As if it were prose

She said, "Remember! Billy Collins warned us:

Don't beat poetry with a hose!"

Collins said, "Drop a mouse in your poem

And see where it lands."

C'mon diction! Yeah! Syntax!

How about? Interpretive Dance?

For both Wallies and Oles learned

How John Donne's bell tolled!

"We're not islands to hurt others,"

claimed **Alex Evans** so bold.

And **Heidi Saxton** found

after much analysis, maybe frowning

that these poems reflect how one can be

"not waving but drowning"

Then we found that **Frankenstein** wasn't the creature.

Now that we'd read it how could anyone miss this

But it was Victor's behavior to his "child"

That made **Kaytee** really "pissed."

We studied Romantics and Shelley

Ancient Mariners, Kubla Khan

And read some rhymes by Byron

Whom we'd meet invisibly later on.

Then came the horror

Of Marlow's Dark part

The horror! The horror!

Read it twice? Ole, Have a Heart!

We all liked **Rolf's stories**

and his drawings of cattle

Then he tells us he's foolin'

"It's a ha ha!" Please don't tattle!

Then came the horror
 Of Marlow's Dark Heart
 The horror! The horror!
 But **Mike** could see Conrad's part

We then came to **midterm**
 The Portal told us our fate!
 To change to Regular 12 or a PASS?
 Wondered **those Ap-ers**, "Was it too late?"

But some still were resistant
 Wasn't senior year was meant for sluff!
 Rolf and Wally said, "Break tradition!"
 Let's change all that stuff!

One day, they announced,
 as they walked out the door!
 And there are more journals coming!"
 Though you've already done 54!

No sluff in those journals
 Even though they are dread
 In PR's **Nelum** dared to ask questions
 About where her life was headed.

For **Kristen and Emily Ward**
 Many secrets they keep
 But in PR's you'll see clearly
 Still waters run deep.

Sam's journals always inspired
 Insightful, engaging beyond belief!
 And **Laura's** response to her peers
 Brought many some thoughtful relief.

PR's were a fun route
 Thought **Margaret** with glee
 To ponder the ordinary
 And make us question, you see?

"SINGING LESSONS" with Miss Meadows
some hated her lack of backbone
 And Orwell "**Shooting Elephants**" dead
 We got it—peer pressure can leave people alone

A new purple sheet came
 a **lit. theory paper** would be next.
 The students still couldn't believe
 in Disney, Chaucer, Shakespeare, there could be so much sex.

One day it happened
 They were all in a shock
 When Wally suggested that **work in partners**
 On this paper around **sex**-o'clock?

About reader response and feminism
 Wally was never tight-lipped
 But beware psychoanalytical!
 and an occasional Freudian slip.

And even though you are weavers
 of original juff
 The Wallies reading Heart of Darkness and doing buybacks
 on spring break can be exceedingly tough!

And now Spring break was over
 Could this be more insane?
 Add some college acceptances
 making school twice the pain

But how you all blossomed
when to Hamlet you came
Hamlet--the work of all works
 for which we'd heard fame.
 And Wally said, "No REQUIRED paper on Hamlet!
 And we cried, "What a dame!"

Hamlet called Denmark a "prison;"
 I thought school felt like it too,
 But soon it would be **JUNE**
 And we'd be leaving this room!

Hamlet asked hard questions
 about being emo—a bless? or a curse?
 But leaving this unweeded garden
 Which would **really be worse?**

Kristina asked some hard questions
 About perfection, morality and its danger
She learned about balance
 And not to treat her heart like a stranger.

We debated Hamlet's love for Ophelia
 Was he true-- in head, heart, and mind's eye
Wally shared stories about "not to be"
And at times she did cry.

Rolf paid us a visit

His "peasant slave," filled our stage.
 But when he called himself an "ass"--**Our teacher!**
 Now, that was the a bit strange!

Jack debated the videos
 Olivier, Hawke, even Olson, or Mel
 But Jacobi from PBS and Branagh!

Nora thought that they smelled.

Despite watching Olivier
 And the queen's too long sick kiss
 We knew right away
 Hamlet's too close to miss.

"Amen" cried out Vilendrer!

Stephanie knew this Hamlet boy too well
 She could have sung Ophelia's songs with a passion
 As she relocated under water to dwell.

But cringe with embarrassment
 She felt upon learning
 When shouted one day
 Isn't Hamlet, the Lion King?

Leslie saw the best learning was
 not found merely in our texts
 but instead came from peers in our groups
 with whom we could connect.

For some, these themes were scary
Alex Evan's questions stripped the last tiers
 of reality and "seeming"
as understood by Hamlet's fears.

Nora knows Ophelia's secrets
 Are not just **"Dust in the Wind"** for fools
 And appearances can be deceiving
 When it comes to **society's rules**.

Andrew reminded me of Horatio
 An ethical, political, Beowulfian-type gent
 Who has blossomed so much since 9th grade
 Who didn't know what head over heart meant.

And **Maggie's** learned about boundaries,
 And putting control on the shelf.

Emilie knows it's better **not to be** phony
 Like Holden and Hamlet, be true to one's self.

Cody, you are sort of like Hamlet,
 Honest and true, a procrastinator, too, at best
 And when torn by **head and heart** to do those Hamlet quizzes
 You usually would “take what you liked and left the rest!”

Wally will always remember
 When **students** got fame
 For in Wally’s ancient Hamlet book
 Are **Matt Steen’s** and **J.P.’s** names!

But the pressure sure mounted
 Papers, **AP TESTS**, **PROM**--what fun?
 And asking for PROM dates in our classroom?
 Hoping **Courtney or Margaret** wouldn’t run!!

Wow! on came the pressure
Angelica felt it the best
 AP tests took her away for DAYS!
 But she tried to fly her flags best.

But Olson was always ready
 With AP practice testing his mission
 Claiming another “firm deadline” for a paper
 Which was about a position.

ARCADIA came next
 With math, physics, and carnal embracing!
Natalia found Thomasina
 And her interests amazing!

When the play combined eras
Sean found time-switches confusing
 while Bernard’s embarrassment
 Was delightful! Amusing!

And last we’d meet **Chaucer**
 Who BABA foreshadowed would tease!
 And we left to **stalk**—OOPS!—er. . .observe others
 To see how stereotypes affect women and men—PLEASE!

The **Miller and Reeve**
 gave some tempers a start
 We couldn’t believe critics of Chaucer
 would censor a fart!

And now it was time
 For crafty Wally with a surprise
 for Olson and Holm
 Her favorite English teacher “guys!”

A turtle named Plautus
 Came in on the stage
 To send **Rolf** to Arcadia
 And **Mike's** off to his retirement phase!

Wally and Rolf sat back and smiled
 they could see we had grown
 in the "Meeting of Minds"?
 Our last thing to own!

We've already witnessed
 some Meeting of the Minds fun on the stage
 like **Tin's** hilarious script
 Brought those Major Data Works right off the page!

Manliness isn't just power or yams
 as **Melissa's** Okonkwo might choose.
 Instead it is character and honor
 Like you might find in green, gold, oranges, and **Blues**

Stephanie's Hamlet was something
 Even **Matt Steen** must have envied
Vall's Madame DeFarge was so Hulky as
Smith and Flancher were perfect as Rosy and Guildy.

Arcadia came alive
 When Hamlet met Mrs. Chater
Alex was tempted by Leslie
 When **Lord Sean Byron** seemed like a Claudius satyr.

First prize was a toss up--
 Was it **Daub's** script or his acting?
 His Owen drew cheers
 Though the skin on his knees began a-lacking!

And we cannot forget techies
 Like the immortal **Mr. Howe**
 Who never forget a cue
 Though on stage cannot bow!

We applaud all of you
 For the Meeting of Minds
 Was the perfect finale
 And not cruel but yes! Kind!

And now back full circle
 we've come with elation
 And like Hamlet we're now ready
 For **AP GRADUATION!**

What have we learned, then?



School's not in the library
 Monday mornings so early
 cramming to finish
 that paper or buybacks by two-thirty

We wish we could show you
 how much you have grown
 But you'll have all your journals
 Re-read them—they'll show

how you very quietly
 and in your own time
 began to sprout wings
 to reach the sublime

Oh, yes, we will miss you
 our greens, orange, golds and blues
 but it's time to discover
 the world--yes, **this one's for you—**

to carve your own path
 whether life lasts a year or 94
 we've learned, just like Hamlet,
 to walk out the door

and make each minute count
"gather rosebuds" while ye may
 stay close to your loved ones
 and live life for today.

And when you get down
 And when you get stressed
 Remember our motto
 "Take what you like; leave the rest!"

And now happy flight
 in all your endeavors
 You've taught us much too
 We'll remember--yes, forever!

How special this group
evolved just like art
the class of 2009
will stay in our hearts!

We'll miss you! Truly! Please come back and visit!!



Always a day at a time—CARPE DIEM!

♥Wally and Olson

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"Get thee to more Shakespeare--if you have a chance to see or rent "

Email us with your college syllabi, hand-outs, ideas, etc.—but not your papers to edit!

