

2nd hour ODE TO ADV. 12 LIT.—To the **Class of 2011**

T'was the night before **1st term**
 and the rumors were flyin'
 Would Adv 12 be a Grendel
 Or were last year's Adv 12-ers lyin'?

The ADV. 12-ers were nestled
 all snug in their beds
 not even dreams of WA's, CC's and PR's
 were yet dancin' in their heads!

That green “Welcome Letter” had brought questions
 for Wally's new Advanced 12-ers
 Would this class give **Heather** an experience
 Just like her sister's and none other?

The students were mailed
 a green welcome letter from Wally--What fun!
 ‘Till they saw words like “ACTIVELY” DO SUMMER READING”?
 Maybe to Humanities instead **T.J.** should run?

No way! They decided Adv. 12'd be a breeze!
 All agreed--12 years had prepared them!
 Wally'd be easy to please!

For they'd aced multiple choice tests
 and could even recite theories!
 And **many** had aced O'Brien's Classics
 So **there** was nothing to fear-y!

And now they were seniors
 and **1st term** to boot!
 Wally'd surely not push them
 'cuz grades don't mean a hoot!

1st hour was now over
 To **2nd hour** did they flee
 But no teacher? Just cool music?
Joe Anderson cried, “Yippee!”

Then what to their wondering eyes should appear
but a miniature teacher and papers to fear!

Uh oh! Would she check the active reading?
Give a test the first day—and no mercy?
Would it be on *Richard* or *Henry*?
Tale of Two Cities or on *Darcy*?

Instead, we wrote quotes on the board
Some quite unfamiliar
She said, "This one's for you,"
No BIG TESTS, so it's up to you to deliver"

GOLD Wally suggested you'd need three rings
For millions of hand-outs to store
But the ORANGES had their own system--
Just stuff and stuff and then stuff some more!

The desks in groups like a circle
so no one could hide,
and this talk about "flags flying"
maybe they'd have to abide?

And "Keep those flags flyin"
she said despite jeers.
And "**When the student is ready,
the teacher appears.**"

She said, "In here you'll find **SYNCHRONICITY**
and **SERENDIPITY**, too
Katie thought that was weird
But after talking to dad **GEORGE**, even "DÉJÀ VU" rang true.

Wally didn't seem the typical
with that huge syllabi
Then she handed out letters, saying,
"**LAST YEAR'S ADV. 12-ers** wouldn't lie!"

And they warned of journals
and "Don't get behind--
or do 10, 12, or thirty
in one night you would find!"

Ellie knew she could be honest;
“Joe Orner, please say what **you** feel;
 Don't try to get by with **Spark Notes**
 or any other's ideas or HW to steal."

Wally gave homework packet and a calendar
 In friendly colors: yellow and pink
 And they started to wonder
 if they'd ever have enough ink?

What? homework the first night?
Annie's volleyball and social life looked doomed
 Where's the time to journal on these hand-outs
 from Wally? How will there be room?

Wally said, "Give it your all,
 and just try your best
 But **Rachel** liked Wally's mantra:
 "Take what you like; leave the rest."

Well, **Allie and Faid** already knew Wally
 Once upon a time
 had **even journaled and done a load of homework**
when they survived her English 9

And **Ben** believed Wally
 who said we needn't be preachers
 Yet be our class expert on biblical allusions?
He felt like **he** was our teacher!

Our so-called HEALTHY Food Fridays
 brought play dough, puzzles, and Wally's favorite--Swedish Fish
Anne—remember when she was in 2nd hour?
Brought homemade cookies, cupcakes—whatever we'd wish.

We soon took some tests to learn **colors true**
Grace loved it, but
 wondered whether 'twas better
to be or not to be GOLD rather than BLUE!?

True GREENS like **Sandra and Lauren** abhorred detail and structure
BLUES like **Zak and double blue Caroline** preferred feeling, THEY CARE!
ORANGES like **Emily and Heather** needed agendas or a group writer
 As long as **Ben and Annie** were always there!

Would Wally prefer **Natalie or Meghan's** **GOLDNESS**
 When those **ORANGES** got wild?
 But **EVAN** sitting with all the GIRLS
 Really did make **him** smile!

Lauren couldn't wait
 To discuss books & connections that could let her mind free
 Just as **Caroline's** inner voice cried to express herself
 In papers and poetry!

Then Wally said, "I'm 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 get to do buybacks?
 So **Things don't Really Fall Apart?**

We'd have to use MLA
 And documentation parenthetical
 Had to find those credentials
 Or risk to be plagiarists—so heretical!

Late night papers brought questions
T.J. and Joe sent the most emails late at night
 But it made Wally smile even at 1:30 a.m.
 That they cared to get it right!

This class brought spats and discussion,
 Was it free will or was it fate?
 we could always rely on **Chris**
 for explaining historical allusions or trivia of the day

Word of the Day—that was fun!
 But our German speakers were sometimes lacking
But the French 5-ers always came through
 Defining **"connaitre" and "savoir"** and give us backing!

We journaled on quotes
 from famous poets now dead
 But why did we have to respond in a **FULL PAGE???**
 How it rattled **Kara's** head!

We met a guy named Alfie Kohn
 Who debated . . .punishment? or reward?

It pushed our history buff's like **Will** to think
Whether learning's more than gold stars.

Alexander Pope taught us lessons on learning

Too little's "a dangerous thing"
And to err, why, that's human!
And too much Pride makes life sting!

“SINGING LESSONS” with Miss Meadows

Tara hated her lack of backbone

And Orwell “Shooting Elephants” dead

She got it—peer pressure often leaves people alone

WELL, THE CLT PAPER FINALLY CAME BACK!

And Wally, she was clever
Never writing in **red!**
But where was the grade hidden?
Under the comments she said?

We all wanted to quit
Seeing our preliminary score
But Wally said, “Remember we have buybacks”
To remove those F’s galore!

But **Sandra** learned **she** could do it
As they say, “Seek and find”
Because it really bite to write all those comma buybacks—
Seemingly a zillion or more times?

Our **poetry unit** began with a poem
about gathering rosebuds and time fleeting
Then Wally started a video
starring Robin Williams as Keating

Hey! Movies in class! All right!
A break from the usual--at last!
But the “**food for worms**” clip left **Chris** wondering
whether like Keating, that Wally would really kick some a

She said it'd be themselves they'd 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.

More poetry came next!

Ah yes, “Musee des beaux arts” !

and Joe A. soon was reminded

Health, heart, friends, and family should never be far, and

John Donne's "For whom the bell tolls"
 Caused **Emily's** ears to burn
 the lesson: "no one is an island" and
 "one day at a time" must be **learned**.

And sometime quietly **Caroline** found
 much after much analysis and frowning
 that these poems are about us and how when bottling emotions, some are
"NOT WAVING BUT DROWNING"

Zak didn't like to kill poems!
 Nor overanalyzing of prose
He said, "Wally, remember what Collins warned us;
 To not beat poetry with a hose!"

Collins said, "Drop a mouse in your poem
 And see where it lands.
 C'mon diction! Yeah! Syntax!
 What else? Interpretive dance?"

We then studied Anglo-Saxons & Medieval
Rachel shouted "Oh, gee!"
 She loved all this stuff
 About culture and history.

We listened to a weird language
 that craved contemplation!
 Found it was the Lord's Prayer in our very own OLD ENGLISH
 yet we needed translation!

In the LBT, we did notes
 about medieval topics—not our choice!
 and in journals we had to apply it
 and always give it voice.

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

We talked **lit theory**, learned about
 Formalists, Marxists, and psycho-analytical
 But **Lauren** preferred deconstruction
 Were Rumpelstiltskin and the Grinch really so pitiful?

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

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

Katie and Ellora wrote a paper
 And read it Freud might
 If he considered how bawdy
 Was the **story of Snow White**?

Elle and Caroline teamed well as partners
 A hand to **each other they'd lend**
 And who'd have thought the **Lorax**
 Would make **them** even better friends?

Sandra and Molly paired up
 But no paper about a tiger's fight
 Sandra solo'd later a position about **tiger mothers**
 And showed **me** amazing insight!

Next we pondered the hero, Beowulf
 who against Grendel did fight
 as they met senior drama, relationships, observing,
 Was Wiglaf more the hero? Yes, they was right!

Rachel journaled and wrote a paper about heroes
 Being our "brother's keeper" came a cry!
 But the importance of fathers was something
Wally could never deny.

Chris claimed *Beowulf* didn't move **him**
 "How could anyone weep?"
 "Amen" piped in **Ben**
 "Yes!" agreed **T.J.** "It made me sleep."

Well, they wrote and they wrote
 and then wrote some more

Wally wrote and she wrote
on those journals galore.

One day, she announced,
"You've done 23 or was it 44?
Never mind! there's more coming!"
as they walked out the door!

More and more journals?
That Wally thought would amaze,
But some thought "Worthless Assignment"
Was a better a nickname for WA's!

But PR's were cool
Many might indeed confess
And for **Grace** especially
Multiple responding to PR's was best!

PR's let us share
Some secrets we keep
For it's true for **Allie**
That still waters run deep!

Zak, a seeker began to see
This class is about our life
As **Natalie** predicted early on
ADV 12 wasn't all strife!

Joe Orner's journals, too, showed, too,
For **him**, life's isn't about things
But integrity, your legacy, who you love is important,
Whether you're a peasant, hero or king.

But no escaping those journals
Still more did appear
Wally eventually read it all
Despite **Evan's** tiny handwriting—Oh dear!

Grade updates came and it shocked them
perhaps it was fate!
But to see a D minus?
Can we change to Eng.12 Tech--"Was it too late?"

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

But even Wally sometimes was stressed
 Torn between family and school
 But a night out to see 3D Beowulf with you all
 Was really quite cool!

And next we met **CHAU CER**
 and left the room of our class
 to stalk (oops!) / observe others
 to see if stereotypes last.

Discussing the Miller and Reeve and banning lit.
 gave some tempers a start
 We couldn't believe critics of Chaucer
 would censor a fart!

Next came a creative PARTNER paper
Katie and Ellora thought Wally they'd please
 By writing about **Disney princesses**
 But NOT in iambic pentameter? GEEZ!

Now, **Rachel and Tara** wrote a paper
 That made Wally smile—for, what fun!
 To write from a **Latte Da waitress's view**--
 unique and it stunned!

Kara and Emily O stretched **their** creativity
 which for years **they'd** had been keeping
 and wind ensemblists **Emily S and Joe** got a whopping 3 extra credit points
Had Wally been sleeping?

Wow! on came the pressure
 to follow the rest
 and slide down senior hill
 But most of you flew your flags best.

And now on to MIDTERM
 flew the class with a bound!
 Was there something more that could move **them**?
 and an interest to be found?

But the pressure it mounted
 Papers, journals . . . man, they smelled!
 But sometimes **field trips or extended bathroom breaks!** let them escape
 out of Advanced 12 h---l.

Yes! Just in time came a field Trip!
That wasn't so bad
 although LUNCH was always the highlight!
 And seeing Park Square and the new **Guthrie** was rad!

And so we were ready
 to focus on **FRANKENSTEIN**, but OH NO!
 Wally left for Sweden early for break
 school was going too slow . . .

Romantics and Shelley
 Ancient Mariners, Kubla Khan, WHEW!
 Some slept through these poems
 maybe lost paradise by sleeping through class, too?

No! No! cried **Mr. Salinger!**
 I like this book and its fame!
I feel for the CREATURE
 Treated horribly—What shame!

Hardly anyone talked
 Or did the F-in poetry SQ's
 But Mr. Sal—he got it
 And was actually quite cool!

But a position paper was looming
 Wally? Must we? How lame!
 But she promised more lessons from
 Writing college papers we would gain.

It was first due in December,
 Then January came
 Wally actually pushed back all paper deadlines
 And we thought, “What a dame!”

In hers, Megan pushed that research
Of stem cells we should aim.
Joe O wrote about **learning in community**
And all of its gains.

Ben wrote of athletes
 And the price a concussion might pay

And helicopter parents raising kids, said **Elle**
 Are not the best way.

What price is a dream?
 Asked **Ellora** about the stage
 As **Lauren and Katie** questioned
 Stereotypes which still govern our age.

And how **you all** did blossom
 when to **Hamlet** he came
Hamlet--the work of all works
 for which we'd heard fame.

Though Hamlet called Denmark a "prison"
 School might have felt like it too
 But Wally knew it'd soon be **3rd term**
 And you'd be leaving this room!

So we debated the madness of Hamlet
 Or was he honest and true?
 But whoever came up with that Oedipal jazz
 Should be locked in a zoo!

Some like watching Olivier and Branagh
 others liked Mel
 But Jacobi from PBS
 Most of us thought he smelled.

Hate Hamlet? NEVER!
Chris know nows he's too close to home.
 And not only Branagh, Olivier, Jacobi, or Mel
 Or even Ethan can have him to own!

But when it came to acting Hamlet
 By far, **Branagh** was a great hit!
 And hearing him call himself an ASS
 He never broke character one bit!

Joe and Joe played many parts,
 with accent and style
Then as Hamlet, **Zak and Ellora** even showed
 His talent shouldn't be kept in a file!

For some, Hamlet's themes were quite scary
Will's stripped the last tiers
of reality and "seeming"
He might have masked over the years.

For Will's our stalwart Horatio
So honest and true
showed his HIS HEART and his HEAD
can be very moved.

Wally made Hamlet quizzes
Some asked, "Why so tough?"
Because sometimes even SparkNotes can't handle
All this random ADV. 12 stuff!

I saw that **Tara is** a lover
Of predicting Shakespeare and soliloquys
She didn't mind paraphrasing them all
including "to be or not to be."

Some believe it's De Vere's the true writer
And not that Shak-speare
We wanted the truth
Somewhere to appear

Annie's asked questions like Hamlet
about what life is worth
Sports and friendships have taught her so much
About making first things first.

Is it nature or nurture?
Should we find our flaw if we could?
In the end, says our **Heather**,
"People pleasing isn't so good."

So, if you aren't, be not Hercules
And be not cruel to be kind
Let's not have Hamlet's tragedy
Of not making up our mind.

So, now we're full circle
And we've come with elation
Like Hamlet we're now ready
for **ADV. 12 "Graduation"**

What have we learned, then?
 School's not in the library
 Monday mornings so early
 Or cramming to finish
 that paper or buybacks by 2:30!

Allie's learned drawing boundaries
 a concept some might put on the shelf
 can be very healthy
 to protect one's self.

And **Evan has learned**

That dreams might go awry
 But that life is a teacher to mice as well as men

Whether in the pool or the classroom he couldn't deny

Many saw the best learning was
 not found in our books
 but instead came from peers like **Kara**
 when in PR's she did look

Joe's CC's dared to show fear about friend's choices
His music brought relief
 And **Emily's** has known since the beginning
 Carpe Diem isn't for **her** just some belief.

We all have our secrets
 We keep up our guard, but
Faid's journey this term has moved me and
Ben's faith stories hit me so hard!

T.J. knew it would've easier
 to have taken Regular lit.
 But how you grew and he grew
 And now with pride do you sit!

And **Megan and Elle** knows it's all in the mind and
 "to thine own self be true"
Natalie knows the balance of head and heart
 is so vital too.

I wish I could show you
 how much you have grown
 But you'll have your journal--SOMEDAY
 Re-read it--it'll show

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

Oh, yes, I will miss you
my greens, golds, oranges, and blues
but it's time to discover
the world--yes, **this one's for you--**

to carve your own path
if 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.

Remember our fun times!
Swedish fish, food, and music—Ole!
For all soon will be different 'cuz
Tomorrow's a new day!

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

How special this group
evolved just like art
this class of 2011
will stay in my heart!

I'll miss you! Truly! Please come back and visit!! "Remember me!"

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