

Homework #2

Due in class Th 9/16

- 1) READ Kennedy Fraser's essay, "The Poet of Everyday Life," which is about the painter Johannes Vermeer ; Alice Walker's essay, "In Search of Our Mothers' Gardens," and Barbara Pollack's article "Stitches in Time." Walker is a popular feminist writer of the second half of the 20th century, perhaps best known for her novel *The Color Purple*. Fraser formerly wrote for the *New Yorker* on the world of fashion.
- 2) MARK at least 2 passages in each essay that strike you as especially good writing. We'll share these in class; be prepared to say what makes the writing good. Also: Select one of these 2 essays and WRITE 1 succinct explaining how you see the writer drawing the reader into the essay—what sort of things does she do? We'll share them, and I'll collect them.
- 3) BEGIN JOURNALS. We will keep journals on the creative process: your own responses to readings for class, other classes and readings, songs you hear, movies you see, concerts or dance performances you attend—and, especially, what you notice in your own everyday experience—how you or others solve problems; when you feel "blocked"; when you have insights or make sudden leaps in understanding; when you experience "flow."

Journals must total a minimum of 10 entries; each entry should be dated and be between 1 solid paragraph and a page or so in length (don't stop writing at 1 page if you want to write more!). You may also want to include quotes you come across, pictures or cartoons, lists of things you observe—in other words, be creative with your journals. We will occasionally use journals in class, and I will collect them from time to time.

NOTE: If you wish, you may write a personal response to Walker's or Kennedy's essay as your first journal entry.

NOTE: Journals may be small notebooks or you may keep them on loose-leaf paper. They should be finished no later than November 18.