Timed Writing Two – AP Free-Response 10/24/18

Eudora Welty, a fiction writer, draws on her childhood spent reading at the Library to share how those experiences shaped her as a writer. In this passage from her autobiography *One Writer’s Beginnings*, Welty utilizes strong diction, imagery, and the use of “you” to convey the intensity and value of her childhood reading experiences.

Strong verbs and descriptions paint the picture of the intimidating librarian Mrs. Calloway and her iron grip on the Library. Mrs. Calloway with her “dragon eye” gives young Eudora Welty the impression that she is a witch. Such diction characterizes Welty’s mother as well. She shares Welty’s feelings of “insatiability” and her description implies she is just as avid a reader as her daughter. Welty’s choice in diction provides powerful imagery to accentuate the intensity of her reading experiences. Entire paragraphs are devoted to bringing Welty’s memories to life for the reader; the imagery is such that the reader actually *sees* Mrs. Calloway standing guard at her desk and “*The Origin of Species*… lying on the shelf… under a light dusting of flour.” Even when not describing specific memories, Welty’s imagery draws the reader into the experiences. Welty details the rules of the Library with the pronoun “you”. Doing so effectively spins the reader into the web of the story and broadens the experience beyond just the author’s personal experience. After using “you” in sentences, Welty narrows the experiences back down to her own and dives back into the meat of the story. This union of broad and narrow conveys the values of and improves the clarity of Welty’s experiences to the reader.

Wielding diction, imagery, and the word “you” like a sword in her autobiography, Eudora Welty successfully conveys the intensity and value of her childhood reading experiences. Her masterful grasp of language develops her purpose effectively and efficiently while plunging the reader deep into the powerful impact her experiences stamped on her future as a fiction writer and author.