A Sense of Place – A Sense of Wonder

Curriculum Unit
Developmental Writing
(Pre-credit Course)

Professor Robert Sargent Fay
Landmark College
Putney, Vermont

August 2006
Mission Statement of Landmark College
LANDMARK COLLEGE

provides the premier undergraduate program for students with learning disabilities and attention deficit disorders. Landmark’s programs and services are based on the deeply held conviction that individuals with learning disabilities and attention deficit disorders can learn, succeed and realize their aspirations when they work in student-centered educational environments with effective instructional practices.

from the Landmark College Mission Statement
Approved by the Board of Trustees. May 16, 2003
Cover Page of Curriculum Unit
Title of Unit: A Sense of Place – A Sense of Wonder.

Name: Professor Robert Sargent Fay.

Duration of Unit: A Sixteen Week Course.
    Class Meetings – Four Times Per Week.
    Office Hours – One Day Per Week.
    Length of Class Period – One Hour and Fifteen Minutes.

College: Landmark College.

School City and State: Putney, Vermont.

Number of Lessons in Unit: Sixty-six.

Subject: An Emphasis on the Personal and Analytical Essay.

Related Subject: A Sense of Place – A Sense of Wonder.

Grade Level: Pre-credit College Writing.

Students: Range from Seventeen on Up. All of the Students Possess Diagnosed Learning Differences.

Date: August 2006.

Materials and Equipment:
    Primary Texts.
    Master Notebook.
    Journal Notebook.
    Assignment Book.
    Laptop Computer.
Short Abstract of Curriculum Unit
The Curriculum Unit is designed to encourage students to develop a love of writing and to promote their skills in personal and analytical essay writing. The course is constructed in such a way as to offer a variety of challenging presentations, readings, and compositions and project assignments. The plan is to motivate students to write often, inside and outside of the classroom, to share their compositions with classmates and other readers, to seek support and assistance from faculty members and other students, and to use technology as an aid in the writing process. The theme of the course: A Sense of Place – A Sense of Wonder.

The Curriculum Unit includes the Mission Statement of Landmark College and a list of the resources available in the Landmark College Thoreau Collection.

Goals/Objectives
See “Short Abstract of Curriculum Unit.”
Cover Page of Lesson Plans
Name: Professor Robert Sargent Fay.

Unit Title: A Sense of Place – A Sense of Wonder.

Number of Lessons: Four Lessons Per Week for Sixteen Weeks.

Title of Lessons: A Sense of Place – A Sense of Wonder.

Duration of Lessons: One Hour and Fifteen Minutes Per Class, Four Classes Per Week, for Sixteen Weeks.
Weekly Lesson Plans
WEEK ONE – Meriwether Lewis and William Clark

Presentations
Introduction to the Theme: A Sense of Place – A Sense of Wonder.
Signature Passages by Henry David Thoreau.
Photographs by Herbert Gleason: Thoreau Country.
Introduction to the Journey of Meriwether Lewis and William Clark and the Corps of Discovery.

Readings

Assignment
Write a Letter to the Instructor in Which You Introduce Yourself and Give a Brief History of Yourself as a Reader and Writer.
WEEK TWO – Meriwether Lewis and William Clark

Presentations
Introduction to the Journey of Meriwether Lewis and William Clark and the Corps of Discovery.
Signature Passages by Thomas Jefferson and Meriwether Lewis.

Readings

Assignment
Write an Essay in Which You Identify and Reflect Upon Three or More of Your Personal Strengths That You Believe Will Be of Help to You at Landmark College.
WEEK THREE – Meriwether Lewis and William Clark

Presentation
Introduction to the Journals of Meriwether Lewis and William Clark.

Readings

Assignment
Write an Essay in Which You Describe and Reflect Upon a Personal Journey or Adventure of Special Significance to You.
WEEK FOUR – Meriwether Lewis and William Clark

Presentations
Introduction to: A Sense of Place – A Sense of Wonder in the Journey of Meriwether Lewis and William Clark and the Corps of Discovery.
Lewis and Clark: Great Journey West (Film).

Assignment
Write an Essay in Which You Describe a Place That Was Visited by the Lewis and Clark Expedition – and Tell How They Responded to that Place and Why.
WEEK FIVE – Helen Keller

Presentations
Introduction to the Life of Helen Keller.
Passages by Helen Keller from The Story of My Life.
The Miracle Worker (Film).

Readings
The Story of My Life – Helen Keller: “Everything Has a Name.”
Essays Old and New – Helen Keller: “Three Days to See.”

Assignment
WEEK SIX – Lance Armstrong

Presentation
Introduction to the Life and Achievements of Lance Armstrong.

Reading
It’s Not About the Bike – Chapter 11: “Encore.”

Assignment
Write an Essay in Which You Describe and Analyze a Time When You or an Acquaintance Faced an Important and Difficult Challenge.
WEEK SEVEN – Sir Ernest Shackleton

Presentations
Introduction to the Life and Achievements of Sir Ernest Shackleton and the “HMS Endurance.”
Photographs by Frank Hurley in *South with Endurance: Shackleton’s Antarctic Expedition 1914-1917.*
The *Endurance* (Film).

Assignment
Write a Critical Essay in Which You Develop and Share a Personal Perspective on the Film *The Endurance.*
WEEK EIGHT – Sir Edmund Hillary

Presentations
Introduction to the Life and Achievements of Sir Edmund Hillary.
Photographs by Various Photographers in Summit of Achievement: Attempts to Ascend Mount Everest.

Reading
High Adventure – Chapter 11: “Summit.”

Assignment
Create a Map with Visual Symbols That Represents the Journey of Lewis and Clark, Sir Ernest Shackleton, or Sir Edmund Hillary.
WEEK NINE – Special Places

Presentations
Introduction to – Responses to Place.
Paintings by Andrew Wyeth in Wyeth at Kuerners and Wyeth at Olsons: Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania and Cushing, Maine.
Paintings by Wolf Kahn in Wolf Kahn’s America: Connecticut River Valley and Across America.
Paintings by Eric Aho: Connecticut River Valley.

Reading
The Longman Reader – E. B. White: “Once More to the Lake.”

Assignment
Create a Map with Visual Symbols That Represents a Place of Special Significance to You.
WEEK TEN – 9/11

Presentations
Introduction to 9/11.

Reading
The Longman Reader – Adam Mayblum: “The Price We Pay.”

Assignment
Write a Critical Essay in Which You Develop and Share a Personal Perspective on Adam Mayblum’s Essay “The Price We Pay” or on Jules and Gedeon Naudet’s Film 9/11.
WEEK ELEVEN – Independent Project

Presentations
Introduction to Independent Projects.
The Creative Process and *Ocian in View! O! the Joy: A Collection of Photographs of the American West*.

Reading

Assignment
Develop a Plan for an Independent Project of Your Choice and Then Follow the Plan to Completion. The Project Must Include Writing.
WEEK TWELVE – Independent Project

Presentations
The Creative Process and Mark Twain (Film).

Reading
The Longman Reader – “Alice Walker: Beauty: When the Other Dancer Is the Self.”

Assignment
Present Your Independent Project to the Class. Emphasize both the Process and the Final Product.
WEEK THIRTEEN – Anne Frank

Presentations
Introduction to the Life and Achievements of Anne Frank.
Passages by Anne Frank from The Diary of Anne Frank (Diary).
Photographs and Passages by Various Observers and Victims of the Holocaust.

Reading
The Diary of Anne Frank (Play).

Assignment
Join One or Two of Your Classmates – Memorize, Prepare, and Present to the Class a Scene from the Play Version of The Diary of Anne Frank.
WEEK FOURTEEN – Maya Lin

Presentation
Introduction to the Life and Achievements of Maya Lin.
Photograph by Various Photographers: The Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

Reading
Boundaries: “Vietnam Veterans Memorial.”

Assignment
Write an Essay in Which You Compare and Contrast What You Know and Understand about the Lives of Anne Frank and Maya Lin.
WEEK FIFTEEN – The White Wolf or Seabiscuit

Presentations
Passages from The White Wolf (Book)
The White Wolf (Film).
Or
Passages from Seabiscuit: An American Legend. (Book).
Seabiscuit: American Experience (Film).

Reading

Assignment
Write an Essay in Which You Explore the Relevance of the Following Theme in the Life of the White Wolf or Seabiscuit: A Sense of Place – A Sense of Wonder.
WEEK SIXTEEN – Portfolio Booklets

Presentations
Introduction to Portfolio Booklets.
Portfolio Booklets by Students in the Past.

Reading
The Longman Reader – Beth Johnson: “Bombs Bursting in Air.”

Assignments
Revise and Compile All of Your Compositions and Arrange Them in an Impressive Portfolio Booklet. Share Your Portfolio Booklet and Two or More of Your Compositions with the Class.
Signature Passages
When I Wrote the Following Pages

When I wrote the following pages, or rather the bulk of them, I lived alone, in the woods, a mile from any neighbor, in a house which I had built myself, on the shore of Walden Pond, in Concord, Massachusetts, and earned my living by the labor of my hands only. I lived there two years and two months. At present I am a sojourner in civilized life again.

I should not obtrude my affairs so much on the notice of my readers if very particular inquiries had not been made by my townsmen concerning my mode of life, which some would call impertinent, though they do not appear to me at all impertinent, but, considering the circumstances, very natural and pertinent. Some have asked what I got to eat; if I did not feel lonesome; if I was not afraid; and the like. Others have been curious to learn what portion of my income I devoted to charitable purposes; and some, who have large families, how many poor children I maintained. I will therefore ask those of my readers who feel no particular interest in me to pardon me if I undertake to answer some of these questions in this book. In most books, the I, or first person, is omitted; in this it will be retained; that, in respect to egotism, is the main difference. We commonly do not remember that it is, after all, always the first person that is speaking. I should not talk so much about myself if there were anybody else whom I knew as well. Unfortunately, I am confined to this theme by the narrowness of my experience. Moreover, I, on my side, require of every writer, first or last, a simple and sincere account of his own life, and not merely what he has heard of other men’s lives; some such account as he would send to his kindred from a distant land; for if he has lived sincerely, it must have been in a distant land to me. Perhaps these pages are more particularly addressed to poor students. As for the rest of my readers, they will accept such portions as apply to them. I trust that none will stretch the seams in putting on the coat, for it may do good service to him whom it fits.

Walden

Henry David Thoreau
As I Came Home through the Woods

As I came home through the woods with my string of fish, trailing my pole, it being now quite dark, I caught a glimpse of a woodchuck stealing across my path, and felt a strange thrill of savage delight, and was strongly tempted to seize and devour him raw; not that I was hungry then, except for that wildness which he represented. Once or twice, however, while I lived at the pond, I found myself ranging the woods, like a half-starved hound, with a strange abandonment, seeking some kind of venison which I might devour, and no morsel could have been too savage for me. The wildest scenes had become unaccountably familiar. I found in myself, and still find, an instinct toward a higher, or, as it is named, spiritual life, as do most men, and another toward a primitive rank and savage one, and I reverence them both. I love the wild not less than the good.

Walden
Henry David Thoreau
Time is but the stream I go a-fishing in. I drink at it; but while I drink I see the sandy bottom and detect how shallow it is. Its thin current slides away, but eternity remains. I would drink deeper; fish in the sky, whose bottom is pebbly with stars. I cannot count one. I know not the first letter of the alphabet. I have always been regretting that I was not as wise as the day I was born. The intellect is a cleaver; it discerns and rifts its way into the secret of things. I do not wish to be any more busy with my hands than is necessary. My head is hands and feet. I feel all my best faculties concentrated in it. My instinct tells me that my head is an organ for burrowing, as some creatures use their snout and fore-paws, and with it I would mine and burrow my way through these hills. I think that the richest vein is somewhere here-abouts; so by the divining rod and thin rising vapors I judge; and here I will begin to mine.

Walden
Henry David Thoreau
We Need the Tonic of Wildness

We need the tonic of wildness, – to wade sometimes in marshes where the bittern and the meadow-hen lurk, and hear the booming of the snipe; to smell the whispering sedge where only some wilder and more solitary fowl builds her nest, and the mink crawls with its belly close to the ground. At the same time that we are earnest to explore and learn all things, we require that all things be mysterious and unexplorable, that land and sea be infinitely wild, unsurveyed and unfathomed by us because unfathomable. We can never have enough of nature. We must be refreshed by the sight of inexhaustible vigor, vast and titanic features, the sea-coast with its wrecks, the wilderness with its living and its decaying trees, the thunder-cloud, and the rain which lasts three weeks and produces freshets. We need to witness our own limits transgressed, and some life pasturing freely where we never wander.

Walden

Henry David Thoreau
I Went to the Woods

I went to the woods because I wished to live deliberately, to front only the essential facts of life, and see if I could not learn what it had to teach, and not, when I came to die, discover that I had not lived. I did not wish to live what was not life, living is so dear; nor did I wish to practice resignation, unless it was quite necessary. I wanted to live deep and suck out all the marrow of life, to live so sturdily and Spartan-like as to put to rout all that was not life, to cut a broad swath and shave close, to drive life into a corner, and reduce it to its lowest terms, and, if it proved to be mean, why then to get the whole and genuine meanness of it, and publish its meanness to the world; or if it were sublime, to know it by experience, and be able to give a true account of it in my next excursion. For most men, it appears to me, are in a strange uncertainty about it, whether it is of the devil or God, and have somewhat hastily concluded that it is the chief end of man here to “glorify God and enjoy him forever.”

Walden

Henry David Thoreau
At present, in this vicinity, the best part of the land is not private property, the landscape is not owned, and the walker enjoys comparative freedom. But possibly the day will come when it will be partitioned off into so-called pleasure-grounds, in which a few will take a narrow and exclusive pleasure only, – when fences shall be multiplied, and man-traps and other engines invented to confine men to the public road, and walking over the surface of God’s earth shall be construed to mean trespassing on some gentleman’s grounds. To enjoy a thing exclusively is commonly to exclude yourself from the true enjoyment of it. Let us improve our opportunities, then, before the evil days come.

Walking

Henry David Thoreau
The West of Which I Speak

The West of which I speak is but another name for the Wild, and what I have been preparing to say is, that in Wildness is the preservation of the World. Every tree sends its fibres forth in search of the Wild. The cities import it at any price. Men plough and sail for it. From the forest and wilderness come the tonics and barks which brace mankind. Our ancestors were savages. The story of Romulus and Remus being suckled by a wolf is not a meaningless fable. The founders of every state which has risen to eminence have drawn their nourishment and vigor from a similar wild source. It was because the children of the Empire were not suckled by the wolf that they were conquered and displaced by the children of the northern forests who were.

Walking

Henry David Thoreau
June 20, 1803

To Captain Meriwether Lewis.

The object of your mission is to explore the Missouri river, & such principal stream of it, as, by it’s course and communication with the waters of the Pacific ocean…may offer the most direct & practicable water communication across this continent for the purposes of commerce.

Thomas Jefferson
Our Vessels

Our vessels consisted of six small canoes, and two large pirogues. This little fleet altho’ not quite so respectable as those of Columbus or Capt. Cook were still viewed by us with as much pleasure as those deservedly famed adventurers ever beheld theirs; and I dare say with quite as much anxiety for their safety and preservation. we were now about to penetrate a country at least two thousand miles in width, on which the foot of civilized man had never trodden; the good or evil it had in store for us was for experiment yet to determine, and these little vessel’s contained every article by which we were to expect to subsist or defend ourselves…entertaining as I do, the most confident hope of succeeding in a voyage which had formed a dar[ling] project of mine for the last ten years, I could but esteem this moment of my departure as among the most happy of my life. The party are in excellent health and sperits, zealously attached to the enterprise, and anxious to proceed; not a whisper of murmur or discontent to be heard among them, but all act in unison, and with the most perfect harmony.

The Lewis and Clark Journals
Meriwether Lewis
St. Louis. September 23rd, 1806. [Mr. President], It is with pleasure that I announce to you the safe arrival of myself and party at 12 OClk. today....In obedience to your orders we have penetrated the Continent of North America to the Pacific Ocean....

I am very anxious to learn the state of my friends at Albemarle, particularly whether my mother is yet living. I am with every sentiment of esteem Your Ob[edien]t and very Humble servant,

Meriwether Lewis
Resources of the Landmark College Thoreau Collection
BOOKS

Ambrose, Stephen E. Undaunted Courage.
Andrews, Barry (Editor). True Harvest: Readings from Henry David Thoreau for Every Day of the Year.
Aretha, David (Editor). The Holocaust Chronicle.
Armstrong, Lance. It’s Not About the Bike: My Journey Back to Life.
Berenbaum, Michael. A Promise to Remember: The Holocaust in the Words and Voices of Its Survivors.
Bradley, James. Flags of Our Fathers.
Brandenburg, James. The White Wolf.
Brennan, Stephen (Editor). Classic Adventure Stories: Twenty-one Tales of People Pushed to the Limit.
Clarke, Charles G. The Men of the Lewis and Clark Expedition.
Dean, Bradley P. (Editor). Henry David Thoreau. Faith in a Seed.
Dean, Bradley P. (Editor). Henry David Thoreau. Letters to a Spiritual Seeker.
Duncan, Dayton. Out West: A Journey Through Lewis and Clark’s America.
Frost, Robert. The Road Not Taken: A Selection of Robert Frost’s Poems.
Gilman, Carolyn. Lewis and Clark: Across the Divide.
Harding, Walter (Editor). The Selected Works of Thoreau.
Hillenbrand, Laura. Seabiscuit: An American Legend.
Jameson, Robert U. *Essays Old and New.*

Kahn, Wolf. *Wolf Kahn’s America: An Artist’s Travels.*


Lin, Maya. *Boundaries.*

Mansfield, Howard (Editor). *Where the Mountain Stands Alone: Stories of Place in the Monadnock Region.*


Richardson, Jr., Robert D. *Emerson: The Mind on Fire.*

Richardson, Jr., Robert D. *Henry Thoreau: A Life on the Mind.*


Royal Geographic Society. *Royal Geographic Society: A Unique Record of Exploration and Photography.*

Royal Geographic Society. *Shackleton’s Antarctic Expedition 1914-1917. Photographs of Frank Hurley.*

Royal Geographic Society. *Summit of Achievement: Attempts to Ascend Mount Everest.*

Shackleton, Sir Ernest. *South: Journals of His Last Expedition to Antarctica.*


Wyeth, Andrew. *Wyeth at Kuerners.*

Wyeth, Andrew. *Wyeth at Olsons.*

Ziak, Rex. *In Full View: A True and Accurate Account of Lewis and Clark’s Arrival at the Pacific Ocean, and Their Search for a Winter Camp Along the Lower Columbia River.*
MAGAZINE


PLAY


PHOTOGRAPHS

Fay, Robert Sargent. Photographic Totems.
Gleason, Herbert. Photographs.

MAP

Parchment Map. *Lewis and Clark Expedition 1804-1806*.

SCREENSAVER

Wolf Kahn.

FILMS

Across the Drafts. Students and Teachers Talk about Feedback.
Ansel Adams: American Experience.
The Diary of Anne Frank.
The Endurance: Shackleton’s Legendary Antarctic Expedition.
Everest: Fifty Years on the Mountain X Three Sons Confront the Mountain That Shaped Their Fathers’ Lives.
Everest: Filmed During the Infamous 1996 Climbing Disaster Documented in Into Thin Air.
The Grapes of Wrath.
Hoosiers.
Horatio’s Drive: America’s First Road Trip.
Into the Thin Air of Everest: Mountain of Dreams, Mountain of Doom.
Lewis and Clark: Great Journey West.
Lewis and Clark: The Journey of the Corps of Discovery.
The Journey of Sacagawea.
MacDowell: An American Artists’ Colony.
Mark Twain.
The Miracle Worker.
The Music Survives. Degenerate Music: Music Suppressed by the Third Reich.
9/11.
Seabiscuit: American Experience.
Seabiscuit: America’s Legendary Racehorse.
Seabiscuit: The Lost Documentary.
Shackleton’s Antarctic Adventure: The Greatest Survival Story of All Time.
Surviving Everest, Featuring Sir Edmund Hillary: The First to Climb Mt. Everest.
The White Wolf.

RECORDINGS

Horatio’s Drive: America’s First Road Trip.
Lewis and Clark: Great Journey West.
Lewis and Clark: The Journey of the Corps of Discovery.
Mark Twain.
Nakai, R. Carlos. Sundance Season.
Tokeya Inajin. Dream Catcher.

CALENDAR

American Transcendental – 2007 Calendar.