

*the five people you meet in heaven* by Mitch Albom  
Annotation Activity with Essay Assignment

Names: \_\_\_\_\_

You will be working in groups with assigned excerpts from *the five people you meet in heaven* to prepare for your individual essay. Every student will write a fully developed essay on one of the following topics:

Option 1:

Choose two of the five people Eddie meets in Heaven.

→ In a well-developed, four paragraph essay, describe how each character's own chosen setting of Heaven exhibits what that person is destined to teach Eddie. For this topic, you will be analyzing how setting affects theme.

Option 2:

Choose two of the five people Eddie meets in Heaven.

→ In a well-developed, four paragraph essay, associate each character with a particular symbol in his or her Heaven. Explain the symbol's meaning, its importance to that character, and its importance to the lesson that he or she teaches Eddie.

**Step One**

In your group, annotate your assigned excerpt. Make notes on the copy that has been provided and answer the following questions on this hand-out.

1. Using the provided excerpt, circle **connotative diction** used by Albom to reveal elements of the character's heaven (**setting**).
2. Looking at the connotative diction that you circled, think about the significance of the setting the author is creating through those words. Write an **assertion** about the significance of the character's heaven based on the connotative diction you circled.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Put boxes around images that serve as **symbols**. Your group will likely only have one symbol.
4. Complete the following statement:  
Albom uses a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ to symbolize \_\_\_\_\_  
in order to reveal

\_\_\_\_\_

5. What did your assigned character teach Eddie? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6. Underline key phrases that reveal the lesson that your character teaches Eddie.

7. Relate the character's heaven (setting) to the lesson he/she taught Eddie (**theme**).

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Write a quote from the text that supports this assertion.

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8. Relate a symbol that is important to your character to the lesson he/she taught Eddie (theme).

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Write a quote from the text that supports this assertion.

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**Step Two**

Share your findings with the class. Each group will be required to put their annotated text on the Elmo so that others can take notes on your character/setting/symbol.

Take notes as others are presenting. This is your opportunity to build a toolbox for your essay.

**Step Three**

Compile your notes and make a decision regarding (1) which essay you will write and (2) which characters you will use to provide examples.

Write a thesis statement:

(We'll work on this together Tuesday.)

*the five people you meet in heaven* by Mitch Albom  
**Essay Rubric**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Step Four**

Write your essay! Essays will be handwritten in class on August 13/14.

**Requirements:**

- ❑ Interesting title
- ❑ Introduction with general information regarding title, author, summary, and a **clear** thesis statement (5 sent)
- ❑ Two body paragraphs with **specific** explanations and supporting evidence
  - ❖ Each body paragraph must include one quotation (which cannot be more than one sentence), parenthetical documentation for each quote, commentary and transitions. (8-12 sent)
- ❑ Concluding paragraph with reworking of thesis, quick summary of main points, and a closing statement (4-6 sent)

**Format:**

- Essay will be written in class on white lined paper, using blue or black ink.
- Follow MLA style for heading, page numbers, documentation, and works cited page.
- To view a sample paper and format, see page 320 in MLA Handbook, 6<sup>th</sup> edition and section 5.6.1 for citation form.

**Rubric:**

**Content**

**Introduction** /10

General to specific info...title, author, brief summary

**Thesis** is clear, answers the prompt, and states an argument /5

**Body Paragraphs** /40

topic sentence supports the thesis/proofs supports topic /6

contains one quote and parenthetical citation each /8

commentary explains how the proofs support thesis /20

transitions within the paragraph & between paragraphs /6

**Conclusion** /10

thesis statement reworded/ conclusion includes summary of the main points without repetition

**Grammar/Spelling** /15

Essay is free of grammatical and spelling errors

**MLA Format** /5

**Total Points** /85

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