**Voice Lessons**

Digital Activity Practice #2

“MRS. VENABLE: ...and the sane all alive, all alive, as the hatched sea-turtles made their dash for the sea, while the birds hovered and swooped to attack and hovered and- swooped to attack! They were diving down on the hatched sea-turtles, turning them over to expose their soft undersides, tear the undersides open and rending and eating their flesh.”

-Tennessee Williams, *Suddenly Last Summer*

1. Williams uses the repetition of detail in three places in this passage. Explain whether the repetition enhances or detracts from the overall effect of the passage.
2. What is Mrs. Venable’s attitude toward the scene she describes? What specific details reveal this attitude?

“‘I’m clean, Carlito, I’m not using.’ My voice dropped to a whisper. ‘I’m not using.’ And oh, God, I found my mind thinking, *Wonder what it would be like again? Wonder what it would be like again? Wonder what it would be like again? Wonder...*”

-Piri Thomas, *Down These Mean Streets*

1. Thomas repeats the question “Wonder what it would be like again?” three times in the passage. What effect does repetition have on the impact of the passage?
2. At the end of the passage, Thomas uses ellipses to indicate the omission of words required from complete syntactical construction but unnecessary for understanding. What words are missing? What impact does this omission have on the passage?

“There is no drop of water in the ocean, not even in the deepest parts of the abyss, that does not know and respond to the mysterious forces that create the tide. No other force that affects the sea is so strong. Compared with the tide the wind-created waves are surface movements felt, at most, no more than a hundred fathoms below the surface.”

-Rachel Carson, *The Sea Around Us*

1. What is Carson’s attitude toward the tide?
2. Carson uses negative constructions several times in this paragraph (“There’s **no**…, **not** even in the…, that does **not** know… **No** other force…”) Yet her town is positive and reverential. How does the use of negatives create such a positive tone?