Reading Response #5:
“Living Like Weasels” by Annie Dillard (One Hundred Great Essays 118)
“Fusion” (Adios 42-59)

Part I—Summary: Organize the summary as per the checklist below, addressing content, organization and style:

- In the opening sentence of the summary, identify the author, title; explain what Dillard means by her thesis—that we should live like weasels.
- Include in your summary a description of the kind of evidence she uses to support and explore her thesis. Any scientific data or personal anecdotes?
- Describe the complex and unique organization of Dillard’s essay and explain how the organization mirrors her philosophical conclusion or thesis—in other words, explain how the organization and thesis are related.
- Make a claim characterizing Dillard’s tone or the “ethos” she creates in her essay. Then provide a quoted line from the essay that illustrates the tone you identified. Provide a Lead-in for the quoted line, and parenthetical citation after the quote. In the Follow-up, explain how the quoted line is Backing-up your claim about Dillard’s tone.

Part II: Quote Sandwich Response: You probably noticed Dillard’s extensive use of metaphors and similes throughout the essay. Choose a complex metaphorical image from the essay to create, one in which you will respond with a digging-in follow-up.

Begin the Quote Sandwich by providing a context for the quote you will present. Then create an effective lead-in, one that captures the tone of the upcoming quote with its metaphorical language. Use a comma, colon or single dash to connect the lead-in to the upcoming quote. In the digging-in response, dissect the meaning of the metaphor and connect the quote to the larger ideas, themes or thesis in Dillard’s essay. Provide a parenthetical citation for the quoted line.

Part III--Vocabulary: After the quote sandwich, list and define a minimum of five unfamiliar and/or interesting words or terms from the essay at the end of your response. Provide the page number in parentheses where each word appears.

Part IV—In-class Quiz: Prepare for the quiz by reading the assigned chapters in the “Fusion” section in Adios.

Due Date: Wednesday, October 16 @ the beginning of class.