

Bulletpointed Notes: - Diane Ackerman article focuses on diversity of animals, their special characteristics - Draws on biologist Edward O. Wilson's work to illustrate how animals possess range of traits - Some animals possess intelligence & intellect surpassing humans, eg. octopus can remember a maze - Differences between social trees, mammals & birds - unique traits each possess - Memory, problem-solving, navigation & communication are characteristics leading to evolutionary adaptations - Studying animals can help humans understand their nature & better understand bases of comparison for the animal world - Peter Damerow's article: importance of language in teaching & learning mathematics - Many students miss out on important math ideas because of language-related issues, must be taught language of math - Potential of mathematical language in explaining concepts - teaching & learning math as dialogue between teacher & student - Language-related errors should be used to probe student understanding - Awareness of language impacting how students process & adjust teaching styles - Language-based activities can enhance student understanding of mathematics - Hillary Neuman's article: benefits of community service - Instilling importance of actively participating in community - collaboration & support for atmosphere of understanding, acceptance - Benefits: improved sense of self-worth, develop skills like communication, problem-solving & leadership - Participating can impact on social issues - Join a cause that person cares about, make positive difference in community - Frank Furedi's article: culture of fear - Widespread & growing fear in society - risk averse to avoid large-scale disasters - Fear not just limited to physical dangers like crime or terrorism - psychological anxieties, eg. economic uncertainty, social change - Result of various sources of risk society faces, combination of external & internal threats that feed on each other - Assess & address root causes of risks, engage necessary conversations to move past culture of fear - Empower individuals to question their environment & make meaningful changes - Stephen Chbosky's article: "The Perks of Being a Wallflower" - Story of Charlie, socially awkward freshman navigating socially confusing & painful high school - Relationships with new friends - secrets, struggles & self-discovery - Deals with themes such as loss, redemption & self-discovery, ultimately exploring struggles of growing up - D.H. Lawrence's short story "The Rocking Horse Winner" - Paul, young boy desperate for mother's love & attention - only loves him when he brings home money - Gets rocking horse & fever to win money for her & is convinced it will

bring him luck - Able to pick winning horses using unknown power - mother delighted with sudden wealth & becomes abusive - Despite almost dying, still pushes Paul to win money - Paul dies with smile on face, showing had come to terms with her lack of love by fulfilling her need for wealth - Anya Kamenetz's article "Exhaustion": - Overworked & exhausted lives of many adolescents - statistics on feeling more stressed & tired - Combination of causes behind rise in exhaustion eg. long hours of homework, lack of sleep, technology saturation, education system not adequately preparing students - Risk of mental health issues, strategies to help teens combat it - Interviews to examine toll - strategies such as engage in passion projects, maintain sleep schedule etc. - Parents & educators need to take an active role in helping young people cope - need more holistic, balanced support - Article on benefits of meditation & techniques for incorporating it into life - Ancient practice for physical & mental relaxation, improved focus & stress reduction - Regular meditation to improve physical & mental health, reduce symptoms of depression, anxiety, stress & insomnia - Key techniques such as focusing on breath, repeating mantra/phrase & sitting in comfortable position - Advice on how to stay motivated eg. setting personal goals & going within without distractions