***Our Town* Final Narrative Assignment Option Ideas**

Throughout your reading of Thornton Wilder’s *Our Town*, you completed several exploratory writings.  You will use these as a basis for your narrative and will **choose ONE** of the following narratives to write.  **This will be worth 100 summative points.**

**Option One: Flashback**

In Wilder’s *Our Town*, there were a couple of flashbacks that allowed you to experience the events of an earlier moment in the life of one of the characters, Emily.  Not only do we see Emily’s marriage to George, but we also see the moment in time they first decided they were meant to be together.  Later, Emily returns to one of her birthdays and experiences the moment again, but from a new perspective.  **For this assignment, you will choose a moment in your life to which you will flash back and “relive” (write down) the experience.**  This can be an important or unimportant event, but you should be able to recall enough of the details from the event to compose a narrative that is detailed enough that your reader can feel as though he/she is re-experiencing the event with you.  This flashback will be written as a story (dialogue, plot structure, characterization, conflict, etc. should be included) and **the theme/message to the story must be apparent to the reader after having finished his/her reading. You may write the narrative as though it is currently happening, in present tense, or you can write this in past tense, making sure to add your new perspective/awareness as an older, more mature self.  You must use sensory details in showing your reader the event, not just telling your reader about it.  You must also use at least one opening and delayed adjective and one opening and delayed adverb to help describe the flashback.**

**Option Two: Recognizing the Significance in the Seemingly Insignificant**

In Act III of *Our Town*, Emily re-experiences her birthday and realizes that the people in her family didn’t find significance in the seemingly small but significant aspects of life.  She says “Oh earth, you’re too wonderful for anybody to realize you…Do any human beings ever realize life while they live it? – every, every minute?”  (Wilder 108). For this narrative, you will bring significance to the seemingly insignificant in your life.  For one or two days, you will truly focus on and observe the events, people, conversations, etc. around you.  **You will use your observations to write a narrative, revealing the significance of one of those seemingly insignificant moments.** This seemingly insignificant moment will be written as a story (dialogue, plot structure, characterization, conflict, etc. should be included) and its theme should be apparent to the reader after finishing the reading. **You must use sensory details in showing your reader the seemingly insignificant moment, not just telling your reader about it.**  **You must also use at least one opening and delayed adjective and one opening and delayed adverb to help describe the moment.**

**Option Three: Carpe Diem Script**

One of the central characters, Mrs. Gibbs tells Mrs. Webb, “…it seems to me that once in your life before you die you ought to see a country where they don’t talk in English and don’t even want to” (Wilder 21).  At this moment, she has the opportunity to sell a piece of furniture that would allow her to do just this, but in Act III, we find out she never used the money to accomplish her dream.  Like Mrs. Webb, everyone has goals and dreams they hope to accomplish in life, but time has a way of slipping into the future, and often these dreams go unaccomplished.  You have already used the Bucket List you composed while reading Act I to brainstorm a script or a letter, describing yourself and the things you hope to have accomplished when you “kick the bucket.”  **Now, you will continue to develop this script or a short story in which you reminisce about those bucket list items you have accomplished. There must also be a resounding theme (message) to the story that is apparent to the reader after having finished his/her reading.** For this assignment, you will include anecdotes that help to describe some of those bucket list items you have accomplished. Although this is fictional, **This should be written in a mixture of present and past tense, since you will be flashing back to your imagined past. Be sure to add your new perspective/awareness as an older, more mature self.  You must use sensory details in showing your reader the events you accomplished, not just telling your reader about it.  You must also use at least one opening and delayed adjective and one opening and delayed adverb in your narrative.**