**Character Sketch – AP Literature and Composition**

**Summer Reading**

**Miss Sloan**

For your character sketch, I am asking you to focus on one character in the novel. You should think carefully about how this character is portrayed: what are some of his/her qualities, is he/she realistic, likable, developed, interesting, etc. Is the character a major or minor character, and is this important in terms of your association with him/her?

You know ahead of time that you will be writing this, so it would make sense to jot down some notations as you’re reading. Your character sketch/comparison will be improved by textual references that show how the author developed both the character and the audience’s reaction to him/her. For example, if you are going to say that you relate to Scout from *To Kill a Mockingbird*, you might say:

“Scout is baffled by the education system, and says: “I could not believe that 12 years of unrelieved boredom was what the state had in mind for me,” which reminds me of my own reaction to school and some of the classes I have taken. Like Scout, I was precocious and ahead of the system, and ready to learn more than what school was prepared to teach me.”

In order to compare yourself to the character, you will need to share some personal qualities that you possess; the best way to do this is to share anecdote(s) or insight about yourself. Therefore, this paper will be a blend of character analysis and personal narrative – the best ones are usually about 30% character analysis, 70% personal reflection and stories. Obviously that’s not a firm formula, but it should guide your work.

Remember please that you do NOT need to choose major characters, nor do the characters have to be likable. Sometimes authors allow us to relate to characters who are villains or just frankly unlikable, and they usually do that intentionally. In the same vein, heroes aren’t always relatable or even likable.

Please use this as an opportunity to connect with the novel, to share something about yourself, and to think about why authors make the choices they do when they introduce us to people who aren’t real.