Summer Reading Questions over Stephen King’s *On Writing*
For Honors Writing Seminar

Respond to all seven questions. Each answer should be one-page, typed, double-spaced, with Times New Roman twelve-point font. Feel free to email Mr. Anderson at danderso@hinsdale86.org with questions.

1. What role did Stephen King's childhood play in his development as a writer? In other words, how does Part 1 of *On Writing* connect with Part 2?
2. Select one of King’s stories from the first part and explain how that experience influenced his growth as a writer?
3. Discuss King's "toolbox" analogy. Which “tools” do you find to be the most valuable? Are there any you would add to King’s toolbox?
4. King believes that stories are "found things, like fossils in the ground." Discuss King’s extended metaphor of "writing as excavation." Do you agree with this theory?
5. Often, King says, "bad books have more to teach than the good ones." He believes that most writers remember the first book they put down thinking "I can do better than this." Describe a book that gave you this feeling? Why?
6. Discuss one “good” book that has made an impact on your life. In addition, apply some of King’s views on writing to this good book.
7. King tells a story about getting his fantasy desk, a massive oak slab that he placed in the middle of his spacious study. For six years, he sat "behind that desk either drunk or wrecked out of [his] mind." After sobering up, he replaced the desk with a smaller one that he put in a corner. "Life isn't a support system for art," he figured out. "It's the other way around." Discuss King's "revelation" and the symbolism of the placement of the desk.