



Senior Spotlight: Sarah Price

1) If you could take the place of a character in a novel, who would you be and why?

I would be Peter Pan, at least for a while. I mean, he's just AWESOME! He can fly, he can sword fight, he gets to play with pirates, indians, mermaids, and fairies, PLUS he's always surrounded by an adoring crowd of men (well at least in my mind I age 'em a bit to get them fully developed). Plus he never has to deal with comps, or the job search or money issues, HOW COOL CAN YOU GET?! I think after a while I might get bored, but then I could just fly to London and pick up a couple new friends in pajamas to tell me stories and have adventures with me... I'm really not seeing a downside here!

2) What is the single best English class you've taken at Carleton and why?

Well that's easy. London Program with Connie Walker... three plays a week, reading mostly interesting stuff about London (aside from a Peter Ackroyd tomb of a book), and I GOT TO BE IN FREAKIN' LONDON! So maybe I'm cheating since it's not actually at Carleton...

3) Tell us something that most of the other English majors don't know about you.

I used to believe that I was a foundling when I was little after I read fantasy trilogy called The Sea of Trolls.

4) Which book would you be okay never reading again?

London: The Biography by Peter Ackroyd.... After the first time, I felt like I'd read it three times already.

5) Six words describing your experience as a Carleton English major:

Only four: Nitwit Blubber Odment Tweak.

Quote of the Week

“And when he came to, he was flat on his back on the beach in the freezing sand, and it was raining out of a low sky, and the tide was way out.”

STUDENTS! Call in to ext. 4322 with the author and the name of the week. The first person to correctly name the quotation will win a special package of cookies with a faculty signature!

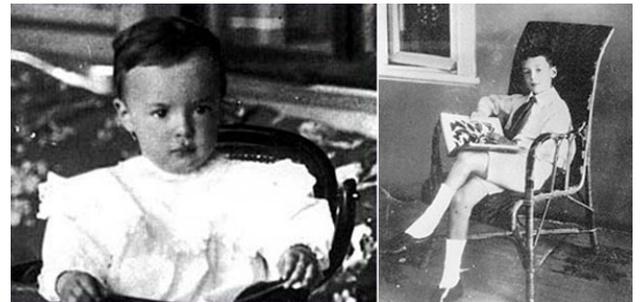
Last week's quotation went unidentified. Let's not get a reputation, guys.

“The most I can do for my friend is simply be his friend.”¹

Henry David Thoreau

¹On Facebook. Friend the English Department.

THAT BABY WROTE WHAT?



Who is this famous author? Email whiter or lanec with your answer and you get to pick next week's baby.

Charles Dickens Birthday Challenge
(because you do most of your reading at 2 a.m. anyway)

The Mission: Read *David Copperfield* aloud, start to finish.

The Date: October 16-17

The Reward: Glory. Cake.

You in? Email Arnab to be a part of the team!

Queries on Queries: “Spirit of Place”

Our weekly look into the English Department Argument and Inquiry Seminars
This Week: Mike Kowalewski and location, location, location

1. In the context of your class, how is “place” different from “setting”?

Wendell Berry says somewhere that “if you don’t know where you are, you don’t know who you are.” That touches on something like my notion of place. To my mind, setting refers to physical location and backdrop. Place is a much richer, more three-dimensional matter: one that is geographical and ecological but also historical, emotional, spiritual. A “deep map.” It’s where nature, culture and history intersect. So we spend a term talking about how writers such as Frost and Shakespeare and Marilynne Robinson create an indelible “spirit of place” in their works.

2. What is your personal favorite literary work on the reading list for “Spirit of Place”?

Whatever we’re reading next! Today I’ll say Thomas Hardy’s *Far From the Madding Crowd*. It’s a great pleasure to read that novel again every autumn and to introduce it to freshmen. I first encountered Hardy’s poetry over thirty years ago as an undergraduate at Amherst. Later I took a graduate seminar on Hardy at Rutgers taught by Elaine Showalter and I’ve been hooked ever since.

3. What one place in the world has had the biggest influence on you?

Shasta County, in northern California, where I grew up. The blonde hills studded with oak trees and manzanita, with Mt. Shasta and Mt. Lassen floating on the horizon: it’s the place that most feels like home. When it gets too hot in the valley, you can drive a couple hours west through the Trinity Alps and go sit in a fogbank on the Pacific; the Oregon Shakespeare Festival (in Ashland), with its outdoor Elizabethan stage, is to the north. It’s my native habitat and it’s woven into my temperament, my outlook and my imagination.

4. What is uniquely challenging/wonderful about teaching A & I Seminars?

I think the idea of small, intensive seminars for all Fall term frosh is a wonderful idea. Whether the A & I format is the best way to go I can’t yet say. I’ve taught “Spirit of Place” for many years as a freshman seminar but this is the first time I’ve taught it as an A & I. The A&I seminars are graded. I liked the fact that the previous freshman seminars were S/CR/NC, so students first getting the feel of college didn’t have to worry about grades. I love being able to teach English and Irish works I don’t normally get to teach. I also get to help freshmen find the bathrooms in Laird Hall.

5. If you could take any other A & I seminar being offered in the department, which would you choose?

They all sound tempting, but I’d probably take George Shuffelton’s “The Questing Hero.” How could I resist a course that combines medieval French poetry and Great Expectations?

6. If Spirit of Place were an off-campus studies program (and you could change the syllabus accordingly) where would you go, what would you read, and why?

I’ve actually done this (or something like it) – five times. I directed the Ireland Program in 2011. We read Joyce, Yeats, Heaney, Brian Friel, J.M. Synge and a host of others as we tried – amidst the music and the Guinness and the moods of the Irish weather – to understand the “terrible beauty” of Irish history and writing. I also, from 1995-2004, offered four versions of my “Visions of California” seminar, a ten-week, total immersion, on-the-road exploration of California identity, from pre-contact native culture to Blade Runner. We read Muir, Chandler, Steinbeck, West, Didion and Luis Valdez. (I think I’m going to give a lecture next term on the experience of running that program, so stay tuned.) “Place” is at the center of my teaching, my scholarship and my love of literature.

The Future is Imminent: Jobs, Fellowships, Internships, etc.

- Proposals for the Watson Fellowship are due Thursday, October 11
For more information, email Roy Grow (rgrow@carleton.edu) or go to <http://www.watsonfellowship.org/>
- Early Fall Application Deadline for Green Corps: September 30, 2012
In Green Corps’ year-long paid program, you’ll get intensive training in the skills you’ll need to make a difference in the world. For more info, go to <http://www.greencorps.org/node/93>
- Carleton Exclusive Externship Opportunities for Winter Break 2012: Deadline for externship applications is Monday, October 1 at 11:59pm
Check out the Career Center website or the Tunnel for more info!