

“The Chase” by Annie Dillard
A close reading of a personal narrative

Directions:

Write a S.U.R.E. answer to the questions below on a separate piece of notebook paper:

- S: State the question in the answer
- U: Use examples
- R: Refer to the text
- E: Explain

Questions:

1. Theme:

What lesson or main idea about life did Dillard learn from the experience of the chase and how do you know? Where is her point explicitly revealed? (S.U.R.E. Answer)

2. Point of View:

- a. What is Dillard’s point of view in this narrative and how do you know? Is her perspective that of a seven-year-old girl, or that of an adult writer reflecting on her childhood experience? How do you know?
- b. How does her point of view choice impact the overall effect of the essay? (S.U.R.E. Answer)

3. Language:

Dillard makes extensive use of careful syntax and descriptive language. Syntax is how a writer puts together words and phrases to form sentences. Syntax can be deliberate and careful, like in this narrative.

Use the chart below to locate and track instances of the following:

Language	Text Quotes
Repetition of words, phrases, or ideas	
Contradictions (opposite qualities)	
Change in sentence length	Shorter Sentence Length: Identify paragraph numbers: _____ Longer Sentence Length: Identify paragraph numbers: _____
Descriptive language	

****Now, draw a conclusion about language:** What is the overall impact of the careful syntax and descriptive language in Dillard’s “The Chase”? How does the language choice add meaning to the overall narrative? (S.U.R.E. Answer)

