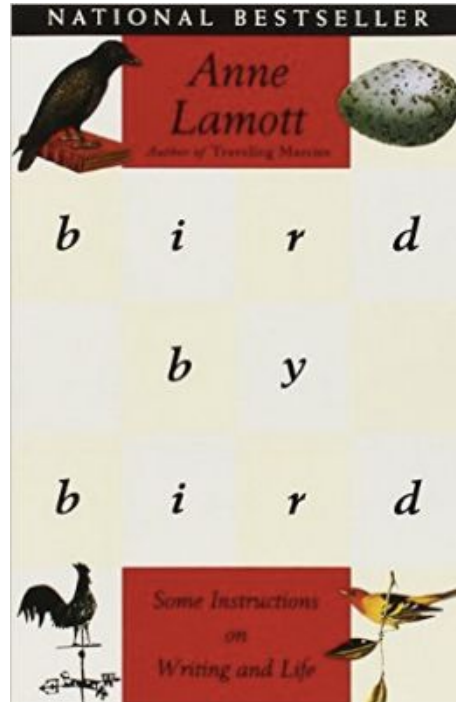


English 12  
Fiction Writing  
Summer Reading Assignment  
Summer 2017



To prepare for your English elective in Writing Fiction, please read *Bird by Bird: Some Instructions on Writing and Life* by Anne Lamott (Anchor Books, ISBN: 0385480016). As you read, highlight and annotate with the following questions and prompts in mind:

1. How does it feel to read bad writing? What are the characteristics of **poor prose**?
2. How does it feel to read good writing? What are the characteristics of **strong prose**? (Describe good prose without using the words such as “it flows well” or “relatable.”)
3. What advice by Anne Lamott about ‘writing and life’ **surprises** you?
4. What elements and effects make a good **story**?
5. As someone writes, **what is in their control, and what is out of their control**?
6. How does Lamott describe writer’s **block**? Have you ever experienced it?
7. Develop an opinion about Lamott’s premise regarding “**sh[\*]tty first drafts.**”
8. Develop an opinion about revision. How does a writer know what and how to revise?