Saints at the River Paper
Format: formal essay

- Typed, 12 pt, Times New Roman, double-spaced, black printer ink
- Length: min. 2 pgs., will probably take 3 if you’re doing a thorough job
- Multi-paragraph: no less than 4 (intro., 2 body, conc.)
- MLA heading
MLA Heading

Lee Smith Your Name
Mrs. Grant Teacher’s Name
Eng. III Class Name |
12 March 2009 Date Paper is Due

Title

Intro. Paragraph
Discuss the theme of redemption/reconciliation (reconciliation) in *Saints at the River*.
Prompt: Discuss how the literary elements setting and character merge in Luke Miller to illustrate Romantic sensibilities.

Turn your prompt into a thesis statement that lets your reader know what you’re trying to prove and why. If you can, get the name of the author and the name of the book in there. If you can, list the main portions of your arguments or categories of evidence in the order they will appear in your paper.

For example:

In Ron Rash’s *Saints at the River*, the literary elements setting and character merge in Luke Miller to illustrate Romantic sensibilities.
What exactly are you trying to prove? In Ron Rash’s *Saints at the River*, the literary elements setting and character merge in Luke Miller to illustrate Romantic sensibilities.

- Prove that nature and Luke are connected.
- Prove that the combination shows Luke to be a Romantic.

So what? Conclude something:

Show that nature is nurturing on its own terms, not on man’s terms. Sometimes that nurturing is painful or comes with a price. Since all of creation is connected and sometimes pain produces growth, some part of nature has to endure the pain so that another part can grow.
Brainstorm: In Ron Rash’s *Saints at the River*, the literary elements setting and character merge in Luke Miller to illustrate Romantic sensibilities.

- What do you know about your prompt?
- Make a bubble map to generate ideas about Luke as he relates to the setting.
- Make a bubble map to generate ideas about setting as it relates to Luke.
- Make a bubble map about characteristics of Romanticism.
- Draw connecting lines to show connections between the ideas in the three maps.
Luke
Romanticism
interconnectedness of nature
man is good
society is bad
self-reliance
value
emotions
see the divine (God)
in nature
revere nature in all its creative and destructive forces
value emotions
needs healing
self-reliant: won't do what man says; won't be contained by society
self-reliant: won't do what man says; won't be contained by society
interconnectedness of nature
nurtures
the river
self-reliant: won't do what man says; won't be contained by society
unfeeling: inanimate
unfeeling: callous–been through pain
Biafra
oneness with the hydraulic moment (transcending the physical to commune with the spiritual via contemplation of nature)
self-reliant: won't do what man says; won't be contained by society
man is good
society is bad
self-reliant: won't do what man says; won't be contained by society
self-reliance
see the divine (God) in nature
revere nature in all its creative and destructive forces
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value emotions
needs healing
setiing
Organize your thoughts

A bubble map only generates ideas, it doesn’t organize them. Use tree map to categorize and organize them into a logical presentation of your argument (anytime you prove something, like a thesis, you’re using argument).
Use a tree map to create a structure for the body of your paper.

In Ron Rash’s Saints at the River, the literary elements setting and character merge in Luke Miller to illustrate Romantic sensibilities.

- self-reliance
- interconnectedness of creation
- reverence for nature’s creative and destructive forces
Structure of the whole paper

Introduction

Body: multiple paragraphs representing multiple sections of your paper

Restated thesis

Conclusion
Introductions

Don’t jump right into your argument: Begin with broad, general statements about your topic. You can do this by finding some term or idea in your prompt or thesis.

This paragraph doesn’t have to be long. It can be as short as five sentences.

Your thesis should be the last sentence in this paragraph.
**The body of your paper:**

- **Number of sections:** You should have at least 2, but preferably 3 sections of evidence/argument in your paper.

- **Paragraphing:** Each section can consist of multiple paragraphs. So, the “5-paragraph essay” can really be 17 paragraphs long. It all depends upon how you organize your information.
A paragraph is a group of sentences that elaborate or support a single topic.

If you find that your paragraph is going on for more than 12 sentences, you should consider revising. If you can’t find a way to break it up, perhaps what you’ve written is too unfocused.
Discuss the theme of redemption/reconciliation in *Saints at the River*.

Redemption/reconciliation is reclaiming something lost. How do we reclaim lost things in *Saints*?

Thesis should say what is getting redeemed and what that redemption/reconciliation means in the great scheme of life.

What are you trying to prove?

- Establish redemption/reconciliation as a theme of the story by discussing the Biblical allusions and or illustrating all the losses in the story
- Discuss who or what gets redeemed and how

SO WHAT?: What is Ron Rash trying to teach us about redemption/reconciliation?
Consider these ideas for your paper:

- redemption/reconciliation of relationships

- redemption/reconciliation of self (guilt over his negligent parenting, contributing to someone’s loss; grief over witnessing too much human suffering; grudge-holding)