



Upper School Humanities
DLI THE STORY
SUMMER WORK

PART I: STEPHEN KING'S *ON WRITING* AND BUILDING YOUR TOOLBOX

LEARNING INTENTION

- **Overview:** It's not the only book about writing, but it's one of the most approachable.
- **Skills and Dispositions:** Tolerance with Ambiguity, Curiosity, Critical Reading, Annotation, Writing

DESCRIPTION OF ASSIGNMENT

- **Step 1:** Read the book and annotate it. Annotations aren't just highlights of passages you like: they're also notes and questions and connections you mark in your margins. **Make the book your own!**
- **Step 2:** As you read the book, you'll find that one of the metaphors King uses is the idea of a toolbox to represent all the advice and rules you set for yourself as a writer. As you read *On Writing*, **make a list of advice and rules you find in the book**, whether they be explicitly stated or your own discovery.

PART II: TOOL TIME!

Now that you've built your own toolbox of advice, it's time to put it to the test. **Write a short piece of memoir using a particular event from the summer, using your toolbox to make the story as effective as possible.** A memoir is story about yourself told from the first person perspective that emphasizes your feelings and perception of whatever experience you describe. Ideally, the genre also captures something universal to the human experience, which separates memoir from personal diary. It is this element which makes memoir accessible to readers who may not otherwise know you as an individual. As academic as that sounds, however, you can choose whatever storytelling tone you want: serious, humorous, et cetera.

After you write your memoir, **write up a one page reflection** of the tools you used from your toolbox to make this memoir effective. This is your chance to practice articulating how authors use specific tools for effect and meaning, something we'll be exploring all year.

Your short memoir should include a creative title and run at 650-1300 words in length, no more, no less, while your reflection should run between 250-500 words.