Read:
• “Everything that Rises Must Converge” by Flannery O’Connor on p. 1005 (notecard due Tuesday)
• “Hills Like White Elephants” by Ernest Hemingway on p. 540 (notecard due Thursday)

Weekly Write #5 (due Thursday, April 29)
Directions: Choose two questions from the following. Please write about two different stories and choose no more than one creative option. For each question, develop your response in a focused paragraph. Use details, specifics, examples and quotes from the story to help develop your response. Please word-process with Times New Roman, 12 point font, single-spaced, and about ½ page for each response.

“Everything that Rises Must Converge”

1. With whom do you sympathize at the beginning of “Rises,” Julian or Julian’s mother? Please explain why. With whom do you sympathize at the end of the story? Again, use details from the story to explain why.

2. What can you make of the title Everything that Rises Must Converge? Who or what is rising? Wayne Booth, in his essay, “A Rhetorical Reading,” writes that “no reading of it (“Rises”) can be considered adequate unless it somehow relates the curious title to the various attempts to rise and the failings to converge” (1063). Study Booth’s essay. Make a list of what is rising and what is converging, literally and figuratively. Use points from Booth’s essay as source to develop your interpretations of the meaning of the title.

3. What is the significance of Julian’s mother’s response to the black woman’s hat? What is the significance of Julian’s response to his mother’s behavior?

4. Whose values, if anyone’s, does the story seem to endorse? What values are satirized?

5. (Creative Option) Put O’Connor’s characters (Julian and his mother) on a Linn-Benton loop bus. Imagine and identify the issues of conflict between your updated characters. Imagine and describe the moment of climax.

“Hills Like White Elephants”

1. Point of view includes what characters see. Notice each use of the word “look.” What does each person in the story look at, and what does each person seem to understand or feel? Is there anything in the story that none of these people would be able to see or know? How do the different kinds of observation add to the effect of the story?

2. Research the phrase “white elephant.” What is the significance of this phrase in the story’s title? How does this expression suit the story?

3. To what extent are the setting and the landscape symbolic? What do the hills symbolize?

4. What is your impression of the man? How is he characterized? What is your impression of the girl? How is she characterized?

5. How do the details of setting and physical action contribute to and reinforce our understanding of the characters?

6. (Creative option) Create a dialogue similar to Hemingway’s using two characters of your own invention. Provide a brief explanation of the conflict at the end.