“Teenage Wasteland” Summary Assignment
(60 points)

Description: Your mission, if you choose to complete it and you should complete it, is to compose an 8-12 sentence summary of the short story “Teenage Wasteland” by Anne Tyler. This is not an opinion piece, so your summary should only retell the story.

Due: Wednesday, February 20, 2008

Points:

Topic Sentence (5 points)
- Do you include the author’s name and the story title?
- Does your topic sentence briefly summarize the story?

Important Events (25 points)
- Do you have at least eight (8) major events from the story?
- Do you have the events arranged chronologically (from first to last)?
- Do you include specific details about the major events?
- Do you avoid including your opinion?

Format (10 points)
- Do you indent the paragraph?
- Do you have your paragraph double spaced?
- Do you have your paragraph typed or very neatly handwritten?

Grammar/Punctuation (10 points)
- Do you capitalize sentence beginnings and names?
- Do you use end marks at the end of each sentence?
- Do you have the story title correctly formatted?
- Do you have everything spelled correctly?
- Do you have the grammar edited as best as you can?
- Did you have anyone read over your paragraph before turning it in?

Word Choice (10 points)
- Do you avoid using very simple words?
- Do you avoid using “to be” verbs (is, are, was, were) as much as possible?
- Do you use transitions within your paragraph?
- Do your word choices bring images into the reader’s mind (are you descriptive)?

Resources:
Dictionary.com (or a printed dictionary)
Thesaurus.com (or a printed thesaurus)

Joke:
What is a thesaurus? (a dinosaur with a great vocabulary)