

“MIT Stories” Responses II

For Wednesday, Nov. 6, please read and respond to: “My Life Tuesday,” “Transcript of 2011 Annual Cambridge Mouse Meeting,” “Low Lights of an MIT Archie,” and “Ode to the Midnight P-Setter.”

Some questions to think about:

For “My Life Tuesday”, do you think the particulars give you a good sense of what a day in the life of an MIT freshman is like? What does the inner voice provide? What’s the mood or attitude of the writer? What makes this interesting—or not? If you wrote an MIT story, would you chronicle a day or rather focus on a particular event or situation?

For “Transcript of 2011 Annual Cambridge Mouse Meeting,” what do you think of the choice of a “mouse-eye-view” of MIT? Does it allow us an entertaining vantage point from which to view MIT culture as an “alien” outsider would? What do you think of the particular strange rituals that Albert reports on? Are they relevant ones? Can you think of another vantage point that would be fun to write from? What might you focus on as peculiar MIT behavior and rituals?

For “Lowlights of Being an MIT Archie,” do you think this story gives us a good window into a particular academic experience at MIT? What’s the mood or attitude of the writer? What do you think of the way the author balances the graphic and narrative text? What do you think of the relatively “abstract” graphics?

For “Ode to the Midnight P-Setter,” do you think the poetic form the writer chooses works well with the experience he chronicles? What do you think of the sequence he follows, and the use of repetition and rhyme? How would you compare the tone and attitude of this poem to that of “Owl”? Can you imagine writing an MIT-inspired poem? What might you focus on? Would you model it on another poem, or take a particular poetic form, or technique (rhyme, etc.) to work with?

MIT OpenCourseWare
<http://ocw.mit.edu>

21W.021 Writing and Experience: MIT: Inside, Live
Fall 2013

For information about citing these materials or our Terms of Use, visit: <http://ocw.mit.edu/terms>.