

Lauren Smith  
ENG 120

### Reading Critique #2: To Steal or to Avoid

Length: Two typed, double-spaced pages  
Due: 11/30 in class  
Category: Reading Critiques (10% of final grade)  
Grade Scale: Check-plus, check, check-minus

For your second critique, you have two choices. **You can either identify a quality or technique you would like to do more with in your writing, or you can identify a quality or technique you want to do less of in your writing.** In two pages—or more—discuss examples of this quality or technique as it appears in an assigned class reading. If you like, you can pull examples from multiple readings, and you can make use of any of the poetry, fiction, or nonfiction we've read (except whatever you wrote your first critique on).

Again, be as specific as possible, and look just at the works themselves. In other words, you could write about wanting to craft better plots, like the one "Found Objects," do more interesting things with setting, like "Deathbed," or create more complex characters like those in "Daisy." You could write about wanting to avoid minimalism as Carver uses it in "Cathedral" or jargon-y language like Wallace's in "Deathbed." What you don't want to do is discuss how you want to write like any particular author as a whole. That's a great goal to set, but it's not the aim of this assignment.

Take your time selecting your quality/technique. You might find it useful to review your own pieces from workshop alongside the class readings.