A Writer Is…

A writer is someone who sees the world from the sky, while looking from beneath the ocean. A person who tells us why the earth is round while convincing us it is flat. A writer peaks our interests, excites our senses, reaches deep down and caresses our souls with words. A writer lives separate from the world-at-large, seeing the details in the finest grain of sand and painting a picture of it as if it were a mountain. A writer is often lonely, separated from others who do not understand the lingering compulsion to write, then write again.

A writer’s craft enables all these things to take shape. The strategic placing of words to spark something in a reader’s mind, the intentional placement of detail, the orchestrated dance of ideas from one line or one paragraph to another all bend a writer’s texts into a particular, unique shape. William Faulkner did not have the same craft as George Eliot, Flannery O’Connor as John Donne, or Samuel Sewall as William Carlos Williams. These various styles and methods are what make great literature: if everyone were to write the same way, nothing would be worth reading.

We hone our individual crafts through one specific entity: writing. We write, practice writing, read as writers, discuss writing, and write some more. Through experimentation, we become more comfortable with ourselves as writers, and begin to accept the quirks in our pieces as “our crafts.”