

English II
Enrichment Activities
Week One
April 20-24, 2020

Reading

American Romanticism: Reading and Analyzing Poetry

*Please read Longfellow's poem "A Psalm of Life", and break down its meaning line by line. (Remember that it's best to read a poem several times before you begin to interpret the poet's intention.)

*Answer the questions about the poem, as well as the Big Question that comes before the selection.

Writing

Choose one of the following topics from the Virginia Department of Education to practice your writing skills:

The great artist Michelangelo once said, "The greater danger for most of us lies not in setting our aim too high and falling short; but in setting our aim too low, and achieving our mark." Do you agree or disagree with Michelangelo's statement? Take a position on this issue. Support your response with details and specific examples.

OR

Some people say that with dedication, persistence, and time, people can accomplish any goal. Others say that people are limited in what they can accomplish and need to be realistic when setting goals. Take a position on this issue. Use specific reasons and examples to support your ideas.

Suggestions for Further Reading

F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*

J.D. Salinger's *The Catcher in the Rye*

Kurt Vonnegut's *Slaughterhouse Five*