

CLOSE READING “WALTER MITTY”

ENGL 108 / SEC. H & I / SUMMER LEAP 2009 / OLDHAM & RUBASKY / CHANG & LEE



Today in small groups you will be discussing James Thurber’s short story “The Secret Life of Walter Mitty.” As a means of working on your close reading skills, we’d like you to pay very close attention to some of the details of this story. Before breaking into groups, take a moment and jot down some of your initial reactions to the story. Did you notice any patterns developing? Can you isolate any particular passages that you liked? Please share some of your “initial reactions” with your group-mates. Then, pick one passage/pattern/set of details to present to the class. Be prepared to explain its significance.

1) Initial reactions to the story:

2) What your group-mates noticed:

3) Your passage/pattern/set of details:

4) Why is your selection important?