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### Cultivating Good Readers and Writers

It goes without saying that Ray Bradbury is an exceptional writer. In his short audio guide, Bradbury quickly describes his journey as a writer; as well as, his writing process. His process was not a simple one, from finding a quiet office away from his noisy daughters to allowing his characters to “write for him” the journey was certainly an adventurous one. Considering this week’s reading it goes without saying that the writing process is very complex and something that takes time. It is often argued in order to be a good writer, one must first be a good reader. Not only that, one must produce multiple versions of the same product in order to produce their best work.

In the reading, “How To Mark A Book” the author, Mortimer Adler, argues a good writer comes from a good reader who not only reads but who also annotates the text. By marking the text with comments, starring important phrases, and circling unknown words the reader is able to engage with the text more. This allows the reader to think critically while reading. Adler states, “Understanding is a two-way operation; learning doesn’t consist in being an empty receptacle. The learner has to question the himself and question the teacher.” With that being stated, constructively criticizing the text as you read is the best way to not only challenge yourself but also challenge the writer.

Furthermore, the text, "Shitty Rough Drafts" offer a very similar idea when it comes to the reading/writing process. Author, Anne Lamott, argues it is important for writers to compose multiple drafts before even coming close to the final draft. Lamott asserts that the first draft allows the writer's creative "juices" to start flowing. The writer is able to smooth out any imperfections and allow the process to go in whatever direction it desires. By producing a "shitty rough draft" the writer is undoubtedly able to cultivate the entire writing process.

I describe these two concepts as keys to being a successful writer/reader because it allows one to produce their best work. It goes without saying Bradbury unknowingly embodied these qualities. One does not become a notable writer overnight. However, by falling in love with the process and being able to grow throughout it Bradbury was able to thrive as an author.