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### ENGL 101 Discussion Questions on “Seeing” by Annie Dillard from Pilgrim at Tinker Creek

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**Cimino**

**ENGL 101**

**Discussion Questions on "Seeing" by Annie Dillard from  
Pilgrim at Tinker Creek**

Discussion Questions: Consider the following questions and take some "talking point" notes. We will share these answers in a large-group format.

1. Skim back through this chapter. **Mark or highlight some of the things that Dillard reports "seeing." Describe and react to several.**

2. What are, for you, the most memorable episodes in this essay? Do they possess any features in common? Do you find yourself drawn more, for example, to the episodes involving scenery, animals or people? **In short, when Dillard is writing at her best, as you see it, what sort of thing is she saying? What is she seeing or thinking about?**

3. One might say this essay is dominated by verbs of seeing (see/saw, look, watch, notice) and by the apposite nouns (scene, view, eye, light). "It's all a matter of keeping my eyes open," she observes early on. **Can you locate two or three passages where you notice this language? What do you suppose is Dillard's intention? How does she get from the visual to the visionary?**

4. Dillard (1974) writes, "For the newly sighted, vision is pure sensation unencumbered by meaning" (p.6). What does she mean?

5. On page 6 Dillard tells us, "I chanced on a wonderful book by Marius von Senden, called *Space and Sight*." This is one of many references to books, articles, philosophies and theories that Dillard seems to have "chanced" upon. In truth, however, it soon becomes apparent that Annie Dillard reads as well as sees! **How does this reference support her essay? Why does she include it?**

6. Consider Dillard's scholarly interests in "Seeing." What do you read for fun? Do you have a list of favorite authors or experts that you rely upon? **Do you have a personal philosophy? What "learned" people do you trust? Begin a list of books you want to read. Be ready to share.**