

## **The Summer Day**

*Mary Oliver*

Who made the world?

Who made the swan, and the black bear?

Who made the grasshopper?

This grasshopper, I mean-

the one who has flung herself out of the grass,

the one who is eating sugar out of my hand,

who is moving her jaws back and forth instead of up and down-

who is gazing around with her enormous and complicated eyes.

Now she lifts her pale forearms and thoroughly washes her face.

Now she snaps her wings open, and floats away.

I don't know exactly what a prayer is.

I do know how to pay attention, how to fall down

into the grass, how to kneel down in the grass,

how to be idle and blessed, how to stroll through the fields,

which is what I have been doing all day.

Tell me, what else should I have done?

Doesn't everything die at last, and too soon?

Tell me, what is it you plan to do

with your one wild and precious life?

US History  
Mr. Minervini

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Period #: \_\_\_\_\_

**This assignment will be graded. Take your time in answering; be thoughtful and intentional and please follow directions.**

1. After reading Mary Oliver's poem *The Summer Day*, (my favorite poem) go back and re-read the poem.
2. What do **you** think Mary Oliver's poem is saying overall? Explain and elaborate; I want **your** thoughts; anything to the contrary is a waste of your time and effort.
3. Why do you think Mary Oliver writes: "I don't know exactly what a prayer is. I do know how to pay attention?" What do you feel is the purpose or message she is attempting to convey? Please think about this and assure that your answer is meaningful and reflects TRUTH.

4. What does the line “*Tell me, what else should I have done?*” mean to you in the context of the poem? Elaborate using descriptive words.

5. **Write with intention.** Think about where you are in your life right now. Know and trust, my friends, that you are bound by **nothing** except the limitations you place on yourself. You have the key to open any and all doors and your opportunities are **limitless**. So now: truthfully, sincerely, thoughtfully, Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?