**Directions:** Follow Mr. Schmitt’s lead and divide the text into chunks/sections. Then, take 10 minutes to read and mark (annotate/talk to the text) the piece. Then, on your own, go back and write a one sentence summary for the first two sections. Then, we will provide some examples of some of the summaries you and your classmates come up with. You will at this point go back through the text and write a summary for each of the remaining sections. Finally, before you leave, we will start answering the questions printed on the back. You will have time to discuss your responses with the people at your table to then share with the class. Homework: Finish writing responses to the questions on the back of this text. You must write in complete sentences. If there is not enough room, write your responses on a separate sheet of paper and attach it.

 I don’t remember exactly where I read these words but whoever spoke them spoke for many.

 He said: “For a long time it had seemed to me that life was about to begin – real life. But there was always some obstacle in the way, something to be gotten through first, some unfinished business, time still to be served, a debt to be paid. Then life would begin. At last it dawned on me that these obstacles were my life.”

 Too many of us wake up to that reality too late.

 We want to wait till we’ve finished school or lost 10 pounds or gained 10 pounds or wait till the kids leave home or until we start work or retire or get married or divorced. It’s always something and then we’ll really start to live.

 But it’ll never happen because there will always be that next bit of unfinished business. We’ll wait until Friday night or Sunday morning or until the car’s paid off or until summer or winter or until we’re off welfare. We’ll wait till our song comes on the air or until we’ve had a drink or until we’ve

sobered up or until we die.

 You see, there is no future in waiting for the future. The wisest and the happiest among us have learned to treasure every moment and to treasure it all the more when it can be shared with someone special.

 The wisest and the happiest know there is no way to happiness.

 Happiness is the way.

 Today’s thought:

 There is no better time and no better place to be happy than right now and right here.

--Mort Crim

**Questions to be answered at the end of this reading: Write responses underneath each set of questions.**

1. What is the author’s claim? How do you know? What lines could you use to infer what his claim is?
2. What was his purpose for writing this piece of text? What lines prove your response? How do they prove your response? Explain in detail.

***Theme*** *is defined as a main idea or an underlying meaning of a literary work that may be stated directly or indirectly.*

1. What are some of the major themes (life lessons) for this piece? What lines would support your analysis? How do they support your analysis? Explain in detail.

**Our essential question for this unit is:** *Is our ultimate obligation to ourselves or to our society?*

1. How would the author answer the essential question we are using for this unit? How do you know? Support your response using textual evidence.
2. What symbol would you use to represent this text? Draw it and then explain how it represents the author’s message. What lines could you use to support your decision to draw this symbol?