

298 Assignment – turn in to me after your meeting!

Group Name _____

Group members present? _____

TASK:

- A) Read this passage from the book *Landmarks* by Robert Macfarlane, Penguin Books (2015), page 3.

In 2007, a new edition of the *Oxford Junior Dictionary* was published. A sharp-eyed reader noticed that there had been a culling of words concerning nature. Under pressure, Oxford University Press revealed a list of the entries it no longer felt to be relevant to a modern-day childhood. The deletions included *acorn, adder, ash, beech, bluebell, buttercup, catkin, conker, cowslip, cygnet, dandelion, fern, hazel, heather, heron, ivy, kingfisher, lark, mistletoe, nectar, newt, otter, pasture* and *willow*. The words introduced to the new edition included *attachment, block-graph, blog, broadband, bullet-point, celebrity, chatroom, committee, cut-and-paste, MP3 player* and *voice mail*.

- B) Mark the following passages as either **plagiarized**, **borderline plagiarized**, or **correctly summarized** and be ready to explain why.

1. I was astounded to read in Robert Macfarlane's *Landmarks* about nature words like "hazel" and "willow" being ripped from the 2007 *Oxford Junior Dictionary* and replaced with robotic terms like "committee" and "voice mail" (3). What a sad commentary on our culture.
2. Some have called attention to the fact that the *Oxford Junior Dictionary* in 2007 took out words referring to nature including *acorn, adder, beech, bluebell*, and so on, and replaced them with terms such as *attachment, blog, broadband*, and the like. (Macfarlane, *Landmarks*, p. 3)
3. Children today are being deprived of enriching experiences with nature if they can't go outside to play by themselves, to wander the wild edges of the suburb or city, and worse, if they're not even introduced to language that describes natural phenomenon, as Robert Macfarlane points out in *Landmarks* (3).
4. An astute reader of the *Oxford Junior Dictionary* noticed that many nature words were missing from the 2007 edition. Oxford University Press admitted they deleted words they thought were no longer necessary for a contemporary childhood. These included: *acorn, adder, ash, beech, bluebell, buttercup, catkin, cowslip, dandelion, fern, hazel, heather, heron, ivy, kingfisher, lark, mistletoe, nectar, otter, pasture* and *willow*, and others. These words were replaced with new words such as *attachment, blog, broadband, bullet-point, celebrity, chatroom, committee, cut-and-paste, MP3 player* and *voice mail*, among others.

5. I was ten years old when I learned what bioluminescence was—the emission of light from living organisms, bacteria in the Pacific Ocean or fireflies in the Midwest. I looked up the word in the dictionary and carried it with me into the mysterious world outside our house. But today’s children are being deprived of nature words in some children's dictionaries, according to writer Robert Macfarlane (*Landmarks*, 3). What would I have done if the word *bioluminescence* would not have been there in my childhood dictionary? Would I have been able to see the neon glow?

Reference: <http://debbiejlee.com/298spring20/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/plag.pdf>