“Back to Wolf Willow” by Wallace Stegner

To further strengthen our understanding of childhood memories we will read a piece of literature entitled, “Back to Wolf Willow”. This piece is a reflective essay. This means the author is looking back to the past, analyzing his memories, and coming to understand how it measures up to the actual reality.

**Before Reading**

o If you returned to your childhood home ten years from now, what do you think you will remember?

o What images would stand out? Consider the senses of childhood (sight, sound, taste, smell, and touch)

**During Reading**

As we read the essay, you are to underline or highlight the phrases or sentences that stand out because they are especially reflective.

**After Reading** (answer on a separate sheet of loose-leaf)

1. What childhood memories were important to Stegner?

2. What feelings did he have about his “hometown”? About his brother, grandmother, mother and father?

3. What impressions have been altered by time? Why?

4. What does the smell of wolf willow symbolize to Stegner?

5. What has shaped Stegner’s views and impressions?