

Homework #12*Due for class T 10/25*

- 1) READ the following short essays:
Wendell Berry's "The Pleasures of Eating";
Michael Pollan's "Cruising on the Ark of Taste";
Berry's "A Good Farmer of the Old School"; and
John Bowe's "Nobodies."

The first three are available as e-reserves; the fourth is available as an e-link: See below. Please read the essays in the order given above.

Berry is an essayist, poet, public speaker and farmer. Pollan writes often on gardening; he is the author of *The Botany of Desire*. Bowe is a screenwriter, editor and writer. He won the J. Anthony Lukas Work-in-Progress Award for *Slavery Inc.*, to be published by Random House. Here is a quote from the jury awarding this prize—a wonderful description of good writing!:

"John Bowe's work—an examination of slavery throughout the modern world, including the United States—is characterized by a reasoned and painstaking approach to the gathering of his material," said jurors. "His description has no taint of moral superiority. His writing is understated and stylish; he does not labor to make points, he allows the inexorable drift of his narrative to inform and in all places avoids sensationalism. His account gathers force by means of an accumulation of detail rendered with a steady objectivity. Bowe has drawn the reader's awareness to intolerable practices, abuses of the deepest and most indisputable rights of humanity—the right to be free of oppression and economic tyranny. The slow movement forward of human rights will almost surely be advanced by his book."

To access Bowe's article, go to MIT Libraries; type in *The New Yorker* under journal title→ the ProQuest link (not the Lexis/Nexis link, which is bafflingly difficult!)→April 21, 2003 and scroll through the contents for John Bowe's "Nobodies."

- 2) JOURNAL: Write 1-1½ pages solidly reasoned in which you discuss one idea common to two of these four readings. The writers may come at the same problem from a different angle; they may seem to disagree; or they may support each other. Add your voice to the conversation.