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21W.730-4 Writing on Contemporary Issues: Food for Thought:
Writing and Reading about the Cultures of Food
Fall 2008

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Homework #2

*Due in class Th 9/11***Format for homework**

Non-vocabulary Homework should be typed, double spaced. Upper left hand:

Your name

HW#2 [*Don't forget to change the date and number!*]

Date

Title (optional for Homework assignments)

- 1) READ the following brief essays, all from *American food writing : an anthology with classic recipes*, edited by food writer Molly O'Neill. [**E-reserve**]
 - Clementine Paddleford, from “A Flower for My Mother” p. 318-320.
 - Evan Hunter, “Pancakes” p. 335-336.
 - Edna Lewis, “Morning After Hog-Butchering Breakfast” 480-486.
 - Chris Maynard and Bill Scheller, “Manifold Destiny” 545-550.
 - Jeffrey Steingarten, “Primal Bread” 576-585.

Evan Hunter wrote mysteries under his own name and the name Ed McBain; Chris Maynard writes about food, while Bill Scheller writes about travel; the others are food writers. Notice the variety of voices and approaches to crafting a short essay taken by these writers.

- 2) WRITE: A food memory. Pick one memory related to food; our readings should have prompted several. It may be from early childhood, summer camp, training for a sport, the first time you tried to make pancakes, visiting a friend whose mom cooks unfamiliar dishes—or even your first weeks at MIT. The goal of this exercise is to write the memory—what happened, and how the food is part of it—as vividly as possible. It will help to write the memory as a scene—maybe even in present tense. Include as much sensory detail as you can—sight, sound, smell, and touch as well as taste. You do NOT need to comment, or to try to say why this particular scene came to mind—just write the memory. We will work with these in class. Approx. 250 words—1 page double-spaced.