

# [Acdec literature 2015 pilgrim at tinker creek chapters](https://assignbuster.com/acdec-literature-2015-pilgrim-at-tinker-creek-chapters/)

Ch. 1 " Heaven and Earth in Jest" Book's intro; says that book's purpose is to be a meteorological journal of the mind; tomcat's bloody pawprints; waterbug sucks out frog; title refers to Quran; theodicy (how a good Good could allow cruelty in the world); Pascal's deus absconditus and Einstein's feeling the hem; negative capability is the ability to hold mutually contradictory ideas in one's head without accepting or denying or choosing (Keats); steer across the stream (anthropogenic, " Swedish meatballs!")Ch. 2 " Seeing" Penny-hiding childhood memory (arrow points toward hidden treasure); equates seeing with seeking (and Annie tries to see animals in nature but needs the help of children); kayak sickness and walk/dream with mysterious " black body"; von Senden's Space and Sight describes the experiences of the newly-sighted (tree with the lights in it= nature's grace; some people's brains can't process sight= square as lemonade)Ch. 3 " Winter" Set in February; conscious human cruelty toward nature and nature's unconcern with said cruelty; starlings in Radford (introduced to US by Schieffelin); gory winter survival (Eskimo hunters and explorers; cutting off gulls frozen in ice and leaving their feet stuck there; long list of explorers); chases a coot and gets mad when she realizes the coot doesn't care; goldfish and only companion Ellery Channing named after Thoreau's walking partner William E. C. because Dillard loves ThoreauCh. 4 " The Fixed" unconscious human cruelty toward nature; learning to see mantis egg cases and, later, more in nature; Thoreau describes a battle of ants; mantises hatch in a Mason jar and eat each other; Polyphemus moth hatches in Mason jar and is crippled/mutilated for life; moth is imagined walking down a driveway but then it reaches a waterfall (grace); moth is a " he" (personalizes it); caterpillars follow each other in line on the circular rim of a vase forever and eventually starve; mantis eats wasp eats bee eats honey; " the fixed" imprisons nature and humans; Mason jar symbolizes entrapment and wanton/meaningless destructionCh. 5 " Untying the Knot" Dillard tries to untie the knot in a snakeskin but it's not actually a knot and thus cannot be untied; symbol is Gordian knot which has no beginning or end (Alexander the Great cuts it with his sword); the seasons are compared to this knot; signals the arrival of spring; nature and people are sensitive to changing seasons; just like there is no knot in the snakeskin, there is no exact point when spring begins; this is the short chapterCh. 6 " The Present"" patting the puppy" at gas station in March is the key image; the puppy is unconsciously purely in the present; Dillard feels part of nature consciously until she realizes it (self-consciousness separates us from nature); innocence is living without self-consciousness, like kids; the present opens a door onto eternity; tree with the lights in it= grace; present is being emptied and hollow and catching grace like a cup under a waterfall; Xerxes sees sycamore and stops his army to look at it; Goethe's augenblick " present moment"; Deus absconditus; God is a hidden archer using invisibility as the all-time great coverCh. 7 " Spring" explores beauty and language; beauty is a kind of language that must be translated; birdsong is beautiful language but we don't know its purpose; Jean White's dead horse; young boy killing newts; it is important to explore the facts of creation even if they are not beautiful; Eskimo learns about God and asks preacher why he told him about God if he would have gone to heaven anyway without knowingCh. 8 " Intricacy" intricacy describes the endless details in nature; fringe on the hem of nature/God; chlorophyll (Mg) and hemoglobin (Fe) have similar structures; caterpillar muscles, leaf counts, and lots of insects are examples of nature's intricacy; " the creator loves pizzazz" means sheer variety in nature is evidence for the existence of God; like Romantics Dillard celebrates the individual irregularities around her; " Beauty itself is the fruit of the creator's exuberance"; newfound sight " scales are fallen from our eyes" is a reference to St. Paul; " Our life is a faint tracing on the surface of mystery"; confusion over whether nature " came off" or how intricacy and cruelty can coexist; first chapter to follow via negativa instead of via positiva; tone grows more negative/horrific from hereCh. 9 " Flood" chapter describes one complete coherent story for once; story is about Hurricane Agnes and the flood that ensued; Tinker Creek turns into a " violent dragon" and animals flee from it; cemetery in VA floods and bodies float down streets, which pilots compare to Vietnam; neighbors Bowerys with flooded house and Bings; Gov. Holton sees magical sight (one lightbulb remains lit despite the lack of all power); imagines a mushroom at the endCh. 10 " Fecundity" pairs with " Intricacy" but is more negative; extravagance is wasteful; life means inevitable death so spring's fertility means lots of death later; Dillard is horrified by just how many bugs and barnacles there are; plants are fundamentally different and " acres and acres of tulips" is fine but " acres and acres of rats" is horrible; nightmare about mating butterflies and a bed full of fish eggs; gooseneck barnacle is the ultimate example of survival in the face of so much death (Rachel Carson said that too); the problem is that humans care because nature sure doesn't; " We value the individual supremely; nature values him not a whit" Ch. 11 " Stalking" lighthearted; Dillard stalks " eye food" (just wants to see stuff, not eat it); fish, water striders, herons, and dragonflies, but mostly muskrats; muskrat is like an electron (Heisenberg's uncertainty principle) and cannot be perfectly stalked; to stalk muskrats, Dillard must let go of self-consciousness; this reflects her change through the yearCh. 12 " Nightwatch" visit to nearby Lucas property and 1-room cottage; focus on landscape; simple cottage is an allusion to Thoreau's home; chapter references mystic St. John of the Cross and his poem " Dark Night of the Soul," which reformats spiritual crisis as spiritual awakening; silver eels migrate to the Sargasso Sea sometimes overland; influenced by Rachel Carson's Under the Sea Wing and Edwin Way Teale; lots of war words like barrage and legions; title refers to a sentryCh. 13 " The Horns of the Altar" key image is nibbling (everything in nature is nibbled, nothing is completely whole); lots of parasites nibbling and chomping the world, including the tree with the lights in it; title refers to Jewish sacrificial altar from Biblical times; horns placed on corners for grasping or covering in sacrificed blood; heave shoulder and wave breast; old and frayed world still has intricacy in the fringes but September is starting to fadeCh. 14 " Northing" everything that migrates is preparing to do so (caterpillars, caribou, birds) for winter; now it's November; Monarch butterfly migration is key image and consumes 4 lifecycles; Dillard wants to go North, Nature wants to go South; Dillard wants to recapture the austerity and simplicity of winter, which comes south to meet her; recalls the Israelite wave breast which is a ram's breast waved around before being sacrificed to God as thanksgivingCh. 15 " The Waters of Separation" last chapter is paired with the first; begins with Quran quote to " expend... the abundance" or simplify; Dillard walks around the creek one more time and recalls the motifs, anecdotes, and images from the previous chapters; these all come to a crescendo of questions: why are we here? Title refers to another Jewish tradition: those who come into contact with a dead body need to be purified; the book ends with an image of praise and silver trumpets even though the questions haven't really been answered ONACDEC LITERATURE 2015 PILGRIM AT TINKER CREEK CHAPTERS SPECIFICALLY FOR YOUFOR ONLY$13. 90/PAGEOrder Now