it also refers to the writer. Dillard, as previously mentioned, wants the desire to write. When she reads Rimbaud by the light, she is “kindled” (17). This time is the instant of her self-renewal, or transfiguration.

In *Holy the Firm*, Annie Dillard shows how art itself is part of the ultimate reality. In her eyes, art is a tool that gives this world a mirror in which to see itself. She makes the moth a symbol of the artist, but only when the reader looks into this burning moth can he or she understand the divine purpose of both the moth and the artist. Dillard’s work is an example of Tillich’s ideas.

**THE UNPREDICTABILITY OF SPORTS**

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There are many great things about sports. The advantages are numerous, but the reason so many people are attracted to sports is because of the unpredictability of the outcome. Every time you watch or play a game, it is different. This adds an exciting element that you rarely find in other forms of entertainment.

One may go to a play or a movie for entertainment, but every time he or she goes back to see that movie again, it has the same ending. This isn’t true with sports. One could go see the Bulls play Orlando ten times in a row, and each game will have be different. This is what is so exciting about sports. Many sports are about reading, reacting, and adjusting. This is why they don’t end up with the same result every time. If a team runs the same play in basketball, there is no guarantee that there will be the same outcome. If just one of the ten people on the floor does one thing different, it could change the whole play. The man may miss the shot, or pass instead of shooting. A teammate may miss a pick and the man may never get the ball. The defense may react differently to the play. They may allow the man to shoot, or they may force him to drive. They may foul the man on the play. Football is another sport where it is easy to see how running the same play may result in a different outcome. If the running back chooses a different hole, cuts back, slows down, or speeds up, the play will be different. What happens often depends on what the
defense gives the offense, and what each individual player does on the
play. The defense may miss a tackle, or they may cause a fumble. There
are so many variables in sports; it is nearly impossible to have the same
exact outcomes. Each play contributes to the outcome of the game, and
each play can be changed by the play of a single player. A single play in a
game may decide the final score. With each individual having an impact
on each play, it’s no wonder that the outcome is different every time.

Another attractive aspect of sports is that on any given day, the
worst team may beat the best team. The underdog factor of sports is very
appealing to many casual and fanatical sports fans. The fact that you can
never say who is going to win until the game is over is unique to sports.
The chance to upset a more skilled opponent is the reason many people get
addicted to sports. There have been some great wins by underdogs in all
sports. Here are a few of the more notable ones, along with some more
recent ones. In 1980, in the Lake Placid Winter Olympics, the U.S.
hockey team upset the Russian hockey team. This is considered one of the
biggest upsets in sports history, in any sport. The Russians were a hockey
powerhouse, and the U. S. was considered lucky to be on the same ice as
the Russians. If the U.S. would have paid attention to what the outcome
was supposed to be, then they might as well have never shown up. The
U.S. came to play and they showed that no matter what the odds are
against you, you always have a chance to win. One of the greatest upsets
in the NCAA basketball tournament occurred when Jimmy Valvano took
his “Cinderella” N.C. State basketball team up against the vaunted
Houston team, also known as “Phi-Slamma-Jamma.” The Houston
Cougars were led by future NBA All-Stars Clyde Drexler and Hakeem
Olajouwan, and they were loaded with talented athletes. After keeping
close all game, N.C. State got off a final shot in the closing seconds.
Although the initial last second shot was missed, a N.C. State player
grabbed the ball out of the air and put it in to stun the Cougars. In the
early 1950s, a tiny Indiana High School named Milan beat a large school
that was heavily favored to win. This upset victory of a small school over
a big school has had an impact on Indiana high school sports even to this
day. There have been heated debates over whether or not Indiana high
school basketball should go to a class system or not. One side argues that
anything can happen in sports, using the Milan victory as proof. The other
side argues that a small school hasn’t won since Milan, and they deserve
an equal chance to win a state championship. Those were some classic
examples of upset victories in sports. Here are a couple of more recent
upsets. Recently, Evander Holyfield beat Mike Tyson in a heavyweight
title bout. Few people gave Holyfield a chance. Odds makers had Tyson a
25-1 favorite at one point in time, but by the time the fight was about to
start, the odds were down to 10-1 in favor of Tyson. Holyfield believed he
could win. He guaranteed a victory and then he went out and won.
Another recent upset happened here at VU. The men’s soccer team barely squeaked into the conference tournament with three wins. Despite their record and despite playing the second best team in the conference, VU pulled through with two wins to win the Mid-Con Conference tournament. This allowed them a chance to get into the NCAA tournament.

Sports have many attractive elements. The unpredictability and underdog factor help make sports one of the most popular forms of entertainment in the world.

STABBING WESTWARD
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The Wild West is a window to America’s glorious past. It is a place that has gone unchanged. It is a place so vast, so bare, and so lifeless, that one has only one’s thoughts to resort to. This utter solitude has begged many to go west. It has scared most away. Few, however, have answered this call of the wild. But I braved the West’s reputation as a land of cowboys, Indians, and gunslingers, and I traveled into this wild blue yonder. For I knew that a place where I can drive a hundred miles per hour, gamble (though not legally), and witness the most beautiful scenery in the world, was the place for me.

My Dad and I left for the airport on a crisp, late winter morning. I sat in the backseat and cast a sullen glance out the frosted window. A sense of budding anticipation blossomed in my stomach. In the back of my mind, I tried to recreate the exhilaration of taking off in a jet, but my memory failed me. The automatic doors spread jerkily open, and I realized that I had entered a world of perpetual rush-hour. The swarms of hustling businessmen engulfed me, and I searched for my Dad’s eyes for guidance. His glare offered me no answers, so I just went with the flow like a twig on a mighty stream.

The commotion finally ceased once I got on the plane, and my thoughts focused towards the climactic rush of a plane taking off. All of my energy flowed out of me after the take-off, and I fell asleep out of pure