The Fall of Icarus – Impromptu **Essay**

Choose one of the following:

1. Both poets (Williams and Auden) reflect on the insignificance of Icarus’s fall and imminent death as portrayed in Brueghel’s painting. We tend to think that indifference is a modern problem. However, it seems evident that the crisis of indifference is much older (Brueghel’s painting dates back to the 1500’s). Examine the nature of this indifference. In other words, why do humans trend toward indifference?
2. Icarus did not heed his father’s advice. Obviously, this was a mistake. How do we know when to listen and follow the advice we’re given? And on the other hand, how do we know when to shirk this advice and follow our own path?

(This prompt uses the collective pronoun “we” as a device for asking the question to a vast audience. However, the prompt should be addressed on a *specific* and *personal* level. Avoid over-generalizing an answer that assumes truth for all humans – or even another human other than you).