

RICHARD MONTGOMERY HIGH SCHOOL
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RMS English 9 Summer Reading, 2019-2020

About the Course

The purpose of this course is to give students experiences with a broad range of literary genres that span centuries and cultures and to help them develop their skills as writers and critical thinkers. Through study of the craft of diverse authors, students gain insights into how writers create worlds for their audiences and create meaning through the purposeful use of language. Students learn to use language more purposefully and effectively in their own writing. The summer reading assignment prepares students for the coursework that begins in the fall.

Required Summer Reading Text: *The Odyssey* by Homer (Robert Fitzgerald translation only)
Read the entire epic prior to the first day of school, completing the **double entry journal assignment** described below as you read. Bring your completed double entry journal to class on the first day of school.

Double Entry Journal Assignment:

A double entry journal will help you stay actively involved with *The Odyssey* as you read this summer. Also known as a dialectical journal, the double entry journal is a chart with two columns.

Begin by setting up your document. Include an appropriate centered title and your first and last name in the upper right. Then create a table with two columns and headings.

In the left column, copy quotes from *The Odyssey* that stand out for you. You may find these quotes to be notable because of their rich sensory imagery and figurative language; what they reveal about characters (humans, gods, monsters) and relationships; what they suggest about aspects of Greek culture; how they contribute to plot. Include page numbers for each quote.

In the right column, write a 2-5 sentence personal response to each quoted text. Share your insights; connections to other literature, art, film; questions. Demonstrate thoughtful engagement with the text.

Complete 2 journal entries for each of the first three sections (Books 1-12). For the last section, Books 13-24, complete 4 journal entries. When you have finished, you will have completed a total of 10 journal entries that span the epic from beginning to end.

- Books 1-4 The Telemakhya
- Books 5-8 Odysseus' journey from Ogygia to Phaiakia
- Books 9-12 Odysseus' adventures following the Trojan War
- Books 13-24 Odysseus' return to Ithaka

See a sample of a double entry journal on the next page. Notice the varied text choices and responses, the use of quotation marks, page numbers. Do not use these quotes in your own journal assignment.

If you have any questions about the summer reading, please contact Laurie Brown
(Laurie_J_Brown@mcpsmd.org) or Stephanie Halloran (Stephanie_Halloran@mcpsmd.org).

The Odyssey by Homer
 Double Entry Journal
 Books 1-4

Quoted Text	My Thoughts
<p>“Sing in me, Muse, and through me tell the story of that man skilled in all ways of contending, the wanderer, harried for years on end, after he plundered the stronghold on the proud height of Troy.” Page 1</p>	<p>These opening lines have a lot happening in one sentence. I’m guessing “that man” is Odysseus. He seems to have been through a lot since he’s described as a “wanderer, harried for years on end.” He’s also described as “skilled in all ways of contending.” I wonder what the “all ways” are.</p>
<p>“His loving nurse Eurykleia gave a cry, And tears sprang to her eyes as she wailed softly: ‘Dear child, whatever put this in your head? Why do you want to go so far in the world— And you our only darling?’” Page 29</p>	<p>I’m surprised at how close some of the servants are to their masters in this story. There seems to be a real affection between them. I did notice, though, that Telemakhos is pretty harsh here and later with his mother. I’m beginning to see a change in Telemakhos.</p>
<p>“So evil days came on them, and she who had been angered, Zeus’s dangerous grey-eyed daughter, did it, starting a fight between the sons of Atreus.” Page 39</p>	<p>Nestor is telling Telemakhos about his experiences with Odysseus during the Trojan War. Here he describes Athena getting angry with the Greeks and turning against them. Another example of the gods causing humans to suffer when they are not pleased with them. If she is so fond of Odysseus, why would she do this?</p>