

ENGLISH I

2011 SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENTS

TITLES:

Edith Hamilton, *Mythology* (any edition)
Homer, *The Odyssey* (Robert Fitzgerald Translation)

and EITHER:

Laurie Halse Anderson, *Speak* (any edition)
John Knowles, *A Separate Peace* (any edition)

EXPECTATIONS FOR SUMMER READING:

ALL ASSIGNMENTS AND BOOKS ARE DUE IN CLASS ON THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL. THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS POLICY.

Work in the Summer Journals must be neatly kept and organized according to the specifications below. All submitted work must be your own. If it is determined that any part of the summer work was plagiarized, the assignment will be automatically marked zero and additional disciplinary consequences will be imposed. This also goes for the sharing of work between students. If two or more journals contain an inordinate amount of similar responses, the same rules will apply. In short, DO YOUR OWN WORK. Doing otherwise will get you nowhere.

ALL WORKS ARE READILY AVAILABLE IN PUBLIC LIBRARIES, BOOKSTORES, AND ONLINE.

ASSIGNMENTS:

Students will be responsible for keeping a summer writing journal.

Step One:

- Acquire a spiral-bound notebook.
- On page 1 of your notebook, create a title page with your name and “Summer Reading 2011” both present.
- On page 2, design a reading schedule for the required books that you will hold yourself to throughout the summer months.

Step Two:

- Read *Mythology* by Edith Hamilton.
- On pages 3 and 4, select your four favorite myths from the book and write half-page summaries, explaining the characters, places, events and objects involved.

Step Three:

- Read *The Odyssey* by Homer.
- On page 5, write a one-page response to the question, “How did Edith Hamilton’s *Mythology* enhance your understanding of *The Odyssey*?” (Cite specific examples from both works!)
- On page 6, write a one-page response to the question, “Which character gained the most knowledge over the course of the story?” (Describe him or her at the beginning, what changes they underwent, and how he or she was portrayed by the end.)

Step Four:

- Read either Anderson’s *Speak* or Knowles’ *A Separate Peace*.
- For page 7 of your notebook and onwards, you will be creating a Dialectical Journal.
 - To set up your Dialectical Journal:
 - ▶ Draw a line vertically down the center of each page from page 7 onwards
 - ▶ Label the left-hand column of each page “QUOTES” and the right-hand column “ANALYSIS”
 - To complete your Dialectical Journal:
 - ▶ Choose 1-2 significant passages per chapter and copy them into the left-hand columns, citing book, chapter and page number
 - ▶ In the right-hand columns, comment on the passages by discussing the aspects which led you to choosing each as significant
 - ▶ By the end of either novel, you should have made approximately 30-40 entries into your Dialectical Journal. See the sample entry below:

Sample Dialectical Journal entry from *The Odyssey*:

QUOTES

“My house is being plundered: is this courtesy?
Where is your indignation? Where is your shame?” (Ch. II, pg. 21)

ANALYSIS

This quote, said by Telemakhos to the crowd of Akhaian men he has called together, shows his outrage at the lack of concern being taken by others for the sad state of his household, which he believes is being ruined by the endless presence of suitors for his mother. He is asking rhetorically why no one else sees the wrongness in the situation (“where is your shame?”), especially because many of the suitors are the sons of respected Akhaian elders.