

SOPHOMORE SUMMER READING: June- August 2009

Summer is here! The English Department has selected the following novels for your summer reading enjoyment.

The Odyssey by Homer (see reverse side for more information)
The Hiding Place by Corrie ten Boom
The Chosen by Chaim Potok (Pre-AP only)

The Odyssey records one of Western literature's oldest adventure stories, and *The Hiding Place* beautifully chronicles a family's hope-filled response to great suffering. *The Chosen* (Pre-AP only) takes an intensely personal look at the friendship and struggles of two boys growing up in 1940's New York.

All incoming LCCS sophomores are expected to read the books appropriate to their English courses during summer 2009. The novels should be available through your neighborhood library as well as local and online bookstores.

Guidelines for journaling are attached below. Your **journals** over *The Hiding Place* will be due the **second day** of school for a long-term assessment grade (equivalent to a test grade). You will be **tested** on *The Odyssey* (and *The Chosen* if in Pre-AP) later in the first few weeks of school.

These books contain some thematic elements which will require maturity on your part. Think critically as you read and be prepared to discuss the differing worldviews when we come back together next August. I look forward to hearing your insights and opinions. You can even e-mail me some thoughts over the summer if you'd like. ☺

If you are a new student who registers for classes after Monday, August 3, you will receive an extension on the *HP* journal (after Labor Day). However, you will still need to be ready to discuss the books and take the tests (*ODY*; *CHO*) with the rest of the class when school begins. I look forward to meeting you. Welcome to our school!

If you have questions, please consult the accompanying information or feel free to contact me at aross@lccs.org.

I am already excited about next year!

Miss Anna Ross
Freshman and Sophomore English
Lake Country Christian School

"There is no frigate like a book to take us lands away..." –Emily Dickinson

SUMMER READING JOURNALS: Format Requirements

Why are we doing summer reading journals? Here are a few of the many reasons:

- Educational research shows that it's good for your brain to keep some juice flowing over the summer. ☺
- Journaling helps you keep track of what's happening in the story so that you can remember who Eusie is when August rolls around.
- Journaling gives you a chance to dialogue with what you're reading so that the author isn't the only one talking.
- Summer reading journals are a magical combination of reading AND writing!
- *The Hiding Place* book is one of my very favorites (i.e., I've lost track of how many times I've read it), so reading and hearing your responses to it will be fun for me.

Your journals must be...

- Typed
- Submitted to www.turnitin.com by the second day of school (more instructions will follow once the school year begins in August)
- Contained in a folder with your name on it
- Written in response to each chapter (1 entry/chapter)
- Written in complete sentences (except for character lists)
- Quality workmanship

Each entry should include...

- The chapter number and/or title
- **PLOT**- a paragraph summarizing the major points of action and conflict
- **SETTING**- 1-2 sentences describing the setting (time and place) of the whole chapter (may change unexpectedly!)
- **CHARACTERS**- list all new characters introduced in the chapter
- **VOCABULARY**- identify a new word from the chapter; define it and correctly use it in a new sentence, underlining the word; cite the page number on which you found the word and cite the dictionary used (Merriam-Webster, www.dictionary.com, etc.)
- **SIGNIFICANT QUOTE**- identify one significant quote from the chapter, writing it and citing its page number from the text; explain in 1-2 sentences why it's meaningful to the story or to you
- **THEME**- explain in 1-2 sentences what the author seems to be saying about life, the world, or humanity as a whole; themes are usually embedded in the author's treatment of plot conflicts, portrayals of characters, statements of worldview, etc.

Hint: Consider making yourselves a Microsoft Word template containing each of these six sections so you can just type as you go and not worry about recreating the format correctly every time. ☺

More notes on Homer's *Odyssey*

- Because this Greek work has been extant for hundreds of years, many English translations exist. You may choose which edition you read, and you may also select your preference of **poetry** (work's original form) or **prose** (novel form). Just make sure that your edition contains all 24 "books" of the story's original content (XXIV in Roman numerals).
- This work is public domain, and therefore, several editions are available for free online. I have also included a list of five other published editions, ranked in order of my personal preference. Again, many other acceptable options exist.

| My Ranking ☺ | Translator | Publisher | ISBN | Pages | Features | Price |
|--------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-------|--|---------|
| #1 | Richard Lattimore | Harper Perennial | 978-0-06-124418-6 | 359 | Poetry version; voted "best translation" by NY Times Book Review; wide margins for notes | \$13.95 |
| #2 | W.H.D. Rouse | Signet | 978-0-451-53068-4 | X | Prose version | \$5.95 |
| #3 | Robert Fagles | Penguin | 978-0-14-026886-7 | X | Deluxe edition with glossary, notes, pronunciation key; poetry version | \$16.00 |
| #4 | George Herbert Palmer | Barnes & Noble Classics | 978-1-59308-009-9 | X | Prose version | \$5.95 |
| #5 | Robert Fagles | Penguin | 0-14-303995-4 | 485 | Poetry version | \$15.00 |