

English II (CP): World Literature Summer Reading Assignment

Welcome to Sophomore World Literature! This summer, you are assigned to read two books to begin this course's focus on literature that gives voice to various countries, cultures, and experiences around the world. In the assigned books this summer, you will begin to explore the transcendence of world literature, by introducing yourself to narrative structures that cross centuries, borders, and genres. In addition to reading the assigned novels, you will complete a reading task and writing assignment to continue to build the analytical and close-reading skills that you have learned and will continue to develop throughout the school year. The summer reading books are listed below, followed by the assignments that should be completed during and after the reading process. **All written assignments are due the first full day of school.**

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Ms. Siwik at margarita.siwik@saintjosephprep.org.

Required reading:

- *The Odyssey* Graphic Novel by Gareth Hind (Candlewick. ISBN 9780763642686).
- *Before We Were Free* by Julia Alvarez (Ember; Reprint edition. ISBN 978-0399555497).

Summer Reading Tasks

1. Read the "Stages of the Hero's Journey" (below).
2. Read and annotate *The Odyssey* graphic novel applying the Stages of the Hero's Journey to the text.
3. Fill out the Hero's Journey Graphic Organizer for *The Odyssey* first.
4. Read and annotate *Before We Were Free*.
5. Then fill out the Hero's Journey Graphic Organizer for *Before We Were Free*.
6. Write a 500 word essay using the writing prompt below.
7. Be prepared for an extended assessment on the books you have read upon return to school.

Stages of Hero's Journey

THE ORDINARY WORLD: The hero, uneasy, uncomfortable or unaware, is introduced sympathetically so the audience can identify with the situation or dilemma. The hero is shown against a background of environment, heredity, and personal history. Some kind of polarity is the hero's life is pulling in different directions and causing stress.

THE CALL TO ADVENTURE: Something shakes up the situation, either from external pressures or from something rising up from deep within, so the hero must face the beginnings of change.

REFUSAL OF THE CALL: The hero feels the fear of the unknown and tries to turn away from the adventure, however briefly. Alternately, another character may express the uncertainty and danger ahead.

MEETING WITH THE MENTOR: The hero comes across a seasoned traveler of the worlds who gives him or her training, equipment, or advice that will help on the journey. Or the hero reaches within to a source of courage and wisdom.

CROSSING THE THRESHOLD: At the end of Act One, the hero commits to leaving the Ordinary World and entering a new region or condition with unfamiliar rules and values.

TESTS, ALLIES AND ENEMIES: The hero is tested and sorts out allegiances in the Special World (determining those who are allies or friends, and those who are not).

APPROACH: The hero and newfound allies prepare for the major challenge in the Special World.

THE ORDEAL: Near the middle of the story, the hero enters a central space in the Special World and confronts death or faces his/her greatest fear. Out of the moment of death comes a new life.

THE REWARD: The hero takes possession of the treasure won by facing death. There may be celebration, but there is also danger of losing the treasure again.

THE ROAD BACK: About three-fourths of the way through the story, the hero is driven to complete the adventure, leaving the Special World to be sure the treasure is brought home. Often a chase scene signals the urgency and danger of the mission.

THE RESURRECTION: At the climax, the hero is severely tested once more on the threshold of home. He or she is purified by a last sacrifice, another moment of death and rebirth, but on a higher and more complete level. By the hero's action, the polarities that were in conflict at the beginning are finally resolved.

RETURN WITH THE ELIXIR: The hero returns home or continues the journey, bearing some element of the treasure that has the power to transform the world as the hero has been transformed.

Hero's Journey Matrix

Directions: Make a copy of this matrix. Odysseus is an example of an epic hero. As you read *The Odyssey*, fill out your copy of the matrix. Attempt to identify where Odysseus undergoes each

stage of the Hero's Journey. Then do the following for Anita de la Torre as you read *Before We Were Free*. Attempt to identify where you believe Anita undergoes each stage of the Hero's Journey.

STAGES OF THE HERO'S JOURNEY	Where do you see this stage happen in <i>The Odyssey</i> ? (Page # and summary)	Where or how do you see this stage occur for Anita? (Quotes and Page #s).
The ORDINARY WORLD		
The CALL TO ADVENTURE		
REFUSAL OF THE CALL		
MEETING WITH THE MENTOR		
CROSSING THE THRESHOLD		
TESTS, ALLIES AND ENEMIES		
The APPROACH		
The ORDEAL		
The REWARD		
The ROAD BACK		
The RESURRECTION		
RETURN WITH THE ELIXIR		

Expository / Informational Essay

Writing Prompt: Odysseus is the classical hero on a quest to return home. Yet, the main character of our contemporary novel, Anita de la Torre, also follows this path of the Hero's Journey. Write an essay proving that Anita is a hero who follows **several** of the **key steps within the hero's journey**.

Please note since the matrix did not ask for explanation, you must provide it here in the essay. Be sure you **explain** how the thing you claim aligns with the stage or feature of the Hero's Journey is so, **by providing Evidence and Explanation/Link**. (MEL-con)

- You should write in MLA format, including the proper header, font, margins, etc.
- You will need to include textual evidence to support your ideas with proper parenthetical citations.
- Your essay should be at least 500 words (2 pages double spaced).
- You should use what you have learned about essay and paragraph writing from the previous year to the best of your ability.