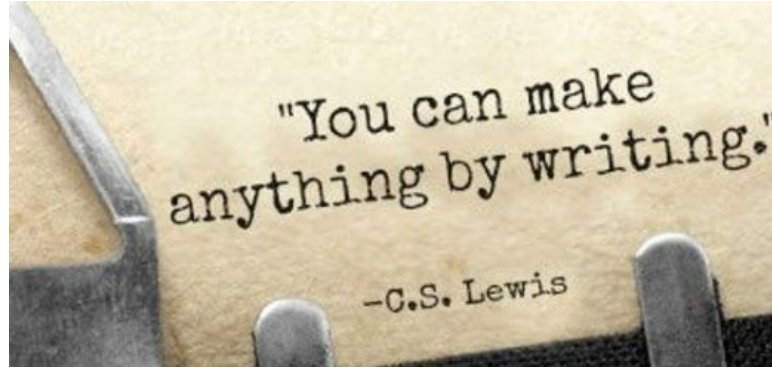


JOURNAL PROMPTS



**Improving our Writing
&
Sounding Smarter :)**

JOURNAL #1: HIGH SCHOOL EXPECTATIONS

WHAT ARE SOME EXPECTATIONS THAT YOU HAVE ABOUT BEING IN HIGH SCHOOL FOR THE NEXT 4 YEARS?

Discuss 3 OR MORE of the following:

- *Do you think you'll enjoy high school? Why or why not.*
- *Are you close with anyone who has already been at the high school for at least a year? Do they like HS?*
- *What things do you think will be different from the Jr. High?*
- *What are you nervous about? (Classes, lunch, getting lost, etc.)*
- *What are you excited about? (sports, clubs, dances, etc.)*

JOURNAL #2: THINK-PAIR-SHARE

1st PERFECT Paragraph: Peak of Break *use grown up words wheel

2nd PERFECT Paragraph: Pit of Break *use grown up words wheel

ANSWER PLAN for EACH PARAGRAPH (2 total paragraphs)

- **TOPIC SENTENCE** (ex) *The peak of my break was...*
- **SUPPORT #1** (ex) *First, ...[one reason why ^ was your peak]*
- **SUPPORT #2** (ex) *Next, ...[another reason why ^ was the best part]*
- **SUPPORT #3** (ex) *Last, ...[last reason why ^ was your peak]*
- **CONCLUSION SENTENCE** (ex) *In conclusion, ...use NEW WORDS to restate your Topic Sentence.*

JOURNAL #2 (CONTINUED)

*ON TEACHER'S SIGNAL:

-Trade journal with someone near you

-Read both paragraphs; **RESPOND** with a **PERFECT PARAGRAPH** in **THEIR JOURNAL**:

(ex) Your break sounds... It was interesting that... Our breaks were similar because... Our breaks were different because... All in all, it sounds like your break was...

JOURNAL #3: OBSERVATIONS AND PREDICTIONS

View this [clip](#); LIST observations: things that you hear, see, and notice...

Follow this answer plan to create a perfect paragraph:

I think that “The Most Dangerous Game,” will be about ____.
First, I saw _____, which made me think of _____. Next, I noticed _____, which reminded me of _____. Last, I heard _____, which only happens during _____. In conclusion, I think this story will be _____.

JOURNAL #4: *Creative writing*

Begin your paragraph with the sentence below, then use your imagination and word list to continue the story; ADD at least 6 more sentences.

His cry was pinched off short as the blood-warm waters of the Caribbean Sea closed over his head.
[Add at least 6 more descriptive sentences]



Journal #5: "Gift of the Magi" Predictions

1. Make a list of observations about the 6 images in [this slide show](#)
2. Use the information that you gathered from the images to create a PERFECT PARAGRAPH, in which you predict the content of the story.

ANSWER PLAN: Each bullet point stands for a sentence in your PERFECT PARAGRAPH.

- I think "The Gift of the Magi" will be about_____
- First, I noticed___ which suggests that _____
- Next, when I saw ____, I thought it might mean _____
- Finally, the picture of the _____ made me think _____
- In conclusion, this story will probably be ___{restate the topic sentence using ***NEW*** words}

JOURNAL #6: WATCH AND RESPOND



- TOPIC SENTENCE: *Bert and Ernie's story was similar to The Gift of the Magi.*
- *Both stories were about ... _____*
- *For example, the way Della loved her hair was like _____ and the way Jim loved his watch was comparative to _____.*
- *Furthermore, both stories showed the theme: _____, through the use of _____.*
- *In conclusion [NEW WORDS to say TOPIC SENTENCE]*

JOURNAL #7: SITUATIONAL IRONY

Discuss the situational irony created by rich women hiring others to care for their children. **FOLLOW THE ANSWER PLAN to write**

a PERFECT PARAGRAPH:

- **It is ironic that rich women in France hired others to take care of their children.**
- **First, ...***(describe 1 reason we would EXPECT rich women to take care of their children).*
- **Next, one might expect that rich women would be concerned about...** *(discuss how lower class women were portrayed and how them taking care of rich children might be considered IRONIC).*
- **Finally, it is ironic that** *(describe which class has the LEAST amount of time, yet take care of their own).*
- **In conclusion, [use NEW WORDS to restate your TOPIC SENTENCE (the first sentence you wrote)].**



An Ironic SITUATION occurred above, when the firehouse caught on fire. We wouldn't EXPECT that a place created to put fires out would actually catch fire.



JOURNAL #8: THEME



*Follow the answer plan to write a **PERFECT PARAGRAPH** examining a **THEME** from “The Necklace.”*

- **One of the themes from “The Necklace” could be _____.**
- **This theme is apparent when __**(describe a situation from the story in your own words).
- **For example, the text says “cite ANYTHING from the story that supports your theme; it does NOT have to be dialogue,”** (pg #).
- **This evidence shows _____**(explain the connection to the theme you listed).
- **In conclusion, [NEW WORDS to say the TOPIC SENTENCE]**



Journal #9: Prologue Study

1st: Bullet point observations about the 1968 and 1996 version of the prologue. (*What do you see, hear, etc.*)

2nd: Write a perfect paragraph comparing the two versions. *USE and UNDERLINE a Q4 SAT word

- 1. Topic Sentence: General Statement about the 2 versions.**
- 2. Support #1: 1 observation**
- 3. Support #2: Another observation**
- 4. Support #3: A third observation**
- 5. Conclusion Sentence: Use the listed observations to help you make a PREDICTION about this play.**

JOURNAL

Write a story about the image to the right. Use as many VOCABULARY WORDS as you can. *AT LEAST 5*

**Chaste, Agile,
Discreet, Depreciate,
Flat, Cascade, Ravage,
Meretricious,
Instigate, Prudence**



JOURNAL #8: SUMMARIZE NOVEL SO FAR...

Eng 1: "Mississippi Trial 1955"
Adv: "To Kill a Mockingbird"

*Write a **PERFECT PARAGRAPH**; follow the answer plan below.

- So far in the novel, "**Title**," by (**author name**) we've met (**character names**).
- I can tell that the setting is _____ because the book directly states, "**find a quote from the book concerning the setting**," on page ___.
- I don't know a whole lot about the characters, but it is clear that the protagonist, Hiram/Scout, is (**trait**) because of the evidence I found on page ___, which says "**find a quote from the book that hints about the character trait**."
- The main events from chapter 1 are: (list 2-3 things that happened)
- In conclusion, the exposition of this book was (**trait/opinion**).

JOURNAL #10: ODYSSEY → BIG IDEAS

Directions: Relate to 2 of the 6 BIG IDEAS; 2 paragraphs

1. Define the idea in your own words
2. What comes to mind when you hear this idea?
3. Can you relate this idea to a person or experience in your own life?
4. Where else have you seen this idea? (media, movies, books, etc.)

Big Ideas: Faithfulness; Relationships; Survival; Time Passage; Effects of War; Courage/Bravery

JOURNAL #11: WHAT MAKES A HERO?

*Underline ALL PRONOUNS that you use



In a PERFECT PARAGRAPH, discuss the following:

- 1 person you consider a hero
- Character traits of that hero (adjectives)
- Examples that PROVE those character traits
- Ways the HERO has inspired/motivated you

Answer Plan:

-**TOPIC SENTENCE:** One of my heroes is _____.

-**Support #1:** My hero is (trait), (trait) and (trait).

-**Support #2:** For example, he/she once(describe heroic action)

-**Support #3:** Because of [hero's name], I was inspired/motivated to...

-**CONCLUSION SENTENCE:** In conclusion, [hero's name] is (end with a creative statement about your hero **WITHOUT adding NEW INFORMATION**).

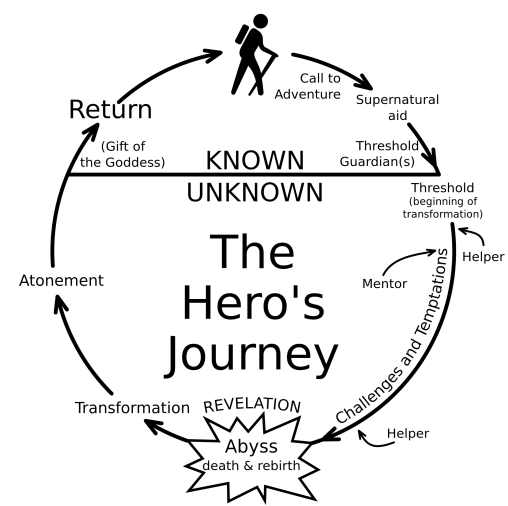
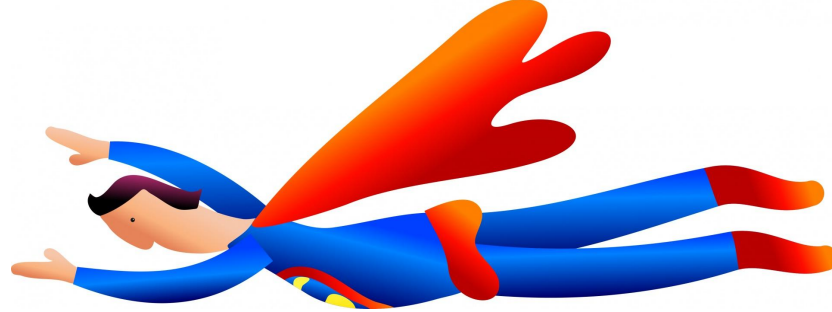
JOURNAL #12: SUMMARIZE THE JOURNEY

In a perfect paragraph, discuss the events and complications that occurred at #1, #2, and #3 on the map on page 890.

Answer Plan:

- Odysseus has had quite a journey so far.
- First, he traveled to (#1), where...(explain what happened).
- Next, Odysseus and his men sailed to (#2), where...(explain).
- Then, the wind pushed Odysseus and his crew to (#3), which presented problems because ...(explain).
- In conclusion, ...(say something creative about Odysseus' journey).

JOURNAL #13



Summarize Odysseus' HERO CYCLE thus far:

Answer Plan:

- Odysseus is an epic hero who was called on a “quest” to ...
- He entered the “threshold” by ...
- After *(briefly describe how the initial quest resolved)*, Odysseus was tested by *(list the 4 tests)*.
- Next, Odysseus faced his greatest fear in the “abyss” which was..*(describe the Land of the Dead)*.
- To get home, Odysseus learns that they must...and if don't, the result will be ...

JOURNAL #14: SUMMARIZING (IN YOUR OWN WORDS)

Summarize the section below by taking out the important 5WH information.

After Lavender dies, Jimmy Cross burns Martha's letters and photos in a foxhole. He knows it is a silly gesture, because he has all of them memorized. But now he knows that she will never love him. He begins to hate her, even as he loves her. He turns into a soldier--a man who does not let his feelings take him out of the reality of his duty. He still thinks about her, but she is no longer really with him. He decides that from now on he has to be stricter with his men, and distance himself, not caring about anyone as much.

J #14 ANSWER PLAN:

- **WHO**--*Who are the people involved?*
- **WHAT**--*What is the main event that happened?*
- **WHERE**--*Where did that event happen?*
- **WHEN**--*When did that event happen?*
- **WHY**--*Why did the “who” do that event?*
- **HOW**--*How will that event effect the “who” in the future?*

JOURNAL #14 ANSWER KEY

After Lavender's death, Jimmy Cross takes everything that reminds him of Martha and **burns it** in a **foxhole**. **He realized that Martha will never return his love**, so he decides to become **emotionally distant** from everyone in order to **protect himself** and be a **good leader for his men**.

- **WHO**
- **WHAT**
- **WHERE**
- **WHEN**
- **WHY**
- **HOW**



JOURNAL #2: IT'S SO HOT OUTSIDE!!!

Write a letter to yourself about how warm it is in your classrooms and outside.

- Describe how the heat feels: Be descriptive and creative!
- Describe how the heat impacts you: are you tired, cranky, sweaty, etc...?
- Describe how you think the heat impacts the people around you.
- List some things you CAN'T do because of the heat...
- Finish by ending with a thought about fall/winter...



JOURNAL #3: HOMECOMING REFLECTION



Write a **PERFECT PARAGRAPH** in which you reflect on your first High School Homecoming. Use a few of the bullet points below to help you get started.

- My first homecoming week was _____.
- 1 thing I really liked was _____.
- 1 thing that was different than the Jr. High was...
- I thought that dressing up was...
- Some other events that were fun to me were...[sports events, pep rally, powder puff, the dance, etc.]



JOURNAL #4: SUSPENSE IN THE MOST DANGEROUS GAME

In a **perfect paragraph**, give **3 examples** of the author creating **suspense**. You **MUST** pull **evidence** from the text for at least 1 of the examples.



Suggested Answer Plan: [Paragraph format]

- Richard Connell creates a lot of suspense in “story”.
- First, he ... (first suspenseful thing you saw)
- Furthermore, when it says “quote from book,” on page #, it creates a feeling of...
- Finally, the use of ...(another suspenseful technique) makes the reader want to ...
- In conclusion, [restate the TOPIC SENTENCE in DIFFERENT WORDS]

JOURNAL #4 EXAMPLE

Richard Connell creates a lot of suspense in “The Most Dangerous Game.” First, we learn that the characters are near “Ship-Trap Island,” which creates a feeling a fear. Furthermore, when Rainsford catches Zaroff “studying him, appraising him narrowly,” (pg. 18) which makes the reader feel uneasy. Finally, Rainsford jumps into a sea full of sharp rocks, making us wonder if he will live. In conclusion, there is a lot of suspense in “The Most Dangerous Game.”