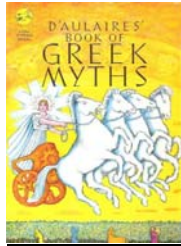


Summer Reading Assignments for Urban Assembly New York Harbor School



The Assignment

Text: D'Aulaires' Book of Greek Myths (Paperback), Delacorte Books for Young Readers, 1992.

1. Read the novel carefully and pay close attention to passages you think have an underlying message. A convenient way to mark these passages is to "tab" them with a small post-it type note.
2. After completing your first reading, review the passages you have "tabbed." Think about why you thought these passages were important, what they have in common, and what they contribute to the novel as a whole. Choose the 10-15 most significant passages from the entire novel which relate to theme (underlying message), character, setting, and style (literary techniques).
3. Complete a two-column (dialectical) journal. In column one, you should transcribe the passage and page number. In column two, you should explain the significance or the importance of the selected passage. A typical passage may be one-two sentences; a typical response will be approximately one paragraph.
4. After completing the dialectical journal, write **ONE sentence** that states the theme of the novel. Go back through your dialectical journal and **highlight three passages** that best support the theme.
5. Write **one paragraph** (about eleven sentences or one page) that states the theme, supports it with specific example from the literature, and explains your ideas. Be sure to follow formal essay writing rules and MLA format.

Requirements

1. Students' own thoughts and ideas are valued over an ability to parrot outside sources. Teachers are aware that information about this novel exists on the Internet and that Cliffs/Sparks Notes and other "aids" are available. Do **NOT**, under any circumstances, use outside sources. Papers that are not original are automatic failures.

2. Students who choose to represent someone else's work as their own will receive an automatic failing grade. Do NOT plagiarize, copy, or otherwise misrepresent your work.

3. **Per department policy, late submissions will not be accepted, cannot be made up, and will receive no credit.**

4. Word process your entire assignment. Follow MLA format (one inch margin, size 12 font, Times Roman or Arial font, appropriate MLA heading, etc.).

Sample Dialectical Journals

<u>Quote</u>	<i>Explanation</i>
SAMPLE ONE	
<p>"Easy, we're not going to hurt you; we just want to set you free" (226).</p> <p>(weak example)</p>	<p>Taylor tells the bird not to worry. She won't hurt the bird; she only wants to help it. I can relate to this passage because once a bird got stuck in our house, and flew into the window over and over until it died. I was worried the same thing was going to happen to this bird.</p>
<p>"Easy, we're not going to hurt you, we just want to set you free" (226).</p> <p>(better example)</p>	<p>Taylor is trying to do to the bird what she wants done to her. She wishes to be free from responsibility and the obstacles in her life. She especially wants to be free from Turtle, not because she doesn't love her, but because she is terrified of not being a good Mom. She is terrified, just like the bird, that something bad will happen. Actually, it already did, as this scene with the bird occurs just after Turtle was attacked in the park. Bird=Turtle?</p>
SAMPLE TWO	

<p>“I’ve just spent the last eight of nine months trying to convince her that nobody would hurt her again. Why would she believe me now?” (226).</p> <p>(weak example)</p>	<p>Here is another use of Taylor’s mothering skills. If she thought of Turtle as just some baby she got dumped with, this incident would mean nothing. However she is completely worried and that is a good sign.</p>
<p>“I’ve just spent the last eight of nine months trying to convince her that nobody would hurt her again. Why would she believe me now?” (226).</p> <p>(better example)</p>	<p>Taylor is outraged that someone would hurt Turtle, but more importantly, she is angry that she let it happen. She is becoming a true “mother”—like a lioness, she is very protective. She is worried that the bond she made with Turtle has been irrevocably broken.</p>

Notice that the weak example restates the quote (paraphrases) or explains it on the surface level, while the better example analyzes the quote and explains the importance of it in relation to the motifs in the novel