Jake Sylvestre

Mrs. Meo

H English

“Fall”

Fall is an action that’s beneficial to everyone. Without falling others could not rise, as those who fell rise. In Physics, as well as in life, one must rise to a point in order to fall from that point. This rising is beneficial to everyone, when one person is prosperous, this usually trickles down to many. Additionally their “fall” whether it be death, or financial ruin marks not the end of their wealth, but a transfer of wealth from them to other people, usually more people letting them rise as the one who has fallen had rose. Through this, eventually everyone can become prosperous. Fall has another use, a Fall does not always have to be from a tall height but can be small, these kind of falls “wake us up” or elude us to a problem. In this way falling is good, for instance: as a baby we fell a lot because we were not good at walking, this not only inspired us to get better, but through falling we learned from our mistakes and were able to achieve great things, not just walking but sprinting.

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H Eng I 5-6

Mrs. Meo

6//12/13

Like most religions, the greeks attempted to portray values through their stories. In a hypothetical sense, if I were to write an epic presenting my life I would like to portray a sense of hard work. As many have said hard work is the most important component of success, and after all epics are simply portrayals of success in one area. Another value I would like to portray is a sense of ethics, as was previously mentioned hard work is important, however this hard work means nothing if it was not for an unworthy cause, or if your success was came at the price of the suffering of others. As Manheim said in the classic 1987 film wall street “There are no shortcuts, son”. Lastly and perhaps most importantly, I would like to portray a sense of empathy in an epic. Throughout the Iliad and the Odyssey, many men are fighting for objects, thousands of men are slaughtered for gold, and much food is wasted. Instead of portraying society as a hierarchy where the men on the top are literally half god, and where the men on the bottom live with rodents, I would portray all men being equal, in the sense of their needs being met. A rich man shares his food with the poor man, and the poor man shares his wisdom with the rich man, and they understand each other.

Jake Sylvestre

**How am I doing?**

Mrs. meo

This year in English, my grades are sufficient, for instance I have very few assignments that are below a C, and a B- average. However, when I started out this year, my goals wasn’t to be sufficient. My goal was to be outstanding, and in that respect, despite the fact that all my class averages are “sufficient” I’ve failed, not in the eyes of the school, but in my own eye’s and this is the worst place to fail. However, as a talented author, C.S. Lewis once said “[Failures are finger posts on the road to achievement.” Additionally, I believe I’ve learned some great lessons through my failures this semester that will help me succeed in the next marking period. Therefore my failure not only makes me somber, but it also excites me. On that note, I have taken time to reflect on the causes of my failures and realized a few things. The first, and most important of which is that every failure of mine has come from a lack of organization. For example the three thesis statements, which I received a zero on, were caused by my not writing down a note. A simple note which said “See Mrs. Meo”, those thesis statements I did in fact do, and I handed in however my teacher asked me to read them to her on account of my handwriting. Since I did not write a note I forgot, and thus got and F which singularly lowered my average from a B+ to a B-. However despite this “failure” I learned an important lessons and have since been writing things of this nature down instead of committing them to memory.](http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/quotes/c/cslewis119178.html)

Jake Sylvestre

Mrs. Meo

Journal 9

Book 10 thoughts

After reading book 10, it became obvious why Odysseus was called “Man of Sorrow”. Firstly Odysseus is given much hope that he may set foot on his shores once more when Aeolus presents Odysseus with a bag of wind which will push him home. This hope is reinforced when he is so close to Ithaca, he can make out men on the shore. However because his shipmates, who at this point in the book are symbols of greed open the bag to steal “odysseus riches’ ” Odysseus’ ship is then taken far away from ithaca. This further reflects why he is called the man of sorrow, and is one more hardship on his long journey home. This also represents the consequences of a lack of loyalty to one’s ruler. A value which was very important to the greeks. Another value which was even more important to the greeks, loyalty to home and family was not upheld by Odysseus, but rather was practically forgotten by Odysseus due to the presence of Circe. Only after much persuasion was he convinced to leave his mistress, while his wife waits at home mourning the loss of her husband. This was a bit discouraging to me in that Odysseus places his own wants above loyalty to home and family.

Jake Sylvestre

Mrs. Meo

Journal 10

Chapter 11 interested me greatly, as it was the first theological concept of the afterlife of those of a greek religion that I had ever read. Firstly it was interesting how a physical place on earth was where odysseus’ connected with the dead rather than through prayer, or meditation. It was also interesting how this place was a river, and how there are many rivers in the underworld. Thirdly it is interesting how Elephenor has no personal motive (in terms of the underworld) to have a propper burial. He merely asks Odysseus out of fear that Odysseus might have a curse placed upon him, which demonstrates loyalty to leader. His other motive is that he will be remembered which is still a motive today. However I think being remembered is of lesser value today because as Woody Allen once said “I don't want to live on in the hearts of my countrymen; I want to live on in my apartment.” Later in the chapter, there is a bit of foreshadowing when the prophet warns Odysseus not to touch the flocks of the sun or he will be punished. With Odysseus being the man of sorrow, a reader can make an assumption that he, or his men will touch the sun flock, which will result, as every other mistake has in a prolonged journey.