Jake Sylvestre

Journal 16- Rachels Challenge

Rachel’s challenge was a persuasive way of stopping bullying in our school, while at the same time inspiring us to be better people. The presentation had two parts, one that focused on the motives of the shooters, and the second that focused on Rachel’s life. The first part talked about how the shooters actions were mostly caused by bullying from a young age. The second, and more interesting part portrayed Rachel as a martyr, similar to Anne Frank. They talked about how both Anne Frank, and Rachel Scott died at a very young age. This was very sad, however they had another thing in common, that Rachel and Anne both changed the world through their diaries. I think overall this was a positive experience for myself and other students who watched it. It evoked many emotions and encouraged myself and the community to question our behavior, ending with a plea to take action!

Jake Sylvestre

Journal 19- Best thing about English

The best thing about English this year was the new literature we were presented with: The first book, which was completed before the incipience of school was Homer’s timeless classic “The Illiad”. This war novel showed the importance of cunning in everyday life, the destruction power struggles can cause, and how some things are not worth arguing for. However the best part of this book was the way it was worded, this is ironic because the wording is not original. However my favorite quote is the empowering “Give me a place to stand and I will move the earth.” This quote truly shows the power of will. The next book we read was the Odyssey, once again my favorite part of this book was not the story line, but the wording itself, for whatever reason one quote stuck with me. This quote outlines the taunting of telemachus and shows just how superficial social class is, and how anger can so easily destroy it: “So high and mighty Telemachus such unbridled rage”. It’s quotes like this that define the Oddysey, the continuency of a power struggle. The last book we read, and my favorite was entitled “Great Expectations” by Charles Dickens. This book follows, Phillip Purrip (Pip), a young, middle class boy thrown into a rich life and his struggle to adapt, and his ultimate failure. I think we call all relate to being thrown in a new unfamiliar environment, and failing to adapt. Pip ake’s mistakes that are still relevant, over spending, mistakes with girls. Pip has things in common with everyone. Therefore Charles Dickens work “Great Expectations” has been the best part of english thus far.