

The Odyssey

Homer

Book VIII: How They Held Games and Sports in Phaeacia

SUMMARY

COMMENTARY

Alcinöös and Odysseus

awake, and the king calls an assembly of his princes and countrymen, telling them to welcome

Odysseus. Summoning the minstrel Demodocus to sing for them. A critic is to eat and king of Ithaca? Maybe to a great feast prepared.

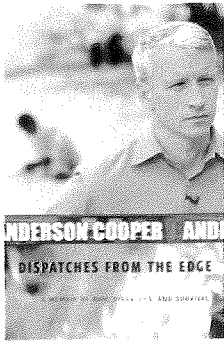
Demodocus arrived (he is blind). He sings stories about famous men like Achilles, Odysseus, and Agamemnon. He took away the sight of his eyes, but she gave him the lovely gift of song. the best men of the army would quarrel, Troy would fall, and so was delighted when Odysseus and Achilles argued (he was unaware it was actually heard Achilles who would argue). Odysseus overcome by tears, at times, covers his face.

Alcinöös notices Odysseus' grief and gets everyone to go out and play games. There is foot racing, weight-throwing (which Odysseus, when pressed, were open with crying... excels at) and Odysseus brags about his prowess in any sport. Modesty is apparently not an epic heroic virtue. Odysseus does seem well-endowed

Then Alcinöös calls for

for a mortal, but then, it was Achilles (R.I.P.)

AP Language Summer Assignment—Dialectical Journal and Phrase/Clause Review



Assignment

You will read *Dispatches from the Edge: A Memoir of War, Disasters, and Survival* by Anderson Cooper (ISBN: 0061136689) and complete a dialectical journal to prepare you for our discussions of the book next year. Also, you will find examples of phrases and clauses in your text.

What is a Dialectical Journal?

The term “dialectical” means “the search for truth through the resolution of conflicting forces.” Every text contains a hidden meaning, and the reader struggles to unlock it through a debate with the text. It is this argument, this tension, that illustrates the reader’s involvement, and it is the journal that records the conversation.

Your dialectical journal is due at the end of the first week of school. It will be your first major grade. To receive full credit, the journal must do the following:

- Show evidence of **critical thinking** throughout the assignment
- Reveal a **personal connection** to the topic and a unique perspective
- Exhibit **attention to detail** throughout
- Follow the **format directions** below

Description

Begin with a spiral-bound notebook. Divide your pages into two vertical columns. Label the left side “Summary” and the right side “Commentary.” In the column labeled “Summary,” record important elements taken directly from the text (in your own words) in the order in which this information appears. Thus, when you finish, you will have a summary of the text you have read. **You need approximately two pages for every chapter. (A page equals 125-150 words of summary.)**

Write the text pages that correspond to the summary at the top of each page. This ability to summarize is an important skill, and it will help you to quickly review the book when we come back to school. Although you are all reading the same text, your summary should be your own. Do not take a summary from an online source or a friend—you will receive no credit if you do. **Typed journals will not be accepted.**

The right column of the notebook will be your commentary. Here you will record interesting quotes from the text along with your questions, comments, and ideas next to that part of the text that has prompted your reactions. **Your response should include your personal and emotional reaction, but you should also be making analytical comments, too.** You might comment on the language choices, mood or tone, organization, images, themes, or any literary devices you see. You might also make connections to other texts that you have read. You will want to include page numbers where appropriate in your response. In essence, the commentary section becomes an intellectual history of your reading experience and will be the basis for our class discussion when we return.

Phrase and Clause Review

You will also be expected to recognize the different kinds of phrases and clauses in the fall. For review, you should find, highlight, and label an example of each of the following in your text:

<u>Phrases</u>	<u>Clauses</u>
Prepositional	Adjective
Participial	Adverb
Gerund	Noun
Infinitive	
Absolute	
Appositive	

Definitions and examples can be found in the Glossary of your *Pocket Style Manual*.

Questions?

Email Mrs. Scharf (amy.scharf@signature.edu).