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ISBN-13: 9781790524792 **[for print version]**

Journal Your Thoughts American Literature may be purchased in bulk for group study use. For more information about ordering or inquiring about homeschool co-op use, please email angela@jellybeanjar.org.

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Sample

For author interviews, please contact us at angela@jellybeanjar.org

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www.angelaodell.com

Introduction

Welcome to the ***American Literature*** journal in the ***Journal Your Thoughts Written Narration Course***. Throughout this course, you will be summarizing and writing narrations as you read through nine literature selections and a poetry anthology. You will also expand your vocabulary, and hone your literary analysis and critical thinking skills.

Please note, the high school level journals in this series are meant to be used by high school students who are extremely comfortable with oral narration and have had at least two years of experience with written narration. Likewise, the parent/teacher must be comfortable with the process of written narration.

The literature selections* used in this journal are all currently available through Rainbow Resource (as of March 2019). For your convenience, I have listed the ISBNs under the titles in the Table of Contents. I have included reading assignments for each of the literature selections, but I have not assigned a certain time to them. Each family must decide their personal schedule for completing this journal.

*The poetry anthology is not currently available through Rainbow Resource. It is however available through other sellers.

To the parent/teacher:

Sample

How to use this narration journal: The student will need this journal, the nine books listed in the Table of Contents, and the supplies listed on the ***Instructions for Making Vocabulary Cards*** page. At the beginning of the school year, meet with your student to determine what schedule fits their needs. Look through the journal together and discuss what the student is expected to do. You may wish to do oral narration every other narration assignment. Please feel free to adjust the journal to your student's needs. You may decide to have the student read the reading assignment one day, do the vocabulary assignment the next day, followed by the written narration assignment the third day. You will notice that the literature selections are of various lengths and reading difficulty. I've chosen this with the objective of creating a reading experience that includes challenge and enjoyment for the student. Please be sure to read the note at the beginning of the **poetry unit** on page 225 before beginning this course.

Before starting this book, remove and laminate the bookmark. It will guide you through the written narration and literary analysis processes. Use it throughout the course.

Books used in this Literature Course

The Legend of Sleepy Hollow & Other Stories - by Washington Irving

[13 reading assignments, vocabulary exercises, and narrations, one literary analysis]

ISBN # 9780486466583

The Bulletproof Washington - edited by David Barton

[3 reading assignments and narrations, vocabulary exercises, one literary analysis]

ISBN # 9781932225006

Streams to River, River to the Sea - Scott O'Dell

[8 reading assignments and narrations, vocabulary exercises, one literary analysis]

ISBN # 9781840220735

Elijah of Buxton - Christopher Paul Curtis

[12 reading assignments and narrations, vocabulary exercises, one literary analysis]

ISBN # 9781402754272

Up From Slavery - Booker T. Washington

[17 reading assignments and narrations, vocabulary exercises, one literary analysis]

ISBN # 9780671726522

The Slopes of War - N.A. Perez

[6 reading assignments and narrations, vocabulary exercises, one literary analysis]

ISBN # 9780553256697

Call of the Wild - Jack London

[4 reading assignments and narrations, vocabulary exercises, one literary analysis]

ISBN # 9780141321059

The Great Gatsby - F. Scott Fitzgerald

[9 reading assignments and narrations, vocabulary exercises, one literary analysis]

ISBN # 9780743273565

To Kill a Mockingbird - Harper Lee

[10 reading assignments and narrations, vocabulary exercises, one literary analysis]

ISBN # 9780060935467

A Treasury of Poetry for Young People [available on Amazon]

ISBN # 9780806919560

Vocabulary Card Instructions

Why?

Learning new words from the literature you read is a great way to expand your vocabulary and help your SAT and ACT scores. While you are working through this narration journal, you will be creating a vocabulary card file box.

What you will need

1. plastic file box (you may decide the size)
2. two packs of lined index cards that match the size of file box
3. alphabet index dividers that match the size of the cards and box
4. one each: black, blue, and red thin line markers
5. a collegiate dictionary
6. a collegiate thesaurus

How?

As you read your literature selections, choose words with which you are not familiar. Using the red marker, write the word on one side of the card. Look up the word in your thesaurus and list any synonyms in black marker under the original word. Find the definition of the word in your dictionary and write the meaning of the reverse side of the card in blue marker. In small letters, write the title of the book and the chapter number from which the word was taken. File the index cards in alphabetical order in your file box.

Title of book, chapter number

Word in RED marker
synonyms
in
black
marker

Definition of word
in
blue marker

Other supplemental activities:

1. Watch a movie based on one of the book selections. Make sure you read the book first! Compare and contrast them. Which one do you like better? Why?
2. If it is a historical or geographical/cultural story, make a meal of authentic food.
3. Write a character sketch of one of your favorite characters.
4. Do research on each of the authors. Write a short report about their lives.
5. Add the authors to your timeline if you are keeping one for your other history studies.
6. **On the provided maps, chart the location in which the stories happen.**
7. Choose one literature selection for this optional activity: create a powerpoint presentation or a cardboard fold out about the author, the story, the setting, time period, and geographical location. Be very creative and do your best work.



The Legend of Sleepy Hollow & Other Stories by Washington Irving



Reading Assignment: **The Legend of Sleepy Hollow**

Create vocabulary cards using 3 - 5 new words you have learned while studying this story.

Give a written narration for this story.

Sample

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

The Legend of Sleepy Hollow & Other Stories by Washington Irving



Reading Assignment: **Rip Van Winkle**

Create vocabulary cards using 3 - 5 new words you have learned while studying this story.

Give a written narration for this story.

Sample

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The Legend of Sleepy Hollow & Other Stories by Washington Irving



Reading Assignment: **The Spectre Bridegroom**

Create vocabulary cards using 3 - 5 new words
you have learned while studying this story.

Give a written narration for this story.

Sample

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

The Legend of Sleepy Hollow & Other Stories by Washington Irving



Reading Assignment: **The Mutability of Literature**

Create vocabulary cards using 3 - 5 new words you have learned while studying this story.

Give a written narration for this story.

Sample

[illegible]

The Legend of Sleepy Hollow & Other Stories by Washington Irving



Reading Assignment: **Westminster Abbey**

Create vocabulary cards using 3 - 5 new words you have learned while studying this story.

Give a written narration for this story.

Sample

[illegible]

The Legend of Sleepy Hollow & Other Stories by Washington Irving



Reading Assignment: **The Wife**

Create vocabulary cards using 3 - 5 new words you have learned while studying this story.

Give a written narration for this story.

Sample

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

The Legend of Sleepy Hollow & Other Stories by Washington Irving



Reading Assignment: **Mountjoy**

Create vocabulary cards using 3 - 5 new words you have learned while studying this story.

Give a written narration for this story.

Sample

[illegible]

The Legend of Sleepy Hollow & Other Stories by Washington Irving



Reading Assignment: **Adventure of the German Student**

Create vocabulary cards using 3 - 5 new words you have learned while studying this story.

Give a written narration for this story.

Sample

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

The Legend of Sleepy Hollow & Other Stories by Washington Irving



Reading Assignment: **Adventure of the Mysterious Stranger**

Create vocabulary cards using 3 - 5 new words you have learned while studying this story.

Give a written narration for this story.

Sample

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

The Legend of Sleepy Hollow & Other Stories by Washington Irving



Reading Assignment: **The Adventure of My Uncle**

Create vocabulary cards using 3 - 5 new words
you have learned while studying this story.

Give a written narration for this story.

Sample

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

The Legend of Sleepy Hollow & Other Stories by Washington Irving



Reading Assignment: **The Adventure of My Aunt**

Create vocabulary cards using 3 - 5 new words
you have learned while studying this story.

Give a written narration for this story.

Sample

[illegible]

The Legend of Sleepy Hollow & Other Stories by Washington Irving



Reading Assignment: **The Story of the Young Italian**

Create vocabulary cards using 3 - 5 new words you have learned while studying this story.

Give a written narration for this story.

Sample

[illegible]

The Legend of Sleepy Hollow & Other Stories by Washington Irving



Reading Assignment: **The Devil and Tom Walker**

Create vocabulary cards using 3 - 5 new words
you have learned while studying this story.

Give a written narration for this story.

Sample

[illegible]

The Legend of Sleepy Hollow & Other Stories by Washington Irving

Choose one of the stories from this collection about which to complete a literature analysis. Title: _____

What genre is this work? _____

- ☐ Choose one idea from each of these sections.
- ☐ Write your response to each on the following page.
- ☐ Finish your literary analysis with a one or two paragraph summary of how this story impacted your life. Start your summary with a thesis statement. (A thesis statement is a summary of a summary. It states concisely, in one sentence, what your opinion is.)

Ideas for Literary Analysis...

Theme

1. What character concepts does the writer explore (such as courage, trust, or betrayal)?
2. What social issues help shape the story? These could include (but are not limited to) loneliness, racism, traditional outlook.
3. What lesson does the main character learn throughout the story?

Characters

1. How does the character change from the beginning to the end of the story? Does it move from positive to negative or visa versa?
2. What factors influence the actions of the character?
3. How does the author use their words to show the character's personality?
4. Does the author use words to make the characters believable? (i.e. actions and dialogue)
5. Are there supporting characters who help shape the story?

Plot

1. Does the author use conflict, either external or internal, throughout the storyline?
2. Does the author create growing suspense? How?
3. Do plot twists help shape the story? How?
4. How does the climax impact the rest of the story?

Setting

1. How does the setting affect the characters?
2. How does the story reveal aspects of life in a certain time and place?
3. What is the setting: fantasy, realistic, or maybe a combination?

Style

1. How is imagery used to create the overall mood of the literature piece?
2. Describe how the dialogue and use of description shape the writing style.
3. Does the author use certain figures of speech? Do you think they add to the writing?

Sample

The Legend of Sleepy Hollow & Other Stories by Washington Irving

Theme:

Characters:

Plot:

Sample

Setting:

The Legend of Sleepy Hollow & Other Stories by Washington Irving

Style:

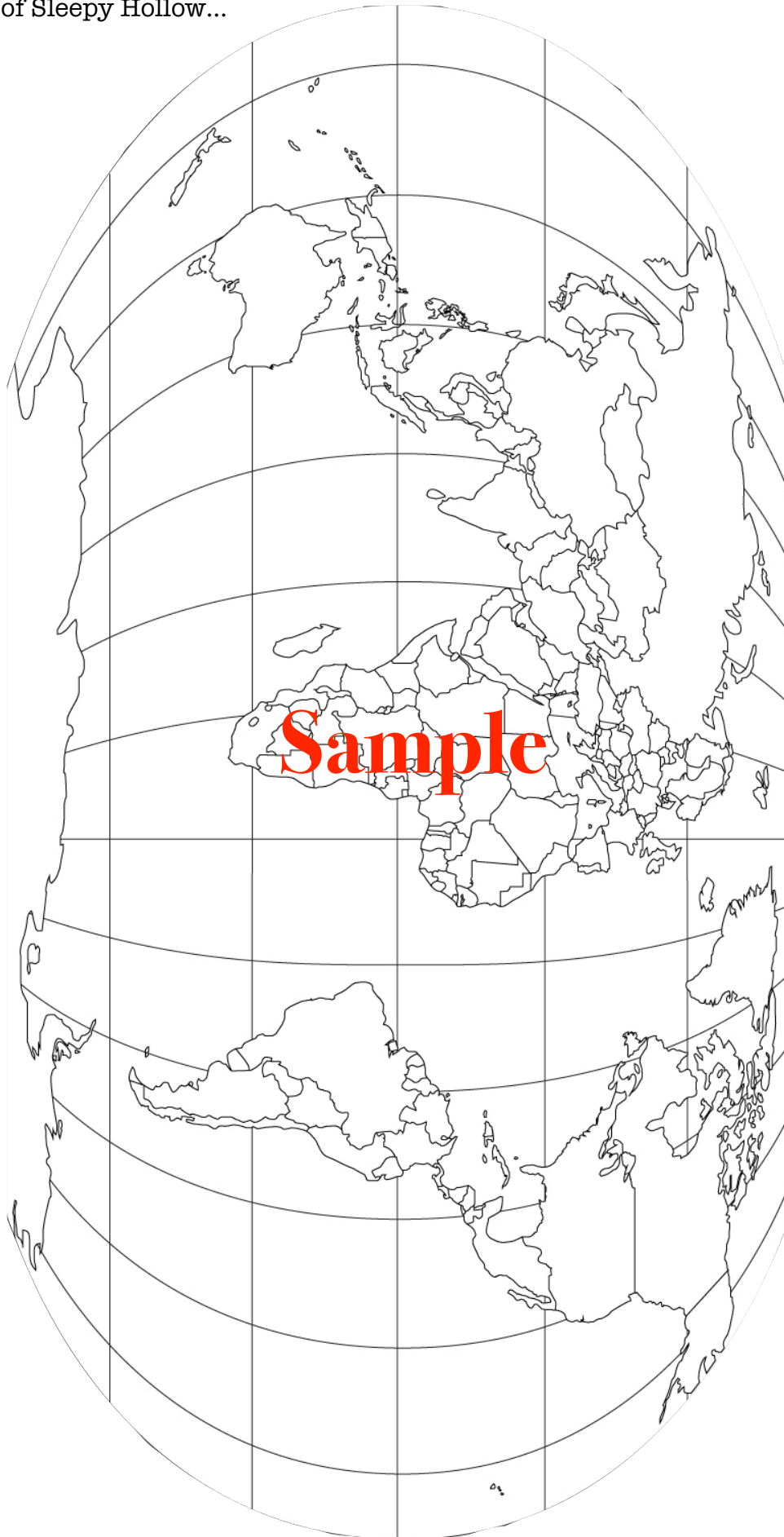
Thesis statement:

Summary:

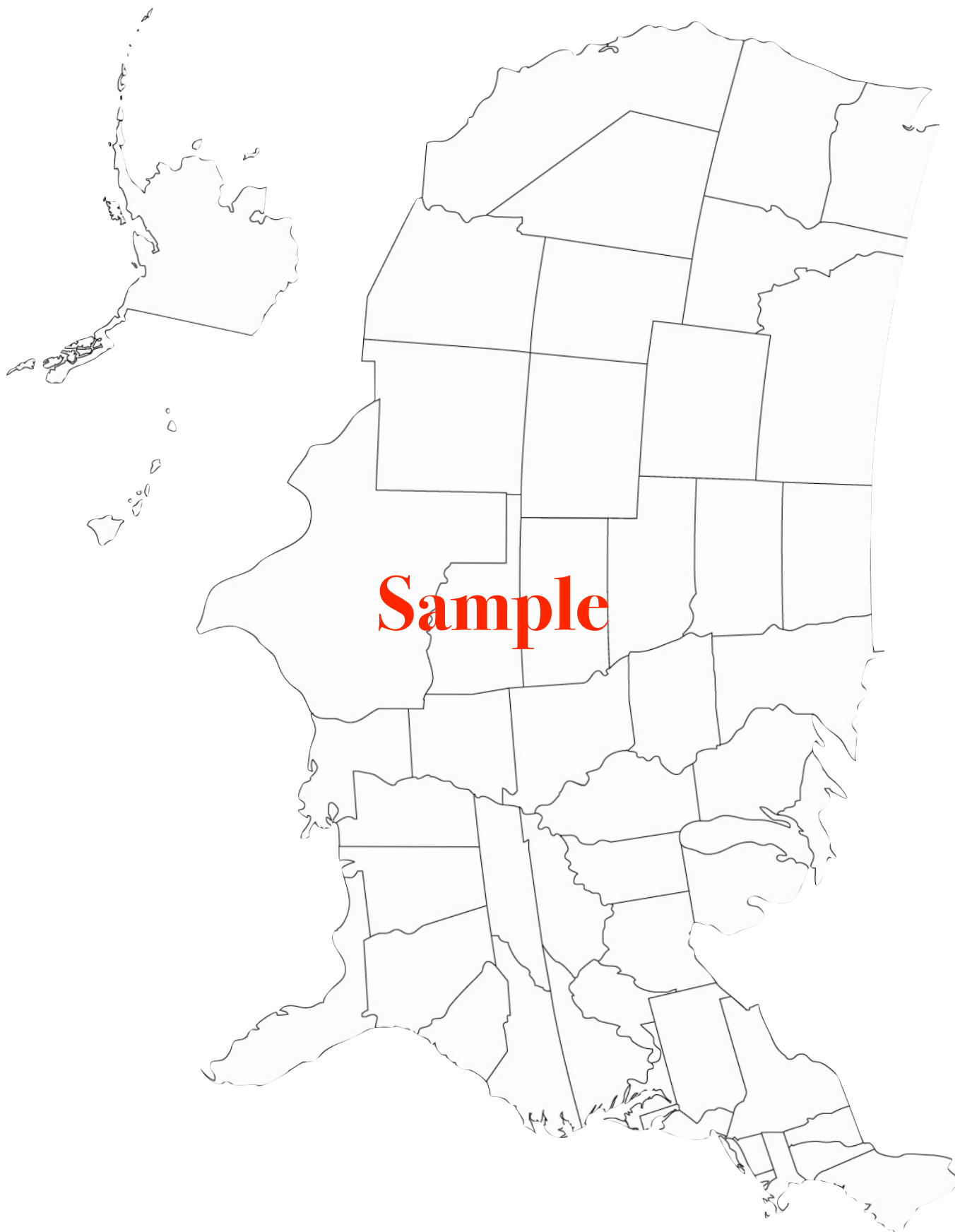
Sample

Sample

The Legend of Sleepy Hollow...



The Legend of Sleepy Hollow...



American Literature

Journal Your Thoughts

Written Narration Course for High School Students

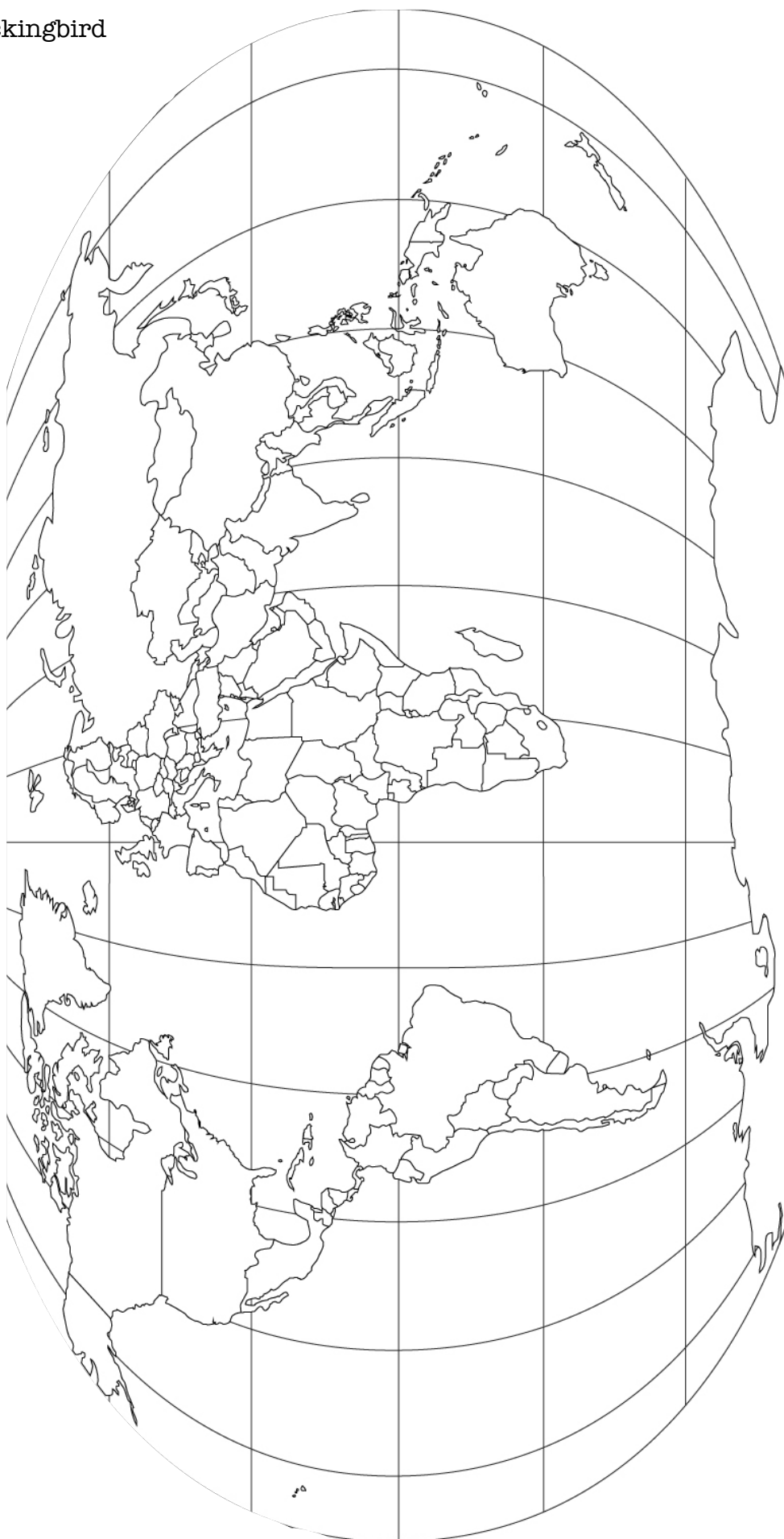
By Angela O'Dell

Sample

Soli Deo Gloria

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. The paper has a slight shadow on the right side, suggesting it's resting on a surface. There is no handwriting or other markings on the paper.

To Kill a Mockingbird



To Kill a Mockingbird



Poetry Unit Note:

Many literary professionals compare poetry to Impressionists paintings. I like this comparison, because, like the great works of Monet, Renoir, and Degas, a great poem requires a closer look and the engagement of an active imagination.

Instructions for this poetry unit:

I encourage you to read through a poem at least three times in order to get the most from it.

- The first time read it at your normal speed, taking notes about your initial thoughts about the poem and looking up unfamiliar words.
- The second time, read the poem more slowly and out loud. Pay attention to any literary devices such as similes, metaphors, personification, etc. Also, pay attention to the punctuation and how it affects the rhythm of the poem.
- The third time, read for the actual understanding of the poem. Is it painting a picture of something realistic? Is it more emotionally based?
- After studying each poetry selection as instructed above, write a two or three paragraph summary of everything you have learned about the poem. Describe how the poet used literary devices and punctuation to set the theme and rhythm of the poem. Share how the poem made you feel. Explain whether or not you would recommend this poem to someone else.

Sample

Objectives for your poetry study:

- to explore and enjoy various types of poetry and prose crafted down through the centuries
- to become accustomed to reading poetry aloud and with expression
- to engage your imagination in order to make connections not previously made
- to build your vocabulary

What this poetry unit is not: *an in depth study of the mechanics of writing or analyzing poetry*

Please note:

Because we are using an anthology of poetry, which contains selections from six major American poets, who lived in uniquely different time periods, you will enjoy many famous works. Instead of designing a strict schedule that would require you to read every poem in order, I have given you a place to choose and note (with your teacher's input) which poems you would like to read and enjoy. I recommend choosing two poems from each poet to study using the instructions above. Before starting your narration journal, choose which days each month that you will study poetry and mark it in your planner. I have supplied journaling pages for two poems per each month of the school year (total of 18).

- Following this instructional page, you will find a section of pages devoted to helping you read your selections and journal your thoughts about them.

Poetry Unit

Poetry is when an emotion has

found its thought and the

thought has found words

Robert Frost



Title of poetry selection: _____

Written by: _____

Time period: _____

Notes from first Reading:

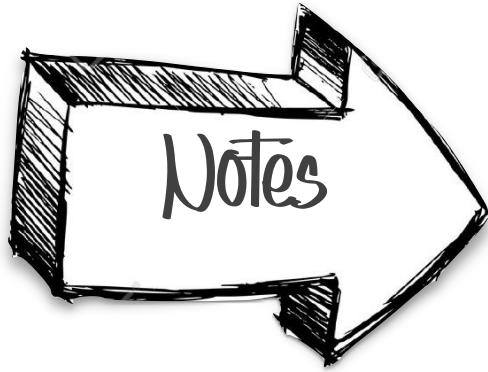
Notes from second Reading:

Sample

Notes from third Reading:

Summary of thoughts about this poetry selection:

Sample



Use this section to take notes as you read through your literature selections.

It might help to place a sticky note where you are writing in this section of your journal.

Remember: this is YOUR journal.
Sample Use it the way you need! Make it yours.

The Legend of Sleepy Hollow & other Stories by Washington Irving

Sample

[illegible]

The Bulletproof George Washington by David Barton

Sample

*The secrets of an amazing, successful
written narration...*

- Read for comprehension.
- If the story is complicated (and most higher level book are), take notes in the corresponding notes section, to help you keep track of the characters and what they are doing.
- If you come across a word you don't recognize, build your vocabulary by looking it up and adding it to your vocabulary box.
- Talk through what you read. If someone else isn't around, tell yourself. The more senses you use to digest what you read, the better.
- Invest in the effort. Think about how this story affects you. Does it teach a lesson? If so, what is it? Can you identify with the characters? How?
- Before you decide what to write after each reading assignment, ask yourself these questions:
 1. What are the main events of the section I just read?
 2. If this isn't the first section I've read in this book, how does it connect to what I read in the previous section?
 3. Look up words you don't know and process how the new information adds to the section.

Sample