

NAME _____

Mr. Weber

English 4

1 June 2011 (Wednesday) English 4 Summer Readings (2) Worth 200 Points

DUE DATE: AUGUST 1st, emailed before midnight to jweber@kenoshastjoseph.com

Texts

The Colour of Magic and *The Light Fantastic* by Terry Pratchett (found in the Fantasy section)

How to Begin?

As you read, write margin notes and mark up your books. Will these be collected? No. Your main concern is: What is the proper way to assimilate reading and aid understanding? A well annotated text is a very helpful aid. Relying on memory alone is always a poor strategy.

As you read *The Colour of Magic* and *The Light Fantastic*, summarize for yourself each section before moving on to the next. Ask yourself the following as you proceed:

- a) What is going on?
- b) Do I understand every reference? Did I look up any of the British phrases?
- c) Do I know the author's jargon?

Read with this Subject in Mind: Creation

Your essay is to connect some of the elements in *The Colour of Magic* and *The Light Fantastic* to the quest for our own search for the universe's beginning.

Chapter one of *The Colour of Magic* begins with researchers trying to examine the Great A'Tuin in order to establish its gender and how and why their universe was created. How does the investigation of the Great A'Tuin parallel efforts in today's world to determine our world's creation? In your critical analysis of this fantasy-fiction you will narrow down the broad theme to something specific so that you are not rambling. Get to the point. Use quotes from the novel to help you argue for or against the author. Along with your critical analysis you will also need to do outside research on western and eastern religion/mythology.

*A good supplement is the PBS special *The Power of Myth* with Joseph Campbell

Then, write your Essay.

A common error in essays is to simply retell or summarize the storyline. That is not an essay and your grade will reflect this. Go beyond summarization. I know the story and assume you do too. Only bring up key passages as referential points as you defend or argue against the author's points made in the novel. Make the essay your own with *your* insights and *your* analysis.

Lastly, type a Titled, 2-full page critical essay critiquing Terry Pratchett's Creation theme in MLA format. Title the Essay. (Creation is NOT your Title; that is your subject.)

Titles are not afterthoughts. Work your titles. Put thought into your title. Superb titles usually evidence superb writing.

For MLA Formatting, the Purdue OWL Website is one of the best:

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>

Short excerpts (less than 5 lines) of key passages are to be cited as "...." (Pratchett 24).

Quotes should neither play a minor nor a major part of your overall essay.

If you have questions, I will periodically check my email throughout the summer.

There will be a test on these novels during the first week of school.