**English 11/12 Honors: Tolkien Name:**

**Mr. Fisher**

**Your Own Odyssey: A Choice of Group Projects!**

Introduction: While you are reading about Odysseus’s journey, you yourselves will be going on an “Odyssey” of your own. What’s that you say? Will you be travelling? Ummm…not exactly. No. No, this won’t be a field trip. What’s that? Did I buy you each a car so you can go on a road trip? Of course not! How on earth did you think I could pull that off? Hmm? A cruise? What? Okay, it’s not a trip! I’m sorry I ever said anything! It was a metaphor, people! I’m comparing a high school group project with an exciting vacation? What’s not to understand? Oh. I see now. Okay, maybe that was a bad metaphor. Nevermind.

Step #1: Find a Group: Find three other classmates and, together, form a “Group of 4.” When picking your group, think about the following questions:

* Will this person work hard or stick me with all the responsibility?
* Will I just end up fighting with this person because he/she doesn’t “get” me or my artistic vision?
* Is the person having trouble finding a group, and if I bring him/her into my group, will it make his/her day a little less painful?
* Does this person’s skills and perspective complement my own, or do they replicate them?
* Is this person really a spy for a different group that is looking to steal my secrets and ideas and sell them to the highest bidder?

Step #2: Pick A Medium: For this project, you will have a choice of a number of different media through which you can present it. Your choices are:

* A play
* A movie
* A puppet show
* A radio show
* A music video
* An animated cartoon (hey, if you can do it, go for it!)
* Something else (must get my approval, and it should be similar to the choices above).

Step #3: Write a Script: Your script can be any of the following:

* A humorous parody of a scene in *The Odyssey*.
* A “Missing Book” about another island Odysseus visited.
* A “Behind-the-Scenes” look at what the Gods were doing at some point in the book.
* A short play about “Homer” and his many travels and performances.
* A short play “inspired” by *The Odyssey* and Odysseus’s travels.
* A musical based on a scene from *The Odyssey*.
* Some sort of creative performance that I did not think of…but, sorry, no interpretive dances. We all know those are really just lame ways to get out of doing any work ☺

Step #4: Perform:

* All students in the group should participate in the performance in some way.
* If needed, you can ask “outside” students to play parts.
* The performance should be somewhere between 5-15 minutes long.

Step #5: You are Graded:

* Remember: It is better to be graded than degraded. Just sayin’.
* You must hand in a written statement that shows exactly what each group member did in creating your final product.
* You will be graded on the following rubric:

Rubric:

 Failing Poor Flawed Good Nearly Perfect

Odyssey is Understood 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15

Creativity/Originality 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15

Overall Quality of Script 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Overall Effort/Division

Of Work 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Grade: /50🡪 /100

Some Final Notes:

* I will not be collecting your scripts. I will grade only what I see in your performance (and on your work statement too, of course).
* You will have some time in class to work on this, but you will almost definitely need to work on this outside of class, too.
* Feel free to be silly with this one. Humor is a form of creativity.
* As far as appropriateness, look at it this way: if you think I might not want to see or hear it, don’t show it to me. Language? I care far more if your language is cruel to a person or group of people than if it consists of four letter words.