

**Journal Entry #1: "Unpleasant Situation"**

Have you ever been thrown into a completely unpleasant situation? Fully discuss this situation. Was there a way out of it? Whose fault was this situation, really? Did you have to swallow your pride and simply endure it? How might you have avoided it in the first place? Discuss the experience.

**Entry # 2: "Rock and a Hard Place"**

Have you ever felt like you were stuck between two decisions, and both alternatives were unpleasant? This is called INTERNAL CONFLICT. Have internal conflicts ever caused you problems or grief? Ever hear of the Scylla and Charybdis in *The Odyssey*? How do those two monsters apply to this question?

**Entry #3: "No Hunting Today!"**

You know that King Odysseus has returned. Eumeus, the royal goat herder, told you and everyone else in your family. He knew he could trust you; your family had been loyal friends of Odysseus and Penelope since Telemachus was born, nearly twenty years ago. Odysseus told him to tell no one except Telemachus, his royal son, but Eumeus did let your family know.

You and your sisters are learning to herd your family's goats, as well, and Prince Telemachus has been a pretty good friend all these years during your labors. He has come over to talk to you, and entertain you with stories he's heard about his godlike father. He tells you the story about the unstringable bow, and even of the very special bed in the palace's royal chamber.

He also tells you over and over that he knows his father still lives. He can feel it. He says that he knows his father has been away his whole life, nearly twenty years, but he has a bond with Odysseus that he cannot explain. Something supernatural.

This friendship Telemachus has forged with you is why you decide to help him when Eumeus informs you of Odysseus' return. You know that poor Penelope has held off her suitors for as long as she could, but her resolve weakens, as does her justification for waiting to remarry; the entire kingdom thinks that Odysseus is dead. Her duty is to remarry and have another king sit on the throne. The help that you give Telemachus must come soon!

Eumeus tells you that King Odysseus and Telemachus plan to trap all the suitors in the great hall of the palace, and to slaughter them to a man for the abuses they have performed on Odysseus' wife and servants, and for squandering the kingdom's entire stock of wealth on feasts and partying. No one would deny them this proper revenge, but you know something they do not. With an incredible bit of luck (or perhaps Athena's direction), you had overheard at the market yesterday that the entire nest of suitors has planned a hunting trip for tomorrow. The suitors you overheard talking had said that all of the king's cattle are gone, so they must hunt if they want fresh meat. Both suitors were very excited that they would get to test their hunting prowess against that of all the others.

You have no way to impart this knowledge to Telemachus, for he has holed himself up in the palace with his father, who is disguised somehow, and is seeing no visitors by the Queen's order. But you know what must be done. For Odysseus' vengeance to be successful, none of the suitors must leave the palace tomorrow. You decide that action must be taken, and that it is you who must take it! Since Eumeus swore you to secrecy regarding the news of Odysseus' return, you must make the suitors stay at the palace in such a way that no one knows of your involvement.

You think about it all afternoon, and you suddenly have it. You call your sisters into the barn, and begin to unravel your scheme to bring success to the vengeful king!

*\* Your job is to finish the scenario. Tell your sisters what you plan. Show how this plan begins, and what the results are. Be certain that you are not implicated or caught. No one except your sisters can know of your involvement. Another difficult assignment! Use your imagination, and don't let Telemachus down!*

**Journal Entry #4: "Disasters"**

Do you have an experience to share regarding a disaster... some natural disaster such as a flood, hurricane, fire, snow, or ice? Discuss the experience.

If you've never faced a disaster, discuss the emotions that surround a disaster. What do disasters do to our personalities, sometimes? Can you imagine a disaster that would have a very *positive* effect on those who have gone through it? Explain.

[Hurricane Katrina, the Titanic, 9/11 terrorism...]

**Journal Entry #5: "Universal Wrong"**

Are there any behaviors that are wrong, no matter what culture you live in? Is there a universal set of rules that all humans, regardless of race, religion, age, status, culture, or nationality, should live by?

What happens when someone makes his or her own rules? Why are universal rules allowed to be broken by some, and not by others? Think of our most prominent current politician (Trump?). Think of countries we go to war with. Do we fight *everybody* who breaks universal law? Hmm... Please make a list of 5 laws (if you can think of that many) which *every* culture should adhere to.

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**Journal Entry #6: "Baby Needs a New Pair of Shoes"**

I don't want the title to confuse you. That phrase is a cliché, a well-known phrase shouted by someone throwing dice at a craps table, who wishes for a lucky roll. Do you believe in luck? Is there such a thing as good luck or bad luck? It is true, there are people who can play poker all night long and not even get a pair, let alone win the pot. At the same time, it seems, the same guy keeps winning pot after pot due to his full houses and straight flushes. How can there be such disparity in experiences if there is no luck? Can chance play a part in the circumstances of our lives, or does God or karma or some higher power control everything? Discuss your luck!

**Journal Entry #7: "Injustice"**

Sometimes, life's unfair. Though we're taught from youth to head our problems off and to not accept defeat, we often face dilemmas we cannot do anything about. Discuss a time when you felt angry over an injustice (indignant!), and there was simply nothing you could do to correct or amend the situation. How do we humans cope with injustice? What must we do to carry on when we witness injustice, or when we are its victims? What is it about us that allows us to continue our lives despite being victims of injustice?

**Entry # 8: "Better Than You"**

What makes one person "better" than another? Is it money? Is it fame or popularity? Is it education? Is it ethical and untouchable, or can you put your finger on certain *personality* characteristics which make people better than others?

Here's a question to ponder while writing: is *anyone* better than anyone else?

**Journal Entry #9: "Forbidden Love"**

Have you ever loved or cared about someone you were not allowed to see? Do you think anyone should be able to tell you who to spend your time with? Explain why anyone would want to control that element of your life. *Can you help who you love?* [Answer that one very carefully.] Discuss forbidden love...

## Journal Entry #10: Elizabethan Insults:

Elizabethans took a delight with language, weaving together terms to form stinging phrases of wit. You could say “fie” or you could swear by “God’s wounds” or his “teeth.” As a tradesman, you might swear by your “hammer” or “tongs,” or any other item of untarnished purity. To create your own Elizabethan insults, choose from the terms below. Add to your curse a directive (like, “Learn how to drive...” or “Mind your own business...”). Two adjectives and one noun minimum, please. Combine your directive with one selection from each of the three columns. For your journal, write 5 horrible Elizabethan insults!

*“Out of my path, thou spongy, rat-faced footlicker!”*

*adjective list 1*

artless  
bawdy  
beslubbering  
bootless  
churlish  
cockered  
clouted  
craven  
currish  
dankish  
dissembling  
droning  
errant  
fawning  
fobbing  
forward  
frothy  
gleeking  
goatish  
gorbellied  
impertinent  
infectious  
jarring  
loggerheaded  
lumpish  
mammering  
mangled  
mewling  
paunchy  
pribbling  
puking  
puny  
quailing  
rank  
reeky  
roguish  
spleeny

*adjective list 2*

base-court  
bat-fowling  
beef-witted  
beetle-headed  
boil-brained  
clapper-clawed  
clay-brained  
common-kissing  
crook-pated  
dismal-dreaming  
dizzy-eyed  
dog-hearted  
dread-bolted  
earth-vexing  
elfskinned  
fat-kidneyed  
fen-sucked  
flap-mouthed  
fly-bitten  
folly-fallen  
fool-born  
full-gorged  
guts-gripping  
half-faced  
hasty-willed  
hedge-born  
hell-hated  
idle-headed  
ill-breeding  
ill-nurtured  
knot-pated  
milk-livered  
motley-minded  
onion-eyed  
plume-plucked  
pottle-deep  
pox-marked

*nouns*

apple-john  
baggage  
barnacle  
bladder  
boar-pig  
bugbear  
bum-bailey  
canker-blossom  
clack-dish  
clotpole  
coxcomb  
codpiece  
death-token  
dewberry  
flap-dragon  
flax-wench  
flirt-gill  
foot-licker  
fustilarian  
giglet  
gudgeon  
haggard  
harpy  
hedge-pig  
horn-beast  
hugger-mugger  
jolt-head  
lewdster  
lout  
maggot-pie  
malt-worm  
mammet  
measle  
minnow  
miscreant  
moldwarp  
mumble-news