

May, 2024

Dear STEP 2 Scholar,

Congratulations on accepting the challenge of STEP 2 English! You are clearly willing to stretch your intellect through the reading and contemplation of powerful and sometimes difficult literature. I assume that you love to read and are eager to consider, analyze, and discuss what you have read. I ask you now to commit yourself to this endeavor by pledging never to substitute a film or commercially published notes for the reading of literature, and, of course, never to engage in academic dishonesty in any guise.

In order to help prepare for the challenge of STEP 2 English, you are required to read Samuel Johnson's novella, *The History of Rasselas, Prince of Abyssinia*.

As you read the novella, create an Academic Journal. For each group of chapters, indicate the following;

- Title of Entry (i.e, Chapters I-VI). **One** entry should be created for **each group** of chapters, as follows:
 - I through VI
 - VII through XII
 - XIII through XV
 - XVI through XXII
 - XXIII through XXX
 - XXXI through XXXIX
 - XL through XLIX
- Plot events, in brief: touch on important points in the chapters (bullet points with brief explanations are fine)
- Insights on characters: comment on any interesting qualities of characters that you note in your reading
- Points of philosophy or themes....select three quotes from the chapters and explain their philosophical or thematic significance (use ellipses for longer quotes, and parenthetically cite Johnson's name)
- List three words that are unfamiliar to you from each of the groups of chapters, and define

Each journal entry should be approximately 1.5 pages in length, so that, in total, you will have a completed journal of roughly 10.5 pages. Again, this is just a rough guideline.

You will submit your journal when we return to school in September. This journal will facilitate the process of writing about the text later.

Do not delay in procuring your book; its complexity requires thoughtful, not rushed, reading and consideration. *Along with completing your journal over the summer, and a written assessment when we return to school, you will be expected to discuss the text in a way that reflects your depth of understanding.*

If you have any questions at all, please send me an email at epalacios@ionaprep.org.
Enjoy your reading, and enjoy your summer!

Sincerely,

Ms. Palacios