

FOR THE LOVE OF LITERATURE

By Kalee Hall

"Sing to me of the man, Muse, the man of twists and turns driven time and again off course, once he had plundered the hallowed heights of Troy . . ."

So begins Homer's epic tale, *The Odyssey*, with which students of LPA's World Literature class have become very familiar. This class, taught by instructor Debbie Livingston, consists of nine students and the great classics of literature, such as *The Trial and Death of Socrates* and *Crime and Punishment*. One thing that makes this class so interesting is that it, like many courses at Lighthouse, is taught from a distinctly Christian perspective.

Livingston pointed out, "Because we teach from a Christian standpoint doesn't mean we shelter students. I believe we need to be prepared as Christians to go into the world and share our faith, and to do that we need to understand the worldviews that are out there.

What I try to do in class is to take every worldview we come across and compare it to Christianity, along with teaching many methods of writing and analytical reading." Her personal enthusiasm comes across in her approach to the class. "I mainly want to teach the students to love literature," she said, explaining, "There's pretty much equal reading and writing, and it's ended up this year with the main emphasis being on literary techniques and analysis."

The class is a favorite of sophomore Molly Archer, who exclaimed, "I love how Mrs. Livingston motivates us to read our books well by having us do fun projects, and sometimes even rewarding us with homework passes." Her favorite book so far this year? "I've really liked *Dante's Inferno*," she said, "and also the short stories we've done."

The reading is pretty intensive. In fact, many college reading lists have several of the same books that are read in this high school class, including works by Plato and Virgil. The students who love to read definitely enjoy this class, and even the students who aren't so fond of reading can learn, at least, to appreciate the skills of writers from around the world and from ancient times to the modern era.

This challenging World Literature course is a study of the books and ideas that have stood the test of time. How important it is for us to develop gratitude toward the authors who have given us these works through the ages and made it possible for our lives to be a little better because of what they have written.

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