

Expectation # 2
Model of Annotated Bibliography Entries

May 4, 2005: Homer. *The Odyssey*. This epic poem, written in the 8th Century B.C., chronicles the journey of Odysseus, a Greek warrior leader, as he attempts to return home from fighting in the Trojan War. Over the course of his “odyssey,” he demonstrates uncommon intelligence and bravery in overcoming many obstacles. The adventurous stories of *The Odyssey* include his interactions with many of the mythological gods and goddesses of the ancient Greek world. Ultimately, Odysseus returns home, and his leadership is restored.

May 12, 2005: Ernest J. Gaines. *A Lesson Before Dying*. This novel takes place in Louisiana at the height of Jim Crow period (1940s). Jefferson, a young poor black man, is convicted of a crime he did not commit, and he is sentenced to death by an all white jury. A local school teacher, also a young black man is given the mission by Jefferson’s god mother to convince Jefferson that he still has dignity—that he is a man, and not a hog as he was depicted in the trial. The story is very moving and it examines the values (or lack thereof) involved in the treatment of blacks in Jim Crow society. The lessons both Jefferson and the school teacher learn about their humanity are timeless.

May 30, 2005: William Shakespeare. *Romeo and Juliet*. This drama is Shakespeare’s tragic tale of two “star-crossed lovers” who share great love for one another even though their families are involved in a generations-old feud. The play follows the course of their relationship to the point of their tragic deaths. Shakespeare’s play has many romantic and dramatic scenes and culminates with the families, and the audience, learning a valuable lesson about the power of love and hatred.