**The Odyssey, Book One, lines 1-17**

Sing in me, Muse, and through me tell the story

Of that man skilled in all ways of contending,

The wanderer, harried for years on end,

After he plundered the stronghold

On the proud height of Troy.

He saw the townlands

And learned the minds of many distant men,

And weathered many days

In his deep heart at sea, while he fought only

To save his life, to bring his shipmates home.

But not by will or valor could he save them,

For their own recklessness destroyed them all—

Children and fools, they killed and feasted on

The cattle of Lord Helios, the Sun,

And he who moves all day through heaven

Took from their eyes the dawn of their return.

Of these adventures, Muse, daughter of Zeus,

Tells us in our time, lift the great song again.

**Homework**:

Imagine that a storyteller is writing the story of your life as an epic poem. What would the first 16 lines of your poem reflect?

Your assessment of the task will include your smartly executed examples of each of the following items: Call to the divine, Epic Setting, Identification of the Hero (that’s you!), Epic Simile, and Epithet. Your Invocation should be at least 16 lines and have a correct MLA format and title. You are also expected to include a visual component to the Invocation.

Your Invocation is due in class on **Tuesday October 9th.** You will bring a printed copy to class to turn into your teacher. Before turning in, each student will highlight the required items as they used them in their work: Call to the divine, Epic Setting, Identification of the Hero, Epic Simile, and Epithet.

**This will be a major writing grade. Please use the following example as inspiration, but DO NOT “fill in the blanks.” Use your own life story and your goals as inspiration for your Invocation.**

*Example*:

Speak through me, Athena, goddess of wisdom, and tell the story

Of that man, skilled in the arts of language, grammar, and composition of brilliant ideas,

The English Teacher, so skilled in capitalization, in punctuation, as well as in persuasion,

who muddled through the mountains of paper and ink and staples and pencils

Found among the suburban nations of Mashpee, then later at Buford: a dazzling 999 miles apart.

He learned his students, his parents, his curriculum, and his discipline;

he read and he wrote and he worked to improve his classroom instruction.

Like a dedicated musician who can’t ever seem to perfect his rhythm,

But who tries – daily, weekly, yearly – to find the notes to match his dream

it is that effort which lights the way for a constant carousel of wondrous eyes and inquisitive minds.

He dreamed of helping his students, his teammates, to the Milestone

Where they would soar, succeed, and explode in joy and words and correct answers

Because it would be so easy, so attainable, and so beautifully simple:

Their months of dedication had made this exam a trifle which they would leave behind,

With the sun in their eyes

as they gazed outward at the glory that is their future.