

THE JOURNEY

Date: ___/___/___

Hope the journey is long and full of adventure.

In Greek Mythology there is a story called *The Odyssey*; its epic hero is named Odysseus. The story chronicles Odysseus' long journey home. This journey is much like your journey through a sports season. Along Odysseus' epic journey he had to face many obstacles, the Cyclops, the Sirens, the Witch Circe, and even the god Poseidon. You have already run across obstacles like these. I hope you embraced those challenges. I hope you loved those obstacles for the courage they have brought out in you. In this journey you have gotten to see so many places you would have never seen, and meet so many people you would have never met. I hope these encounters hold a special place in your memory.

The journey is not over yet and you are at one of two places. Either you are about to accomplish your every dream, or it seems that you are years away from achieving your goal. If right now you feel like you are miles away from your dreams; don't lose heart; don't give up, instead enjoy the ride.

If you are on the cusp of accomplishing your every dream, understand that accomplishing your dreams is not going to make you feel as good as you imagine. 2008 Olympic Cyclist Gold Medal winner, Victoria Pendleton, worked her whole life for this one moment of winning the gold medal, and here is what she said about it: "You have all this buildup for one day, and when it's over, it's: 'Oh, is that it?' When you win, you suddenly feel lost" (Syed 209). Many athletes complain about the huge letdown they feel after accomplishing their goal. Even Deion Sanders complained of this in the documentary "Beyond the Glory." Does this mean that accomplishing a goal is not worth all of the hard work that is put into it? Absolutely not.

Accomplishing your dreams is worth every bit of the hard work you put into it. The worth is not found in the accomplished goal itself, but instead the worth is found in the journey. On this wild ride, on this crazy adventure of chasing down your dreams, you will have been to and seen some of the most beautiful and amazing things. You will have tested your might against the giants; you will have been broken hearted; you will have laid awake at night dreaming of your future; you will have learned; you will have created lifelong friends. Those are the special things. So whether you are about to accomplish your every dream, or you are years from your destination, remember these words from the poet, Constantine P. Cavafy, "When you set out on your journey...pray that the road is long, full of adventure, full of knowledge." It is best that the road is long because the journey is the real gift.

QUOTE: "To travel hopefully is a better thing than to arrive." –Louis Stevenson
"And as you keep your focus on the destination,... [get] a chance to enjoy the journey." –Mack Brown

OBSERVATION

- 1) What three things should you do on your journey?
- 2) What happens sometimes after accomplishing a dream?
- 3) Is accomplishing your dreams worth the work?
- 4) Which part is more important, the accomplishment or the journey?

OVERTIME

Go to afootballjourney.com to watch video of *There are two great tragedy's in life.*

APPLICATION

- 1) What is one dream you are in pursuit of?
- 2) What adventures do you hope for during your pursuit of that dream?
- 3) What things are you doing to make sure you are enjoying the journey?

DID YOU KNOW?

Approximately 800,000 adults age 16 and older are unemployed because they quit their job (Money-Zine).