

May/June 2025

"It's a dangerous business, Frodo, going out your door. You step onto the road, and if you don't keep your feet, there's no telling where you might be swept off to."

~ Gandalf, *The Fellowship of the Ring*

J. R. R. Tolkien

PASSPORT TO LITERARY WORLDS!  
YOUR A.P. LIT & COMP SUMMER ASSIGNMENT

Greetings, intrepid voyager! Here you will find all the necessary materials to complete your literary quest for our class.

Along with this letter your Expedition Kit should include:

- 1 - Standard issue Literary Traveler Passport & Instructions
- 1 - Copy of the Hero's Journey graphic organizer & Instructions
- 1 - Declarative Argument Paragraph Reference Guide
- 1 - Copy of John Connolly's *The Book Of Lost Things*
- 1 - Literary Journey Checklist

Having these tasks completed **before we start class in September** will give you the necessary foothold you need to ensure your journey is a successful one!

**Please bring these completed materials with you when we meet for the first day of class.**

Have a great summer, and I look forward to venturing into fictional worlds with you in September!

Mr. Troise

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR "STAMPING" YOUR LITERARY PASSPORT

1. Every 15 novel pages, log your Passport. 339 novel pages/24 Passport pages = 15 novel pages per Passport log.
2. On EACH Passport page, for every 15 novel pages:
  - Write the date for that passport page entry
  - Write the 15-page number range (1-15, 16-30, 31-45, etc.).
  - Briefly identify the MOST SIGNIFICANT plot event in that range
  - Was the event MOST concerned with CHARACTER, SETTING, or CONFLICT? Yes, there will be overlap. But pick one.
  - In ONE WORD, identify the CENTRAL IDEA the plot event is MOST concerned with. (Friendship. Betrayal. Identity. Survival. Courage. Stuff like that). And remember - ONE WORD!

Let's pretend you're reading a novel about a cave exploration. In pages 60-75, the cave collapses! Our explorers use a fold-up tent pole to poke through the rubble for fresh air and daylight, and to signal anyone on the surface. Since they used what they had, we could say the CENTRAL IDEA in this scene is RESOURCEFULNESS.

Here's what the Passport entry page would look like:

**June 1, 2025**

**Pages 60-75**

**There is a cave-in and the characters are trapped. Several are injured. They search their gear for a tent pole to poke through the rubble.**

**This event is most concerned with setting.**

**The central idea in this passage is resourcefulness.**

## Completing the Hero's Journey Graphic Organizer

"If you can see your path laid out in front of you step by step, you know it's not your path. Your own path you make with every step you take. That's why it's your path."

~ Joseph Campbell, *The Power of Myth*

### YOUR TASK

1. Read *The Book Of Lost Things*
2. Complete the Hero's Journey graphic organizer using David, the protagonist
3. For each of the 12 stops on the hero's cycle, identify a specific scene from the novel that fulfills that part of the Hero's Journey for David
4. In the empty "Notes:" box, comment on how David changed. Be brief, but specific. Characters can change in three fundamental ways. Don't just pick one - say **how**.
  - Change of **FORTUNE**: the hero gained something he didn't have before, or lost something he previously had
  - Change of **MIND**: the hero thinks differently than before
  - Change of **HEART**: the hero feels differently than before

## DECLARATIVE ARGUMENT PARAGRAPH REFERENCE GUIDE

Every literary paper begins with a thesis paragraph that lets the reader know what you are going to prove. In our class we'll call this a **declarative argument paragraph**. It is **ONE** paragraph.

**NOTE: THIS PARAGRAPH IS NOT THE PLACE WHERE ANALYZE EVIDENCE FROM THE STORY.** We do that in the body. This is just the paragraph where we declare what we are going to prove, and present the approach we intend to use.

Use this format to write your Declarative Argument paragraph:

1. Thought-provoking, **general** statement that opens the topic.
2. T.A.G.S. - Title, Author, Genre, Setting. Introduce the work you're studying.
3. Elements of Craft - What writer tools are you focusing on? Character? Setting? Conflict? Symbolism? Pick a few, no more than three.
4. Idea - What important recurring idea did you identify in your Passport?
5. Thesis - Look at the idea you identified in sentence 4. Now, if you handed this book to someone who never read it before, **what would this book teach everyone who reads it about that idea? Not just David. What can we ALL learn about that idea from reading this novel?**

Have your declarative argument paragraph for *The Book Of Lost Things* printed and ready for when class begins.

## LITERARY JOURNEY CHECKLIST

- ☐ Read *The Book Of Lost Things*
- ☐ Complete the Passport
- ☐ Complete the Hero's Journey Organizer
- ☐ Write a Declarative Argument paragraph