**World Literature—Unit 16 Notes—The Modern Age**

**Don Quixote—Chapt. 1**

* Miguel de Cervantes—read a bit in Spanish

En un lugar de la Mancha, de cuyo nombre no quiero acordarme, no ha mucho tiempo que vivía un hidalgo de los de lanza en astillero, adarga antigua, rocín flaco y galgo corredor. Una olla de algo más vaca que carnero, salpicón las más noches, duelos y quebrantos los sábados, lantejas los viernes, algún palomino de añadidura los domingos, consumían las tres partes de su hacienda. El resto della concluían sayo de velarte, calzas de velludo para las fiestas, con sus pantuflos de lo mesmo, y los días de entresemana se honraba con su vellorí de lo más fino. Tenía en su casa una ama que pasaba de los cuarenta, y una sobrina que no llegaba a los veinte, y un mozo de campo y plaza, que así ensillaba el rocín como tomaba la podadera. Frisaba la edad de nuestro hidalgo con los cincuenta años; era de complexión recia, seco de carnes, enjuto de rostro, gran madrugador y amigo de la caza. Quieren decir que tenía el sobrenombre de Quijada, o Quesada, que en esto hay alguna diferencia en los autores que deste caso escriben; aunque, por conjeturas verosímiles, se deja entender que se llamaba Quejana. Pero esto importa poco a nuestro cuento; basta que en la narración dél no se salga un punto de la verdad.

* What is the tone of the story?
* What does the word *chivalry* mean?
* What were this gentleman’s reading habits like? And what did they lead to?
* What was the dream or vision that took ahold of this gentleman? What is the deal with the notion of a “knight in shining armor” and all of that jazz?
* Made a visor for his helmet, spent four days coming up with a name for his horse, and another week for his own
* The search for a lady with whom to become enamored, “for a knight-errant without a lady-love was like a tree without leaves or fruit, a body without a soul.”
* The word *incongruous*

**Don Quixote—Chapt. 2-3**

* Have each student pick a passage to read and read it out loud (Practice good public reading)
* Spend time reading and enjoying the passages in this story
* Back to the parody—What and who is being made fun of in this story?

**Discourse on Method**

* Age of Enlightenment with its new and different emphasis on “reason” and “progress”
* Meaning of metaphysical
* What did Descartes decide to do to make sure that his beliefs were based on something with substance?
* He concluded that he could not doubt that he was thinking because he had to think in order to doubt that he was thinking
* What did Descartes conclude was proof of God’s existence? *His notion of perfection; it doesn’t make sense that something could create more perfect than himself and so his ideal of perfection must have come from someone more perfect than himself—that Being is God* (note that this is not necessarily Jehovah God but just an abstract, rational concept of a Perfect Being out there)
* Defense of reason as opposed to senses as a basis for knowing

**Paradise Lost** (give more of this work to students to read)

* What were Adam and Eve’s attitude toward the one prohibition that God placed on them in the beginning?
  + Have you ever wondered why God put something prohibited in the garden?
* What were Eve’s thoughts when she first came to?
* What was the first creature she saw?
* What did she think about Adam? Why did she flee?

**Pilgrim’s Progress**

* How many have read this book?
* John Bunyan and his life
* Who was Apollyon?
* Interesting how Bunyan had to think backwards for Satan’s speech—“deliver you” from Him
* What were the various ways that Apollyon tried to get Christian back
  + He threatens and bullies Christian
  + He tries to scare Christian of the dangers and hardships he will face on his current path
  + He reminds him of his failures in an attempt to discourage him
  + Direct, outright attack
* What was Christian’s protection against Apollyon?
* How was he victorious?
* What does this story show about Bunyan’s views on the various churches of the day?

**Mathematical Principles of Natural Science**

* Newton introduces the topic of the universe by giving credit to an “intelligent and powerful Being” for its existence. In his observation, the entire universe shows the uniformity and consistency of one Maker. He goes on to consider the force which holds all heavenly bodies together in a “beautiful” system. He states that the force is gravity, a powerful force that reaches to the very center of stars and planets and which makes it necessary for these huge spheres to be located at great distances from each other so that they do not pull themselves into each other. The exact strength of this force has to do with both the amount of mass these bodies contain and with the distance between them. The more mass, the stronger the force of gravity, but the force decreases by the inverse square of the distance. In other words, increasing the distance between the bodies by a factor of ten *decreases* the force by a factor of 102 or 100. As far as the cause of gravity, Newton admits to not being able to figure it out through scientific means, and so he is content to simply accept it without speculating about its origin.

**The Stolen Ribbon**

* Rousseau
* Give me the general setting for the story—this is supposed to be a true story
* How old was Rousseau when this incident took place?
* Why do you think he is divulging this sin to his readers?
* What had he felt guilty about all of these years?
* Why did he steal the ribbon?
* What does he offer in his own defense? Do you buy it?
* Perhaps there is a lesson for authority here—be careful of the pressure you put on people when they are in the wrong
* Certainly there is a lesson for us when we do wrong—we must not try to live down the guilt
* He says that he feels that all of his suffering as a result of his error has made up for it—does it work that way?
* He also claims this was the only wrong thing he has ever done…

**King Thrushbeard**

* Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm—amazing academics who among other things collected folk tales, writing them down and publishing them; i.e. Hansel and Gretel, Little Red Riding Hood, Snow White, Sleeping Beauty, Cinderella
* Read the insulting names that the princess gave to the suitors
* Did King Thrushbeard’s plan work?
* So is a beautiful face worth a proud, stuck-up spirit?

**Moby Dick**

* Herman Melville
* This is kind of a guy’s story; what did you ladies think?
* Listen to “*Moby Dick* in a Minute”-- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pKhUoFCBhNE>  *(Ten Classics in Ten Minutes)*
* What do we call this form of writing—having one of the characters in the story tell the story, using I?
* How would you describe Ishmael?—by the way, this is a very famous opening line
* Why does Ishmael not mind being under someone else’s command?
* Great lines:
  + “And there is all the difference in the world between paying and being paid.”
  + I am tormented with an everlasting itch for things remote.
* Who are the two orchard thieves on p. 440?
* Wonderful commentary on people’s attitude toward money on p.440
* Why a whaling voyage this time instead of a merchant ship?
* Commentary on free will vs. fate
* Was Ahab clearly the captain of the ship? “There was an infinity of firmest fortitude, a determinate, unsurrenderable willfulness, in the fixed and fearless, forward dedication of that glance.”
* What were the “footprints of his one unsleeping ever-pacing thought” on his brow?

**Has God Spoken?**

* John Gresham Machen
* The ways that God can be known
  + Nature
  + Conscience—Everybody has a sense of “I ought”; many people sacrifice themselves in some way in the interest of others
* Meaning of supernatural—not anti-natural, but above nature; God acting and speaking without using the means of the created world
* Need for supernatural revelation:
  + 1. Revelation in nature is marred and distorted by sin
  + 2. Natural revelation does not tell the whole story; the grace of God; the story of Jesus
* Medium for supernatural revelation—the Book (more emphasis needed on Jesus in the flesh among us as God)
* Beautiful metaphor of the sunset and sunrise