



DJO Freshman Launch Program 2020

Each summer during your time as an O'Connell student, you and your classmates will be expected to prepare for the year ahead through reading and other educational experiences. These summer assignments, along with whatever you personally do to enrich your own learning, will provide you with background information and skills which help you to grow as a student.

The Bishop O'Connell freshman experience is focused on coming to understand and personally value "[The Dignity of the Human Person](#)." Your summer assignment uses literature, history, and theology to encourage a view of the world through the lens of Catholic tradition, leading you on a path to becoming a more informed global citizen. This assignment will introduce or strengthen the following academic skills: close reading, annotation, critical thinking, reflection and creativity.

Completed work on this summer assignment will be needed for your classes during the first two weeks of school. However, the assignment is designed to be completed over the length of the summer, with time for reading, viewing and forming your own insights and a consolidated thoughtful reflection. There are three elements to the assignment which cover three subject areas of study: English, religion and social studies.

Please read through this summer assignment in its entirety before beginning the tasks.

SECTION I - ENGLISH

1. Watch the following video, featuring Father Robert Barron:

<https://www.wordonfire.org/resources/video/the-hobbit-commentary-by-fr-robert-barron/261/>

2. Then read and annotate ***The Hobbit* by J.R.R. Tolkien**. This novel reimagines a hero's classic journey of growth and sacrifice in a mythical fantasy world. The journey allows the main character, Bilbo, to examine his expectations of himself and his own concept of personal dignity more closely.

What is Annotation? In English courses, you will be consistently required to annotate novels or other literary pieces as you read them. This allows you to return to the text and easily access the ideas, questions and insights from your reading. Sometimes called "close reading," annotating usually involves highlighting or underlining key pieces of text and making notes in the margins of the text. There are many specific [techniques](#) and [suggestions](#) for annotations.

Why Annotate? By annotating a text, you will ensure that you understand what is happening in a text after you've read it. As you annotate, you should note the author's main points, shifts in the message or perspective of the text, key areas of focus, and your own thoughts as you read. Annotating means you are doing the hard work while you read, allowing you to reference your previous work and have a clear jumping-off point for future work. Please use this [annotation bookmark](#) to find methods for annotation to use while reading *The Hobbit*.

SECTION II - RELIGION

Reflect on how the following religion [video](#) leads you to understand the dignity of each human person, including yourself and others.

SECTION III – SOCIAL STUDIES

In an age of globalization, the recognition of human dignity and the struggle to protect human rights has become even more complex and challenging.

The Hobbit examines the issue of intergroup intolerance in Middle Earth and how it might inform us about similar prejudices in our world. There are numerous social justice issues experienced by Bilbo and other characters in *The Hobbit*. Reading the book can inspire ideas about how to help current victims of violence, captivity and slavery.

Write a 250-500 word reflection answering the following question:

How does The Hobbit and the religion video serve to illuminate your understanding of innate personal dignity?

Use the dropbox on MyDJO to submit your essay by Monday, August 10.

- Create a Google document for submitting the assignment.
- Use double-spacing and paragraph format.

If you have any questions about the assignment, please contact bilbobaggins@bishopoconnell.org