



The Minotaur

Foundations Assignment 6

- Memorize “The Echoing Green” by William Blake, Stanza 5.
- Complete Grammar and Punctuation 3 in your Grammar and Poetics book.
- Study Spelling List 6 (online).
- Memorize the vocabulary for “The Minotaur” by Nathaniel Hawthorne in your study guide; read the story in your reader and complete the study guide material.
- Study the vocabulary for “Combing Hair Before Battle” by Herodotus in your study guide, read the story, and then complete the study guide material.
- Your definition essay on the hero is due this coming Friday.
- Memorize Quotation 7. The saying by Benjamin Franklin that the class is to memorize may be called an *epigram*. An epigram is a saying that is very cleverly stated. What is so clever about this quotation? The phrases *hang together* and *hang separately* imply two very different things, don’t they? One implies *sticking together*, the second implies *hanging from the gallows*. When words are used in different ways, it is called a **pun**.

When a word is repeated at the end of a clause or a sentence, it is called an epistrophe. In last week’s quotation, Benjamin Franklin’s epigram contains a repeated word—*lost*—which appears at the end of each sentence or clause. The following quotations are further examples of **epistrophe**:

This nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth. (Abraham Lincoln)

When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. (1 Corinthians 13:11)



Benjamin Franklin

WORDS TO KNOW:

- epistrophe
- pun
- anaphora
- symploce
- epigram
- climax

The epistrophe in Franklin’s saying gives a pleasing balance to the sentence, but it also adds meaning: each time the word appears, it indicates a more severe loss. A rider losing his life is much worse than losing a nail in a shoe! When a writer makes each sentence or clause more exciting or intense than the word before it, it is called **climax**.

Notice also, however, that each clause in Franklin’s saying begins with the words for want of (which means “for lack of”). This kind of repetition at the beginning of a sentence or clause is called anaphora. Below is another example of **anaphora**:

It was the best of times,
it was the worst of times,
it was the age of wisdom,
it was the age of foolishness,
it was the epoch of belief,
it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light,
it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope,
it was the winter of despair...

(The combination of anaphora and epistrophe is called **symploce**.) Thus, Franklin’s saying is very clever. It uses at least three ornaments: epistrophe, anaphora, and climax. That is why it is very fittingly called an epigram!

Long Range Assignment

- Continue reading your book report book. The report will be due **on the first week of December**.