

# Teacher's Guide for ODYSSEY

January 2012: How Annoying!

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## **Teacher's Note:**

This guide contains project ideas, short answer, extended response, fill-in, and true/false with correction. The variation is designed to have the students think critically, as well as to test their comprehension. An answer key to the short answer sections can be found at the end of the guide.

## **Extended Response: Comprehension & Critical Thinking**

The questions below can be used as written, simply answered in complete sentences or easily transformed into longer essay (ELA) style questions, or even research topics. In any case, have the students support their answers with details from the text or use critical thinking skills to create a thorough and interesting answer. The questions, essays and projects have been aligned with the **Common Core Standards**. Consider the level of your students when deciding how to use the questions.

### **"Beware the Nights After a Full Moon" p. 3**

1. Lions are 'nocturnal' hunters. Explain what this means.
2. Why do the nights surrounding a full moon lead to more lion attacks on villagers?
3. Street lights could help protect villagers at this time, but these impoverished cities rarely have electricity. Brainstorm some other ways that could be helpful in protecting the villagers. Develop your ideas into a short, well-written essay and share with the class.

### **"Stop that, Pleeeassse!" p. 6-11**

*Read the article in its entirety and then fill in the blanks. Refer back to the text if necessary.*

1. Emotions involve a mix of biological, cognitive, and \_\_\_\_\_ components.
2. A collection of nerve fibers that extend throughout the body, transmitting signals to various organs, muscles and glands, which help prepare the body for immediate action is known as the \_\_\_\_\_ system.
3. The \_\_\_\_\_ component of emotions involves 'knowing', and includes aspects of awareness, perception, reasoning, and judgment.
4. The specialized area of the brain used for processing emotional information is called the \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Emotions are not just felt in the body, nor are they just subjective feelings; they are also inexorably linked to \_\_\_\_\_.
6. The term \_\_\_\_\_ means particular to a given person, personal.

7. \_\_\_\_\_ become annoyances when we are being interrupted for something that we find irrelevant.

8. Experiments have indicated that \_\_\_\_\_ that are charged with emotional meaning for us are more attention grabbing than neutral ones.

9. The five fundamental emotions experienced universally across all cultures are anger, fear, \_\_\_\_\_, happiness and sadness.

10. Each individual emotion can be understood by the relative strength it possesses of two major variables - pleasant/unpleasant and \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_.

### **"Einstein: It's Me...Call Back on My Cell Phone" p. 13-15**

1. What is the meaning of the word, 'half-a-logue' and why was it necessary to create this new word?
2. Why did the subjects listening to the half-a-logue in the experiment find it harder to maintain focus on the computer task?
3. Why are we more easily able to tune out complete conversations, but get annoyed by half-a-logues?

### **"The Most Annoying Person in the World" p. 16-19**

1. What is proxemics?
2. How can 'proxemics' explain a back seat squabble between you and a sibling?
3. Explain the difference between public territories and secondary territories?
4. Define primary territories.

**Activity:** *Make a simple chart with the following headings: Public territories, secondary territories and primary territories. Try to list at least 5 examples of each in the correct columns.*

5. What are some factors that affect your personal space?
6. How does cultural background influence your personal space?
7. How is the activity of the area of your brain called the amygdala affected by changes in your personal space?
8. How are proxemics considered in the designing of multi-occupant environments?
9. How is proxemics associated with virtual spaces?
10. How can territorial disputes be detrimental to personal relationships?

### **"The Rumbler" p. 20-23**

1. What is acoustics?
2. How do acoustic engineers develop effective sirens?
3. What is the concept that sound engineers refer to as frequency?
4. What is a decibel?
5. What is the rumbler?
6. How can recording engineers use sound frequencies to create music that is pleasing?
7. How is the rumbler technology beneficial to hearing impaired drivers?
8. Explain the two reasons for the unique sound signature of sirens.

### **"The Rat-Pack Researchers and the Annoy-A-Thon" p. 28-32**

1. Explain the term "roughness" as it refers to sound.
2. What is the difference between consonant and dissonant sounds?
3. Why do you get annoyed more easily when you're already stressed? Use some examples from your own life to support this fact.
4. Why are middle pitches (those around 3,000 HZ) so annoying to humans?

**"How to Hold on to Your Goat: Annoyance Survival Guide" p. 33-35**

1. What was the probable origin of the phrase "to get one's goat" as explained in this article?
2. Explain "inattentive blindness".
3. How can cognitive restructuring help you feel less annoyed? Give your own example.
4. Write a few sentences explaining a time that having a Plan B alternative helped you to overcome the annoyance that would have accompanied the failing of Plan A.
5. How can skipping meals or getting too little sleep contribute to annoyances?

**Essay:** Read the ten tips on overcoming annoyances. Choose 2 or 3 of them that you have successfully used in your own life and write about the experiences. In your final paragraph choose one method that you would like to try in the future and why you think it will work for you.

**"Uncontrollably Annoying!" p. 36-39**

Mark the following statements TRUE or FALSE. Provide the correct answer if FALSE.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Like blushing, tears are also uncontrollable.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Blushing, tears and goose bumps are all annoying and useless body reactions.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. The autonomic nervous system acts automatically rather than by conscious commands.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. The autonomic nervous system stays in communication with the brain through a single nerve from each of the ganglia entering the bone marrow of your backbone.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. The parasympathetic part of the autonomic nervous system is the 'brake' and the sympathetic part is the 'gas'.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. The function of the sympathetic nervous system is to activate the 'fight or flight' response.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Mucus is made up of mucins and organic salts suspended in water.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Only people cry tears of emotion.

**"What an Irritating Gift!" p. 40-42**

Match the term on the left with its correct definition on the right.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. pinctada raditata                                      a. the tissue just beneath the animal's shell

\_\_\_\_\_ 2. concretion

b. materials that contain calcium

\_\_\_\_\_ 3. calcium carbonate

c. all the genes that make an organism what it is

\_\_\_\_\_ 4. calcareous

d. a hard mass, formed by accumulated matter

\_\_\_\_\_ 5. mantle

e. the scientific name for a pearl oyster

\_\_\_\_\_ 6. genome

f. chemical formula  $\text{CaCO}_3$ , the same material that makes limestone.

**ANSWER KEY:**

**What's an Emotion?**

1. *social*
2. *autonomic nervous system*
3. *cognitive*
4. *amygdala*
5. *situations*
6. *subjective*
7. *distractions*
8. *stimuli*
9. *disgust*
10. *calming/exciting*

**Uncontrollably Annoying**

1. *True*
2. *False-useful*
3. *True*
4. *False-spinal cord of your backbone*
5. *True*
6. *True*
7. *False-inorganic salts*
8. *True*

**Irritating Gift**

1. *E*
2. *D*
3. *F*
4. *B*
5. *A*
6. *C*