

2026-27 Academic Pentathlon Literature Resource Guide Outline

Section I. Critical Reading.....	12%
Section II. <i>The Lightning Thief</i> and the theme of journeys of transformation.....	4%
A. Overview	
B. The Framework of the Hero's Journey	
C. The Significance of Travel in <i>The Lightning Thief</i>	
Section III. Rick Riordan's <i>The Lightning Thief</i>	38%
A. Rick Riordan's Biography and Background	
B. Key Characters	
C. Structure	
D. Plot Summaries and Analyses	
Section IV. Shorter Selections.....	46%
A. Overview	
B. Greek Myths: Selections from George P. Upton's <i>Gods and Heroes</i> (1912) and Charles Kingsley's <i>The Heroes</i> (1855)	
C. Essay: Robert Louis Stevenson's "Roads" from <i>Essays of Travel</i> (1873)	
D. Poetry: Robert Frost's "The Road Not Taken" (1915)	
E. TEDx Talk: Genevieve Hoppe's "The Road Never Traveled" (2018)	
F. TEDx Talk: Nessa Swartz's "The Power of Travel" (2025)	
G. Poetry: Elizabeth Bishop's "Questions of Travel" (1965)	
H. Poetry: Edna St. Vincent Millay's "Travel" (1921)	