

TOK Summer Reading Journal Assignment

First of all, welcome to TOK! Next year, we will be exploring the various ways humans obtain knowledge. We will also explore different ways of viewing the world. To get you started, I have selected *Flatland* by Edwin A. Abbott. The ISBN is: 978-1907727337.

This book has many TOK implications we will discuss next year. Feel free to check out Trinity's website for a short overview of what you will be studying in TOK (<http://www.trinityhs.org/academics/ibfeatures.htm>). For now, I want you to write an essay on each of the following questions. The answer to each question should contain reference to the novel, and should be at least 3 pages written. You should have this essay with you for our first class.

1. This novel discusses how the world is perceived differently by the inhabitants of Flatland, because they can only see two dimensions instead of three. What happens as a result of the closed-mindedness of the people of Flatland? Do you think humans could suffer from the same close-mindedness? What does this say about perception in general?
2. Describe the view of women and the ridged class structure in the Flatland society. Why do the inhabitants accept this ridged class structure? The class structure and view of women is meant to be a satire of Victorian society. How is the tone of the novel satirical? How does knowing that the novel is meant to be a satire change your perception of the novel? Does it change your perception?

Enjoy reading! If you have any questions about the novel, please feel free to e-mail me over the summer at ematson@trinityhs.org.

Mrs. Matson