

GSP READERS GROUP:

An Odyssey by Daniel Mendelsohn

Friday, January 11 at 9:30 am in the Bloom Room

Just like the “Odyssey,” which it consciously mimics, “An Odyssey” is an intricately constructed journey, conglomerating the stories of a son and his father and their travails through life and love. Like Homer, Mendelsohn weaves his basket with many wands: first, the story of the “Odyssey” itself, which patiently, book by book, he explicates with exemplary and generous clarity. Folded into that is the story of his own life, his distance from his father, his coming out as gay when a teenager, his falling in love with the ancient Greek texts as a place of precision and austerity in books whose pages were “as cool to the touch as sliced apples.” These many stories of a man’s life, a family and a father-son relationship are themselves set within a frame of the undergraduate “Odyssey” seminar Mendelsohn teaches at Bard College, which, amazingly, Daniel’s 81-year-old father, Jay Mendelsohn, decides to attend, as well as a 10-day “Retracing the ‘Odyssey’” cruise that Daniel and Jay take together when the seminar is over.

*For more information, please contact **Victoria Stefani** at 520-743-3978.*