

Summer Reading Assignment

Honors Introduction to Literature

Mrs. N. Jayawardene

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Read and annotate the following work:

-*The Odyssey* by Homer (trans. Wilson):

Publisher: W. W. Norton & Company; ISBN: 9780393356250 OR Borders classics, translated by Samuel Butler ISBN 1-58726-085-9

Note: This is the most recent translation, so it will be essential to have the correct edition.

Please follow these directions to ensure success for this assignment. You will need to pace yourself to complete this assignment before school begins. Your assignment has **four components** and must be submitted on the relevant due dates.

1. Mapping the travels of Odysseus-Due date:14th July

- Odysseus begins his journey in Troy and ends in Ithaca. However, The Odyssey begins "In Medias Res," or in the middle, and the tale is not told chronologically. Using your text, untangle the tale and create a map depicting the chronological journey Odysseus takes from Troy to Ithaca. While Odysseus's journey is near and around the Mediterranean, most of the locations are mythical. (*Warning all maps available online are purely speculative and are not 'correct', do ensure that you create an original creative document.*)

Troy	Land of the Cyclopians	Phaeacian	Aeaea, Circe's Island
Thrinacia (The Cattle of Helios)	Island of Aiolia (Island of the Winds)	Land of the Lotus-Eaters	
Ismaros, the land of the Ciconians		Ogygia (Calypso's home)	Hades
The land of the Laistrygonians	Sirens	Scylla and Charybdis	Ithaca

-At each location include the following:

- 1.Number and label each location in the order in which Odysseus visits each place. Use arrows to demonstrate the journey beginning in Troy and ending in Ithaca.
- 2.Relevant symbol. Include a 'key' on the back of the map in which each symbol is explained.
- 3.Draw and label the inhabitants of each location.

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2. Identifying the characters in *The Odyssey*-Due date:14th August

Write a one sentence description for each of the following names from *The Odyssey*.

Odysseus	Menelaus	Zeus
Penelope	Laertes	Theoclymenus
Athena	Eumaeus	Phemius
Telemachus	Eurycleia	Broadsea
Calypso	Helen	Anticleia
Aeolus	Eurymachus	Ajax Telemonius
Alcinous	Antinous	Tiresias
Arete	Helios	Nestor
Agamemnon	Hermes	Pisistratus
Charybdis	Mentor	Polyphemus
Scylla	Nausicaa	Poseidon
Circe	Proteus	

3. Writing an essay-Due date: First day of school

Prompts

- What characteristics did the Greeks value in a leader and how does the author show that Odysseus is a good or bad example of a leader in *The Odyssey*?
- Some readers argue that Odysseus is not truly heroic because of the assistance he receives from Athena. Agree or disagree with this assertion and defend your answer with evidence from the text.

Write a 5-paragraph essay responding to either prompt **a** or **b**. The essay must consist of an Introduction of 5-6 sentences, three body paragraphs of 5 sentences each and a conclusion, providing closure to your entire argument.

❖ **Please note that the use of AI is strictly prohibited, and all essays will be checked for plagiarism. All cases of plagiarism will result in an automatic 0 and a penalty in accordance with the TCS academic dishonesty policy.**

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4. Odyssey of Life writing assignment (Journal entry): First day of school

After reading Homer's epic poem the Odyssey consider the parallels between the story of Odysseus and your own life. Odysseus undertakes a sometimes exciting, sometimes perilous journey over a long period of time to reach his goal (getting home to Ithaca). Your journal entry must be between 200-250 words.

-In this journal entry, you will think about where you want to be in ten years. What will you accomplish between now and then?

-What "monsters" will challenge you and tempt you, trying to keep you from the goal?

-How is the Odyssey an allegory for your life?

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