

Summer Reading Assignment-2025

Introduction to Literature (Honors)

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.

Audiobook: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NEw4yAHN2Hc>

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. Identifying the characters in *The Odyssey*-Due date: 31st July

Write a one sentence description on 20 characters from the following list of characters from *The Odyssey*. **(Choose 20 characters from the list below-There are 35 names in total, but you must choose 20 from the list below.)**

Odysseus

Penelope

Athena

Telemachus

Calypso

Aeolus

Alcinous

Arete

Agamemnon

Charybdis

Scylla

Circe

Menelaus

Laertes

Eumaeus

Eurycleia

Helen

Eurymachus

Antinous

Helios

Hermes

Mentor

Nausicaa

Proteus

Zeus

Theoclymenus

Phemius

Broadsea

Anticleia

Ajax Telemonius

Tiresias

Nestor

Pisistratus

Polyphemus

Poseidon

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2. Mapping the travels of Odysseus-Due date:16th August

- Odysseus begins his journey in Troy and ends in Ithaca. However, The Odyssey begins 'In Medius 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 the following:

- 1.Number and label each location in the order in which Odysseus visits each place. Use arrows to demonstrate the include 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.

3.Writing an essay (5 paragraph essay)-Due date: First day of school

Prompts

- a. 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*?
- b. 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.

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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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