

Summer Reading Assignment-2026

Introduction to Literature (Honors)

Mrs. N. Jayawardene

Email: njayawardene@timothychristian.org

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 **three components** and must be submitted on the relevant due dates.

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

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	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	

Summer Reading Assignment-2026

Introduction to Literature (Honors)

Mrs. N. Jayawardene

Email: njayawardene@timothychristian.org

2. Mapping the travels of Odysseus-Due date: August 30th

- Odysseus begins his journey in Troy and ends in Ithaca. However, The Odysseus 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.

❖ **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.**