



NINTH GRADE REQUIRED SUMMER READING

TEXT - Please buy the specific edition listed below (ISBN, publisher, and year).

The Odyssey by Homer translated by Emily Wilson (ISBN: 978-0393356250, Norton & Company, 2018)

[Note: Students need **only read Books 1-12** of the poem, not the introduction or notes.]

PART I: ANNOTATIONS (required but not graded. This should be done *in the book*)

Read with a pen/pencil in hand, ready to engage in conversation with the author. Do not read passively. Writing in your book is a sign of active reading.

You should include three types of annotations:

1. Identify words you don't know, look them up, and write the definitions in the text. Try to find at least 2 words per book (NB: the divisions are called books, not chapters).
2. Identify key passages that highlight a particular theme or raise certain questions. The major themes are hospitality, nostalgia, and fame/glory.
3. Write a 3-5 sentence summary at the end of each book.

Parts II and III will be collected and graded. Make sure the student's first and last name appear on the top page of the summer reading packet.

Write in complete sentences (grammar/spelling will count). You may write in either cursive or print, but please do not type your responses. Some assignments in 9th grade will be typed but not this one. You may record your answers in the space provided and/or on separate sheets of notebook paper. If so, be sure to label your responses (i.e., A1, A2, etc.) and staple all papers to the back of the summer reading packet.

Due: The first day of your section's literature class during the week of August 26-30.

If you have any questions about this assignment, feel free to email me at amarkos@genevaschooltx.org I will try my best to get back to you within one week.

Name: _____

9th GRADE SUMMER READING PACKET

PART I: ANNOTATIONS

Check the box once you have read and annotated books 1-12 of *The Odyssey*:

PART II: CHARACTERS

Write a brief description of each character and how they relate to Odysseus and/or his adventures.

1. Odysseus: _____

2. Athena: _____

3. Telemachus: _____

4. Penelope: _____

5. Zeus: _____

6. Hermes: _____

7. Calypso: _____

8. Poseidon: _____

9. Nausicaa: _____

10. Circe: _____

PART III: SHORT ANSWERS

Section A: Books 1-4

After reading books 1-4, answer the following questions in about 1-2 paragraphs each.

1. Describe the situation in Ithaca. What is happening in Odysseus’s palace while he is away?

2. These first four books are mainly about Telemachus and his own journey, first to Pylos and then to Sparta. What is the purpose of his journey? What does he learn in each place? How does Telemachus grow and mature over the course of these four books?

3. The central theme in *The Odyssey* is hospitality. What does good hospitality look like? What is a good host expected to do when a stranger appears on his doorstep? How is a guest expected to act? How are the suitors an example of bad guests?

Section B: Books 5-8

After reading books 5-8, answer the following questions in about 1-2 paragraphs each.

1. How does Odysseus get off Calypso's Island? How do the gods both help and hinder his journey? Describe the land and people of Phaeacians.

2. How does Homer portray the Greek gods? How are they similar to humans? How are they different? Describe the relationship between gods and humans.

3. Another major theme in the epic is nostalgia or the longing to return home. Describe two moments where we see Odysseus missing home. What does Odysseus miss most about home? Along with this theme comes the danger of a false homecoming. Why is Odysseus not content to stay with Calypso or the Phaeacians? What temptations threaten to distract him from going home?

2. Odysseus is known for his cleverness or *metis* in Greek. During his adventures, it is usually his wit rather than his strength that saves him. Describe three examples of how Odysseus used clever tricks to escape the perils he faced on his adventures.

3. Another major theme is *kleos* or worldly fame and glory. How does one gain *kleos* in this society? Does Homer believe *kleos* is worth pursuing? How does the desire for glory and recognition get Odysseus and his crew in trouble?
