

CCS English 10 Regular Summer Reading 2016-2017

The Odyssey by Homer – Books 1, 9, 11, 21

Complete this assignment using a hard copy book. Purchase the version with this ISBN-13: 978-0140268867.

Failure to complete this assignment or follow the directions exactly will influence your First Quarter grade. You will receive an assessment on one of the first days of school relating to this work, and this book will also be an important part of the content of the first weeks of class and your semester exam.

Annotations

Annotations are words, not just underlines, that note the significance of various parts of a work of literature. For this assignment, these notes should make literary observations and connections, not express personal feelings or emotions toward the text. For this book, provide annotations about every four pages that relate to and make observations on the following literary terms. If you need to research the terms to provide the annotations, do so. Use each literary element for annotations at least once.

Archetypes/Epic hero
Direct/indirect characterization
Dynamic/static characterization
Freytag's plot pyramid/elements
Greek hospitality
Round/flat characterization
The Journey of the Hero
Simile/Metaphor
Foreshadowing

Reading Questions

Answer the questions and prompts associated with each of the four books. Your answers should be typed, numbered, written in complete sentences, and printed for turn-in on the first day of school. Your answers should be your own work, though you may research the definitions of terms if you need to.

1. Who is Homer? When did he write?
2. Why is he famous? What are his major works of literature? What is Epic Poetry?

Book 1:

3. Who is the speaker in the first lines of the play, the person telling the story? Who is the Muse? Who is the man the first several lines are about?
4. Summarize Odysseus' journey as it is told in the first three stanzas of Book 1.
5. What makes this time advantageous for Athena to approach the other gods about helping Odysseus return to Ithaca?
6. What war is Odysseus returning from? How is Poseidon involved in Odysseus' journey?
7. What is Athena's plan for helping Odysseus begin his journey home?
8. Who is Telemachus? What is his situation in life? Why does Athena go to him?
9. Who are the suitors? Why are they at Odysseus' home, and why won't they leave?
10. Who is Penelope? What is her current life situation?
11. What plan does Athena share with Telemachus? What is he supposed to do in the plan?
12. Why isn't Athena recognized as the goddess she is?

Book 9:

13. Describe Odysseus' journey before reaching the land of the Cyclops.
14. What is a Cyclops? What is the land of the Cyclops like?
15. How do Odysseus and his men end up trapped in the Cyclops cave? What does the Cyclops do to six of the men during their captivity?
16. How do Odysseus and his men end up escaping from the Cyclops? What does this escape show us about Odysseus' character?
17. How does Odysseus trick the Cyclops with the "name" he gives?
18. Who is the Cyclops a son of? How does this cause problems for Odysseus at the end of the book?

Book 11:

19. What is the Underworld/Hades in Greek mythology?
20. What does Odysseus do before entering the Underworld? Why?
21. Who is Elpenor and what does he say to Odysseus?
22. Who is Tiresias? What does he say to Odysseus about his journey so far and his journey ahead? What is happening at Odysseus' home?
23. Who is Queen Persephone?
24. What do Odysseus and his mother say to each other?
25. Who else does Odysseus meet? Who is Alcmena? Who is Epicaste and what is her story?
26. Odysseus' story of his journey to the Underworld is interrupted by Alcinoos. Who is he? What does he say to Odysseus and to the other listeners?
27. Why is it especially difficult and sad for Odysseus to talk with and see Agamemnon, Achilles, and Ajax?
28. What Odysseus' interaction with Hercules like?

Book 21:

29. Where does this book take place?
30. Describe Odysseus' bow. Why is it important to him and to the story?
31. How does Penelope feel as she brings out the bow to the suitors?
32. Who is Eumaeus, and what are his thoughts as Penelope brings out the bow?
33. How do the suitors act and feel as they see the bow and prepare for the challenge ahead?
34. Telemachus is also present. What are his thoughts as he sees the bow? What does he do?
35. What do the suitors experience as they try to string and shoot the bow?
36. Why doesn't anyone recognize Odysseus right away? How does he reveal himself to his trusted servants? How do his servants respond to seeing him alive? What do these reactions show us about Odysseus' character?
37. What plan does Odysseus make with a few of his servants?
38. How does Odysseus work his way into the competition so that he can shoot his own bow? How do the suitors respond to Odysseus in disguise?
39. How does Odysseus reveal himself to the suitors as the King returned to his land and to his wife? How does Telemachus also step into authority?

Writing Assignment

Write two paragraphs, one about Odysseus and one about Athena or Telemachus using academic character language (dynamic, static, flat, round, archetype, etc.). Also include terms related to the Journey of the Hero that the character experiences in the passages you read. Your paragraphs should be formatted with topic sentences, several body sentences, direct quotes, in-text citations, and a conclusion sentences. Format this paragraph and the page it's on according to MLA format, and include a Works Cited page for *The Odyssey* as the source of your information and quotes. If you use any other sources for writing these paragraphs, include those sources on your Works Cited page and reference them through in-text citations.

Use the Purdue OWL website as needed to correctly complete your assignment. This website has all the information you need to complete your assignment, so plan to use it extensively and become familiar with it over the course of the coming year.

On the first day of school, be prepared to turn in the following items:

1. Your *Odyssey* book with Books 1, 9, 11, and 21 annotated
2. Your reading questions, typed and printed
3. Your paragraphs typed, in MLA format, and printed

Questions?

Contact Miss Riley at eriley@cslancers.com

I will not be checking my e-mail daily, so please be patient while waiting for a response, and do not wait until the last minute to ask questions.