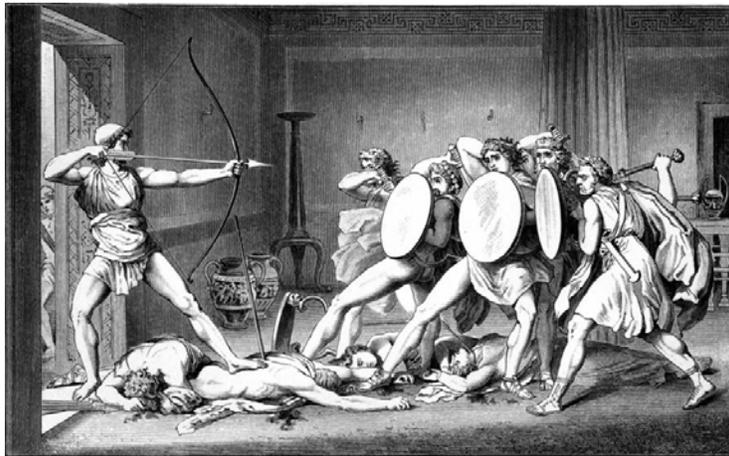


## *The Odyssey* by Homer

<b>Total Points Earned</b> out of 72 = _____ %
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Your summer reading selection for Honors English 9 is Homer's *The Odyssey*. It is broken into twenty-four sections called Books, which is really just another way of saying chapters. After each of the Books, you will be required to complete an activity. All written responses should be in MLA format and should include some quote support. Each of these activities is worth three points, so the entire packet is worth a total of seventy-two points. I will then take that percentage and count the entire assignment as a test grade.

Please email this summer if you have questions: [jescawley@northstonington.k12.ct.us](mailto:jescawley@northstonington.k12.ct.us)



This summer work is expected to be completed in full and handed in on the first day of school. If not complete, expect a 10pt deduction per day. Please email me letting me know that you received your book and your assignment.

I have read and understand my child's **Advanced Freshmen English Summer Reading and Learning** instruction sheet.

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name/Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Questions and contact information (optional)**

**Book I (1-2 page journal; use quote proof)**

At the beginning of Book 1, the reader learns that Odysseus has been missing for nearly twenty years. What trials and hardships has he faced? What has happened to his home in his absence? How does his son, Telemakhos, feel about this? Who counsels Telemakhos about his father and how does this person motivate him?

**Book II (1-2 page journal; use quote proof)**

In this section, we learn that Penelope has been playing a trick on the suitors. Explain her ruse and motivation. Then put yourself in Penelope's shoes and create your own, original, way of avoiding marriage to one of the suitors. (Remember: You can't just kill yourself, or move to some faraway land; you need to wait in Ithaca for Odysseus to return.)

**Book III (1-2 page journal; use quote proof)**

What is Xenia? Explain this term and how the reader sees it depicted in the way that Nestor treats Telemakhos and Mentor, both total strangers. Be detailed. Then compare this Greek hospitality to the way strangers are often treated today and consider if we should treat strangers and guests more like the Greeks once did.

**Book IV (1-2 page journal; use quote proof; cite your outside source(s))**

In ancient Greek, herbs/drugs and wine were important to the culture. Explain how you have seen alcohol and herbs/drugs employed in the text thus far and then research the use of alcohol and drugs/herbs in ancient Greece and explain how both were used.

**Book V (1-2 page journal and letter; quotes are not necessary if you adhere to the details of the text)**

Hermes, Zeus, Poseidon, and Athena all play important roles in Odysseus's life in this section. Explain each character and the impact he has on Odysseus. Then, as Odysseus, write a brief farewell letter to Calypso. (Remember: He does not hate her for what she did, but he *does* have reasons for wanting to go home.)

**Book VI (1-2 page journal; use quote proof)**

Lying, disguise, spells, and trickery are all used often in Greek Mythology. State how we see their use and purpose in this section. Then find another example and explain it from a previous section.

**Book VII**

Draw and color a scene from this Book VII. Fill the page by using color and detail. Then add a quote from this book that best enhances your depiction. Add it to your picture.

**Book VIII (1-2 page journal; include the song lyrics)**

After dinner, Demodokus, a blind bard, sings songs about the Trojan War. These songs bring back sad memories for Odysseus, and he cries and begs the bard to stop singing. Choose a modern song that could play in the background of this scene if it was a movie, and explain your choice in detail.

**Book IX**

Create a comic strip that shows how Odysseus is able to escape from the Cyclops' cave. Be sure to highlight all of the important parts. Your comic strip can be all pictures or it can include words.

**Book X (1-2 page journal; use quote proof)**

Odysseus is a Greek hero. Explain the traits of a Greek hero (use a reliable source) and explain how the reader sees Odysseus depict these traits in this book and previous books.

**Book XI**

*True or False?* (Do these on a separate sheet of paper)

\_\_\_\_\_ Because Elpenor died in such a foolish manner, Odysseus refuses to give him a proper funeral.

\_\_\_\_\_ Odysseus is surprised to see his mother in Hades because she was still alive when he started his quest.

\_\_\_\_\_ Tiresias tells Odysseus that he must destroy the cattle of Helios in order to make it home safely.

**Book XII (1-2 page journal; be detailed; quote proof not necessary)**

Odysseus' men break an important rule in this Book and, because of this, they are doomed. Explain their infraction. Then make a detailed connection about a time when someone did something tempting, even though he or she knew there would be major consequences. (This could be from a movie or a book, or it could be about yourself or an acquaintance.)

**Book XIII**

Author's often pick names of their characters based on the personality traits their character displays. Read the side note stating what the name *Odysseus*. Then explain why this name is fitting for him. Then choose two other names of characters or places from anywhere in this Book, state the names' meanings, and why those meanings are fitting. Lastly, look up your own name. State your names meaning and discuss if your name is fitting to your character.

**Book XIV (1-2 page journal; use quote proof; cite your outside source(s))**

Research how the ancient Greeks felt about *loyalty*. Eumaios, the swineherd, turns out to be one of the few people who was loyal to Odysseus during his long absence. Make a prediction about how his fate might differ from the fate of those who were not loyal to Odysseus. Be sure to support your prediction and base your answer off your research.

**Book XV**

Athena convinces Telemakhos to go to Eumaios' home, where he will be reunited with his father, Odysseus. Create an illustration of Athena, who plays such a vital role in this story. (This depiction can be from any section of the book.) Use color, detail, and symbol in your illustration.

**Book XVI (1-2 page journal; use quote proof)**

Up until this Book, describe Odysseus and Telemakhos' father/son relationship. Then, describe Telemakhos' initial reaction to learning that the old beggar was actually his father, Odysseus, all along. Do you think this reaction is believable? Why or why not?

**Book XVII (1-2 page journal; use quote proof)**

Explain the character Argos. How does he react to Odysseus and what happens to him? Because this character has such a brief yet poignant role, he seems to be symbolic of something. Discuss what he might represent.

**Book XVIII**

You are a fight promoter, and your task is to create interest in the upcoming matchup between Odysseus and Iros. Make a poster (only the size of typing paper) that would help advertise this fight, making sure to include pictures and specific information about each combatant.

**Book XIX (1-2 page journal; be detailed; quote proof not necessary)**

While washing Odysseus' feet, the nurse, Eurykleia, identifies him by the scar on his leg. If you had to pick one feature about yourself that would make you easily identifiable, what would it be? Explain why this would make you stand out from everyone else.

**Book XX (1-2 page journal; be detailed; quote proof not necessary)**

How does Telemakhos' reaction to the throwing of the cow's foot help the reader understand how much he has changed and matured since the beginning of the story? The reader can see this as a *coming of age* moment for Telemakhos. Now make a connection. Think about another text that you have read and describe and discuss another coming of age moment.

**Book XXI**

Penelope has set up a competition for the suitors: Whoever can shoot an arrow through the most axe heads will win her hand in marriage. Pretend you are Penelope and create your own nearly impossible competition. Be sure to explain the rules so that your competition is clear.

**Book XXII***True or False?*

- \_\_\_\_\_ Odysseus does all of his shooting on his own, without invoking the help of the gods.
- \_\_\_\_\_ When Odysseus attacks, the suitors cannot defend themselves because Telemakhos hid their weapons earlier in the story.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Odysseus does not believe in harming women, so he spares the lives of the “evil” ones by setting them free.

**Book XXIII (1-2 page journal; be detailed; quote proof not necessary)**

Describe the reunion of Odysseus and Penelope. What about this scene do you find believable and what do you find fantastic? (Fantastic in the “fantasy, far from reality” sense.)

**Book XXIV (1-2 page journal; use quote proof)**

Using evidence from the text, support the following statement: *The Odyssey* is a story that could easily end with the words, “And they all lived happily ever after.”