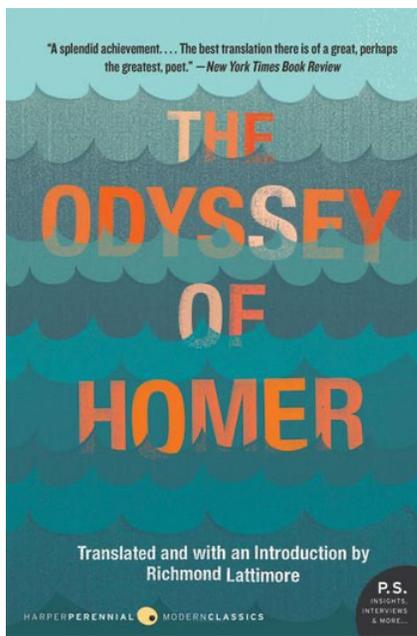


10th Grade English
Summer Reading Assignment: 2024-2025

The following is your summer reading assignment for English next year. I ask that you set the goal to read once a day for 20-30 minutes. Please feel free to contact me this summer if you have any questions or concerns. I can be reached by e-mail at zcallaway@uplifteducation.org.

Anchor Text: Please read Books 1-5 of *The Odyssey* during the Summer Break.



Homer's great epic *The Odyssey*—one of Western literature's most enduring and important works—translated by Richmond Lattimore

A classic for the ages, *The Odyssey* recounts Odysseus' journey home after the Trojan War—and the obstacles he faces along the way to reclaim his throne, kingdom, and family in Ithaca.

During his absence, his steadfast and clever wife, Penelope, and now teenaged son, Telemachus, have lived under the constant threat of ruthless suitors, all desperate to court Penelope and claim the throne. As the suitors plot Telemachus' murder, the gods debate Odysseus' fate. With help from the goddess Athena, the scattered family bides their time as Odysseus battles his way through storm and shipwreck, the cave of the Cyclops, the isle of witch-goddess Circe, the deadly Sirens' song, a trek through the Underworld, and the omnipresent wrath of the scorned god Poseidon.

An American poet and classicist, Richmond Lattimore's translation of *The Odyssey* is widely considered among the best available in the English language. Lattimore breathes modern life into Homer's epic, bringing this classic work of heroes, monsters, vengeful gods, treachery, and redemption to life for modern readers.

Please purchase the copy on Amazon or in stores that has THIS cover. You may also purchase any copy (paper or hardback) that is a translation by Richmond Lattimore.

*There are many versions of *The Odyssey* available free online (in both text and audio form) but will be different translations by a different translator.*

Reading Assignment:

- A. Read and annotate your assigned reading.
- B. As you read, annotate:
 - a. Read and annotate very carefully because we will be discussing and analyzing Books 1 – 5 of *The Odyssey*. ***You will be able to use your annotated texts for a graded discussion and writing assessment in first quarter.***
 - b. Marking and annotating a text is like having a conversation with a book—it allows the reader to ask questions, comment on meaning, and mark passages to revisit.

How to Annotate:

- Make brief notes on the page or on a sticky note marking important plot events, narrative shifts, or themes, images, and details that form a pattern throughout the text (motif).
- Circle words that are unfamiliar or unusual—try to figure out the word’s meaning through contextual clues and supplement with a dictionary.

Assignment: Answer the following questions as you read. Each numbered question/set of questions should be answered in a paragraph. These are not questions that can be answered fully in a couple of sentences. You may be tempted to simply look for answers on the internet. If you do this, you might find useful information, but you will **CERTAINLY be doing yourself a disservice. If you cannot think for yourself, then you are in a similar situation to Telemachos in the beginning of *The Odyssey*, which is to say, you are helpless. Always seek to be the *best* version of yourself.**

1. Xenia (pronounced “zenee-a” and written as ξενία in Greek) is guest-friendship, the relationship between a guest and host. Another word for this would be “hospitality.” Xenia consists of two basic rules: 1. **The respect from hosts to guests.** Hosts must be hospitable to guests and provide them with a bath, food, drink, gifts, and safe escort to their next destination. It is considered rude to ask guests questions, or even to ask who they are, before they have finished the meal provided to them. 2. **The respect from guests to hosts.** Guests must be courteous to their hosts and not be a threat or burden. Guests are expected to provide stories and news from the outside world. Most importantly, guests are expected to reciprocate if their hosts ever call upon them in their homes.

What is the problem between Telemachos and the suitors? How are the suitors violating the rules of xenia/hospitality?

2. How would you describe Telemachos? What kind of person is he? How old is he? How might having grown up without his father impacted him and his development?
3. Athena is the god of wisdom and warfare. Why do **you think** she does not appear as herself to Telemachos? Why does she instead appear in disguise as Mentos (and later as Mentor) to send Telemachos on a journey to speak with Nestor and Menelaos? Why doesn't she just tell him what he needs to know and order him to do what needs to be done?
4. If we think of *The Odyssey* as, among other things, an educational journey, what is it that it seems Telemachos needs to learn? What is it that it seems Odysseus needs to learn (or relearn)?
5. When we meet both Telemachos and Odysseus, in what ways are their situations similar?

A few Greek terms/concepts that will be useful

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| <i>aidos</i> : | shame; the code effecting right behavior |
| <i>aristeia</i> : | a display of superior prowess and skill |
| <i>arete</i> : | excellence, merit |
| <i>chronos</i> : | time as the unfolding of all things; the successive movement of events |
| <i>cosmos</i> : | the order of the universe, a world |
| <i>eros</i> : | the motivating desire (love) that flows through all things, binding them together; in humans it can be a source of madness |
| <i>kairos</i> : | the right time for action; critical moment; due season; the moment of divine inspiration |
| <i>kleos</i> : | immortal fame in memory |
| <i>megalopsychos</i> : | the great-souled man of whom Aristotle writes |
| <i>moira</i> : | fate—that which falls to the lot of anyone; one's portion; a due share |
| <i>nomos</i> : | law, custom, convention; the custom of a community |
| <i>nostos</i> : | homecoming |
| <i>oikos</i> : | the household; implying an estate, like a manor, with family and servants, all centering on and dependent upon a marriage |
| <i>periphronos</i> : | wide-seeing, circumspect, taking many things into account |
| <i>philotes</i> : | the bond uniting a community (of warriors) together toward a goal; the love among companions in a common cause |
| <i>polis</i> : | the ordered, consciously constructed city where the aim is to establish justice |
| <i>polytropos</i> : | many turning, resourceful, "wily" |
| <i>telos</i> : | the end, purpose, and final ordering of an action; common goal |
| <i>time</i> : | honor |