

Hello Honors Sophomores,

Welcome to 2025-2026 Honors English II! We have a great year lined up with an in-depth look at World Literature from the ancient to the modern era. We will also focus on becoming better readers, writers, thinkers, and people. That said, our course will be a great time to build a little community inside of our larger school. I require your best each day, and you can expect the same from me. Hopefully by the end of the year, you will have had a great time, read and analyzed excellent literature, and prepared for junior year English and beyond. More than that, I hope that you take the ideals and skills of our course and utilize them to serve the Lord in your chosen paths. This document has the summer reading and assignments listed. All materials are due by the first day of class, and please contact Mrs. Dixon or Mrs. Ortiz if you have any questions in the meantime!

Blessings and MUCH love,

Mrs. Dixon & Mrs. Ortiz

❑ ***The Odyssey* by Homer**

❑ [LINK TO THE VERSION YOU SHOULD GET](#)

- ❑ Read the book and annotate as necessary. This book is complex and has a lot of story lines. I HIGHLY recommend you annotate in a way that fits your learning style best. This will help your comprehension and understanding of what is going on.

❑ [Character Chart](#) (make your own copy of the doc)

- ❑ DO THIS AS YOU READ! This will help you keep track of the many, many characters and understand how they influence each other. It will not be nearly as beneficial, or easy, if you try to do this after you have read.

❑ Journal

- ❑ Keep a written journal; you may NOT type it. If you type it, you will not receive credit for it.
- ❑ There are 24 books (chapters) within this book. For each book, write a paragraph summary in your journal. You will have 24 paragraphs when you are finished. Label and date each paragraph accordingly.
- ❑ It will be easy to tell you if you copied summaries off the internet. We have access to the same internet as you.

❑ **Before you read notes -**

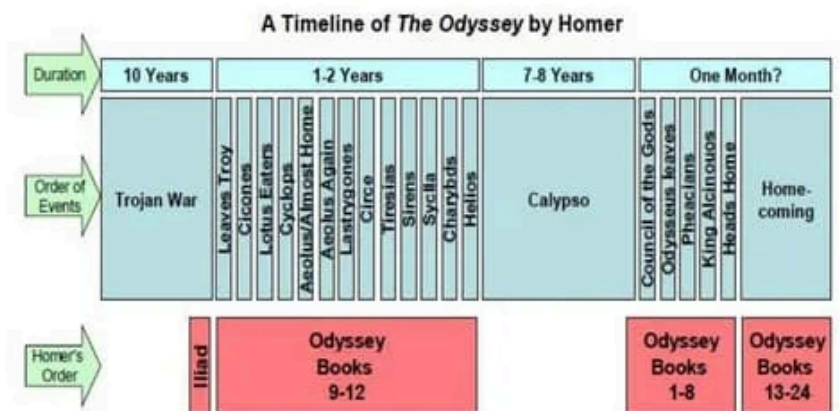
❑ [Watch this video](#)

- ❑ *The Odyssey*, by Homer, is an ancient story, but is a pillar of Western Literature. Homer was blind and wrote this around 800BC. It is technically a sequel. It falls under the genre of Epic Poetry. It is essentially the story of a man's journey home from war - the famous Trojan War (think Trojan Horse, Spartans, etc.).

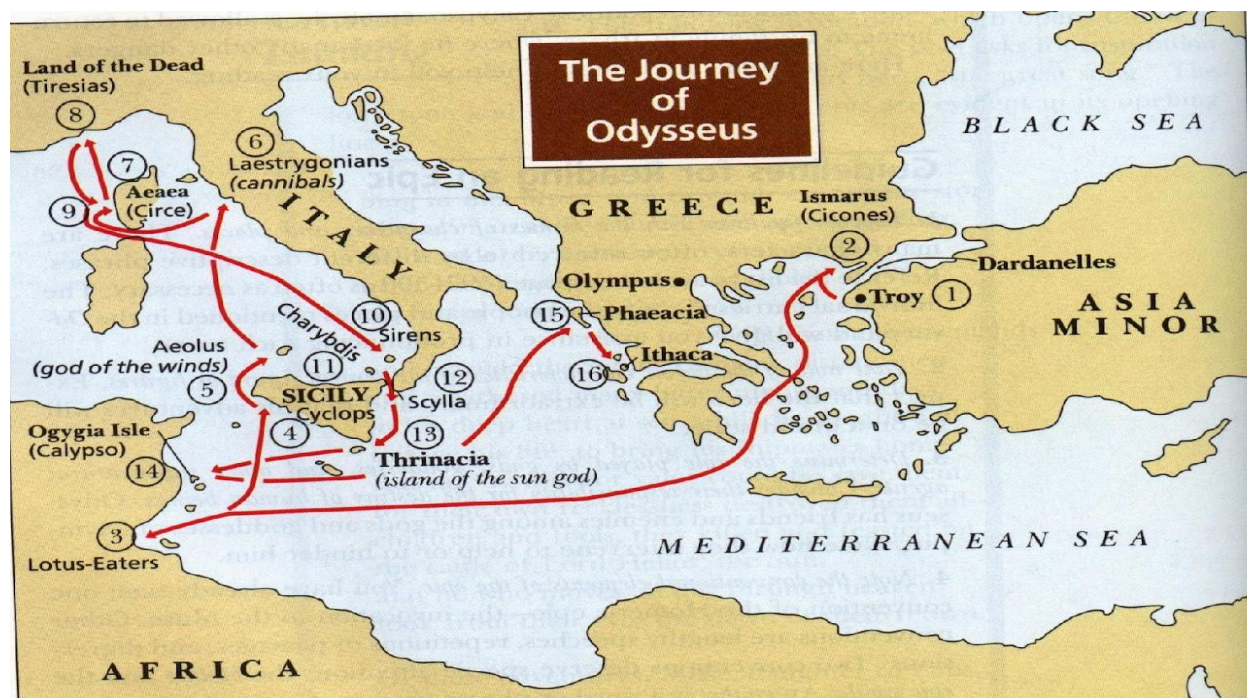


Though, as believers in Christ, we do not align with the beliefs of mythology, this story has informed culture and literature for thousands of years and has themes that are relatable no matter what your beliefs are or where you come from.

- ❑ Epic Poetry - a long narrative poem; contains many characters and spans many years and locations; focuses on a main hero; if read or sung aloud would take days to tell; you will notice a lot of repetition because this wouldn't have been written down and told, it was memorized and performed; supernatural events are common
- ❑ Epic Hero -
 - ❑ Able to conquer most problems they encounter
 - ❑ Does not possess any "superpowers" but is not your average human (think Batman)
 - ❑ Faces overwhelming odds
- ❑ The Epic Question
 - ❑ The opening lines of the poem that state the theme
- ❑ In Medias Res
 - ❑ The story starts in the middle and bounces around the timeline



- ❑ Modern Epics include
 - ❑ *Star Wars*
 - ❑ *Lord of the Rings*
 - ❑ *The Wizard of Oz*
 - ❑ *Forrest Gump*



****On the first day of class, you will turn in your character chart printed out (you can type or write it) and your journal. Also, bring your book to class!****