

English 9H Summer Assignment, 2020-2021

Please contact teacher Erin Atkinson at erin.atkinson@signature.edu with any questions.

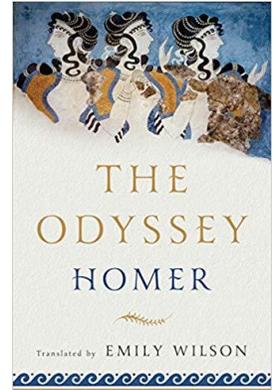
Read and annotate *The Odyssey* by Homer, translated by Emily Wilson (ISBN-10: 0393356256 or ISBN-13: 978-0393356250). Please be sure you read the Wilson translation. Other translations exist, but this one is quite accessible for ninth-grade readers.

You should also read the introduction. It provides important context that will help you grasp the context of ancient Greece and mythology.

When you annotate a text, you make notes in the margins to help you find patterns in the text worthy of analysis. I will check your annotations on the first day of class (a 40-point assignment). Here is a video that explains annotation pretty well:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w5Mz4nwcjWc>

("How to Annotate a Text While Reading" by School Habits)



After you read the text, **complete the following 60-point assignment:**

1. Pick any character from *The Odyssey* and write his or her obituary. You also may choose a god or goddess. Here is a good guide on how to write an obituary (though there are plenty others online): <https://www.loveliveson.com/obituary-examples/>
2. You are welcome to consult other sources to gain a full picture of the character's life. *The Odyssey* may not provide a full account of all characters' lives and experiences.
3. There is no length requirement for this assignment, but you should make your obituary long enough to offer a full picture of the character's life. Do your best to stay true to the details in *The Odyssey*, but you may fill in the blanks of the character's experiences if you choose. Don't change what we know to be true (e.g. cause of death or children), but you can invent reasonable details that align with the character's behaviors and choices (extra survivors, unknown spouses, creative backstories, etc.). Typed obituaries are preferred.
4. Your obituary should maintain a consistent tone and use proper grammar and punctuation. Not all obituaries are grim and serious; some celebrate the positives traits of loved ones, while others keep to just the facts.

Your assignment is due on the first day of class. Here is how it will be graded:

- Annotations are worth 40 points. I will evaluate your annotations on the first day of class. I am looking for how well you engaged with the text and the quality of your notes.
- The obituary is worth 60 points. I will grade you on the following traits:
 - Use of details: Details are consistent with the character and align with information in *The Odyssey* and/or Greek mythology. (20 pts)
 - Creative effort: The obituary shows evidence of careful planning and effort; it maintains a consistent tone. (20 pts)
 - Presentation: The obituary is grammatically correct and looks professional. (20 pts)

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