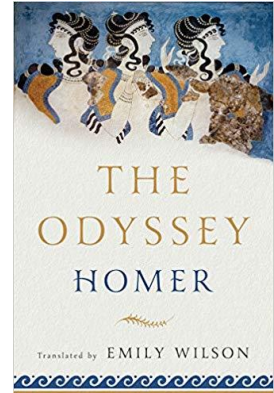


English 9H Summer Assignment, 2021-2022

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, but you do not have to annotate it. It provides important information 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 50-point assignment). Good annotations focus on patterns (themes, characterization, language, foreshadowing, imagery, etc.), not plot summary. They allow you to interact with the text, reacting to the events and preparing to analyze the work. When you make notes in the book, the amount you annotate will vary, but use your best judgment here. Do not simply summarize the plot points at the end of the chapter. 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 assignment:**

1. Pick any character or monster from *The Odyssey* and write his or her obituary. The character or monster does not have to die in the book. 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 should 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 accomplishments. 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 summarize events from *The Odyssey*. 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 50 points. I will evaluate your annotations on the first day of class. I am looking for how well you engaged with the text, your ability to identify patterns, and the quality of your notes.
- The obituary is worth 30 points. I will grade it on the following traits:
 - Use of details: Details are consistent with the character and align with information in *The Odyssey* and/or Greek mythology. They are not plot summary. (10 pts)
 - Creative effort: The obituary shows evidence of careful planning and effort; it maintains a consistent tone. (10 pts)
 - Presentation: The obituary is grammatically correct and looks professional. (10 pts)

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