

Day 26

Starting *The Odyssey*

- Welcome back.
- Have *Mythology* and your English Notebook out for the annotation and response check.
- Instead of reading time, we're going to have to finish presentations.



- 2nd Quarter Reading Plan handed out.

Journal

- Define what a “hero” is in your own words. You should base it on your beliefs/opinions. Be sure to be clear of what qualities, skills, accomplishments or other requirements someone must have or do in order to be considered a hero. Who are some individuals (real or fictional) who fit your definition?
- I will check out *The Odyssey* as well as check off homework during this time.
- Share with journal partner
- Think about the heroes from the Greek stories you told, would they have been a “hero” under your definition? Why or why not?

On the back of day 26, reflect briefly
on the following:

- When you're reading something (for school or for pleasure) and you come across something that you don't understand or that confuses you, what are some things you try in order to make sense of the material?
- Share these strategies with your table-mates.

Read to understand, not just to finish

- It's important to monitor your reading and your comprehension of your reading during the process.
- Annotations (SICQ ones) help with this, but it's not the only thing that does.
- Need to
 - Be in the right frame of mind
 - Be in a situation where you can concentrate
 - Employ strategies when comprehension falters
- Turn to the orange paper we taped in to the back of your English Notebook

Strategies for a Reading Frame of Mind

- Warning signs
- Check your environment
- Strategies to help with understanding.
- You're going to need to use these if you want to understand *The Odyssey*.
- In other words, you must take ownership of your reading and learning if you want to be successful in understanding *The Odyssey*.
 - If you choose to do so, you will be rewarded with a great story and learning experience.
 - If you don't then you won't.

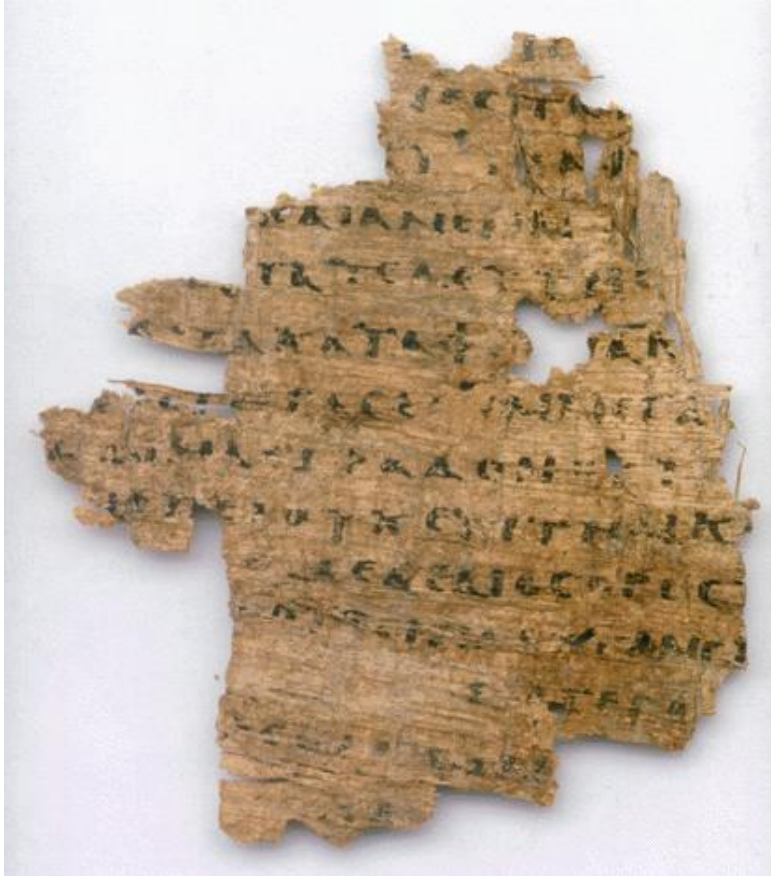
Bookmarks



- To help you track big ideas/subjects that come up throughout *The Odyssey*. These could help you figure out themes.
 - What’s the difference between a subject and a theme?
 - Subject=big idea or issue. Short. The basis for a theme.
 - A subject of *The Boy in the Black Suit* is grief.
 - Theme=message about life, the world, or the human experience. Takes a sentence to say.
 - A theme of *The Boy in the Black Suit* is that in order to deal with grief properly, one should not try to deal with it alone.

- When bookmark subjects (or others you notice) come up, you should annotate them and figure out what Homer is saying about the subject.
- Be careful about only looking at *The Odyssey* from a modern perspective. Also try to figure out what the story is teaching readers about ancient Greek culture and beliefs.

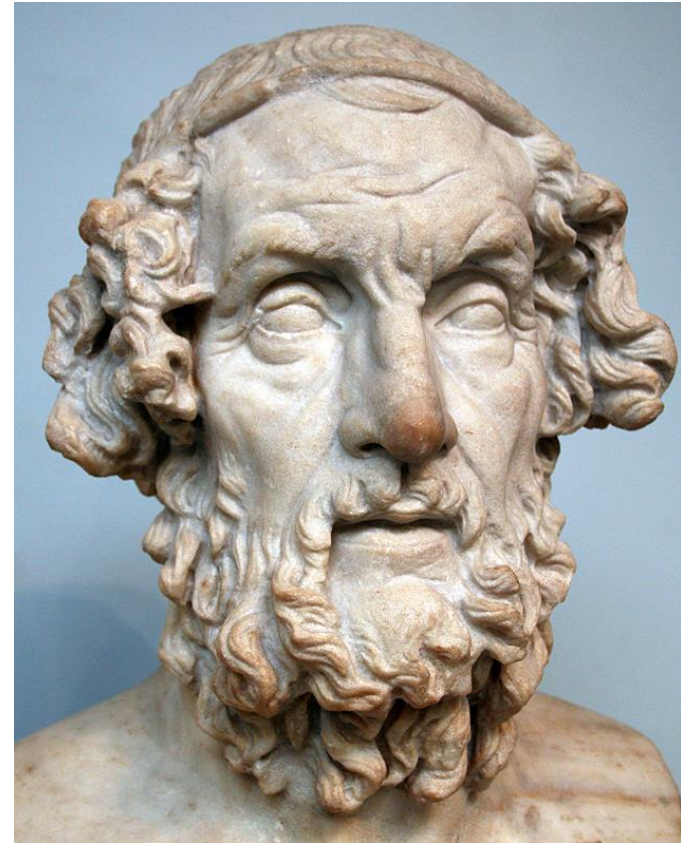
For fun:



Ἄνδρα μοι ἔννεπε, Μοῦσα, πολύτροπον, ὃς μάλα πολλὰ
πλάγχθη, ἐπεὶ Τροίης ἱερὸν πτολίεθρον ἔπερσε·
πολλῶν δ' ἀνθρώπων ἴδεν ἄστεα καὶ νόον ἔγνω,
πολλὰ δ' ὃ γ' ἐν πόντῳ πάθεν ἄλγεα ὄντα κατὰ θυμόν,
ἀρνύμενος ἦν τε ψυχὴν καὶ νόστον ἐταίρων.
ἄλλ' οὐδ' ὧς ἐτάρους ἐρρύσατο, ἰέμενός περ·
αὐτῶν γὰρ σφετέρῃσιν ἀτασθαλίῃσιν ὄλοντο,
νήπιοι, οἳ κατὰ βοῦς Ὑπερίονος Ἥελίοιο
ἦσθιον· αὐτὰρ ὁ τοῖσιν ἀφείλετο νόστιμον ἦμαρ.
τῶν ἀμόθεν γε, θεά, θύγατερ Διός, εἰπέ καὶ ἡμῖν.

The Odyssey basic background

- Homer is credited with two epic poems:
 - *The Iliad* : Covers part of Trojan War's final year with a focus on Achilles
 - *The Odyssey*: Covers Odysseus' ten-year journey home from Troy
- Epic poem = long narrative poem about a hero
- Told orally long before it was written down
- Written between 900-700 BCE.





- Has 24 “books” —which is what we’d call chapters today.
- Starts “in medias res”: in the middle of the action. Uses flashbacks.
 - Timeline on bookmark helps.
- 10 years at the Trojan War, 10 years to get home.

Term of the Day: xenia

- Ancient Greek term for “guest-friendship”.
 - Greek concept of hospitality
 - mutual respect from host to guest and guest to host
 - generosity and courtesy shown to visitors
 - giving gifts as well as offering food, shelter, clothing, entertainment, and favors

Class-wide reading of *The Odyssey* today.

- Read pages 11-14 together (or as far as we get in class)
- Try to annotate for SICQ and for the subjects on the bookmark
- If confusion arises, let's try some strategies to help out.

If time after reaching page 15:

- Handed back essays.
- You should keep them in your English folder where you keep English stuff (not English notebook)
- Tape in and fill out first two columns of essay tracker.
- Average rough draft score: 3.9
- Average final draft score: 5.7