

Day 29

- Welcome back.
- Have your homework out to be checked.
- Enjoy your choice book reading. See you in 15 minutes.



Term of the day: Homeric Simile (also called an epic simile)

# First, what is a simile?

- A comparison of two unlike things using like or as.
  - Offer variety and new perspectives in writing.
  - Makes a description more emphatic or vivid.
- Examples of simple similes:
  - His teeth were crooked, like a pile of wrecked cars.
  - His feet were as big as tennis rackets.
  - She had a deep, throaty, genuine laugh, like that sound a dog makes just before it throws up.
- Non-example:
  - He was, like, tired.
  - The pasta sauce tasted like tomatoes.

# Epic Simile, however...

- Homer really liked similes, but he preferred really long ones. These lasted several lines. They are also called Homeric similes.
- These are extended comparisons of two unlike things using like or as.

# An example from book 8:

- “All this he told, but Odysseus was overcome as he heard him, and his cheeks were wet with tears. He wept as a woman weeps when she throws herself on the body of her husband who has fallen before his own city and people, fighting bravely in defense of his home and children. She screams aloud and flings her arms about him as he lies gasping for breath and dying, but her enemies beat her from behind about the back and shoulders, and carry her off to slavery, to a life of labor and sorrow, and the beauty fades from her cheeks—even so piteously did Odysseus weep” (88).

## And from book 9:

- “Even thus did we bore the red hot beam into his eye, till the boiling blood bubbled all over it as we worked it round and round, so that the steam from the burning eyeball scalded his eyelids and eyebrows, and the roots of the eye sputtered in the fire. As a blacksmith plunges an axe or hatchet into cold water to temper it—for it is this that gives strength to the iron—and it makes a great hiss as he does so, even thus did the Cyclops’ eye hiss round the beam of olive wood” (Homer 98).

# Journal

- Write a story about anything. Include within it at least one simile. Bonus challenge: make it an epic (aka Homeric) simile.



# Group Work

- As a group, make a list off ALL of Odysseus' positive and negative choices and actions from books 9 and 10.
  - Enter these onto the T Chart
- Use it to make a claim about Odysseus. Follow the typical format for a body paragraph: topic sentence, quote intro, cited quote, warrant.