

## **9th Grade Literature Summer Reading Assignment**

Your summer reading is *The Odyssey* Robert Fagles translation.

This is an epic poem and it is easy to read and not comprehend. How can I avoid wasting my precious summer hours and actually understand what I am reading? You need tools. You should always read with a highlighter and pencil ready to capture important details and be in active dialogue with the text.

You will be annotating (taking short notes in the margins of the book) for certain themes. **You must annotate for: character, divine nature, and epic conventions**

- Character - What motivates this character? Are they an important character? Why are they important? Is there a word that is repeatedly used to describe the character?
- Divine nature - What are the Ancient Greek gods like? What are their powers? What is their hierarchy? How are they like or unlike the Christian God?
- Epic conventions - Here we were looking for things like: high elevated speech, invocation of the muse, epic simile (comparing a character or event to something else in a long, drawn out picture), beginning in media res (in the middle of the story), epithets (short words/phrases used to repeatedly characterize something/someone ex. "Bright-eyed Achilles")

When the school year begins, you will be graded both on your annotations and comprehension of the book. You will have a test and paper on *The Odyssey* during the first month of school.

This incredible story is one of the main cornerstones upon which Western literature rests. Grab a lemonade or popsicle and follow Odysseus through the many twists and turns he takes trying to get back to Ithaca.

## **New Testament Summer Reading Assignment**

Additionally, please **read the book of Acts** and annotate for the following topics:

- How does God advance and spread the Gospel? Through what means?
- In what ways do you see the Spirit of God working in people's lives in the text?
- Where and how does Christianity come into conflict with the surrounding cultures?
- What are the characteristics of a Christian as shown in Acts?

Please annotate in the margins of your ESV Study Bible. As you will continue to use this version for your other classes in high school, it is important you annotate this edition.

Use regular pencil when you are annotating. Please do not use any other colors. You will use certain colors for annotation in the New Testament class, so it is crucial that you only use regular pencil for this assignment.