**Dr. Auerbach’s English I Pre-IB Summer Reading Assignment (9th grade)**

**School year 2023-24**

**Dear Students and Parents,**

There are two books for the summer reading assignment. Both books are fairly new editions. I highly recommend that you purchase the books so that you can underline and take notes in the text. Both books can be found on Amazon.com, Barnesandnoble.com, or ordered at most any bookstore. If cost is an issue, you might check at the local Alachua County public libraries, or search for used copies online. **I do not recommend reading any editions except these! The translations differ from translator to translator, and we need all students to have read the same editions.** Unfortunately,EHS does not own any copies to lend out.

If you have any questions at all about any part of the assignment, please do not hesitate to email me at [auerbachms@gm.sbac.edu](mailto:auerbachms@gm.sbac.edu)

**This assignment is due the first week of school! Do not delay! It will be graded. There will also be a test on both books. If you take notes and complete the projects while reading, the tests will be much easier. ENGAGE IN CLOSE Reading. Ask questions as you read. Do not skim. Yes, you are reading for pleasure because these books are fun and adventurous, but they are also great classics, and you are reading with an academic purpose as well. We will refer to these works all year. We will even write our own original plays using characters from these works!**

**PLEASE NOTE: Generally, students buy their own copies of these books so they can make notes in them and refer to them all year. However, if you are having difficulty finding or affording them, please let me know, and I can arrange to loan them to your student.**

**Here are the two books with links to Amazon:**

**I have also enclosed our syllabus for the year along with some links for the books you might want to purchase for your child. Unfortunately, certain titles of the books we have at school are in very bad condition. If your child donates his/her/their book when finished with it, I give some extra credit, and this is how we replenish our book supply (the district does not really have a fund for Pre-IB and IB English novels).**

1. ***Lust, Chaos, War, Fate- Timeless Tales from the Ancients Greek Mythology* by Jason Boyett**

Link to book on Amazon:

<https://www.amazon.com/Lust-Chaos-War-Fate-Mythology/dp/1623156777/ref=sr_1_fkmrnull_1?crid=UJCEFCE29CKK&keywords=lust+chaos+war+fate&qid=1556035184&s=gateway&sprefix=lust+chaos%2Caps%2C140&sr=8-1-fkmrnull>

1. ***The Odyssey*, by Homer, Translated by Emily Wilson**

Link to book on Amazon:

<https://www.amazon.com/Odyssey-Homer/dp/0393356256/ref=sr_1_3?crid=D6AE2YDB60FX&keywords=the+odyssey+emily+wilson+paperback&qid=1556035328&s=gateway&sprefix=the+odyssey%2Caps%2C150&sr=8-3>

While there are many different editions of *The Odyssey* translated by many different scholars, this edition is probably the newest and easiest to read thus far. It is also the first translation by a woman scholar, and she was written up in the New York Times. Hopefully it will be a highly readable and fresh take on an old classic.

**Assignments due on the first day of school:**

1. Highlight and underline as you read the Boyett Greek Mythology book. See how the characters are related to one another. Also pay special attention to the notes after each chapter labeled “Modern Cultural References.” Sometimes the names are used in English vocabulary words. These gods are also mentioned in *The Odyssey*, so this will help you understand that book. We will have a test on both the mythology book and *The Odyssey.*
2. *The Odyssey* is divided into 24 books.

Part A

As you read the book notice the following, **but the only written assignment due is to write the definitions of MOTIF and THEME and write down the theme of *The Odyssey*** **and make a list of motifs that you notice in the book.**

* Setting (place) and time period--much of the book is narrated by Odysseus in a flashback, so be specific about this. He may be in one place telling the story but the action of the story may take place elsewhere.
* Point of View (who is telling the story)
* Characters. Note that gods and goddesses are also characters. How do they influence the actions of the mortal characters?
* Plot-what happens in this book and what characters are involved?
* Look up the literary definitions of Theme and Motif.
  + Write down these definitions.
  + What is the major difference between the two terms?
  + **What do you think is the overall theme of the book? Choose just one.**
  + **Then, what motifs did you identify throughout the book? List as many as you found.**

Part B Creative Project

Research the various stops that Odysseus made on his journey. Remember, *The Iliad,* also by Homer, is the prequel to *The Odyssey.* Odysseus travelled from the island of Ithaca in western Greece where he was king, to Troy, which used to be called Asia Minor, now the country of Turkey. Starting from Ithaca he sailed to Troy and spent 10 years there fighting the Trojans. When the war ended, he attempted to sail home to Ithaca to see his beloved wife Penelope and his son Telemachus. The gods, however, had other plans for him. It took him another 10 years to finally reach his home. Many of the places he visited have been approximately matched with real places all over the Mediterranean. Do some research of both ancient and present day maps. You will find a plethora of them online, but you can also search in books. Google the phrase “20 year journey of Odysseus” or similar terms. Based on your reading of *The Odyssey,* and on your research of various maps, draw a map of the Mediterranean world and trace the route Odysseus took, listing and labeling his stops in chronological order, starting and ending with Ithaca. Remember he moved forward, but his ship would get blown back, so the route may crisscross in places. Do your best to make the map interesting. It should be at least 11” x 14” at the minimum size. The best ones will be the size of a small poster board. Make them colorful (not black and white) and detailed. Illustrate them with either your own drawings, or if art is not your thing, print pictures that you can glue onto the map to illustrate his various stops. Be creative and have fun with this! It will help you to better understand the story. Here is an example: One adventure he had was with Scylla and Charybdis, actual rocks and whirlpools near Sicily. You can draw rocks and a whirlpool or personify them as sea monsters and show where they were on the map.

Enjoy your summer reading journey! In my 9th grade year I too read Greek mythology, and I even read *The Iliad* in the original Homeric Greek. Yes, ancient Greek was my first foreign language! In the years since, I have come to love the characters of mythical Greece even more. Every year that I teach the stories I appreciate the influence that they have had on our literature and culture. The stories have never disappeared. Authors and movie writers are still using the same basic plots of the ancient Greeks to write bestselling novels and hit movies (the Percy Jackson series, for example.) I hope you enjoy them as much as I have.

I look forward to meeting all of you in August! Have a restful summer. Email me if you have questions.

Dr. Meg Auerbach

[auerbachms@gm.sbac.edu](mailto:auerbachms@gm.sbac.edu)

**See the next page for a list of books you may wish to purchase and a supply list.**

**For the following books, if you are able to do so, I encourage you to buy your student**

**his or her own copy. We do have books here to lend out, but many of them are in**

**ragged condition. Also, it is good for a student to have a personal copy in which to**

**underline and make notes. Notetaking and highlighting prepare students for college,**

**as all college books must be purchased. Lastly, if the students want to donate their**

**books back to EHS, I will give extra credit for doing so! However, if you have other**

**students coming to the IB Program, keep the books for them!**

**1. The Epic of Gilgamesh, Penguin Classic ed., translated by N.K. Sandars.**

**I highly recommended buying your own copy, as most of ours are in sad shape,**

**but we do have a few decent ones to lend.**

[**https://www.amazon.com/Epic-Gilgamesh/dp/014044100X/ref=sr\_1\_1?crid=2G1JYNNV8L0U3&keywords=the+epic+of+gilgamesh+sandars&qid=1684861956&s=books&sprefix=the+epic+of+gilgamesh+sandars%2Cstripbooks%2C89&sr=1-1**](https://www.amazon.com/Epic-Gilgamesh/dp/014044100X/ref=sr_1_1?crid=2G1JYNNV8L0U3&keywords=the+epic+of+gilgamesh+sandars&qid=1684861956&s=books&sprefix=the+epic+of+gilgamesh+sandars%2Cstripbooks%2C89&sr=1-1)

**2. The Bible as/in Literature, (ScottForesman)**

[**https://www.amazon.com/BIBLE-LITERATURE-ANTHOLOGY-Points-Departure/dp/0673294242/ref=sr\_1\_1?crid=2Z9N6TYAM38EH&keywords=the+bible+as%2Fin+literature&qid=1684862060&s=books&sprefix=the+bible+as%2Fin+literature%2Cstripbooks%2C100&sr=1-1**](https://www.amazon.com/BIBLE-LITERATURE-ANTHOLOGY-Points-Departure/dp/0673294242/ref=sr_1_1?crid=2Z9N6TYAM38EH&keywords=the+bible+as%2Fin+literature&qid=1684862060&s=books&sprefix=the+bible+as%2Fin+literature%2Cstripbooks%2C100&sr=1-1)

**3. The Grapes of Wrath, by John Steinbeck, Penguin Classics. We do have**

**quite a few copies of this book, but some are in bad condition, and it is a very**

**detailed book that I strongly recommend students annotate and mark important**

**passages in. It will make the test much easier!**

[**https://www.amazon.com/The-Grapes-of-Wrath-audiobook/dp/B0055WXT56/ref=sr\_1\_1?crid=22JW3DRNVRZ72&keywords=the+grapes+of+wrath+book&qid=1684862241&s=books&sprefix=the+Grapes+of+%2Cstripbooks%2C98&sr=1-1**](https://www.amazon.com/The-Grapes-of-Wrath-audiobook/dp/B0055WXT56/ref=sr_1_1?crid=22JW3DRNVRZ72&keywords=the+grapes+of+wrath+book&qid=1684862241&s=books&sprefix=the+Grapes+of+%2Cstripbooks%2C98&sr=1-1)

**4. The Beggar King and the Secret of Happiness by Joel ben Izzy.**

**We do not have full sets of this book. We would love to build some class sets**

**through donations.**

[**https://www.amazon.com/Beggar-King-Secret-Happiness-Story/dp/1565125126/ref=sr\_1\_1?crid=1WKS0JEQ655W1&keywords=the+beggar+king+and+the+secret+of+happiness&qid=1684862455&s=audible&sprefix=the+beggar+king+and+the+%2Caudible%2C93&sr=1-1-catcorr**](https://www.amazon.com/Beggar-King-Secret-Happiness-Story/dp/1565125126/ref=sr_1_1?crid=1WKS0JEQ655W1&keywords=the+beggar+king+and+the+secret+of+happiness&qid=1684862455&s=audible&sprefix=the+beggar+king+and+the+%2Caudible%2C93&sr=1-1-catcorr)

**Supply list:**

**If you want to purchase supplies for class in advance, here is the list:**

** A 1.5 to 2-inch loose leaf notebook that you can put loose paper and subject**

**dividers in. Best if it has pockets in the front and back, and a clear sleeve front so**

**that you can slip your name and class period in the front. PLEASE, NO SPIRAL**

**NOTEBOOKS and NO COMPOSITION BOOKS!**

* **Loose leaf notebook paper**
* **5 subject dividers**
* **A set of highlighters (full range of colors for IB “Color Marking”)**
* **Blue and black pens**
* **#2 pencils**
* **A black sharpie**
* **A glue stick and colored pencils come in handy**
* **Erasers**
* **Index cards for making flash cards**