

The Odyssey by Homer (Published by Farrar, Straus, and Giroux)

Approved for use in Communication Arts I, Honors Communication Arts I

Summary

Ten years have passed since the fall of Troy, and the Greek hero Odysseus still has not returned to his kingdom in Ithaca. While a large and rowdy mob of suitors who have overrun Odysseus's palace and pillaged his land continue to court his wife, she has remained faithful. Telemachus, Odysseus's son, wants desperately to overthrow them but does not have the confidence or experience to fight them. This epic poem chronicles the archetypal journey of the quintessential hero and his efforts to return to his wife, son, and homeland. Met by both internal and external obstacles, he perseveres and eventually finds himself back in Ithaca. Assisted by a few faithful servants, he and Telemachus triumph over the suitors. With his power secure and his family reunited, Odysseus' long ordeal comes to an end.

Connection to the Curriculum

Odysseus has the defining character traits of a Homeric leader and archetypal hero: strength, courage, nobility, a thirst for glory, and confidence in his authority. This classic work is the quintessential illustration of the journey of the archetypal hero. It employs the archetypal elements of symbolism, theme, plot, character, and setting in addition to providing immeasurable foundation for literary allusion throughout history.

Standards

Course Objectives (Benchmarks)

Reading: 1.4- The students comprehend a variety of texts.

Literature: 2.1-The students use literary concepts to interpret and respond to text. 2.2- The students understand the significance of literature and its contributions to various cultures.

Writing: 3.9- The students use a variety of modes of writing for different purposes and audiences.

Possible Skills Taught (Indicators)

Reading:

1.4.10- The student generates and responds logically to literal, inferential, evaluative, and critical thinking questions before, during, and after reading the text.

1.4.18- The student establishes purposes for both assigned and self-selected reading.

Literature:

2.1.1- The student identifies and describes different types of characters and analyzes the development of characters.

2.1.2- The student analyzes the historical, social and cultural contextual aspects of the setting and their influence on characters and events in the story of a literary text.

2.1.3- The student analyzes and evaluates how the author uses various plot elements to advance the plot and make connections between events.

2.1.4- The student analyzes themes, tones, and the author's point of view across a variety of works and genres using textual evidence and considering audience and purpose.

2.1.5- The student identifies, analyzes, and evaluates the use of literary devices in a text.

2.2.6- The student recognizes ways that literature from different cultures presents similar themes across different genres.

Writing:

3.9.24- The student writes narrative pieces.

A Note on the Text: (The best way to evaluate and understand a novel is to personally read the book in its entirety.)

This Greek tale includes the mythological characters and their purported powers. It traces Odysseus' journey that contains mature situations including sexual references and violence all told in classic Greek style.

AP Connections

This novel offers opportunity for reinforcement of close critical reading strategies and application to a text. Further, this advanced translation of Homer's original Greek offers opportunity for the reader to expand his/her abilities to comprehend higher level text.

Additional Unit Design Connections

Coming soon:

To be completed during future curriculum development activities