

SUMMER ASSIGNMENT: HONORS ENGLISH 3-4
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Honors English 3-4 is a literature and writing course that will help prepare students for the rigorous curriculum of Advanced Placement English. As a result of the extensive preparation needed to succeed in this class, summer reading is not only desirable but required.

Classic Fiction: The Odyssey

Please take the time to check out or purchase “The Odyssey” by Homer (*purchasing the Robert Fagles translation will help with the different language barriers*), and complete the following assignment. Although checking out the book is acceptable, you might be inclined to purchase a copy to allow for note taking and annotating the text itself.

Please note: Incomplete and/or inadequate final products will result in automatic transfer to a non-Honors English 3-4 class during the first week of school. The hallmark of an honors student is exceptional work completed on time.

Summer Assignment

Create a folder in Google Drive (student.guhsdaz.org), name it “**Summer Assignment - Your Name**” and share it with **BOTH Honors 3-4 teachers** (Joseph Clements and Kara Dellisanti). Create a new document for each assignment described below. When completed, you should have three documents in the folder: “**Greek Culture Research**”; “**Character Identification**”; and “**Vocabulary**”.

Greek Culture Research

Choose one of the following areas of ancient Greek culture to research in order to develop an understanding of the audience that “The Odyssey” was written for:

- The Greek Pantheon - Gods, Goddesses, and the deities’ role in society
- Greek Society - Gender Roles & Social Norms
- Greek Culture - Politics, Government, and Greece’s role in international affairs

Compile your research into a **5 paragraph expository essay** that follows MLA formatting, contains an intro and conclusion, and includes a works cited page. Use the handout provided with this assignment about using reputable online sources (citing wikipedia or “google” **will not be accepted**).

Character Identification

Identify and describe each of the main characters and significant minor characters in the novel. Describe each character’s physical appearance, personality traits, relationship to other characters, and details that bring the character to life. Go beyond superficial descriptions and describe how each character influences the action of the book. Thorough descriptions are always preferred over brief or inadequate descriptions.

*Hint: Pay attention to dynamic characters.

Vocabulary

Remember: This is your opportunity to show your future English teacher the caliber of work that you are capable of. Think of this as your first impression to your instructor of what kind of student you are.

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Identify and define fifty or more vocabulary words. These words could be common nouns or other parts of speech, or they could be references to people, places, or events with which you are unfamiliar. Number the words, identify their parts of speech, and define them.

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