

# 6 Week Program: The Odyssey Homer

## The Odyssey Homer

- SAT-level vocabulary
  - Analytical discussion
  - Creative & analytical writing
  - Excerpts from *The Odyssey* (adapted for middle school readers or a translation like Fagles or Fitzgerald)
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## WEEK 1: Epic Foundations

### Objectives:

- Understand the structure of an epic
- Identify themes of heroism and identity
- Build foundational vocabulary

### Texts:

- Excerpt: *Invocation to the Muse & Odysseus on Calypso's Island*

### Vocabulary:

*epic, invocation, cunning, valor, exile, forlorn, immortal, lament*

### Activities:

- Discuss “What makes someone a hero?”
- Group read + annotate excerpt
- Define & use vocabulary in original sentences
- Writing: Describe a moment when you had to be brave or clever (creative)
- HW: Summarize Odysseus’s situation in your own words (analytical)

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## WEEK 2: Trials of the Sea

### Objectives:

- Analyze conflict and temptation
- Study narrative structure and characterization

### Texts:

- *The Lotus-Eaters & The Cyclops*

### Vocabulary:

*bewitch, glutton, wretched, formidable, blunder, guile, brute, entreat*

### Activities:

- Vocabulary sketchbook (draw and define)
- Read & storyboard the Cyclops scene
- Group discussion: How does Odysseus use wit over strength?
- Writing: Rewrite the Cyclops scene from Polyphemus's perspective (creative)
- HW: Analytical paragraph – How does Homer build suspense?

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## WEEK 3: Temptation and Consequences

### Objectives:

- Explore consequences of choice
- Practice drawing inferences

### Texts:

- *Circe* and *The Land of the Dead*

### Vocabulary:

*temptress, foreboding, appease, pious, anguish, shroud, perilous, transfix*

### Activities:

- Debate: Was Circe evil or misunderstood?
- Character chart: Odysseus's growth across episodes
- Vocabulary puzzle race
- Writing: Letter from Odysseus to Penelope describing his trials (creative)
- HW: Compare Circe and Calypso (analytical paragraph)

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## WEEK 4: Sirens, Scylla & Charybdis

### Objectives:

- Analyze figurative language
- Evaluate leadership decisions

### Texts:

- *The Sirens* and *Scylla and Charybdis*

### Vocabulary:

*lure, dire, peril, succumb, maelstrom, resolve, havoc, steadfast*

### Activities:

- Audio experience: Read Sirens passage while playing eerie music
- Chart Odysseus's choices—were they right or selfish?
- Writing: Compose a modern "Siren song" (creative)
- HW: Analytical writing – Does Odysseus act as a good leader?

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## WEEK 5: Return and Revenge

### Objectives:

- Understand dramatic irony and poetic justice
- Explore narrative structure (recognition scenes, revenge plots)

### Texts:

- *Return to Ithaca* and *The Slaying of the Suitors*

### Vocabulary:

*retribution, vengeance, treachery, gallant, cunning, suitor, humility, righteous*

### Activities:

- Timeline of Odysseus's journey
- Act out recognition scene with Odysseus & Penelope
- Discussion: Do the suitors deserve their fate?
- Writing: Short play/dialogue imagining Penelope's secret thoughts (creative)
- HW: Argumentative paragraph – Was Odysseus justified in his revenge?

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## WEEK 6: Legacy and Reflection

### Objectives:

- Reflect on enduring themes
- Synthesize learning across texts
- Produce a polished analytical or creative project

### Activities:

- Vocabulary review game (Jeopardy-style or Kahoot)
- Group discussion: What makes *The Odyssey* timeless?
- Writing workshop:
  - A) **Analytical Essay** – “How does Odysseus grow as a hero?”
  - OR
  - B) **Creative Project** – Modern retelling of one episode (comic strip, video script, diary)
- Peer review + revision
- Final Presentations & Celebration