

IB-Prep English 9 Summer Reading List

IB-Prep Grade 9 Summer Reading

REQUIRED SUMMER READING: The Odyssey – Homer

(The epic should be completed PRIOR to the start of school. Please read only the **Fagles** translation.)

RECOMMENDED SUMMER READING: These works will be read during the school year.

A preliminary reading of each is recommended for the summer.

<u>Antigone</u>	Sophocles (required translation: Fagles)
<u>The Tempest</u>	Shakespeare
<u>A Raisin in the Sun</u>	Hansberry
<u>Frankenstein</u>	Shelley
<u>Lord of the Flies</u>	Golding
<u>Sleeping Freshmen Never Lie</u>	Lubar
Selected poetry	
Selected short stories	
Selected independent reading novels	

NOTE: The translations and editions listed are those used in the classroom. Students will need to be able to cite text and page numbers for the correct translations during class.

If you have any questions about the summer reading, please contact Nancy Shay at Nancy_S_Shay@mcpsmd.org.

IB-Prep English 9
The Odyssey trans. Robert Fagles
Summer Reading Assignment

As you read *The Odyssey*, take notes on each section:

- Books 1-4 – The Telemachia
- Books 5-8 – Odysseus' journey from Ogyia to Phaeacia
- Books 9-12 – Odysseus' adventures following the Trojan War
- Books 13-24 – Odysseus' return

These notes must be typed in Times New Roman or Arial 12-point font, and **should not exceed one page per section** (you may use two pages for the last section which is very long). Please bring these notes to class **on the first day of school**.

Although you may talk to other students about the book and the assignment, you must complete these notes **on your own**.

Please use the following subheadings to organize your notes.

- Characters (focus on those who act, not just those who are mentioned in passing)
- Plot
- Aspects of Greek culture, including...
 - Role of women
 - Way of governing
 - Family dynamics (i.e. husbands and wives, fathers and sons)
 - Role of the gods/relationship with the gods
 - Social structure (i.e. servants and masters, status of warriors/heroes)
 - Customs (i.e. rules of hospitality)
 - Admirable characteristics of men, women, sons, leaders
(not all of these elements of culture will appear in every book)

Example Notes: Books 1-4

(This page is just an example, and should not be used as your own notes for Books 1-4.)

- Characters
 - Gods: Zeus, Athena
 - Mortals: Telemachus, Antinous, Eurymachus and other suitors, Penelope, Phemius (the bard), Eurycleia (devoted nurse), Mentos (really Athena in disguise), Nestor, Menelaus, Helen
- Plot
 - Book 1
 - Gods gather on Mount Olympus (all but Poseidon)
 - Athena asks for mercy for Odysseus who is stranded on an island with Calypso; Athena visits the Achaeans (Greeks) in Ithaca to inspire Telemachus
 - Telemachus agrees to visit Nestor and Menelaus who fought at Troy with his father
 - Book 2
 - Telemachus & suitors receive prophecy that O. will return
 - Telemachus sets sail to visit Menelaus in Sparta and Nestor in Pylos without telling his mother Penelope
 - Book 3
 - Nestor recounts how Agamemnon, Menelaus, Odysseus, and he all left Troy and how Agamemnon was killed
 - Book 4
 - Menelaus and Telemachus both weep for lost Odysseus; Menelaus tells Telemachus the story of the Trojan horse
 - Menelaus recounts how he learned of his comrades' fates from Proteus
 - Meanwhile...Antinous and Eurymachus plan Telemachus' murder and Penelope weeps for her missing son
- Aspects of Greek culture
 - Role of women
 - Telemachus rebukes Penelope for weeping and tells her, "tend to your own tasks / the distaff and the loom... / ...As for giving orders, / men will see to that" (1.410-412)
 - Family dynamics (i.e. husbands and wives, fathers and sons)
 - Role of the gods/relationship with the gods
 - Telemachus says the gods make him suffer by "invent[ing] other miseries to plague [him]" (1.284)
 - Athena appears as Penelope's sister Iphthime "to spare Penelope, worn with pain and sobbing, further spells of grief and storms of tears" (4.899-900)
 - Menelaus had to "sacrifice[] in splendid rite" in order to "slake[] the wrath of the everlasting gods" (4.654-55) after he "failed / ...to render [the gods] full, flawless victims" (4.392-93) in sacrifice the first time and was subsequently marooned in Egypt
 - Social structure (i.e. servants and masters, status of warriors/heroes)
 - Admirable characteristics of men, women, sons, leaders
 - Justice: "[Odysseus would] lay hands on all these brazen suitors!" (1.296)