Greek Mythological Monsters

- Typhon (also Typhoeus or Typhaon) and Echidna are known as the **Father** and **Mother of All Monsters** due to their numerous monstrous offspring, including the two-headed dog **Orthrus**, the **Nemean Lion**, the **Hydra**, the **Chimera**, and **Cerberus**. Typhon was the last son of **Gaea** and **Tartarus**, while **Echidna**'s parentage is obscured by ancient sources; most often, she is listed as a daughter of **Phorcys** and **Ceto**. In the ***Theogony***, Hesiod describes a climactic **battle between Zeus and Typhon** following Zeus' defeat of the **Titans**: Typhon rips out Zeus' sinews and is nearly victorious, but **Hermes** restores Zeus's sinews and Zeus finally overpowers the giant monster. Typhon was then **trapped under Mount Etna**, where he is believed to cause **earthquakes** and **volcanic eruptions**.
- Polyphemus, the most famous **Cyclops** in Greek mythology, is the son of **Poseidon** and the sea nymph **Thoosa**. The most notable myth involving Polyphemus is his appearance in Book IX of **Homer**'s ***Odyssey***: after **Odysseus** and his crew land on Polyphemus' island after escaping the **Lotus-Eaters**, Polyphemus **eats** two of Odysseus' crew, **imprisons** the rest in his cave, and eats four more before the survivors can escape. To escape, Odysseus gets Polyphemus **drunk** on wine and **blinds** the one-eyed giant with a stick; the next morning, Odysseus and his crew ride out of Polyphemus' cave, hiding underneath the Cyclops' **sheep**. When Polyphemus asks Odysseus' name, Odysseus responds **"No one"** or "No man" (translations vary), and Polyphemus prays to his father Poseidon to make Odysseus' journey home treacherous. In another myth, Polyphemus falls in love with the nymph **Galatea**, who in turn loves the human **Acis**. Polyphemus then **kills Acis with a boulder** out of jealousy.
- Medusa is the only mortal member of the **Gorgons**, a trio of monstrous daughters of **Phorcys** and **Ceto** who had **brass hands**, **fangs**, and venomous **snakes for hair**; the other two were **Stheno** and **Euryale**. Many early sources state that Medusa was born a monster, though **Ovid**'s ***Metamorphoses*** state that Medusa was a beautiful woman until she was **raped by Poseidon** in Athena's temple and cursed by the goddess. Gazing directly into Medusa's eyes resulted in the onlooker being **turned into stone**. She was **beheaded** by the hero **Perseus**, who was sent to retrieve her head by the tyrant **Polydectes**, whom Perseus then killed with the head. Perseus gave the head of Medusa to **Athena**, who placed it on her shield, the **aegis**. When Medusa was beheaded, the winged horse **Pegasus** and the giant warrior **Chrysaor** emerged, her sons by Poseidon. According to Ovid, Medusa's head was also used to **petrify the Titan Atlas**.
- The Minotaur (also Asterion) was a **half-man, half-bull** monster kept in the **Labyrinth** on **Crete** by King **Minos**. Minos prayed to Poseidon to send a **snow-white bull** as a sign of support during Minos' quarrel with his brothers for the throne of Crete, but instead of sacrificing the animal to the sea god, Minos kept it for himself. Angered, Poseidon caused Minos' wife **Pasiphaë** to lust after the bull, so **Daedalus** built her a wooden cow so she could mate with the bull. The product of this encounter was the Minotaur (lit. "Bull of Minos"). After Minos' son **Androgeus** was killed by Athenians, Minos demanded **seven Athenians male youths and seven Athenian female youths**, to be selected by lots every seven or nine years (accounts vary) as retribution; these victims were fed to the Minotaur. On the third drawing of the lots, the Athenian hero **Theseus** volunteered to vanquish the beast; with the help of Minos' daughter **Ariadne**, who gave Theseus a **ball of string** so he could find his way out of the Labyrinth, Theseus slew the Minotaur. On the return voyage from Crete, Theseus **forgot to change his sails** from black back to white, and his father **Aegeus** jumped into the sea, believing his son had died.
- The Lernaean Hydra was one of the offspring of **Typhon** and **Echidna**. The Hydra was a **multi-headed water serpent** that **breathed poisonous gas** and had **toxic blood**, and every time one head was cut off, two more grew back in its place. The Hydra dwelled in the **Spring of Amymone** in the swamp or **lake of Lerna** near the Peloponnese, beneath

which was said to be an entrance to the **Underworld**. The Hydra was killed by **Heracles** as his second labor for **Eurystheus** during a battle in which Heracles' nephew **Iolaus** provided aid by **cauterizing the neck stumps** after Heracles cut each head off, preventing additional heads from growing back. After killing the monster, Heracles **dipped his arrows** in the Hydra's blood; the poisoned arrows were later used against the **Stymphalian Birds**, **Geryon**, and the centaur **Nessus**.

- Cerberus was the **three-headed** (or, according to Hesiod's ***Theogony***, 50-headed) **dog** who **guarded the gates to the Underworld**. A child of **Typhon** and **Echidna**, Cerberus is described as a **hellhound** with a **mane of snakes**, the **claws of a lion**, and the **tail of a deadly snake**. As **Heracles**' twelfth and final labor, he had to **bring Cerberus back** from the Underworld, which he did following an intense **wrestling match**. Prior to the task, Heracles was instructed in the **Eleusinian Mysteries**, and freed Theseus from being stuck on a chair in Hades. In **Virgil**'s ***Aeneid***, the **Cumaean Sibyl** gives Cerberus three **drugged honeycakes** so that she and Aeneas can enter the Underworld.
- The Chimera was a **hybrid monster** who was also a child of **Typhon** and **Echidna**. She is most commonly described as a **lioness with a goat's head protruding from her back** and a **tail that ended in a snake's head**. She was a **fire-breathing** menace to **Lycia** until **Bellerophon** slew her on orders from **King Iobates**. Flying on the back of **Pegasus**, Bellerophon shot at the Chimera and ultimately killed the beast by affixing a **block of lead** to his spear and causing the Chimera to melt the block with her fiery breath, **suffocating** her in the process.
- The Sphinx, identified in the ***Theogony*** as "Phix," was a hybrid monster whose parentage varies widely from source to source. She was a **lion-bodied**, **winged** monster with the **face of a human**, who terrorized the city of **Thebes** in the generations before Oedipus. She would give a riddle — **"What creature has one voice and yet becomes four-footed and two-footed and three-footed?"** — and eat anyone who was unable to answer correctly. It is possible that the Sphinx was sent to Thebes from **Ethiopia** by either the goddess **Hera** or the war god **Ares**. Eventually, Oedipus correctly answered the riddle— **"Man"** — and the Sphinx **threw herself** off her mountainside perch to her death.
- The Sirens were **beautiful women** who appeared harmless and **sang a beautiful song to passing sailors**, only to prove vicious and bloodthirsty when the sailors ventured too close. The Greeks often said that the Sirens were the daughters of the river god **Achelous**, while the Romans named their father as **Phorcys**. In the ***Argonautica***, **Chiron** warns **Jason** that **Orpheus** will be instrumental on his journey, and Orpheus later saves all of Jason's crew (save **Butes**) by **playing his lyre** when they pass the Sirens to drown out their beautiful and alluring song. **Odysseus** also encountered the Sirens, **tying himself to the mast** of his ship so that he could safely hear their song while his crew **plugged their ears** with beeswax, on the advice of the sorceress **Circe**.
- The Calydonian Boar was a monstrous beast sent by **Artemis** to wreak havoc in Calydon after King **Oeneus** neglected to honor her while sacrificing to the gods. Oeneus's son **Meleager** led a group of heroes — including **Theseus**, the twins **Castor** and **Polydeuces** (or **Pollux**), and Achilles's father **Peleus**, as well as the huntress **Atalanta** — on what became known as the Calydonian Boar Hunt. Atalanta drew first blood, and Meleager finished off the beast. Meleager, who had fallen in love with Atalanta, then insisted on honoring her by giving her the **hide**. Meleager's uncles protested, Meleager killed them, and Meleager's mother avenged the death of her brothers by burning up the log that represented Meleager's lifespan, killing him.

Economic Concepts

- Supply and Demand. Supply and demand embody the general idea that, at any given price, producers are willing to produce a given amount of a good (the **quantity supplied**) and consumers are willing to buy a different amount (the **quantity demanded**). As the price rises, firms will be willing to supply more goods, but fewer will be demanded; conversely, as price falls, consumers will demand more goods, but fewer will be supplied. On a graph showing price and quantity on its two axes, this is represented by a downward-sloping **demand curve** and an upward-sloping **supply curve**. Where the two curves intersect, there is an **equilibrium**; economists predict this equilibrium quantity will be produced (and consumed) in a free market.
- Elasticity. Elasticity is a measure of how much one economic variable changes in response to a change in a different variable, expressed in the form of "Every 1% change in the independent (second) variable leads to an *x*% change in the value of the first (dependent) variable." A common example is the **price elasticity of demand**, which measures the degree to which the quantity demanded changes when the price is altered.
- Monopoly. A monopoly occurs when there is only one firm producing goods for a given market. This allows that firm to set the price higher—and thus the quantity sold lower—than would otherwise occur. An **oligopoly** is a similar market environment where production is dominated by a few firms, whereas a **monopsony** is the opposite case: a market with only a single consumer.
- Tariff. A tariff is a tax placed on the **import** (common) or **export** (rarer) of a good. Tariffs have various — often controversial — sociopolitical goals, but economists agree that they raise consumer prices relative to equilibrium (resulting in a lower quantity demanded). Tariffs are similar to **quotas**, in which a government limits the amount of a good that may be imported.
- Factors of production. There are three classical factors of production: **land**, **labor**, and **capital** (i.e., machinery and tools). Modern economists sometimes add a fourth, **entrepreneurship**.
- Unemployment. The **unemployment rate** refers to the percentage of the population that is actively seeking work but cannot find a job. Unemployment can be **cyclical** (common in seasonal industries like fieldwork), **frictional** (the natural time between jobs that exists in most labor markets), or **structural** (when workers' skills do not match those required by open jobs).
- Gross Domestic Product. Gross domestic product (or GDP), is a commonly used measure of the size of a country's or state's economy. GDP is computed by summing **consumption**, **investment**, **government expenditures**, and **exports**, and then subtracting **imports**.
- Inflation. The **inflation rate** is the pace at which prices are rising, usually expressed in the form "2.5% per year." This is equivalent to the rate at which currency loses its value. Inflation is often measured by the **consumer price index**, which establishes a standard **basket of goods** that a family might buy and seeing how its total price changes over a year.
- Interest rate. The interest rate is a "price of money," inasmuch as it is the amount one must pay to use somebody else's money ("borrow") for a given period of time; the term is also used for the payment the lender (e.g., a person with a savings account) receives for loaning out his money. Because **inflation** lowers the value of currency, economists routinely distinguish between **nominal interest rates** (the actual amount earned by a lender/saver) and **real interest rates** (which are corrected for the inflation rate). A savings account earning 5% interest is not acquiring the ability to buy more things if prices are also going up by 5% per year!
- Comparative advantage. Comparative advantage is the idea that every pair of potential trading partners (two firms, two neighbors, two countries, etc.) can benefit by trade if they are

producing at least two goods. The counterintuitive aspect is that this result is true for *every* pair, no matter how *un*productive one of the parties might be (in absolute terms). Broadly speaking, each party should specialize in what it does best (relative to the other party) and then trade for everything else. David Ricardo formulated this theory with a famous example involving Britain's cloth industry and Portugal's wine industry.

- Invisible hand. The invisible hand is the metaphorical notion that producers and consumers acting in their own narrow interest (e.g., by trying to maximize income from their business) will create an overall benefit to society. This might happen by their rewarding technologies that make production more efficient, rewarding firms who can sell at lower cost, rewarding inventors who discover new processes, and so on. The phrase was introduced by Adam Smith in his 1776 book *The Wealth of Nations*, but the modern understanding (and broad-based application of the metaphor) is due to later thinkers.

Assassinations

- On March 15, 44 BC (the Ides of March) Roman statesman Julius Caesar was **stabbed 23 times** by the ***Liberatores*** ("Liberators"), a group of senators led by **Gaius Cassius Longinus** and **Marcus Junius Brutus**. Caesar died at the base of the **Roman Curia** in the **Theater of Pompey**, just outside the Roman Senate. Caesar had recently been named ***dictator perpetuo***—or "dictator in perpetuity"—which many senators believed would be the end of the Roman Republic. After the assassination, Caesar's adopted grandnephew **Octavian** (later Augustus) and his top general **Marc Antony** formed the **Second Triumvirate** with **Marcus Lepidus**; the trio deified Caesar and defeated Brutus and Cassius at the **Battle of Philippi**.
- On May 4, 1610 King Henry IV of France was stabbed to death by **François Ravaillac**, a **Catholic** fanatic who claimed to have had visions instructing him to convince Henry to convert the **Huguenots** (Protestants) to Catholicism. Ravaillac stabbed Henry—the first French king from the Bourbon Dynasty—on the **Rue de la Ferronnerie** when the king's coach stopped in traffic. One of the king's advisors, **Hercule, Duke of Montbazon**, was wounded in the attack but survived. Henry IV was survived by his wife **Marie de' Medici**, who served as regent for their son **Louis XIII** until he took power in 1617.
- On April 14, 1865 U.S. President Abraham Lincoln was shot and killed by **John Wilkes Booth** during a showing of the play ***Our American Cousin*** at **Ford's Theatre** in Washington, D.C. Lincoln died the next morning at **Petersen House** across the street. The assassination was part of a wider plot that included failed attempts to kill Vice President **Andrew Johnson** and Secretary of State **William Seward**. Prior to shooting the president, Booth shouted the Virginia state motto, ***sic semper tyrannis*** ("thus always to tyrants"). Booth fled the theater after the attack. After a two-week manhunt, he was **found in a barn** in northern Virginia, where he refused to surrender and was killed by Union soldier **Boston Corbett**. **Samuel Mudd**, a doctor, was controversially imprisoned for treating the broken leg that Booth suffered during his escape.
- On June 28, 1914 Austro-Hungarian Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife **Sophie** were assassinated in **Sarajevo** by **Serbian** ultra-nationalist **Gavrilo Princip**, a member of a secret military society called the **Black Hand**. In response to the assassination, Austria-Hungary issued the **July Ultimatum** to Serbia, leading to the outbreak of **World War I**.
- On January 30, 1948 Indian independence advocate Mohandas Gandhi was shot three times at point-blank range by **Nathuram Godse**, a Hindu nationalist. The shooting occurred just as Gandhi was beginning his daily interfaith service at **Birla House** in **New Delhi**. Godse was apprehended by **Herbert Reiner Jr.**, an American diplomat. During his trial, Godse criticized Gandhi's accepting behavior toward Muslims and blamed Gandhi for the **1947 Partition of India**. Gandhi's death was reported to the nation via radio by Prime Minister **Jawaharlal Nehru** that evening.
- On November 22, 1963 U.S. President John F. Kennedy was shot and killed by **Lee Harvey Oswald**, who targeted the presidential motorcade from the sixth floor of the **Texas School Book Depository** as the vehicles rode through **Dallas**'s **Dealey Plaza**. Texas Governor **John Connolly** was also severely injured in the shooting, which was captured on tape in the **Zapruder film**. **Lyndon B. Johnson** was sworn in as president aboard Air Force One later that day. Oswald never faced trial for the assassination, as he himself was shot and killed by bar owner **Jack Ruby** while being transported by federal agents. The Kennedy assassination was investigated by the **Warren Commission**, led by Chief Justice Earl Warren, which concluded that Oswald was the lone gunman.
- On February 21, 1965 Muslim activist Malcolm X was shot and killed in the **Audubon Ballroom** in Manhattan by three members of the **Nation of** Islam, an organization that Malcolm X left in March 1964. The assassins were **Talmadge Hayer**, **Norman 3X Butler**, and **Thomas 15X Johnson**. Malcolm X was about to give a speech to the **Organization of**

Afro-American Unity when he was **shot 21 times** with a shotgun. Many people, including Malcolm X's widow, have blamed **Louis Farrakhan**'s harsh rhetoric for inciting the assassination.

- On April 4, 1968 civil rights activist Martin Luther King Jr. was shot and killed on a balcony at the **Lorraine Motel** in **Memphis, Tennessee** by **James Earl Ray**. King had been in Memphis to show support for a **strike** by African-American **sanitation workers**. One notable response to the death of King was the speech given by Democratic presidential candidate **Robert F. Kennedy** that night in Indianapolis, in which he quoted the words of the Greek playwright **Aeschylus** about "pain which cannot forget" that "falls drop by drop upon the heart."
- On June 5, 1968 Robert F. Kennedy was himself fatally shot by **Sirhan Sirhan** in Los Angeles. Kennedy was only the second sitting U.S. senator to be assassinated (the other was Huey Long in 1935). The day after **winning the California presidential primary**, Kennedy was leaving the **Ambassador Hotel** through the hotel kitchen when he was shot. Following Kennedy's death, it became policy for the Secret Service to provide protection to presidential candidates during the campaign. The Democratic nomination for 1968 eventually went to **Hubert Humphrey**, who lost the election to Richard Nixon.
- On October 31, 1984 Indian prime minister Indira Gandhi was assassinated in **New Delhi** by two of her **Sikh bodyguards**: **Satwant Singh** and **Beant Singh**. Her murder came four months after **Operation Blue Star**, a military raid on the sacred Sikh **Golden Temple** in **Amritsar**, Punjab. Gandhi had been on her way to give an interview with British actor **Peter Ustinov** when she was killed, and the incident led to widespread anti-Sikh riots throughout India in which thousands of Sikhs were killed. Indira Gandhi's oldest son, **Rajiv**, succeeded her as Prime Minister of India.

European Theater

- Battle of Britain (July 1940 – October 1940): The Battle of Britain saw the British **Royal Air Force** (RAF) defeat the German air force, known as the ***Luftwaffe***, effectively saving Britain from a proposed **German amphibious invasion** codenamed **Operation Sea Lion**. The primary German fighter plane was the **Messerschmitt Bf 109**, which engaged in numerous dogfights against British pilots flying **Hurricane** and **Spitfire** aircraft. Effective use of **radar** helped to repel German forces, forcing the Luftwaffe into **nighttime raids against civilian targets**, a campaign known as the **Blitz**.
- Battle of Stalingrad (August 1942 – February 1943): With about **two million casualties**, the Battle of Stalingrad is often cited as the **bloodiest battle in history**. The battle arose out of Germany's summer campaign to **capture vital oil supplies** in the Caucasus Mountains, but **Friedrich Paulus's 6th Army** became bogged down in intense street fighting in the city, allowing Soviet Marshal **Georgy Zhukov** to launch **Operation Uranus**, which encircled Paulus's men by defeating the Italian, Hungarian, and Romanian forces guarding their flank. In the final days of the battle, Hitler promoted Paulus to field marshal, a not-so-subtle suggestion that Paulus should either fight to the death or commit suicide, as no German field marshal had ever been captured; Paulus **surrendered** anyway.
- Battle of El Alamein (October 1942 – November 1942): The Second Battle of El Alamein marked the **turning point in the African campaign**. Named for an Egyptian coastal town 65 miles west of Alexandria, it saw the **British Eighth Army** under **Bernard Montgomery** defeat the German **Afrika Korps** under **Erwin Rommel**, preventing the Nazis from capturing the Suez Canal and oil fields in the Middle East. Following the battle, Allied forces landed in **Morocco** and **Algeria** as part of **Operation Torch**, and by May 1943 all Axis forces in North Africa had surrendered.
- Battle of Kursk (July 1943 – August 1943): Fought in **western Russia**, the Battle of Kursk was the **largest tank battle in history**, with about 6,000 tanks engaged. Thanks to a complex **spy network**, the Soviet leadership was well-informed about German plans to launch **Operation Citadel** against the Kursk salient, and constructed massive defensive fortifications. After the German advance was stopped, a successful Soviet counterattack was launched. The German Army never again was able to mount a major attack on the Eastern Front.
- D-Day (Operation Overlord) (June 6, 1944): The **largest amphibious assault in history**, as Supreme Allied Commander **Dwight Eisenhower**'s forces attacked the German **Atlantic Wall defenses** on the **beaches of Normandy**, France. Due to his wife's birthday, German Field Marshal **Erwin Rommel was absent** at the start the invasion, which saw American forces land at **Utah** and **Omaha Beaches**, British forces land at **Gold** and **Sword Beaches**, and Canadian forces land at **Juno Beach**. After the landings, Allied forces erected prefabricated artificial **Mulberry harbors** to aid in transporting goods to France.
- Battle of the Bulge (December 1944 – January 1945): The Battle of the Bulge resulted from **Germany's last major offensive operation on the Western Front**. The German plan to sweep through the **Ardennes Forest** and **capture the port city Antwerp, Belgium**, benefited from **Allied aircraft being grounded** due to poor weather. During the battle, English-speaking German troops under Otto Skorzeny attempted to **disguise**

themselves as Allied troops and infiltrate enemy lines. German forces also **besieged the Belgian town Bastogne** and requested its surrender, to which U.S. Army **Brigadier General Anthony McAuliffe replied "Nuts!"**; the siege was eventually lifted by forces commanded by **George Patton**.

Other notable battles in Europe included the **Battle of France**, the **Siege of Leningrad**, the **Battle of Moscow**, the **Battle of Anzio**, the **Battle of Monte Cassino**, **Operation Market Garden**, and the **Battle of Berlin**.

Pacific Theater

- Attack on Pearl Harbor (December 7, 1941): On what President Franklin Roosevelt declared would be **"a date which will live in infamy,"** Japanese carrier-based aircraft launched — **without a formal declaration of war** — a **surprise attack** on the American naval base at Pearl Harbor on the Hawaiian island **Oahu**. The attack **sank four battleships**, most notably the **USS *Arizona***, but all of the U.S. Navy's **carriers were at sea** and were unattacked. Shortly after the attack, Japan began **invasions of Guam, Wake Island, the Philippines, and the British colony of Singapore**. On December 8, with only Montana Representative **Jeannette Rankin dissenting**, the U.S. Congress **declared war on Japan**.
- Battle of the Coral Sea (May 1942): Resulting from a Japanese plan to **capture Port Moresby, New Guinea**, the Battle of the Coral Sea was **fought entirely by carrier-based aircraft**, making it the **first major naval battle in history in which the two opposing fleets never directly fired upon (or even sighted) each other**. The U.S. Navy's carrier ***Lexington*** was sunk, and the ***Yorktown*** heavily damaged, while the Japanese navy lost the light carrier ***Shoho*** and saw its large carriers ***Shokaku*** and ***Zuikaku*** damaged. Ultimately, the invasion of Port Moresby was cancelled and the temporary loss of two Japanese carriers gave the U.S. an edge at the subsequent **Battle of Midway**.
- Battle of Midway (June 1942): Universally considered the **turning point in the Pacific Theater**, the Battle of Midway saw the Japanese **lose four aircraft carriers**, a blow from which they never fully recovered. Japanese **Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto** planned to **lure the U.S. fleet into a trap**, but the Americans had **broken the Japanese code**, allowing them to pull off a stunning victory, with **dive bombers from the *Enterprise*** sinking the carriers *Kaga*, *Akagi*, and *Hiryu*, while those from the hastily-repaired ***Yorktown*** sank the carrier *Soryu*.
- Battle of Leyte Gulf (October 1944): By some measures the **largest naval battle in history**, the Battle of Leyte Gulf resulted from the Japanese ***Sho-Go* plan** to **halt the American reconquest of the Philippines**. The plan nearly worked when American **Admiral William "Bull" Halsey** was baited into **moving all of his battleships and large carriers away** from the landing site, but an American force of small escort carriers and destroyers held off a Japanese task force that included four battleships. Another Japanese force tried to pass through the **Surigao Strait**, but — in the **last-ever combat between opposing battleships** — the American **Seventh Fleet** crossed their 'T' and annihilated the force.

- Battle of Iwo Jima (February 1945 – March 1945): The Allies sought to capture Iwo Jima, a small island midway **between the Mariana Islands and the Japanese home islands**, to provide an airbase for the eventual **invasion of Japan**. Under the leadership of **General Tadamichi Kuribayashi**, the island's defenders built a complex network of **underground tunnels** and well-**camouflaged artillery** pieces that enabled them to **hold out for a month** against vastly superior forces. The battle is best known for **Joe Rosenthal's photograph** showing six American servicemen **raising a flag atop Mount Suribachi**.
- Battle of Okinawa (April 1945 – June 1945): The **largest amphibious assault of the Pacific Theater**, the Battle of Okinawa featured **massive casualties** among both combatants and **civilians**. The Japanese launched over 1,500 ***kamikaze*** attacks against the U.S. fleet, and even sent the massive battleship ***Yamato*** on a **suicide mission**; it was **sunk by aircraft** before reaching Okinawa. On the American side, both war correspondent **Ernie Pyle** and **Lieutenant General Simon Bolivar Buckner Jr.**, the commander-in-chief of the ground forces, were **killed**. Somewhat uniquely, the battle also saw **large numbers of Japanese troops surrender**, although many were native Okinawans forced into fighting.

Other notable clashes and incidents in the Pacific included the **Bataan Death March**, the **Battle of Guadalcanal** during the **Solomon Islands campaign**, the **Battle of the Philippine Sea**, and the **atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki**.

Trojan War Heroes

Greeks

- Agamemnon: The **king of Mycenae**, Agamemnon shares **supreme command of the Greek troops** with his brother, **Menelaus**. An epithet of his, “king of heroes,” reflects this status. As a commander, however, he often **lacks good public relations skills**, as shown by his **feud with Achilles** (book 1) and by his ill-considered strategy of **suggesting that all the troops go home** (book 2). Upon his return home, Agamemnon is **murdered by his wife, Clytemnestra, and her lover, Aegisthus**.
- Menelaus: The **king of Sparta**, Menelaus is the **husband of Helen**, the *cause celebre* of the war. He tries to win Helen back by **fighting Paris** in single combat, but Aphrodite carried Paris off when it seemed that Menelaus would win. Despite his notionally equal say in **commanding the troops** with his brother Agamemnon, in practice Agamemnon often dominates.
- Achilles: This “swift-footed” warrior is the greatest on the Greek side. His father is Peleus, a great warrior in his own right, and his mother is Thetis, a sea nymph. The consequences of Achilles’ **rage at Agamemnon** for confiscating his ***geras*** (prize of honor) are the subject of the ***Iliad***. Achilles **kills Hector**, but is **killed by a poisoned arrow in the heel**, the only vulnerable place on his body.
- Patroclus: **Achilles**’ foster brother and closest friend. Although Patroclus is a formidable hero, he is valued for his **kind and gentle nature**. Patroclus is **killed by Hector** while wearing the armor of Achilles.
- Ajax: This **prince of Salamis** is the son of Telamon. He once fights all afternoon in **single combat with Hector**; since neither one can decisively wound the other, they part as friends. Ajax’s most glorious achievement is **fighting the Trojans back from the ships** almost singlehandedly. He commits **suicide** after the armor of Achilles is awarded to Odysseus rather than to himself.
- Diomedes: In his day of glory, Diomedes **kills Pandarus** and **wounds Aeneas** before taking on the gods. He **stabs Aphrodite** in the wrist and, with Athena as his charioteer, **wounds Ares** in the stomach. Along with Odysseus, he also conducts a successful **night raid against King Rhesus**.
- Odysseus: This son of Laertes is known for his **cleverness** and **glib tongue**. His accomplishments include a successful **night raid against King Rhesus**, winning the **armor of Achilles**, and engineering the famous **Trojan Horse**. His ten-year **trip home to Ithaca** (where his wife, **Penelope**, awaits) is the subject of the ***Odyssey***.
- Nestor: The **king of Pylos**, he is **too old** to participate in the fighting of the Trojan War, but serves as an advisor. He tells tales of “the good old days” to the other heroes.

Trojans

- Hector: The son of Priam and Hecuba, he is probably the **noblest character** on either side. A favorite of Apollo, this **captain of the Trojan forces** exchanges gifts with Ajax after neither can conquer the other in single combat. He **kills Patroclus** when Patroclus goes into battle wearing the armor of his friend, Achilles. **Killed by Achilles** to avenge the death of Patroclus, he is greatly mourned by all of Troy. **Funeral games** take place in his honor.
- Paris (sometimes called Alexander): Also the son of Priam and Hecuba, he is destined to be the **ruin of his country**. He fulfills this destiny by accepting a **bribe** when asked to **judge which of three goddesses is the fairest**. When he awards **Aphrodite** the **golden apple**,

Aphrodite repays him by granting him the **most beautiful woman** in the world; unfortunately, **Helen** is already married to Menelaus. Known less for hand-to-hand fighting than for **mastery of his bow**, he **kills Achilles** with an arrow but dies by the poisoned arrows of **Philoctetes**.

- Priam: The **king of Troy** and son of Laomedon, he has 50 sons and 12 daughters with his wife Hecuba (presumably she does not bear them all), plus at least 42 more children with various concubines. **Neoptolemus**, the son of Achilles, kills him in front of his wife and daughters during the siege of Troy.
- Hecuba (or Hecabe): The **wife of Priam**, she suffers the loss of most of her children but survives the fall of Troy. She is later **turned into a dog**.
- Andromache: The **wife of Hector** and mother of **Astyanax**, she futilely **warns Hector** about the war, then sees both her husband and son killed by the Greeks. After the war she is made **concubine to Neoptolemus**, and later marries the Trojan prophet **Helenus**.
- Cassandra: This **daughter of Priam and Hecuba** has an **affair with Apollo**, who grants her the gift of **prophecy**. Unable to revoke the gift after they quarrel, Apollo curses her by **preventing anyone from believing her predictions**. Among her warnings is that the Trojan horse contains Greeks. After Troy falls she is given to Agamemnon, who tactlessly brings her home to his wife Clytemnestra. Clytemnestra and her lover Aegisthus then kill Agamemnon and Cassandra, leaving Agamemnon's son Orestes (egged on by sister Electra) to avenge the deaths and kill Clytemnestra and Aegisthus.
- Laocoon: Yet another son of Priam and Hecuba, this **priest of Apollo** shares Cassandra's doubt about the merits of bringing the Trojan horse into the city. "Timeo danaos et dona ferentes," he says (according to Vergil), **"I fear the Greeks, even bearing gifts."** Later, while sacrificing a bull, two **serpents from the sea crush both him and his two young sons**. The death of Laocoon is often blamed on Athena (into whose temple the serpent disappeared) but more likely the act of Poseidon, a fierce Greek partisan.
- Aeneas: This son of Aphrodite and Anchises often takes a beating but always gets up to rejoin the battle. **Knocked unconscious** by a large rock thrown by Diomedes, he is **evacuated by Aphrodite and Apollo**. He succeeds the late Hector as **Trojan troop commander** and survives the fall of Troy, ultimately settling in Italy. His son Iulus founds Alba Longa, near the site of Rome. That bloodline is the basis of **Julius Caesar's claim to have descended from Venus**.

Major Literary Terms

allegory - device of using character and/or story elements symbolically to represent an abstraction in addition to the literal meaning
alliteration - the repetition of sounds, especially initial consonant sounds in two or more neighboring words (eg "she sells sea shells")
allusion - a direct or indirect reference to something which is presumably commonly known, such as an event, book, myth, place, or work of art
ambiguity - the multiple meanings, either intentional or unintentional, of a word, phrase, sentence, or passage
analogy - a similarity or comparison between two different things or the relationship between them
antecedent - the word, phrase, or clause referred to by a pronoun
aphorism - a terse statement of known authorship which expresses a general turht or moral principle
apostrophe - a figure of speech that directly addresses an absent or imaginary person or a personified abstraction, such as liberty or love
atmosphere - the emotional mood created by the entirety of a literary work, established partly by the setting and partly by the author's choice of objects that are described
clause - a grammatical unit that contains both a subject and a verb
colloquial - the use of slang or informalities in speech or writing
conceit - a fanciful expression, usually in the form of an extended metaphor or surprising analogy between seemingly dissimilar objects
connotation - the nonliteral, associative meaning of a word; the implied, suggested meaning
denotation - the strict, literal, dictionary definition of a word, devoid of any emotion, attitude, or color
diction - refereing to style, diction refers to the writer's word choices, especially with regard to their correctness, clearness, or effectiveness
didactic - from the Greek, literally means "teaching"
euphemism - from the Greek for "good speech," a more agreeable or less offensive substitute for a generally unpleasant word or concept
extended metaphor - a metaphor developed at great length, ocurring frequently in or throughout a work
figurative language - writing or speech that is not intended to carry litera meaning and is usually meant to be imaginative and vivid
figure of speech - a device used to produce figurative language
generic convntions - refers to traditions for each genre
genre - the major category into which a literary work fits (eg prose, poetry, and drama)
homily - literally "sermon", or any serious talk, speech, or lecture providing moral or spiritual advice
hyperbole - a figure of speech using deliberate exaggeration or overstatement
imagery - the sensory details or figurative language used to describe, arouse emotion, or represent abstractions
infer (inference) - to draw a reasonable conclusion from the informaion presented
invective - an emotionally violent, verbal denunciation or attack using strong, abusive language
irony - the contrast between what is stated explicitly and what is really meant
    verbal irony - words literally state the opposite of speaker's true meaning
    situational irony - events turn out the opposite of what was expected
    dramatic irony - facts or events are unknown to a character but known to the reader or audience or other characters in work
loose sentence - a type of sentence in which the main idea comes first, followed by dependent grammatical units
metaphor - a figure of speech using implied comparison of seemingly unlike things or the substitution of one for the other, suggesting some similarity
metonomy - from the Greek "changed label", the name of one object is substituted for that of another closely associated with it (eg "the White House" for the President)
mood - grammatically, the verbal units and a speaker's attitude (indicative, subjunctive, imperative); literarily, the prevailing atmosphere or emotional aura of a word
narrative - the telling of a story or an account of an event or sereis of events
onomatopoeia - natural sounds are imitated in the sounds of words (eg buzz, hiss)

oxymoron - from the Greek for "pointedly foolish," author groups apparently contradictory terms to suggest a paradox
paradox - a statement that appears to be self-contradictory or opposed to common sense but upon closer inspection contains some degree of truth or validity
parallelism - from the Greek for "beside one another," the grammatical or rhetorical framing of words, phrases, sentences, or paragraphs to give structural similarity
parody - a work that closely imitates the style or content of another with the speific aim of comic effect and/or ridicule
pedantic - an adjective that describes words, phrases, or general tone that is overly scholarly, academic, or bookish
periodic sentences - a sentence that presents its central meaning in a main clause at the end
personification - a figure of speech in which the author presents or describes concepts, animasl, or inanimate objects by endowing them with human attributes or emotions
point of view - the perspective from which a story is told (first person, third person omniscient, or third person limited omniscient)
predicate adjective - one type of subject complement, an adjective, group of adjectives, or adjective cluase that follows a linking verb
predicate nominative - another type of subject complement, a noun, group of nouns, or noun clause that renames the subject
prose - genre including fiction, nonfiction, written in ordinary language
repetition - the duplication, either exact or approximate, of any element of language
rhetoric - from the Greek for "orator," the principles governing the art of writing effectively, eloquently, and persuasively
rhetorical modes - the variety, conventions, and purposes of the major kinds of writing (exposition explains and analyzes information; argumentation proves validity of an idea; description re-creates, invents, or presents a person, place, event or action; narration tells a story or recount an event)
sarcasm - from the Greek for "to tear flesh," involves bitter, caustic language that is meant to hurt or ridicule someone or something
satire - a work that targets human vices and follies or social institutinos and conventions for reform or ridicule
semantics - the branch of linguistics which studies the meaning of words, their historical and psychological development (etymology), their connotations, and their relation to one another
style - an evaluation of the sum of the choices an author maks in blending diction, syntx, figurative language, and other literary devices; or, classification of authors to a group and comparion of an author to similar authors
subject complement - the word or clause that follows a linking verb and complements, or completes, the subject of the sentence by either renaming it or describing it
subordinate clause - contains a subject and verb (like all clauses) but cannot stand alone; does not express complete thought
syllogism - from the Greek for "reckoning together," a deductive system of fromal logic that presents two premises (first "major," second "minor") that inevitably lead to a sound conclusion (eg All men are mortal, Socrates is a man, Socrates is mortal)
symbol (symbolism) - anything that represents or stands for something else (natural, conventional, literary)
syntax - the way an author chooses to join words into phrases, clauses, and sentences
theme - the central idea or message of a work, the insight it offers into life
thesis - in expository writing, the thesis statement is the sentence or group of sentences that directly express the author's opinion, purpose, meaning, or proposition
tone - similar to mood, describes the author's attitude toward his material, the audience, or both
transition - a word or phrase that links different ideas
understatement - the ironic minimalizing of fact, presents something as less significant than it is
wit - intellectually amusing language that surprises and delights