

Name: _____ Date: _____ Period: _____

The Odyssey – Final Projects

Overview: You will complete a final project for The Odyssey that demonstrates your knowledge of the piece. There are two options – 1) My Ithaca – Life Odyssey Map or 2) Odysseus’ Journals. Pick one. No, you can’t do both for extra-credit (but feel free to both anyway).

Scoring: The final project is worth 75 points. Scoring is based on how successfully you meet the project requirements.

Option 1) My Ithaca – Life Odyssey Map:

This is more of a visual project. Option 2 is more of a written project.

Overview: Odysseus’ Ithaca is literal in the sense that it was a real place in which his family lived and that he considered Home. However, if you look at Ithaca symbolically, you could read it as a representation for something larger and more universal – we all have goals, dreams, and objectives that we long for, journey toward, and work hard to accomplish. Here’s the question your map should answer: What (or where) is your Ithaca and what does your odyssey to get there look like?

Instructions: Design a visual representation of your life journey toward your own personal Ithaca (college, job, family-related, long-term goal, social contribution, personal accomplishment, financial-related, change-the-world-related, etc!!!) This “map” could look like a road map, a world map, a board game, blueprints, a puzzle, a picture with many different parts, an image that represents your life – JUST BE CREATIVE!

Requirements:

- a beginning point
- an end point – your Ithaca (goal)
- between these two points, at least **three** things you have faced so far along your journey and these must be creatively represented and have a title
- **three** things you expect you will face (but have not yet faced) on your journey and these must be creatively represented and have a title
- three **text passages** from The Odyssey that align symbolically with something on your journey map and written explanations for the connections
- not all your choices need to exactly relate to your end goal, but they should have shaped the person you are today and will be down the road
- a clear path that connects these eight (or more) events/items
- design should be visually stimulating with color, images, symbols, etc.

Option 2) Odysseus' Journals

This is more of a visual project. Option 2 is more of a written project.

Overview: Imagine you are Odysseus. You do not know if you will ever see Ithaca again, but you want your wife Penelope and son Telemachus to understand what you went through in your attempt to get home. So you begin keeping a journal that will document your voyage.

Instructions: Choose *four* episodes from the story to transform into a journal entry. Each entry should tell a distinct episode from Odysseus' point of view. Keep in mind that he hopes to share his journal with Penelope and Telemachus one day, so he is writing for their benefit.

Each entry should include:

- ☉ A distinctive **VOICE** that conveys Odysseus' **POINT OF VIEW**.
- ☉ An appropriate **TONE** for each entry: What is Odysseus' emotional attitude—frightened, triumphant, regretful, angry, etc?
- ☉ A clear re-telling of the events using **CONCRETE IMAGERY, VIVID VERBS, & NARRATIVE ELEMENTS** (i.e. plot, setting, characterization, point of view).
- ☉ Any insights, regrets, or goals Odysseus forms as a result of the episode.
- ☉ An illustration or artifact from the adventure. For example, Odysseus might draw an illustration of Polyphemus, press a lotus blossom between two pages, or glue one of Scylla's giant fangs to his journal.

Requirements:

- ☉ Typed, double-spaced, font and margins chosen by sane people
- ☉ Length: *at least* one page per journal entry.
- ☉ Add an illustration or artifact to each entry
- ☉ Create an appropriate cover for the journal