

The Odyssey

Building Background
1088-1090, orange lit book

The purpose of this study is to build background prior to studying The Odyssey. Each question may be answered on this page for now. The headings below match the headings within the literature book.

Examining the Homeric Epics

1. Approximately how old is the story of The Odyssey?
2. What method was originally utilized to tell the story of The Odyssey?
3. Who is credited for authoring The Odyssey?
4. What are the three key elements of the plot of The Odyssey?

The Trojan War

1. The Trojan War took place about how many years ago?
2. Summarize what started the Trojan War.
3. Who is credited for ending the Trojan War?
4. Summarize Odysseus' plan to end the Trojan War.

The Heroic Story of Odysseus

1. After the Trojan War, Odysseus is trying to get where.
2. How large is Odysseus' army with which he leaves Troy?
3. Who interferes with his efforts on his journey from Troy?
4. Odysseus is credited with what three qualities that set him apart from other men?

The intervention of Gods and Goddesses

1. Where do the gods and goddesses live?
2. In the time of Homer, Greek citizens believed what two things about the gods' role in human life?
3. Which goddess supported Odysseus during the Trojan War?
4. Which goddess sided with Paris and the Trojans in their war against Odysseus?
5. What led to Odysseus' hardships on his return voyage home from Troy?
6. Today, modern people have science fiction which allows for stories of aliens in a nearby galaxy or creatures created in a lab. What did the Greeks believe in their time that might compare to our modern science fiction beliefs?

Homer: The Epic Poet

Shadowy Figure

1. Approximately how long ago did Homer live?
2. The Greeks credited Homer for The Odyssey, but scholars have often questioned what?
3. What was a unique attribute of Homer?
4. Modern scholars believe The Odyssey may have actually been the work of one or two talented bards – What is a bard?

Models for the Ages

1. What four future writers were influenced by the epics of Homer?

NOTE TAKING - Read 1094-1099 and take notes over the following topics.

-Summarize to shorten the book's information in a way it is more easily understood. The main focuses are listed below – knowing the details for the headings provided is necessary to prepare for the test.

Part 1: Characteristics of the Epic (1094)

- epic
- epic hero
- epic plot
- epic setting
- epic themes

Part 2: The Language of Homer (1096)

- epic similes
- epithets
- allusions

Part 3: Reading the Epic (1098)

- FOUR strategies for reading the epic as a narrative
- FOUR strategies for reading the epic as poetry
- THREE strategies for reading the epic as a reflection of its time

Homework:

Read all of the directions and examples.

Now that you have answered each question on your own paper, you are to use this information to create study notes. Rewrite each question on page 1 and include the answer in it. Two examples from the first section are done below. Be sure to skip lines and rewrite neatly. ***Be sure to label each set of questions just as they are headed above. The headings above match the headings within the literature book.*** For page 2, simply create the notes for each of the three headings and the subsequent sub-topics for each.

Your paper looks something like this after answering in short-answer form.

Examining the Homeric Epics

1. Approximately how old is the story of The Odyssey? *-about 2700 years*
2. What method was originally utilized to tell the story of The Odyssey? *-oral*

Your homework with each answer rewritten within the question should look like this.

Examining the Homeric Epics

1. The story of The Odyssey is approximately 2700 years old.
2. The Odyssey was originally told as an oral story.

Note: It is not necessary to restate the words of the question in the exact order of the original question. It is just important that the same information is included so as to not leave out any key points.