



KARNS HIGH SCHOOL

HONORS ENGLISH 9 SUMMER READING

Mr. Masters

2023 - 2024

Students are to complete two assignments that are due the **first day of class**. **These assignments can either be turned in on paper or emailed to michael.masters@knoxschools.org**

1. All students will read *The Odyssey* by Homer and create summaries of the following books (a 'book' is the word Homer uses for a chapter): Books: 1,5,9,10,11,12,17,21,22,23

Respond to each book listed by writing a well-developed paragraph that explains the main points Homer is making. The minimum for your paragraphs is 5 sentences. You may go over 5 sentences, but do not make page long analyses; be direct and concise. You may use any version/translation of *The Odyssey* you like (you can purchase a copy, check one out from a library, or I have provided 2 links to online versions of the Epic).

[Homer \(c.750 BC\) - The Odyssey: In translation. \(poetryintranslation.com\)](http://poetryintranslation.com)

<http://www.boyle.kyschools.us/UserFiles/88/The%20Odyssey.pdf>

*Just because you are not summarizing all books does not mean that you do not have to read the entire novel.

INTRODUCTION: As the epic opens, Odysseus has been gone from his home in Ithaca for twenty years. For the first ten years, he was fighting in the Trojan War, a conflict between the Greeks and the Trojans that began when Helen, a Spartan queen married to King Menelaus, was kidnapped by a young Trojan prince named Paris. The Greeks set sail for Troy in an effort to bring Helen back, and a ten-year war ensued. Odysseus is credited with ending the war by coming up with a plan to build a giant wooden horse which was brought to the gates of Troy as a peace offering. The Trojans brought the horse into their city and, at night, while the Trojans slept, Greek soldiers, hidden in the hollow belly of the horse, emerged and sacked the city, securing victory for the Greeks. After the war, Odysseus' homecoming was fraught with difficulty because he foolishly insulted the god of the sea, Poseidon. For three years, Odysseus struggled to overcome the obstacles Poseidon put in his path and tried to make it back to Ithaca, and finally he washes up on the island of Ogygia where the goddess Calypso has held him captive for the past seven years. This is where our epic begins.

1. Students will read *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho and write a five paragraph essay answering the question, “How do struggles and triumphs affect people’s ability to achieve their destiny?” When writing your essay, consider the ideas of fate vs. free will, as well as the idea of personal identity. Evidence from **both texts** must be used in the essay to answer this question. The answer should analyze how characters in each text dealt with answering this question, and how this question shaped the development of both novels.

Link to *The Alchemist* full text online:

<http://www.metaphysicspirit.com/books/The%20Alchemist.pdf>

** Any questions or concerns should be addressed in email to:
michael.masters@knoxschools.org

Please allow 48 hours to reply