
















Igniting the Canon Homework Booklet



Autumn 1

Autumn 1 Vocab List

Icon	Word	Definition/In a Sentence
	Didactic	Didactic is something that intends to teach us.
	Odyssey	An odyssey is a long and eventful or adventurous journey
	Myths	Myths are old stories about heroes and Gods that are passed on orally.
	Monologue	A Monologue is a long speech told by one person.
	Context	Context is the setting within which a work of writing is situated.
	Consciousness	Consciousness is an awareness of your own thoughts and feelings.
	Romanticism	Romanticism was a literary movement made up of writers who liked to write about nature.
	Modernism	Modernism was a literary movement made up of writers who liked to break the rules and write about the inner thoughts and feelings of characters.
	Epic poem	Epic poem is a long narrative poem that tells of an adventure.
	The canon	The canon measures the value of world's literature.
	Morality	Morality is concerned with what is right and wrong in human behaviour.
	Prologue	A prologue is an introduction to a text.
	Perspective	Perspective is a particular point of view or opinion.
	Diverse	Diverse means showing a great deal of variety.
	Influential	Influential describes something that has a great impact on someone.

WEEK 1: THE ODYSSEY

Task 1: Read 'The Odyssey' plot summary.

Plot Summary

The *Odyssey* begins with Odysseus telling the story of his adventures. He has been trying to get home for ten years.

Heading Home

Odysseus began his journey after the end of the Trojan War. He and his men had been fighting for 10 years. With the end of the war they could finally head home. They set out for their home of Ithaca. However, Zeus was angry with the Greeks and a huge storm pushed Odysseus and his men off course. They had many adventures while trying to find their way home.

Adventures

Here are a few of the adventures encountered by Odysseus and his men.

Lotus-Eaters

The first adventure Odysseus had was on the island of the Lotus-eaters. These people ate only plants. They gave some of his men a plant that made them forget about home and want to stay with the Lotus-eaters. Odysseus had to drag his men to the ships and chain them so they would continue on the journey.

Cyclopes

Odysseus and his men next landed on an island inhabited by one-eyed giants called Cyclopes. They were captured in a cave by one of the Cyclopes named Polyphemus. In order to get away they clung to the bottom of his sheep as they went out to graze.

Aeolus

At one point Odysseus arrived at the island of Aeolus, the god of winds. Aeolus agreed to help Odysseus get home. He gave him a bag containing the energies of the winds, then he sent a strong wind to carry their ships to Ithaca. The men were nearly home, in fact they could see the island of Ithaca, when one of them decided to open the sack to see what was in it. He let the winds out of the bag and they blew them all the way back to Aeolus.

Scylla and Charybdis

While continuing to sail home, the crew had to pass through a dangerous straight. There they encountered a monster named Scylla. Scylla had six heads and 12 tentacles. With her six heads she grabbed six of Odysseus' men. This allowed the ship to get away.

However, the ship soon encountered the terrifying whirlpool named Charybdis. They narrowly escaped being pulled into the depths of the sea.

Calypso

Eventually all of Odysseus' men died during the adventures and his ships were destroyed. Only Odysseus was left and he floated in the ocean clinging to a piece of wood for nine days. Finally, he landed on an island ruled by the nymph Calypso.

Calypso fell in love with Odysseus. She wanted him to stay with her forever. She kept him captive for seven years. The goddess Athena began to feel sorry for Odysseus. She asked Zeus to make Calypso set Odysseus free.

Finally Home

After twenty years, Odysseus finally returned home. He disguised himself at first. There were many men at his house trying to convince his wife Penelope to marry them. They were sure that Odysseus was dead. Odysseus wife had set up a contest. Any man that could shoot an arrow through 12 axe heads would win her hand in marriage.

Odysseus, disguised as a beggar, was the only one to make the shot. He then killed all of the men and revealed himself to his wife.

Task 2: Answer the following question in full sentences

1. When did Odysseus begin his journey home?
Odysseus began his journey home when...
2. What happened when the crew ate the Lotus plants?
When the crew ate the Lotus plants...
3. How did the men escape the one eyed giant?
They escaped the one eyed giant by...
4. What did Aeolus do to try and help Odysseus get home?
Aeolus _____ to try to help Odysseus get home.
5. How is Scylla described?
Scylla is ...
6. How long did Calypso keep Odysseus for?
Calypso kept Odysseus for...
7. What contest did Odysseus set up to win back his wife?
Odysseus set up a contest involving...

Optional extension: Write a diary entry from the perspective of Odysseus at one chosen point on his journey.

WEEK 2: THE ODYSSEY



The Lotus Eaters' Island.

Imagine you are part of Odysseus' crew. You have just landed on a beautiful island with soft sand and clear waters. You are fed delicious fruit and you vow you would like to live on the island forever.

Task: Write a description of the island from the perspective of one of Odysseus' crew members.

You should think about:

- Using ambitious vocabulary
- Interesting range of sentence types
- Accurate and ambitious punctuation
- Use of paragraphs.
- Sense imagery: taste, touch, sound, smell, sight

How do I start? (optional help)

Jumping down from the ship, I cautiously looked around at my surroundings. It was paradise.

Optional extension: Write a couple of sentences justifying some of your language choices. For e.g. I chose to use the word 'mouth-watering' when describing the lotus fruits as I wanted to emphasise just how delicious they were.

WEEK 3: MORALITY PLAYS



The image above shows a man with the angel and devil on his shoulder: he is considering who to listen to.

Task: Write a script showing the conversation between the man, the angel, and the devil.

You should think about:

- What moral dilemma the man is in – what decision does he need to make?
- How you will use stage directions to show gestures, movements and tone.
- Who will win? The angel, or the devil?

How do I start? (optional help)

Stage directions!

James: *(glancing towards the devil)* I guess I could eat my brother's chocolates. They're so tempting and he's left them out in the open!

Angel: *(swooping gracefully down and landing on James' shoulder)* That would be so incredibly greedy!

Optional extension: Transform your script into a comic script.

WEEK 4: ROMANTICISM



Beautiful landscapes

The above image shows a magical waterfall surrounded by vivid pink flowers.

Task: Write a poem celebrating the beauty of this place (just like the Romantics!)

Try to include an example of personification and a simile.

How do I start? (optional help)

Strolling further into paradise,
I found cascading water.

Optional extension: Write a couple of sentences justifying some of your language choices. For e.g. I chose to use the word 'cascading' when describing the water as I wanted to emphasise its elegance.

WEEK 5: FRANKENSTEIN



Task 1: Imagine, like Victor Frankenstein, you have created your own monster. Draw your monster (you can take inspiration from Frankenstein!).

Task 2: Label your monster with details about its appearance.

Task 3: Write a description of the first time you see the monster.

Remember to consider ambitious language choices, sentence structures and punctuation!

How do I start? (optional help)

Locking eyes with the figure before me, the first thing I noticed was its protruding, sharp teeth.

Optional extension: Write a description from the monster's perspective. How do they view you, as their creator?

WEEK 6: DICKENS



Task: Write a description of a busy stadium using the above image as inspiration.

Remember to consider ambitious language choices, sentence structures and punctuation!

How do I start? (optional help)

Roars and cheers rippled through the crowded stadium.

Optional extension: Write a couple of sentences justifying some of your language choices. For e.g. I chose to use the word 'roars' when describing the sound at the stadium as I wanted to highlight the electric and lively atmosphere.